



Louth Children's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2014

October 2012

Contact

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

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Foreword

Foreword by the Chair of Louth Children's Services Committee, Ms. Mary Hargaden.

As Chairperson of the Louth Children's Services Committee, I am pleased to present the publication of our Children and Young People's plan 2012-2014.

This is the first inter-agency plan for Louth dedicated to co-ordinating how agencies deliver services and supports to children and their families in the County.

The workplan was overseen by 16 members of the Louth Children's Services Committee. It is the first step in bringing together all statutory and voluntary agencies involved in providing services and supports to children, young people and their families in Louth in order to ensure better interagency working, planning, sharing of resources and ultimately better outcomes for children and young people in County Louth.

Louth is a young, dynamic area in many ways, however it has been affected by the current economic recession and many of our young people are experiencing social disadvantage and isolation.

In this plan Louth Children's Services Committee has chartered an agreed path for the delivery of services to children and Young people in Louth in line with local needs and the five National Outcomes for Children. All members are committed to delivering on the objectives, targets and activities under each of the priority areas identified.

We welcome feedback in relation to this plan as we will be reviewing it at regular intervals.

On behalf of Louth Children's Services Committee we hope by implementing this plan our children and young people will have a better future.

Mary Hargaden
Area Manager
Louth/Meath Child and Family Services
HSE

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 Five 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 /Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment**
- **Economically secure**
- **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. CSC's 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 Louth

Co. Louth Children's Services Committee (CSC) was established in September 2010 by the HSE under the auspices of the Department of Children and Young People (then the OMCYA). Its membership is drawn from a number of key agencies; Health Service Executive (HSE), Louth County Council (LCC), Co. Louth Vocational Education Committee (VEC), An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, Louth County Childcare Committee, Louth Leader Partnership, Voluntary Representation, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) and National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD).

A Pre-implementation Planning stage took place in advance of the first meeting after a six month process. This process was undertaken by the Health Service Executive and involved meeting with the main statutory agencies which provide social care services to children and young people to secure interest and commitment in establishing a Children's Services Committee. Initially the Committee concentrated on agreeing terms of reference, principles and values and how the agencies would communicate and work with each other.

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

Who we are

Membership of Co. Louth Children's Services Committee

Ms. Mary Hargaden (Chairperson)	Area Manager, HSE Children and Family Services Louth/Meath
Dr. Emma Clare	Senior Research & Development Officer, HSE
Mr. Trevor Elliott	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
Dr. Edel Healy	Head of School of Health and Science, D.K.I.T.
Ms. Fiona Kearney	HSE, Manager Family Support & Child Welfare Services
Dr. Pádraig Kirk	C.E.O. Louth VEC
Mr. Colm Markey	Chairperson, Louth Leader Partnership
Ms. Joan Martin,	County Manager, Louth County Council
Mr. Gerry Murphy	President, Irish Primary Principals Network
Ms. Joanne Murphy	HSE, Co-ordinator, Children Services Committee
Ms. Mary McDonald	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Service
Chief Superintendent Patrick McGee	An Garda Síochána, Louth Division
Mr. Jim McGuigan	HSE, Child and Family Services
Ms. Clodagh O'Mahony	Project Manager, Cox's Demesne Youth & Community Project, Dundalk
Ms. Martina Ralph,	HSE, Networks Manager, South Louth
Ms. Claire Woods,	Project Co-ordinator, Louth County Childcare Committee

See Appendix 2 for overview of how Louth CSC fits in with other structures

Achievements to date

There have been a number of achievements to date in Co. Louth Children's Services Committee.

- Interest and commitment of local stakeholders in the establishment of the CSC in Co. Louth
- Securing funding for the Statistical Report on Children and Young people in Co. Louth produced by All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO).
- Establishment of 9 sub-groups to further advance priority areas identified by committee members
- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of outcomes based planning and evaluation.
- Information exchange within and between CSC meetings.
- National Networking at events organised by Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA).
- Linkages developed with educational institutions e.g. NUI Maynooth (AIRO), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) to progress the baseline data on children and young people in Co. Louth.
- Consultation Report of 20 families and youth organisations in Co. Louth looking at services and how groups can inform the plan.
- Development of the 3 year Action plan.

How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

From the outset a number of actions were agreed for the 3 year plan.

- Direct consultation would take place with member organisations and children, young people and families.
- Local and other available relevant research would be used to capture needs and issues in Co. Louth.

The focus of the plan is:

- To document the baseline data in relation to children and young people in Co. Louth under agreed themes/indicators.
- To look at the approach to current service provision with a view to enhancing access, quality and collaboration.
- To evaluate, coordinate and monitor outcomes, impact and effectiveness of services in Louth that is consistent with measurement tools and processes.
- To develop actions with optimal impact within existing resources.

The different stages of the planning process included:

Literature Review

- Reviewing and analysing relevant local, national and international research documents to ascertain good practice/guiding principles of inter-agency working.

Demographic Profiling

- Commissioning AIRO to produce a statistical report using data on children and young people and using DCYA well being indicators as a guide.
- Developing an interactive mapping tool which stakeholders can use when planning services for children and young people in Louth.

Audit of Services

- Identifying and documenting the key services provided to children, young people and families by CSC member organisations.

Consultations

- Conducting 20 focus groups and writing up information using a developed template. An analysis of the data was conducted by DKIT.
- A Consultation with Comhairle Na nog members and steering group was conducted.
- Consultation was sought from CSC members during facilitated meetings.

Alongside the actions above a facilitated process was conducted to engage all committee members in the development of objectives, actions, indicators and targets.

Stage 1: (February 2012-July 2012)

As part of the planning phase three facilitated group sessions were conducted with committee members and an external facilitator over a six month period, which started the process of agreeing priority areas, identifying key local issues and prioritizing local objectives.

Stage 2: (February 2012- September 2012)

Nine sub-groups were established and existing actions and services were listed under each of the themes.

Lead members were identified for each group and each member hosted sub-group meetings to complete the template under each priority area.

Stage 3: (July 2012-October 2012)

The draft action plan was submitted based on the work completed to date, circulated to members in advance of the meeting and these formed the basis of the next two meetings.

Stage 4: (October 2012-November 2012)

The October meeting of the CSC focussed on finalising the actions and agreeing amendments to the overall plan.

In November the plan was signed off for submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Louth

Introduction

This section presents a socio-demographic profile of Louth drawing predominantly on the report produced by NUI Maynooth on behalf of Louth CSC and Census information (see Appendix 2 for a more detailed breakdown of the demographic information and an interactive mapping tool based on Co. Louth data is available on (www.airo.ie)). Other key reports drawn on in this section include:

Louth County Council Louth County Development Plan 2009-2015
 Louth Local Authorities Social Inclusion Unit (2009) Social Profile of County Louth
 Louth County Childcare Committee (2008) Research on Parental Childcare Need in County Louth
 Staines, A (2010) Towards the development of a resource allocation model for primary, continuing and community care in the health services

The figures are drawn from 2006 and 2011 Census data unless otherwise stated. The figures are also, where possible, compared to the national context. The full 2011 Census figures, including small area population statistics, had not been released at the time this plan was prepared. Given the substantial changes that have occurred in Ireland, particularly economically, since 2006 any conclusions drawn from 2006 figures need to be approached with a degree of caution.

A range of factors have been identified as social determinants of health and well-being and include Inequality, poverty, social exclusions, income, public policy, health services, employment, education, housing, transport, the built environment, health behaviours and lifestyles, social and community networks and stress (Farrell et al, 2008). There is evidence that Travellers, lone parents, and asylum seekers, for example, experience stress, depression or mental health difficulties linked to discrimination, stigmatisation, and poor living conditions (Combat Poverty Agency, 2007).

Buckley et al (2005) highlight that certain factors have also been identified as impacting on a parent's capacity to meet the needs of their children. These factors include alcohol and drug misuse, mental health difficulties, parental disability, parenting alone, being an adolescent parent/carer, parenting a child with a disability or complex health needs, being a member of an ethnic minority group and socio-economic factors. Tomison (1995, p5) claims that the follow factors are predictors of neglect 'low income, larger, multi-problem families, families receiving government benefits, poor housing and living conditions'.

Key findings

Population

- The 2011 Census recorded the total population of Co. Louth as 122,897
- County Louth although the smallest county in Ireland is one of the most densely populated and urbanised outside Dublin.
- Census 2011 figures show that Drogheda remains the largest town in the State with Dundalk the second largest.
- The population in the county has increased by 11,630 since the 2006 Census, an increase of 10.45%. This is considerably higher than the average for the State (8.22%).
- Between 2006 and 2011 county Louth recorded the 7th highest population growth rate in the State.
- In 2011, Louth recorded the second youngest rural population in the country after Kildare (35.3) with an average age of 35.4
- In 2011, the young dependency ratio in Louth was lower than the State average.
- In 2006, the number of children and young people living in Louth increased by 4.5%, a considerably higher rate of increase than the State average of 1.8.

One parent families

- Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of children living in lone parent households in the State in 2006.
- Lone Parent Households in County Louth made up 12% of total households in 2006. The national average was 10.4%.
- In 2008, 2,204 people were in receipt of one-parent family benefit in County Louth. The majority of recipients were female (2,156: 97.8%).
- The number of households receiving one parent family payments in Louth increased between 2007 and 2010 by 5.13%.
- Dundalk town council had the highest rate of one parent families in need of social housing within the three Louth Local Authorities in 2010.

Child Health

- County Louth recorded by far the lowest rate of antenatal care in the State with only 33.2% of women attending antenatal care in their first trimester in 2009.
- Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of babies born with a low birth weight in the State in 2009.
- The Louth LHO Area had the 11th lowest proportion of babies visited by the Public Health Nurse in the first 48 hours in the State in 2010.
- The highest rate of mothers aged 10-17 in the State, was in county Louth in 2010.
- In 2006, Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of mothers whose highest education attainment level was primary only or no formal education in the State.
- Louth had a higher MMR uptake rate than the State average in 2010.
- Between 2004 and 2009 the number of children registered with an intellectual disability in the Louth LHO grew by 34.6%, from 225 in 2004 to 303 in 2009.
- Between 2008 and 2011 the number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service had increased by 30%, from 221 to 288, in the Louth LHO Area.

Education

- In 2006, the percentage of persons over 15 years of age in County Louth who left school with no formal or primary education only was 21.7%. The national figure was 18.9%.
- In 2006 Louth had the 5th highest rate of early school leavers in the country.
- Louth had the 5th highest rate of primary school children reporting to be absent for 20 days or more in 2007/08.
- The average number of students enrolled in primary schools in Louth is 214, and in secondary schools 696.
- In 2010, the proportion of ECCE services that were meeting the higher criteria in Louth was the 7th lowest in the State.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate in County Louth in 2006 was 11.1% of the labour force compared with 8.5% regionally, and 8.5% nationally.

General

- Road transport is by far the main form of transport within County Louth and plays a crucial role in contributing to the business life and industrial competitiveness of the county.
- The Border region had the 4th lowest proportion of children reporting that they had good places to spend their free time.
- In terms of their general health, 60% of Louth's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 28% rated it as good.

Background

County Louth occupies an area of 82,100 hectares, of which 61,308 hectares is farmed. Specialist beef production is now the main enterprise on some 36% of farms in County Louth which reflects a national shift to this type of farming. Louth's coastline, exceeding 120 kilometres, stretches from the River Boyne in the south of the county to Carlingford Lough in the north (Louth County Council, 2008).

The county has three commercial ports and one fishing port within its boundaries. These are located at Drogheda, Dundalk, Greenore and Clogherhead, the latter being a major commercial fishing port. The ports of Drogheda, Dundalk and Greenore operate as independent port authorities whereas Clogherhead falls under the remit of Louth County Council.

County Louth contains two distinct areas that have been designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by reason of their unspoiled natural landscapes and spectacular scenic quality: Carlingford and Feede Mountains and Clogherhead and Port Oriel.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has proposed twenty-four National Heritage Areas in the county. NHAs are sites that support elements of Ireland's natural heritage which are unique or are of outstanding importance at a national level.

Louth enjoys a very favourable location along the Dublin-Belfast corridor with close proximity to Dublin and the related advantages of easy access to Dublin Airport, Dublin Port, third and fourth level educational institutions and domestic and international markets. It is also very accessible from Belfast and the highly urbanised north east including proximity to Belfast International and City Airports and the sea ports in Belfast and Larne.

The A1/M1 motorway linking Dublin and Belfast runs through the heart of the county providing high quality access to national roads and motorway infrastructure. The improved level of rail infrastructure and services provide an alternative and sustainable transportation option for both goods and passenger traffic. Road transport is by far the main form of transport within County Louth and plays a crucial role in contributing to the business life and industrial competitiveness of the county.

The years between 2003 and 2009 witnessed a period of unprecedented economic growth and development across the county in tandem with the nation as a whole. During this time Louth became a thriving county with a centre of activity and commerce in the major towns of Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee and Dunleer. Industry in the county has, however, evolved from being largely heavy engineering to more modern, technologically based work (Louth County Council, 2008).

Louth has seen considerable development and capital investment over the last decade; in particular Euroroute E01, from Rosslare to Larne, transverses County Louth and the recently completed motorway has transformed travel to Dublin. By reason of its strategic location on the Dublin - Belfast economic corridor, accessibility to east coast ports and international airports and the much improved road and rail infrastructure, the county is well placed to continue to grow in population and economic terms into the foreseeable future.

The key economic strengths and drivers in County Louth include, *inter alia*, its strategic location, high quality infrastructure, people resources, education and skills of its workforce and the high quality of life available to its residents. The main centres for employment within county Louth are Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee and Dunleer

A key facet of the economy in County Louth has been the adoption of a partnership approach towards growing the economy. This is manifested in the work of organisations such the County Development Board, Louth County Enterprise Board, DKIT, FÁS, the Chambers of Commerce and Louth Leader Partnership, Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, and the Newry-Dundalk Business Linkage Programme. The partnership approach has been most successful in the work undertaken by the Dundalk Economic Development Group. The DEDG was established by the Louth Local Authorities in 2006, as a partnership initiative bringing private and public sector leaders together to promote Dundalk as an ideal place to live, invest or visit. Its work has been recognised at a national level (Louth County Council, 2008).

During the years of the economic boom in Ireland, County Louth experienced considerable pressure for residential development. During this period, much of County Louth effectively became part of a functional urban region centred on the Greater Dublin Area which by 2006 accounted for almost half of the State's population. Also during the period, both road and public transport links between County Louth and the capital were greatly improved. This contributed in part to the growth in population in the county of 17.1% between 1996 and 2006 and by an increase of 8.9% between the years 2002 and 2006. Population growth within the county was boosted by in migration of just under 10% during this period.

The urban area of Dundalk and environs, with a population of 35,000, is designated as a gateway in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and as such, it is anticipated that it will grow to a level where it can support a wide range of services and facilities that will provide higher levels of economic activity, growth and development. Occupying a strategic position approximately half way between Belfast and Dublin, Dundalk is also the administrative capital of County Louth. It contains not only the offices of the County Council, but also the regional offices of the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, FÁS and

the offices of the County Enterprise Board. The town contains a highly regarded third level educational institution, namely the Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) (Louth County Council, 2008).

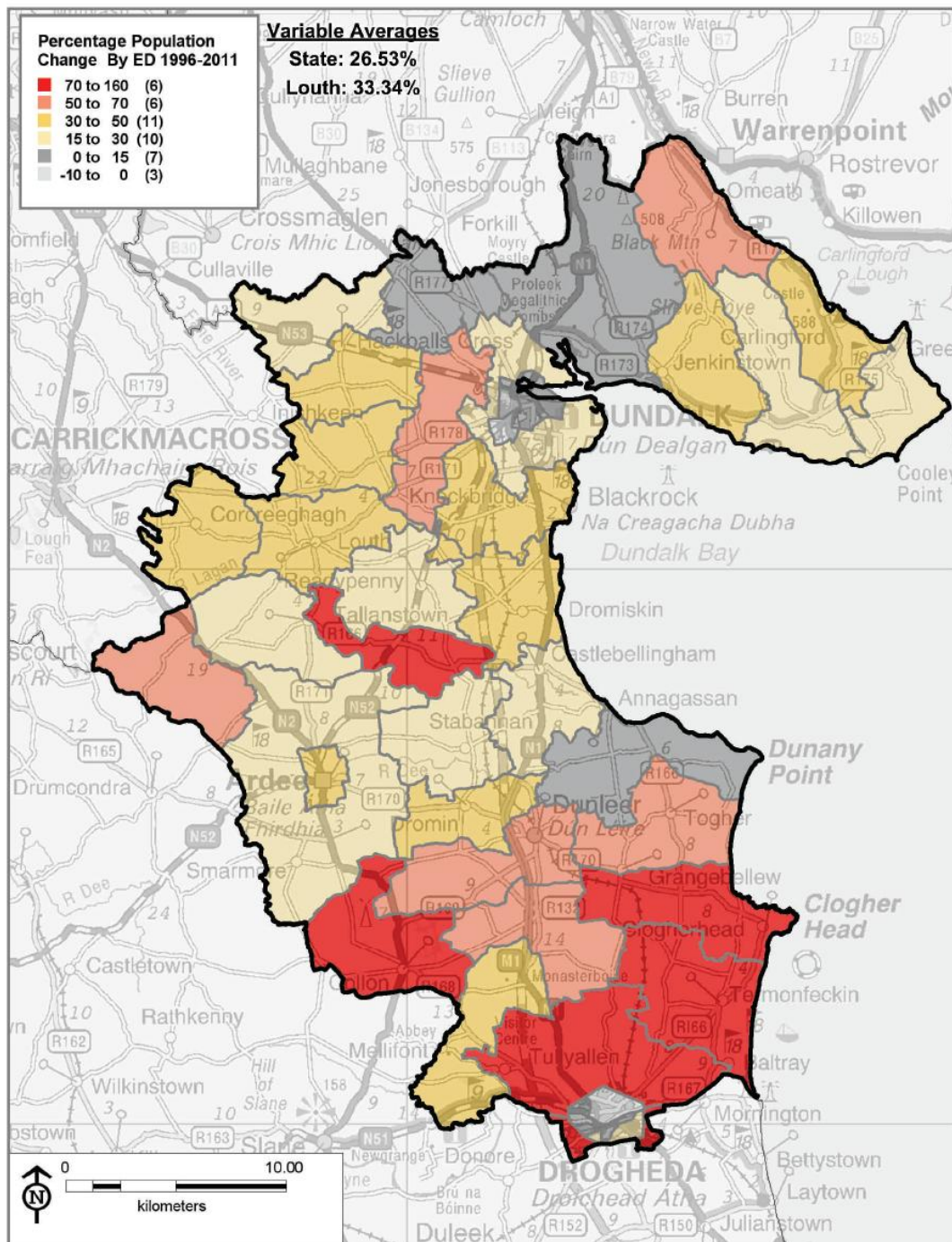
Drogheda has been identified as a primary development centre in the NSS. Its population, as recorded in the 2006 Census of Population is 30,500. Over the last decade, the town has experienced significant growth principally resulting from its location close to Dublin, the completion of the motorway and improvements to rail commuter services.

The population of Ardee increased from 3,568 to 4,301 in the inter-censal period 2002 to 2006, an increase of 20.7%. This was mainly as a result of commuter-based demand for residential development facilitated by the improved road infrastructure. This demand is likely to continue, albeit at a slower rate, given Ardee's proximity to the greater Dublin area.

Dunleer is substantially smaller than Ardee. It had a population of 1,787 according to the 2002 census, rising to 2,340 in 2006. This represents an increase of over 30% in this four year period. Similar to Ardee, this increase was based on commuter generated demand and also facilitated by improved road infrastructure.

In a national context, all of County Louth falls within 'rural areas under strong urban influence' as defined by the National Spatial Strategy by reason of its proximity to Dublin and its strong urban structure.

Map 1: Percentage of population change in county Louth, 1996 to 2011



General Health of Louth population, 2011

In the 2011 Census a question was added that allowed people to rate their own general health. In terms of their general health, 60% of Louth's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 28% rated it as good. Over one per cent (1.4%) rated their general health as very bad while less than one per cent rated it as very bad (0.3%). A total of nine per cent of Louth's population rated their health as fair.

Table 1: General Health of Louth and the State

	Total	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad	Very Bad	Not stated
Louth	122897	73798	34138	10532	1696	364	2369
State	4588252	2767681	1282956	368131	57243	12418	99823

Source: CSO, 2012

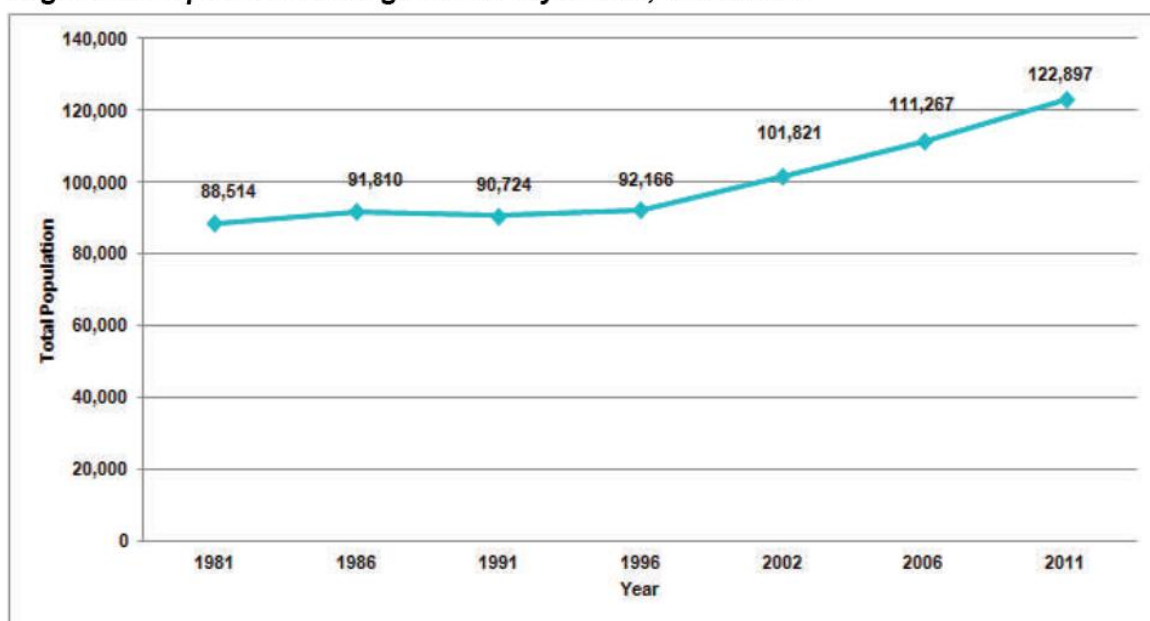
Louth recorded a similar percentage of people rating their health as very good as the State (60%) and as very bad (0.3%). Louth recorded a higher percentage of people rating their health as fair than the State; nine per cent compared to eight per cent.

Population of Louth

County Louth, although the smallest county in Ireland, is one of the most densely populated and urbanised outside Dublin. This is due to the presence within its borders of two of the largest provincial towns in the country, Dundalk and Drogheda. Census 2006 revealed that Drogheda had narrowly replaced Dundalk as the largest town in the State. Census 2011 results show that Drogheda has maintained this position with 38,578 persons; Dundalk was in second place with 37,816 persons. The 2006 census figures confirm that 65% of the population of the county is classified as urban and 35% classified as rural. The census definition of urban is, 'settlements of 1,500 persons or more'. Therefore, the towns of Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee and Dunleer are within the urban definition while all other towns and villages are deemed to be rural (Louth County Council, 2008).

Between 2002 and 2006 many of the county's villages grew considerably while others experienced only slight growth. The hinterland of Drogheda has seen the most significant growth, some 53.3% since 2002, which in numerical terms is an increase of 1,381 people. Also of note were the rise in populations in Mansfieldstown and Drumcar which have seen increases of 41% and 30.9% respectively.

The 2011 Census recorded the total population of county Louth as 122,897. This represented a percentage increase of 33.34% since 1996 (Figure 1). Map 1, below, details the population change within county Louth between 1996 and 2011. As can be seen the highest percentage growth rates are generally in the south of the county accompanied by decreasing populations in some urban areas.

Figure 1: Population change in county Louth, 1991-2011

The population in the county has increased by 11,630 since the 2006 Census, an increase of 10.45%. This is considerably higher than the average for the State (8.22%), increasing from 4,239,848 in 2006 to 4,588,252 in 2011. Between 2006 and 2011 county Louth recorded the 7th highest population growth rate in the State. The population of county Louth now accounts for 2.68% of the total population of Ireland, 23.9% of the population of the Border region, and 4.9% of the population of Leinster.

An increase of 4.5% (+1,284) in the number of children and young people living in the county was recorded between 2002 and 2006, from a 2002 total of 27,949. This rate of increase was considerably higher than the State average of 1.8% (CSO, 2006).

In 2011, Louth recorded the second youngest rural population in the country after Kildare (35.3) with an average age of 35.4 (Census, 2012)

Table 2: Number of children in Louth and State, April 2011

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	Total population
Louth	10411	9507	8744	7581	122897
State	356329	320770	302491	283019	4588252

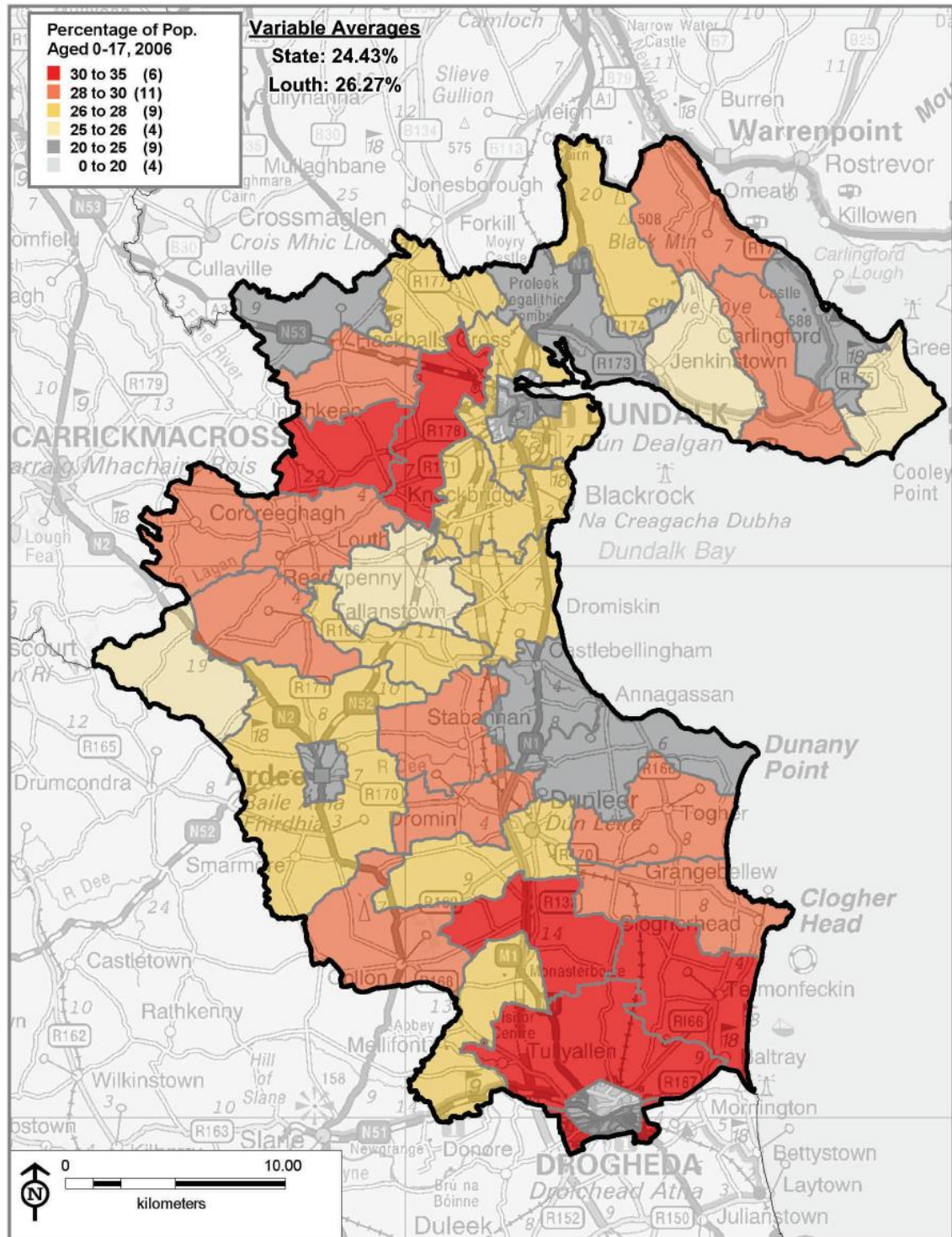
Source: CSO, 2012

In April 2011, 8.47% of Louth's population was aged 0-4 years of age which was above the State figure of 7.76%; 7.73% of Louth's children were aged between nine and five, again higher than the State rate of 6.99%. Children aged 10-14 years made up 7.11% of Louth's population while the State figure was 6.59% while Louth recorded the same percentage of children aged 15-19 as the State (6.16%).

The young dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0-14 as a percentage of the population of working age. In April 2011 this rate stood at 31.9 per cent for the State overall. The young dependency rate for Louth was higher than the State at 35.5. This rate was higher than the young dependency rate recorded in Louth in 2006 which was 32.7.

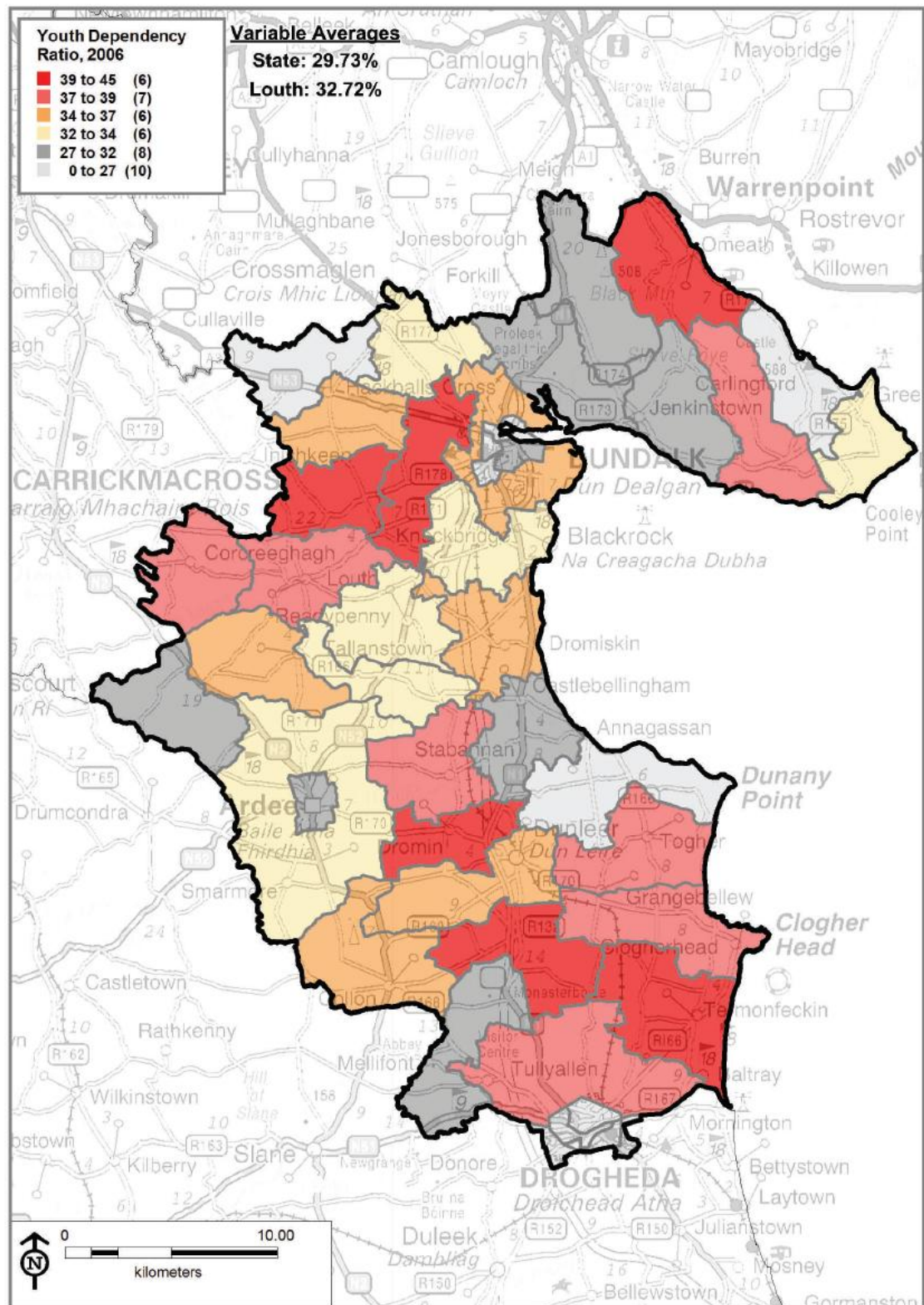
Louth in 2006 which was 32.7.

Map 2: Proportion of Young Population (0-17) in County Louth, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population

Map 3: Youth Dependency Ratio, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population

Ethnic and cultural background

In 2006, the Census recorded the vast majority of people living in County Louth as White Irish (89.2%). 4.7% of those residents in County Louth were of any other White background other than White Irish and Irish Traveller (0.4%). Those from an African Cultural background accounted for 2.1% of the persons usually resident in County Louth while those from any other Black background accounted for 0.1%. A total of 359 persons were classified as being from a Chinese background; this was 0.3% of the persons usually resident in County Louth on Census night. Less than one per cent (0.7%) of persons were from any other Asian background, and less than one per cent (0.9%) were from other backgrounds including mixed background and 1.7% did not state their background (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). See also Map 4 and Map 5 below.

In terms of the two main towns of county Louth, a slightly smaller percentage of people usually resident in Drogheda were classified as White Irish compared to those usually resident in Dundalk (84.2% compared to 85.8%) in 2006 (see Table 3 below). Dundalk had a greater percentage of persons classifying themselves as Irish Travellers compared to Drogheda (0.9% and 0.2% respectively). Drogheda on the other hand had a greater percentage of people who classify themselves as being of any other White background (6.9% compared to 5.2% in Dundalk). There was a very similar percentage in the number of persons from an African background in Drogheda (3.3%) and Dundalk (3.5%). A total of 0.2% of people in Drogheda and 0.1% of people in Dundalk were classified as any other Black background. There was a correlation between the percentage of persons from a Chinese background in Drogheda and Dundalk (0.5% and 0.4% respectively). Drogheda had a higher percent of persons from any other Asian background at 1.3% compared to 0.6% in Dundalk. 1.4% persons in Drogheda and 1.1% persons in Dundalk classified themselves as being from another background or from a mixed background. 1.9% of persons in Drogheda and 2.2% of persons in Dundalk did not state their background (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

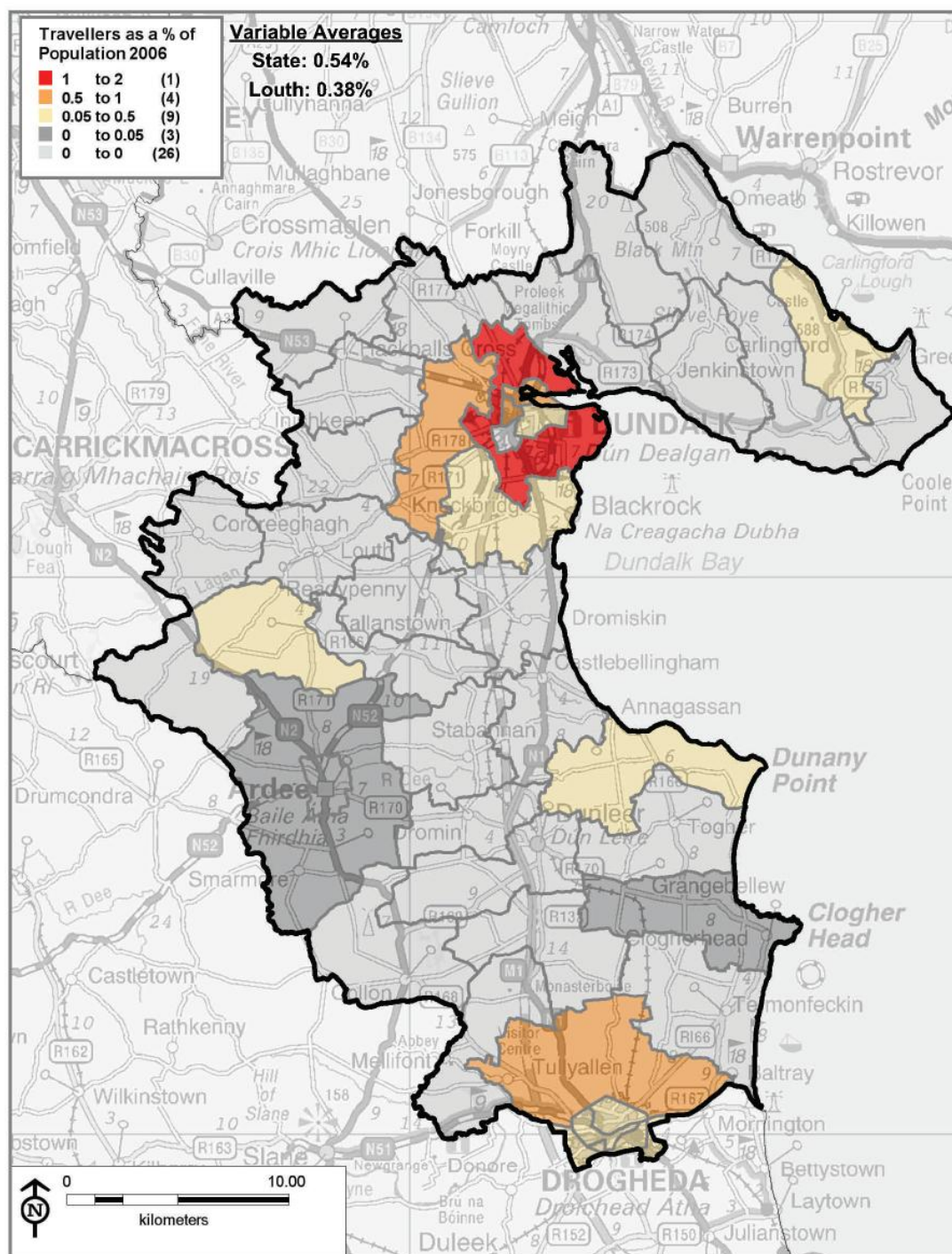
Table 3: Persons usually resident in Drogheda and Dundalk classified by Ethnic or Cultural Background

	White Irish	Irish Traveller	Any other White background	African	Any other Black background	Chinese	Any other Asian background	Other included background	Not Stated	Total
Drogheda	28806	84	2734	1112	56	183	460	464	663	34202
Dundalk	29326	323	1793	1209	50	145	222	375	752	34195

Source: CSO, 2006

Louth recorded the 12th highest rate of foreign national children in the State in 2006 (CSO, 2006).

Map 4: Proportion of the population classed as Irish Travellers in County Louth, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population

Traveller Children and Traveller Families

In 2006, there were 10,929 Traveller children in Ireland, approximately 0.61% of this total were living in county Louth (177) (Census of the Population, CSO, 2006).

A total of 386 Traveller families were recorded as residing in County Louth. This was 27 more families than recorded in the previous year. The majority of these families

(290: 75%) were recorded as living within Dundalk Town Council (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

Table 4: Number of Traveller Families in County Louth

Location	Number of Traveller Families
Dundalk Town Council	290
Drogheda Borough Council	78
Louth County Council	18
Total	386

Source: Louth Local Authorities Traveller Count, September 2008

The Louth Local Authorities, under the provision of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, established a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee with the responsibility for implementing a four year Traveller Accommodation Programme. Louth Local Authorities are currently implementing the 2009 – 2013 Programme for each of the three housing authorities, Louth County Council, Dundalk Town Council and Drogheda Borough Council. Louth Local Authorities provide the following traveller specific accommodation options:

Serviced halting site

In County Louth there are two serviced halting sites located in the administrative areas of Dundalk Town Council (Woodland Park, Dundalk) and of Drogheda Borough Council (10 bays at Cement Road, Drogheda).

Temporary halting site

In County Louth there is one Temporary Halting site located in the administrative area of Louth County Council (Killineer)

Special traveller house purchase grant

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government operates a scheme whereby Travellers can avail of a grant to purchase their own house as a first time buyer.

Group housing scheme

Louth Local Authorities have four Group Housing Schemes located in the administrative areas of Dundalk Town Council (3 group housing scheme 16 houses) and Drogheda Borough Council (4 houses in St. Anthony's Park, Drogheda).

Caravan Loan and Grant Scheme

The Department of Environment and Local Government has introduced this pilot scheme of repayable loans, together with a grant element, to assist Traveller Families, who live in substandard caravans or in overcrowded conditions, to purchase caravans.

Travellers in County Louth can also avail of all other Local Authority accommodation options and services.

Asylum seekers

Information provided by the Reception and Integration Agency indicates that in County Louth 170 Asylum Seekers were accommodated by the Reception and Integration Agency as of December 2008. The capacity available for accommodation is up to 250 in Co. Louth (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). Asylum Seeker/Refuge support groups based in County Louth, include:

- Louth African Women's Support
- Dundalk Roma Support Group
- Louth Polski

Ex-prisoners and displaced families

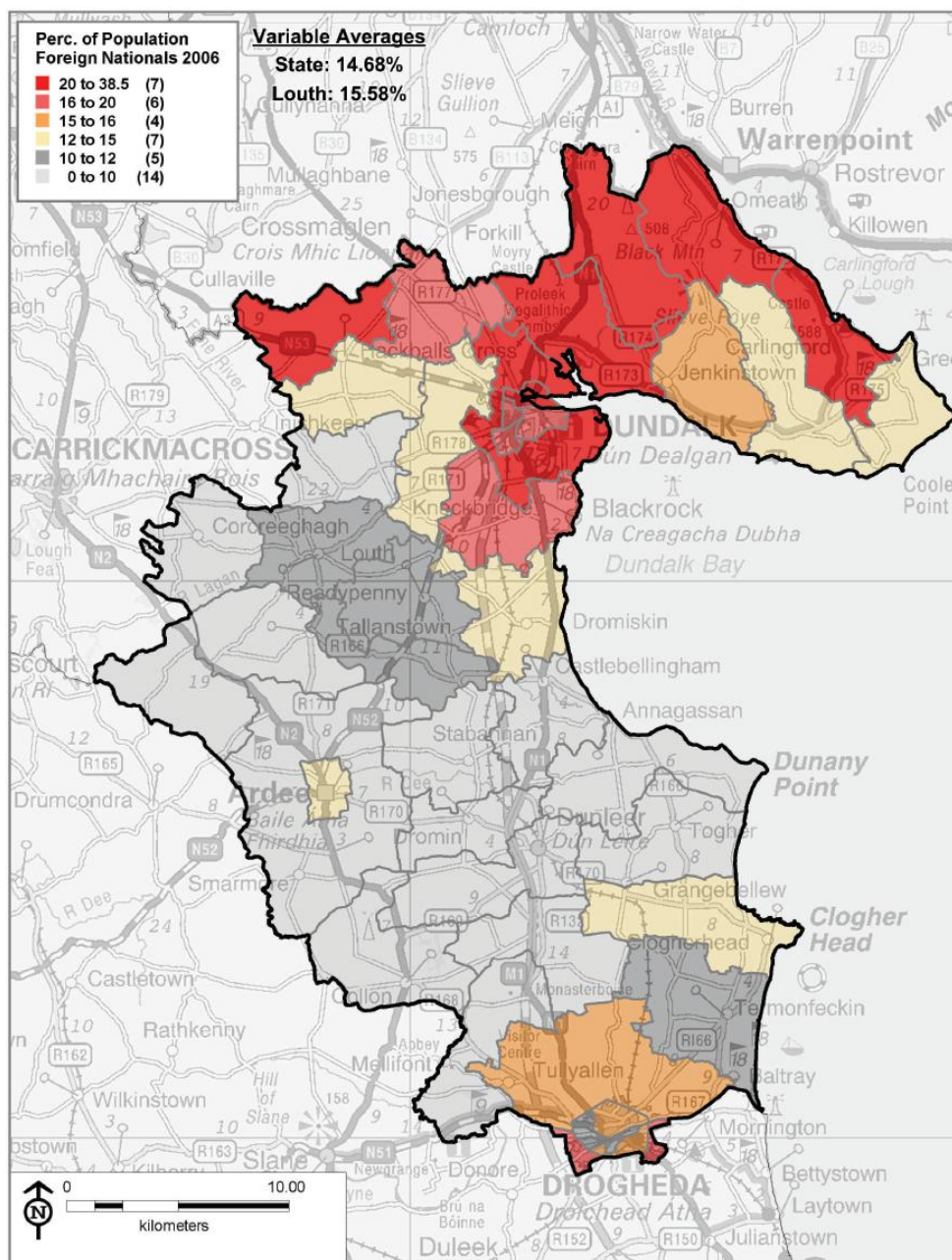
Fáilte Abhaile is the main support group for ex-prisoners and displaced families in County Louth and is based on Bridge Street, Dundalk. Fáilte Abhaile mission statement is:

'To develop an inclusive, sustainable local community infrastructure to support republican prisoners, displaced people and their families, and enable them to fulfil their potential and participate in the regeneration of the community, increasing their education and employability levels and status'.

This support groups offers a number of services including the following:

- Drop in centre
- Training and education courses
- Counselling and emotional support
- Community development
- Wide range of courses such as Computers, Basic English and Maths, Book Keeping

Map 5: Proportion of the population classed as foreign nationals in county Louth, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population

One Parent Families

A Social Profile of Louth (2009) notes that a one parent family is generally defined as a family consisting of one parent, who is not cohabitant, is either living alone or with others, and who has dependent children. Such families include single parents, parents who are divorced or separated, and parents who are widows or widowers.

One-parent families, especially the single parents themselves, are a high-risk group in terms of social exclusion and disadvantage. One of the main issues for one-parent families would be the issue of childcare (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

It is difficult for most single parents, especially those dependent on social welfare benefits as their sole source of income, to have an active social life outside their families. Many single parents may feel they are excluded from normal societal activities (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

Lone Parent Households in County Louth made up 12% of total households in 2006. The national average was 10.4%. The majority of ED's with a high rate of one-parent family households in the county were in the urban areas of the county.

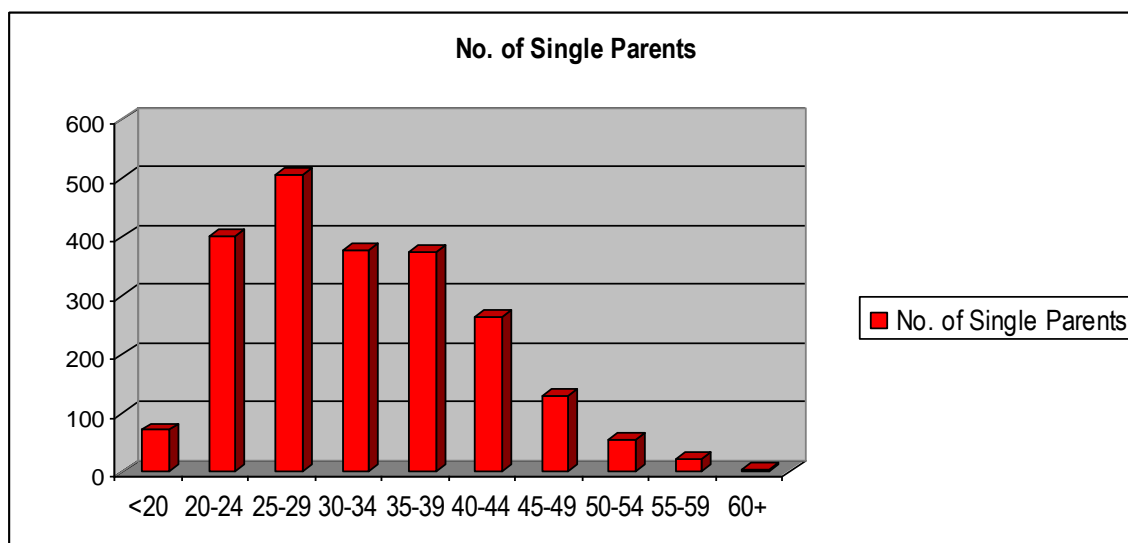
A one-parent family in the rural areas of County Louth are more likely to suffer social exclusion than a one-parent family in the urban centres of the county mainly due to the accessibility of services and availability of services in the urban centres of the county. Castletown (Pt) had the highest percentage of lone-parents in the county at 20.1%; this was 8.1% higher than the County average. In 2006, the five ED's with the highest percentage of lone-parents were mainly in urban areas:

- Castletown (20.1%)
- Dundalk Rural (19.5%)
- Dundalk (15.0%)
- Drogheda (13.5%)
- Ardee Urban (12.5%)

(Social Inclusion Unit, 2009)

One-Parent Family Payment is a means-tested payment, which is made to men or women who are caring for a child or children without the support of a partner. A person who is unmarried, widowed, a prisoner's spouse, separated or divorced and who is no longer living with his or her spouse is eligible to apply for this payment. The scheme was introduced on the 2nd January 1997, and replaced lone parent's allowance, deserted wives benefit and allowance, and unmarried parent's allowance.

In 2008, 2,204 people were in receipt of one-parent family benefit in County Louth (DSFA, 2008). The majority of recipients were female (2,156: 97.8%). Figure 2 below illustrates the age breakdown of one parent family payment recipients.

Figure 2: Age of Single Parents in Co. Louth

Source: DSFA, April 2008 as cited in *A Social Profile of Louth* (2009)

The number of recipients of one parent family payments had increased to 3,151 by 2010; an increase of 947 on the 2008 figures. In 2010, one parent family payments in Louth accounted for 3.4% of all payments made in the State.

Table 5: Number of Recipients of One-Parent Family Payments by County, 2010

County	Number of One Parent Family Payments
Louth	3151
Total for State	92326

Source: *Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010*

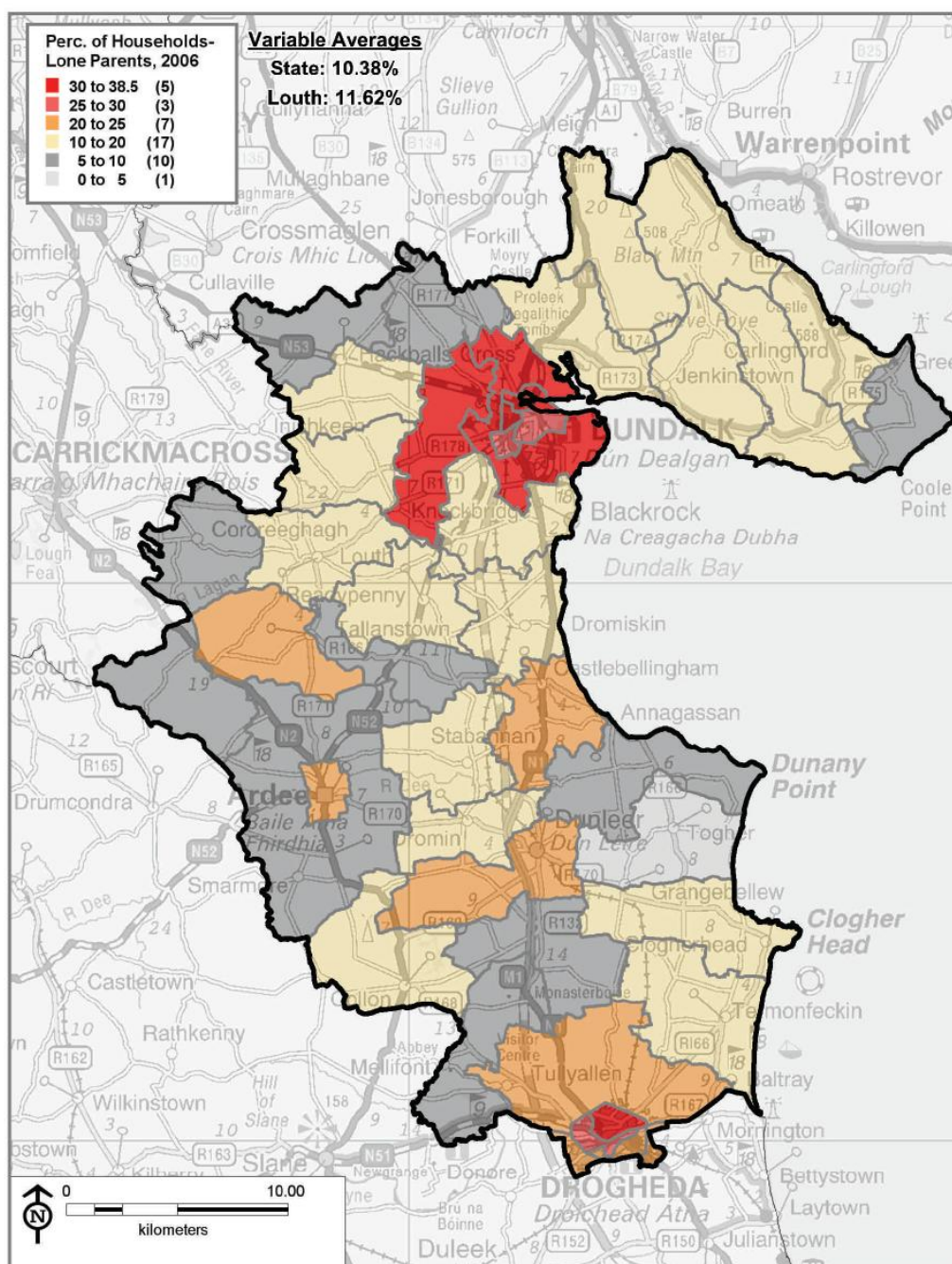
Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of children living in lone parent households in the State (CSO, 2006).

The number of households receiving one parent family payments in Louth increased between 2007 and 2010 by 5.13% (Department of Social Protection, 2012). Dundalk town council had the highest rate of one parent families in need of social housing within the three Louth Local Authorities (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011).

Research into issues for lone parents in the North East region¹ found that lone parents in the region were disadvantaged in a variety of ways. It was found that lone parents experienced a lack of confidence and a lack of inclusion in the community which can impact upon their employability or desire to pursue further training and development. A combination of a number or all of these factors results in a very high percentage of lone parents remaining in the home to care for their children. The research also highlighted that the disadvantages of lone parents were specifically apparent in terms of low income, due to the high levels of school leavers amongst lone parents and their subsequent high levels of unemployment (Nexus, 2006).

¹ Carried out by the North East Lone Parents Network and the Nexus Research Cooperative

Map 6: Proportion of households classed as Lone Parent households, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population

Education

It is widely recognised that one of the main causes of social exclusion is low educational attainment. Presently it can prove difficult to secure permanent or even temporary employment, particularly white collar employment without at least an upper secondary school education (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). There is a particular emphasis on the attainment of a high level of education in the present job market. Those who do not hold at least a leaving certificate, third level qualifications or a professional qualification are at an immediate disadvantage in terms of obtaining employment.

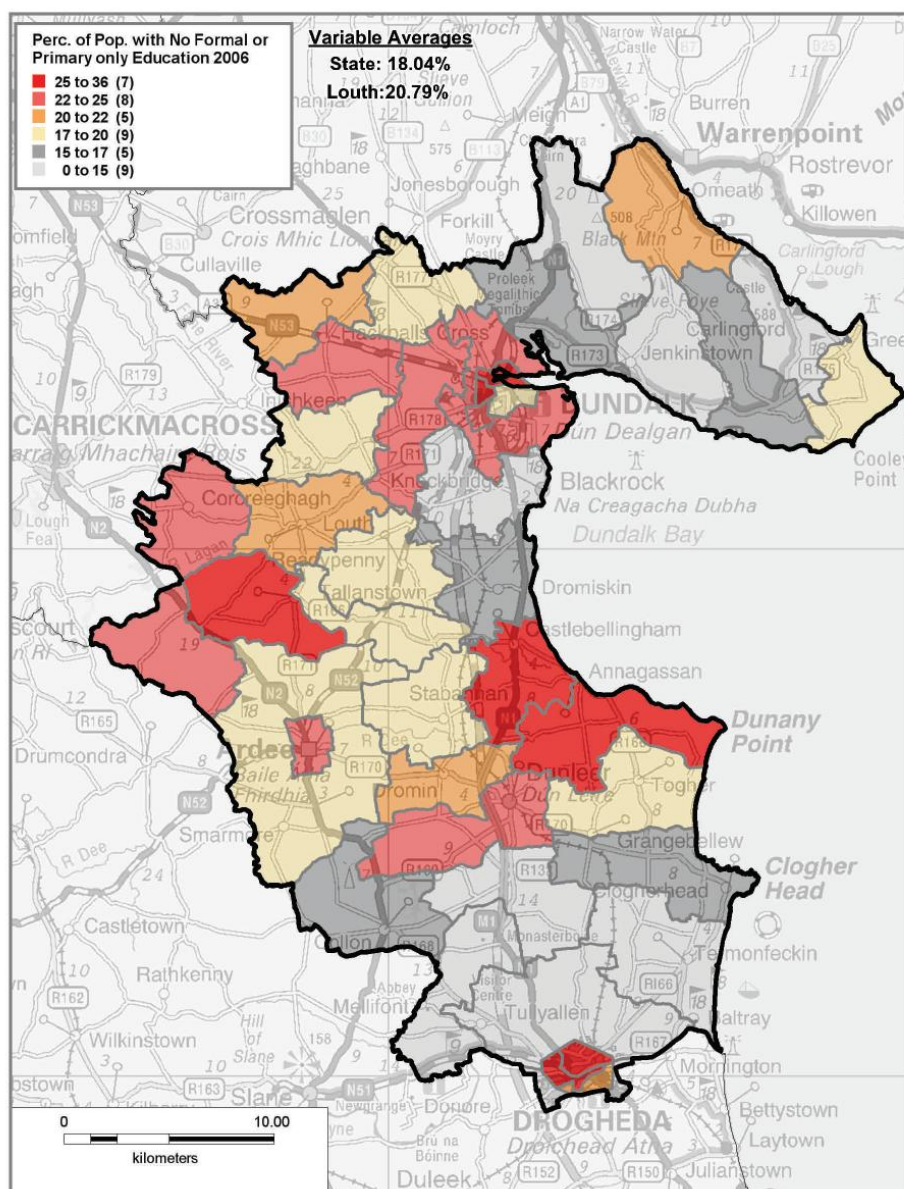
Low educational attainment is a particularly strong indicator of social exclusion and deprivation. It is difficult for persons on low income, particularly for those on social welfare benefits, to ensure their children complete second level education and obtain third level or professional qualifications (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). Studies have shown that families can become trapped in unemployment due to low levels of education. This is particularly true in local authority housing estates as many of local authority tenants are unemployed and dependent on social welfare benefits.

- In 2006, the percentage of persons over 15 years of age in County Louth who left school with no formal or primary education only was 21.7%. The national Figure was 18.9%.
- 21.1% of people in County Louth have a third level qualification (non-degree, degree or higher). This compares to 26.3% regionally and 24.6% nationally.
- 9.6% of persons aged 15 years and over in County Louth attend school, university etc, this compares closely to the regional figure of 10.2% and 10.4% nationally.
(Social Inclusion Unit, 2009)

In 2006, Drumcar contained the population with the lowest level of educational attainment in Co. Louth with 38% of persons in the ED with no formal education or primary education only. This was 16.3% higher than the county average and 19.1% higher than the national average. In terms of third level education attainment, Creggan Upper, the ED with the lowest third level education attainment at a rate of 17.5% was 8.4% lower than the county average and 13% lower than the national average.

It was evident that in 2006 Louth had a lower educational attainment than the national average.

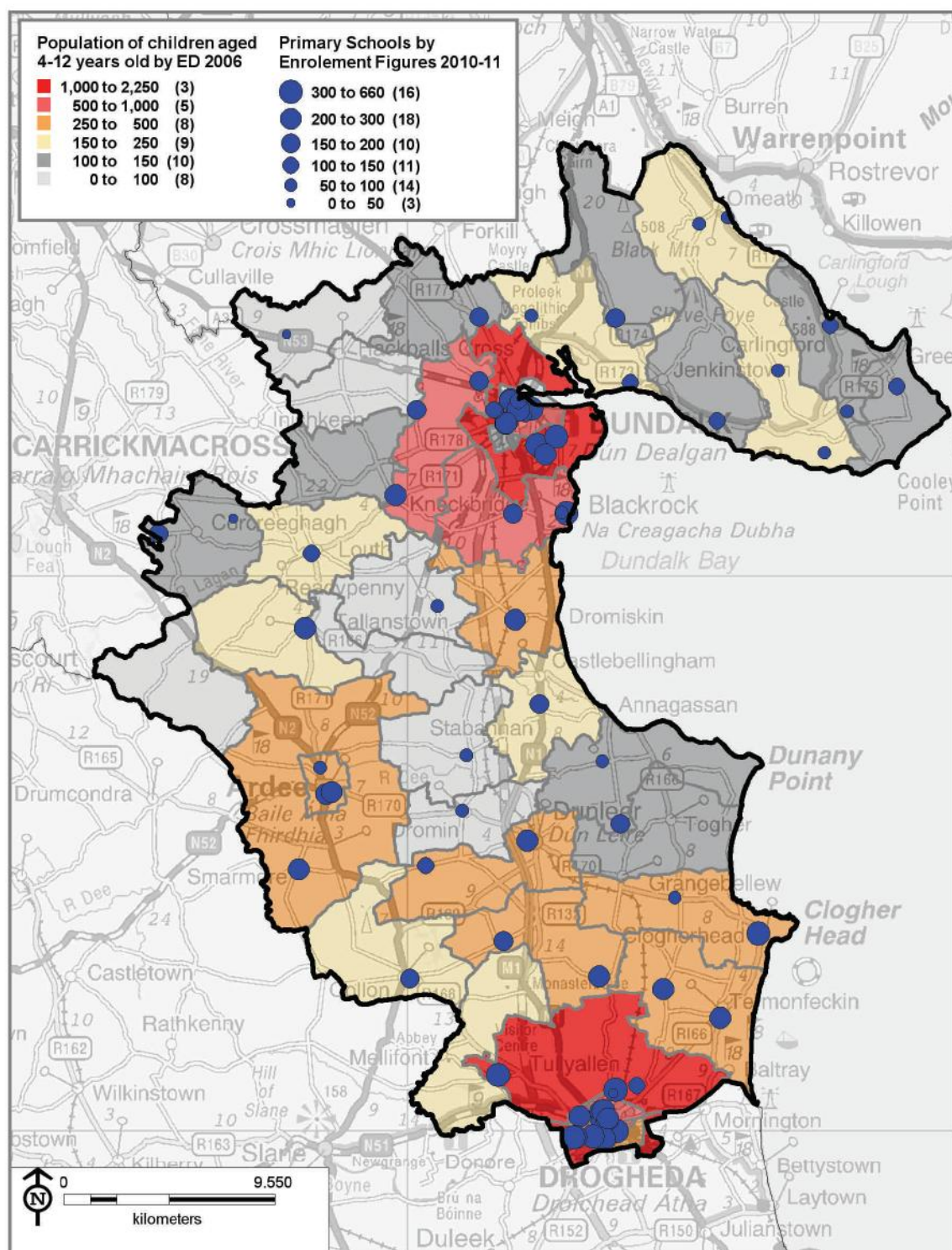
Map 7: Highest levels of education achieved in Louth - No Formal or Primary, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population, 2006

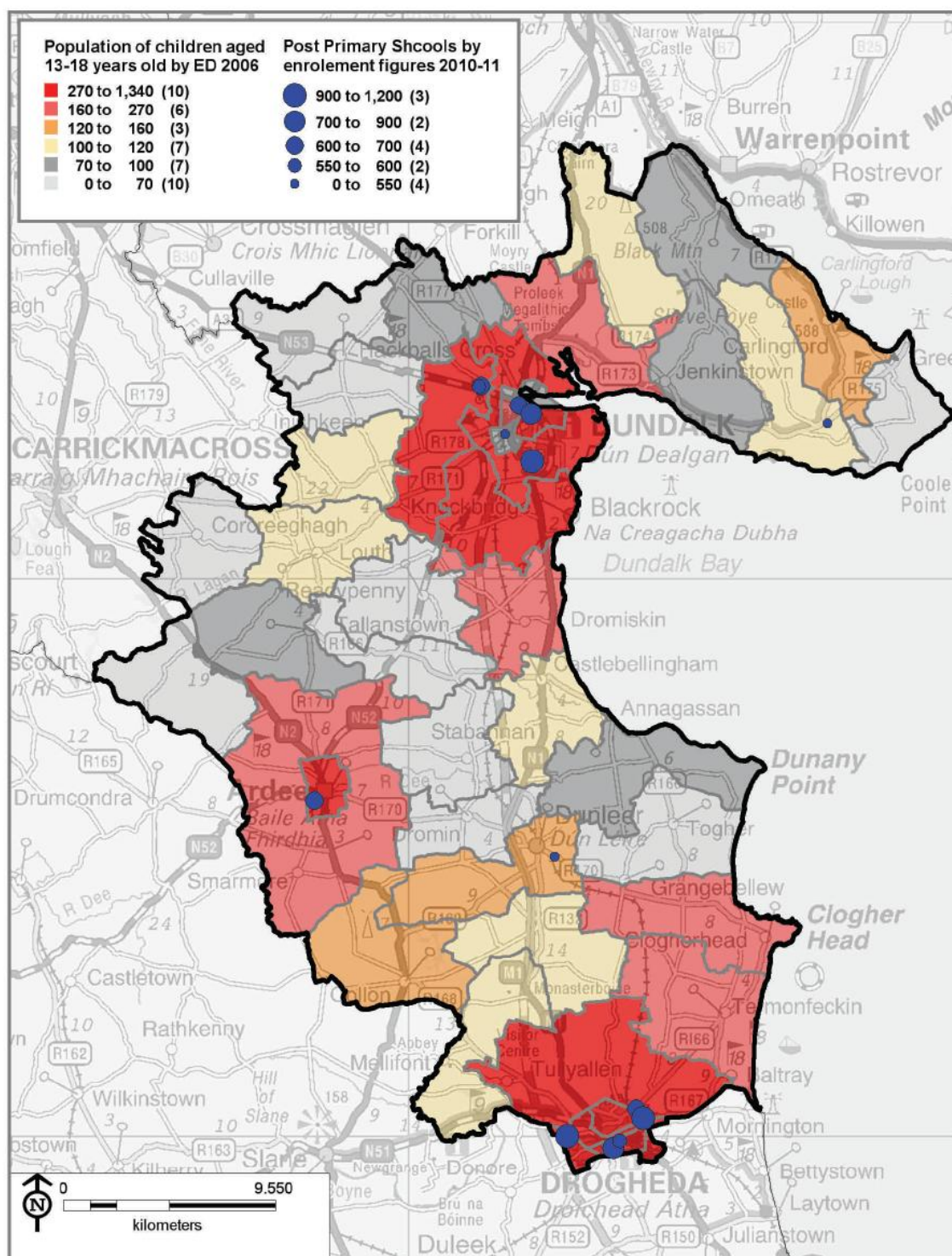
There are 74 primary schools in County Louth. There are 10 schools within the County who deal with children with a disability. There are 17 Post Primary schools in County Louth (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). (See Maps 9 and 10 below and for a full listing of primary and post primary schools please see Audit of Services).

Map 8: Primary Schools in Louth, 2010



Source: Department of Education, CSO-Census of Population

Map 9: Post Primary Schools in Louth, 2010



Source: Department of Education, CSO-Census of Population

In Co. Louth there were 15 Home School Liaison Officers as of August 2004, there were 5 Officers who deal with pupils in Post Primary Schools and 10 who work with pupils in

Primary Schools. There were 6 Post Primary Schools and 19 Primary Schools in receipt of the School Completion Programme and there were six Educational Psychologists located within the County. There were also 36 Learning Support Teachers. There are seven second level schools with disadvantage posts in County Louth they include:

- Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda,
- Colaiste Ris, Dundalk,
- De La Salle, Dundalk,
- St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk,
- Vocational School, Bush,
- St. Oliver's Community College
- O'Fiaich College, Dundalk.

(Social Inclusion Unit, 2009)

Children with literacy or numeric problems are catered for by the Learning Support Teacher Service. The Resource Teaching scheme operates in schools catering for pupils with more severe learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 36 Learning Support Teachers and 67 Resource Teachers currently assigned to schools in County Louth to cater for pupils with learning difficulties and special educational needs.

In 2006, Louth recorded the second highest proportion of mothers in the State whose education attainment level was primary only or no formal education. During the same period Louth reported the 5th highest rate of early school leavers in the country (CSO, 2006) and the 5th highest rate of primary school children reported to be absent for 20 days or more in 2007/2008 (NEWB, 2007/8).

Between 2009 and 2011 the number of Leaving Certificate students in Louth increased by 1.45% (State Examinations Commission, 2011) while in 2010 Dundalk Institute of Technology was the most popular destination for third level students in Louth (Higher Education Authority, 2010).

Child Health

Babies born to teenage mothers are at greater risk for health and developmental problems, while teenage mothers are more likely to experience loss of family and social supports, interrupted education and poverty. Low birth weight in babies contributes to a multitude of social and health problems from childhood to adulthood. These babies are at significantly greater risk of cerebral palsy, autism, mental health issues, and vision and hearing problems (Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, 2009). Teenage mums, especially those younger than 15 years old, have a much higher risk of having a baby with low birth weight. Babies of mothers who are exposed to illicit drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are more likely to have low birth weight. Mothers of lower socio-economic status are also more likely to have poorer pregnancy nutrition, inadequate prenatal care, and pregnancy complications; all factors that can contribute to low birth weight.

In 2010, Louth recorded the highest rate of mothers aged 10-17 years in the State (Vital Statistics, 2010). In 2009, Louth recorded the 2nd highest proportion of babies born with a low birth weight in the State (National Perinatal Reporting System, 2010). County Louth had by far the lowest rate of antenatal care in the State with only 33.2% attending antenatal care in their first trimester in 2009 (National Perinatal Reporting System, 2009). In 2010, the Louth LHO Area had the 11th lowest proportion of babies visited by the Public Health Nurse in the first 48 hours in the State (National Perinatal Reporting System, 2010). Louth had a higher MMR uptake rate than the State average (Immunisation Uptake Statistics, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, 2010).

Research has consistently highlighted that adverse negative childhood experiences have long term negative outcomes for children. Research studies have identified a relationship

between childhood abuse and increased susceptibility to psychiatric disorders including depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorder and suicidal behaviour (Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, 2009).

In 2010, 11 (plus one occurrence < 5) children aged under 19 years were treated for deliberate self harm in Louth County Hospital and 72 (plus one occurrence < 5) were treated at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda (National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm Ireland, 2011). Between 2008 and 2011, the number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in the Louth LHO area increased by 30% from 221 to 288 (HSE, National Performance Indicators Suite, 2011).

The number of children on hospital waiting lists in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda increased by 28% between 2008 and 2010, from 144 to 185. Over 69% of children, however, were on the waiting list for under three months (Patient Treatment Register, National Treatment Purchase Fund, 2010).

Child Protection and Children in Care

Children who are abused in childhood are 25% more likely to become pregnant as teenagers than those who are not abused (Barndardos, 1996). Children abused in childhood are also more likely to become sexually promiscuous. Children who experience abuse and neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit a violent crime.

Table 6: Number of reports of abuse to Social Work Department by Primary Type of Report at time of referral 2009 and 2010

	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Emotional Abuse		Neglect	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Louth	147	102	84	99	87	27	208	154
Dublin North East	633	706	718	789	459	572	1270	1343
National	2617	2518	2594	2887	2125	2418	4677	4662

Source: HSE Child Care Interim Data Set

Of the 382 reports received by the Social Work Department in the Louth LHO area in 2010, neglect made up the largest proportion of reports (154; 40%). Physical abuse made up over a quarter of reports received (27%) as did sexual abuse (26%). Reports of emotional abuse accounted for seven per cent of reports received in 2010.

A total of 199 children and young people were in the care of the HSE in the Louth LHO area in 2010. This represented an increase of 11.79% since 2008 (see Figure 52). The total number of children and young people in care in Louth 13.84% of the total children in care in the Dublin North East Region of the HSE and 3.43% of all children in the care of the State in 2010.

Child care

Childcare services in County Louth are geographically clustered together in the main urban areas of Dundalk and Drogheda. Map 10 below illustrates the location of 17 community childcare facilities; 102 privately owned childcare facilities; and four community After Schools only services within Louth.

Childcare may be defined as full day care, session facilities and services for pre-school children and school going children during out of school hours. It is recognised that the

increased female participation in the labour force together with social change has resulted in a major increase in the demand for childcare. Access to good quality childcare facilities contributes to the social, emotional and educational development of children.

The *National Childcare Strategy 2006-2010* produced by the Department of Health and Children and the *Louth Childcare Strategy* aim to improve the availability and quality of childcare to meet the needs of both children and parents.

Information provided by Louth County Childcare Committee (LCCC) showed that there were a total of 170 childcare providers in County Louth. Seasonal care and full day care services were the most common; both with 38% of providers offering these service. 18% of service providers classified themselves as Childminders and one per cent classifying themselves as Drop in Services (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). Table 7 below outlines the location of the 170 child care providers².

Table 7: Location of Childcare Providers in County Louth

Location	Number of childcare providers
Dundalk Urban	39
Dundalk Rural	40
Drogheda Urban	45
Drogheda Rural	38
Ardee	8

Source: Louth County Childcare Committee January 2009

Childcare Programmes available to parents in County Louth

Scheme 1 – 117 facilities operate the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme

Scheme 2 – 21 facilities operate the Community Care Subvention (CCS) programme

Scheme 3 – 58 facilities operate the Childcare Education and Training Supports (CETS) programme.

In 2010, the proportion of ECCE services that were meeting the higher criteria in Louth was the 7th lowest in the State (ECCE Database, 2010).

Research in relation to parental childcare needs was commissioned by Louth County Childcare Committee in 2008. The work sought to identify barriers that prevent or exclude parents from accessing their preferred choice of childcare in the County. A previous consultant with parents in 2007 as part of developing a childcare strategy for the County found that:

- More childcare places were needed throughout the county
- Gaps in provision are greater in rural areas, which increased the pressure on parents to transport their children to urban areas to access childcare
- The changing demographics and increase in mothers working full time highlighted an increased need for full day care provision
- Provision for children under the age of two years was an increasing priority area
- Parental needs could be met by more flexible provision: in general the demand is much higher in the mornings than afternoons
- The development of culturally appropriate services to the children of foreign nationals and immigrant families was an emerging need.

The 2008 research targeted parents currently on the LCCC database; parents from ethnic minorities; lone parents; traveller parents; and parents with a disability. The research found

² A full list of childcare providers is available from Louth County Childcare Committee

that the most frequently used childcare services was full day care despite the expensive nature of this provision.

Of the 59 parents on the LCCC database sent them questionnaires, 20 responded (34%). Of this 20, 65% stated they used childcare to enable to work; 20% used childcare to enable their children to have greater social interaction with their own age group; 10% used childcare to give themselves an opportunity to have some respite; and five per cent used childcare to enable them to access further education and training.

The average cost of childcare for this parental sample per family was between €125 and €150 per week. This was greater than the national average of between €112 and €138 per week³.

The parents were asked 'whether the childcare services which they are currently using are their preferred choice': 35% of respondents indicated that their current childcare provision was not their preferred choice.

All of the parents in the sample, who used childcare facilities outside the home, drove their children to the facility; none used public transport or walked.

Of the 20 respondents, 90% expressed satisfaction with their current childcare arrangements.

The Traveller focus group were all on Social Welfare and childcare was needed for the Group because they were all in training and education working towards nationally accredited qualifications. The group reported that they had never felt discriminated against in any aspect of childcare due to fact they were from the Travelling community. However, the participants had all only ever dealt with the community sector; none had ever had provision from the private childcare sector. The main barriers to accessing childcare identified were:

- Lack of places for children under one year of age
- Cost – subsidies received could take a long time to be process causing difficulties and the subsidies provided only last for 36 weeks of the year and some educational programmes were longer than 36 weeks again causing difficulties
- Accessibility from a geographically perspective was not an issue in urban areas

There was unanimous support for a crèche for Travelling families in both Dundalk and Drogheda.

A focus group with parents who belong to a disability support group highlighted that many of the private and community childcare facilities were not set up to cater for children with a disability. The prevailing view of the group was that childcare for children with a disability was a specialist field which required intensive customised training and development for childcare practitioners. The group felt that the ideal solution was to have at least one childcare facility located centrally in the county which would cater exclusively for children with a disability.

Cost was a huge barrier for accessing childcare for parents who have a disability. Generally parents felt that, in most cases, it would not be cost effective to stop working or come off benefits and lose their childcare assistance to go out to work. Parents with disabilities living in rural areas are severely impacted by transport difficulties. The distance from childcare facilities was a huge issue and the lack of adequate public transport in rural areas compounds the problem.

³ None of the sample accessed subsidized community childcare services

The key factor to enable lone parents to return to the labour market is access to childcare. This factor pervades all others. The provision of appropriate childcare would enable parents to develop their careers, pursue further education, and access job training, which in turn would lead to greater inclusion in the labour market. Female lone parents remain a demographic at a high risk of experiencing marginalisation which places them on a path that may lead to social exclusion. Access to even limited childcare provision could afford lone parents the opportunity to plan the future for themselves and their children (Nexus, 2006).

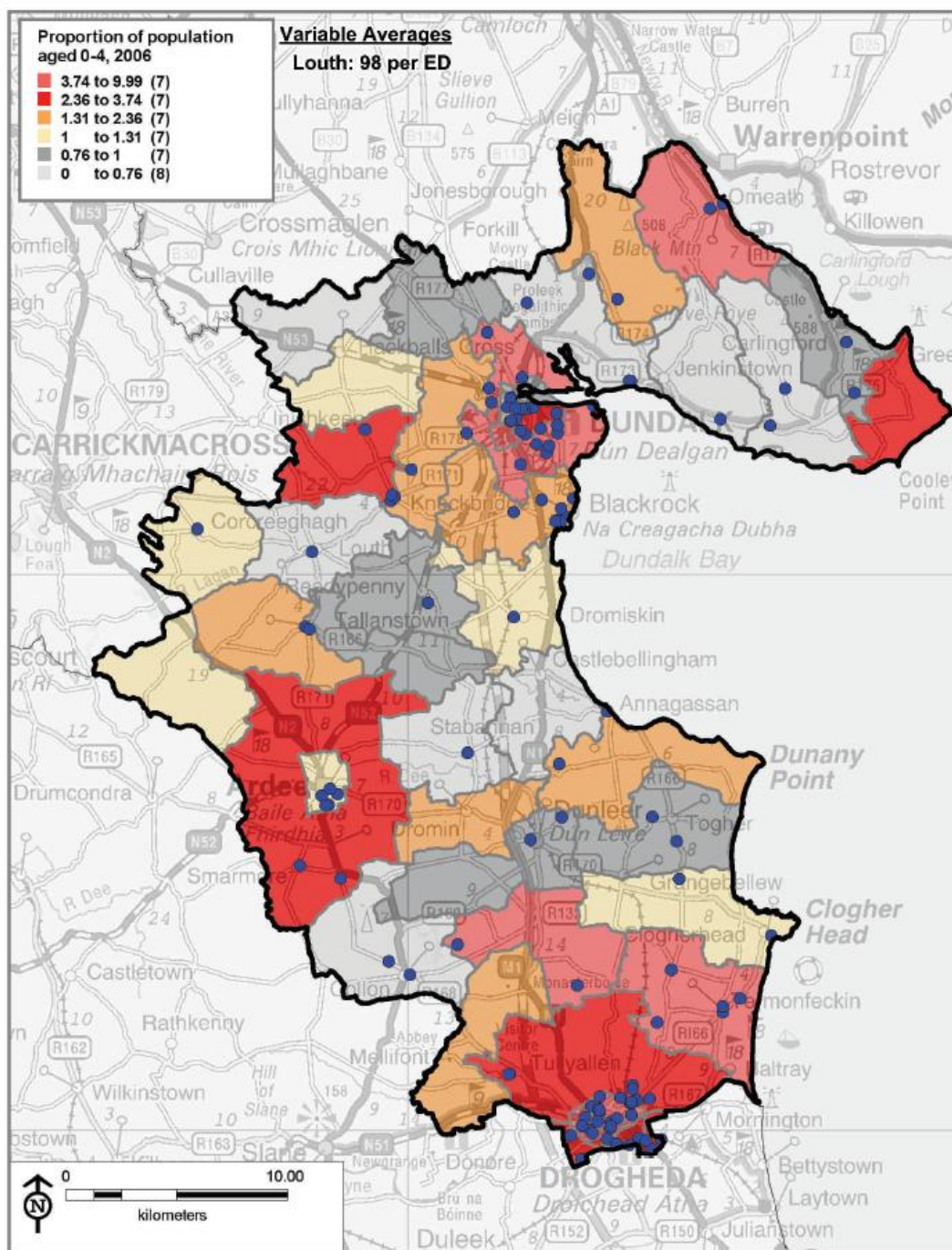
The main barrier to accessing childcare articulated by the parents from New Communities was cost. However, New Communities were also very concerned about additional barriers which may present for their children whilst in a childcare setting. These included:

- Language barriers
- Lack of information about different cultures
- Lack of appropriate materials and resources
- Difficulties with menu planning
- General lack of understanding among child care professionals about the integration needs of children from New Communities

The findings of the 2008 research were consistent with the outcomes from the LCCC strategic planning consultation from 2007. Parental choice in accessing childcare facilities continues to be impeded by:

- Lack of availability of preferred choice and in some rural areas any choice at all
- The variation in provision from urban areas to rural areas. There continues to be particular gaps in rural areas
- The shortage of full day care provision
- The shortage of provision for children under the age of two
- Cost, despite the fact that many parents are not using their preferred choice of provision, many are reluctant to pay more to secure their first choice

Source: Louth County Childcare Committee, CSO Census of Population, 2006



Persons and children with a disability

In April 2008 in terms of the number of persons with some sort of a disability in County Louth, there were a total of 7,849 persons in receipt of some form of disability payment from the Department of Social and Family Affairs (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009). However, there were undoubtedly more persons in the county with some sort of a disability. Persons in receipt of disability payments from the Department of Social and Family Affairs are in the main unemployed or on low incomes, and therefore more susceptible to financial poverty and social exclusion than the rest of the population. There were also 73 more females than males in receipt of disability payments in Co. Louth.

There were a total of 972 persons on the Intellectual Disability Database in County Louth in 2007; this represented 3.8% of the total percentage of the National Intellectual Disability Database. As can be seen the largest proportion of people recorded as having an intellectual disability recorded a mild disability (39.6%).

Table 8: Degree of Intellectual Disability in County Louth

	Not verified	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Profound	All levels
Number	22	385	295	216	54	972
%	2.3	39.6	30.3	22.2	5.6	100

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database, 2007

The 2006 Census reported 1,068 children aged between 0 and 18 with a disability in Louth. In 2009, there were 183 children aged under 18 years registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability living in the Louth Local Health Office area. This figure accounted for approximately 2.3% of all children in Ireland with a physical or sensory disability.

Between 2004 and 2009 the number of children registered with an intellectual disability in the Louth Local Health Office area grew by 34.6%, from 225 in 2004 to 303 in 2009.

Relative affluence and deprivation

As Louth County Childcare Committee (2008) notes County Louth has large pockets of disadvantaged evidenced by the areas that have been formally designated disadvantaged through partnership companies and the RAPID and CLAR Programmes. There are two designated RAPID areas, one CLAR area and two area based partnerships in County Louth.

Despite the relative wealth of the country over the past decade and a rising standard of living, many marginalized groups were left behind. This can be seen in the existence of high social exclusion and high unemployment within the RAPID areas of the towns of Dundalk and Drogheda. County Louth recorded one of the 81 unemployment blackspots in the country in April 2011, Dundalk Urban No 2.

Overall, the Border Region is the most disadvantaged region of Ireland. Louth is the least disadvantaged county in the Border Region and the ninth most disadvantaged in the country (Hasse and Pratschke, 2008). The Trutz Hasse/Pobal Deprivation Index is based on demographic profile, social class composition and labour market. The level of disadvantage of Louth lessened slightly in the 15 year period between 1991 and 2006; from a score of -3.8 to -2.9. As with any county, there exists a degree of variation within the county, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation. The most affluent areas are to the south of Dundalk, whilst the most disadvantaged areas are found within the two town areas of Dundalk and Drogheda. The most disadvantaged electoral divisions in 2006 are outlined below with Dundalk Urban No 1 and 2 and West Gate falling into the very disadvantaged spectrum:

- Dundalk Urban No 1 (-23.3)

- Dundalk Urban No 2 (-17.9)
- West Gate (-14.8)
- Fair Gate (-12.3)
- Drumcar (-11.5)

The county is home to significant numbers of people from specific target groups such as one parent families and immigrant families, who require increased provision of accessible early childhood education, both to counter the cycle of disadvantage and to allow parents to progress to education, training and/or employment.

Unemployment is the largest single cause of poverty in Ireland. The unemployed are most likely to be living in poverty and least likely to obtain new jobs. The link between unemployment and poverty is particularly strong in the case of long-term unemployment and those who are excluded from the labour market (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

The labour force consists of persons who are at work, employed and those who are seeking regular work for the first time. Students, people who are looking after the home/family and retired persons are outside the labour force. The labour force refers to the population aged 15 years and over. The unemployment rate (unemployment rate is defined as unemployed persons and first time job-seekers expressed as a proportion of the total labour force) in County Louth in 2006 was 11.1% of the labour force (compared with 8.5% regionally, and 8.5% nationally). The number of persons unemployed in Co. Louth decreased by 2.1% between the 2002 and 2006 Census when the unemployment rate was 13.2%. The 2006 Census of Population statistics are the only accurate statistics available on unemployment as Live Register figures merely provide a snapshot of the number of persons signing on at any one time in the county. These figures change regularly (Louth Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

The 'unemployment rate' is the total unemployed population, which includes those who are unemployed and first time job seekers, this figure is then expressed as a percentage of the total active labour force. A high rate is a measure of deprivation. The Labour Force Participation is the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 and over. A low labour force participation rate is an indicator of deprivation. The Labour Force Participation rate for County Louth was 62.4% in 2006 compared to 64.4% regionally and 62.5% nationally. Drumcar had the lowest labour force participation rate at 54.7%, and Mullary had the highest rate at 68.0%.

In 2006 the total labour force in Louth was 86,699 of whom 55.5% would be classified as "at work" (Social Inclusion Unit, 2009).

According to the 2006 Census, the Electoral Divisions in County Louth that experience the highest rates of unemployment are Castletown, Dundalk Rural, Dundalk, Ardee Urban, Tallanstown, Drogheda and Drummullagh respectively. Each of these ED's contain higher unemployment rates than the county average, as well as the regional and national averages, which are lower again than the county average. Out of the ED's mentioned above, Mullary which has the lowest unemployment rate is still, 4.5% higher than the national average. The ED that experiences the highest unemployment rate out of the ED's mentioned above has a rate of unemployment 4.8% higher than the county average and 7.4% higher rate than the national average.

The Electoral Divisions that had the lowest rate of unemployment in 2006 were mainly in the south of the county with pockets around the border areas in the north of the county.

Live Register

Table 9: Number on the Live Register for Louth and Country 2001 to 2010

County	Louth	Total for Country
2001	7189	152406
2002	7559	166142
2003	7508	170604
2004	6743	158816
2005	6480	155833
2006	6536	155389
2007	6892	170376
2008	11457	291363
2009	16614	423595
2010	17418	437079
Change%	142.3	186.8

Source: Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010

Between 2001 and 2010 the Live Register for Louth recorded a 142.3% change in the number recorded on the live register. This was the second highest increase recorded after Kildare (387.3%) and well above the change recorded for the total number recorded on the live register for that period (see Appendix X for details on all counties).

Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)

The RAPID Programme is aimed at improving the quality of life and the opportunity available to residents of the most disadvantaged communities in Irish cities and towns. The programme aims to reduce the deprivations faced by residents of disadvantaged communities through targeting specific state resources at the needs of disadvantaged areas. The programme is led by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Regionally, the programme is overseen by the relevant City of County Development Board. At local level, planning and implementation is overseen by the Area Implementation Team. Each area is also supported by the RAPID Co-ordinator, and nationally the programme is supported by Pobal.

In each local RAPID area, a straightforward local plan is developed which defines a series of issues, objectives and actions that are key to the RAPID programme locally. These plans provide a way of defining actions which take place under a number of themes which are part of the RAPID programmes:

- Community safety and anti-social behaviour – launched January 2008
- Health – launched January 2008
- Family Support – launched January 2008
- Education – launched September 2008
- Training and Employment – launched 2009
- Physical Environment – launched 2008
- Youth – yet to be launched

(www.pobal.ie, June 2012)

In 2012, there were 51 RAPID areas located in cities and towns around Ireland. Strand 1 was launched in 25 urban areas in February 2001 with RAPID areas being identified in both Dundalk and Drogheda during this strand.

CLAR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd- Riachtanais)

The CLÁR programme is a targeted investment programme for rural areas which experienced a decline of more than 35% in population since the foundation of the State.

Whilst County Louth did not experience such declines, the Cooley Peninsula area of the county was included in the programme due to the serious impact of the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 which resulted in the total de-stocking of animal herds in the area.

CLÁR contains a range of measures to accelerate the development of physical, community and social infrastructure which would have a clear benefit in terms of employment creation, thus providing opportunities for local people who otherwise would have limited employment opportunities. These measures include village, community and school enhancement projects and the provision and improvements to broadband, roads, water supply and sewerage infrastructure. The programme has had a significant influence on leveraging further funding from other public and community sources.

Social Housing

In 2011, there were approximately 2,088 households with children identified as being in need of social housing. This represented 44.85% of the total households in need of social housing in county Louth.

Car Ownership

Louth (80%) had the lowest car ownership rate outside of the cities.

Personal computer ownership and internet access

Table 10: Number of private households in permanent housing units classified by personal computer ownership and access to the internet

	Total	Yes	No	Not state d	Broadban d connectio n	Other connectio n	No connectio n	Not State d
Louth	43897	31523	11373	1001	27689	3263	11915	1030
State	164940 8	119929 8	41459 7	3551 3	1051942	132973	426096	38397

Source: CSO, 2012

Of the 43,897 private households in permanent housing units in Louth in 2011, 72% reported owning a personal computer. This was just below the number of private households in permanent housing units in the State (73%). A total of 63% of the 43,897 households in Louth had broadband connection while seven per cent reported an 'other' connection to the internet. This means a total of 70% of these households have access to the internet with 27% reporting no internet connection. This was just below the State percentage reporting access to the internet (72%) for these households and just above the State percentage of those having no internet connection (26%).

Relative Index Score

Extremely Affluent	(0)
Affluent	(1)
Marginally Above Ave.	(22)
Marginally Below Ave.	(13)
Disadvantaged	(6)
Very Disadvantaged	(1)
Extremely Disadv.	(0)

Variable Averages

Louth: -2.9
Border: -4.5

0 10.00
kilometers

Source: Trutz Haase, GAMMA Ltd 2007 and Ordnance Survey of Ireland 2007

HSE and County Council expenditure

Resource allocation in health care is a method for distributing resources between competing claims in ways that are consistent with health policy priorities (Birch et al, 1993). While health-care resources have been distributed traditionally on the basis of historical allocations to existing providers and facilities, most industrialised countries now subscribe to the principle of a population health approach to resource allocation (whereby resources are distributed on the basis of relative needs for care). The Department of Health and Children report on Resource Allocation, Financing and Sustainability in Health Care (2010) emphasises that the main factor influencing the allocation of resources to any area for almost all services will be the population to be served by that service.

Table 11 below outlines the expenditure of LHO areas for Primary, Continuing and Community Care for the financial year of 2007. As can be seen Louth LHO recorded the sixth lowest expenditure in PCCC of the 32 LHO areas. Table 12 shows expenditure ranked by expenditure per capita. In terms of expenditure per capita Louth LHO recorded the ninth lowest amount spent in PCCC in 2007.

Table 11: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita, for PCCC - 2007 outcome expenditure data

LHO	Total population (2006 Census)	2007 expenditure	2007 expenditure per capita
Dublin South West	147,422	€331,236,865	€2,247
Dublin North Central	126,572	€328,805,348	€2,598
West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
Galway	231,670	€239,120,886	€1,032
Dublin North	222,049	€214,556,464	€966
Donegal	147,264	€201,749,302	€1,370
Dublin North West	185,900	€197,863,406	€1,064
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91,053	€189,731,513	€2,084
Dublin South East	110,487	€189,575,595	€1,716
Laois/Offaly	137,927	€181,086,677	€1,313
Longford/Westmeath	113,737	€168,390,263	€1,481
South Lee - Cork	179,260	€157,115,096	€876
Kerry	139,835	€156,915,225	€1,122
Limerick	151,290	€154,013,155	€1,018
Mayo	123,839	€145,713,978	€1,177
North Lee - Cork	167,701	€142,288,163	€848
Carlow/Kilkenny	120,631	€136,860,581	€1,135
Dublin South	126,382	€131,398,630	€1,040
Kildare/West Wicklow	203,327	€121,767,735	€599
Waterford	120,017	€120,634,326	€1,005
Cavan/Monaghan	118,791	€115,354,045	€971
Wicklow	109,202	€112,998,820	€1,035
Wexford	131,749	€109,834,306	€834
Dublin South City	134,344	€109,407,745	€814
Clare	110,950	€106,282,411	€958
North Cork	80,769	€103,186,584	€1,278
Louth	111,267	€102,088,888	€918
South Tipperary	88,441	€101,021,591	€1,142
Meath	162,831	€93,230,189	€573
North Tipperary/East	98,788	€85,647,976	€867

Limerick			
Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Roscommon	58,768	€70,088,398	€1,193
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

Table 12: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita for PCCC – 2007 outcome expenditure data ranked by expenditure per capita

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West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
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Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

In 2007, as a percentage of the median budget per capita for service groups, 1.2% of Louth's budget was supplied to children, adolescents and families. This was the eleventh lowest percentage allocated by LHO areas and was below the median of 1.5%. Dublin North

West supplied the highest proportion at 6.10% and Waterford recorded the lowest (0.10%) (See table 13 below).

Table 13: The range of budgets, using only weights adjusted for LHO-level deprivation, as a percentage of the median budget per capita for service groups, supplied to young people, the whole population, and people aged over 65 years (2007)

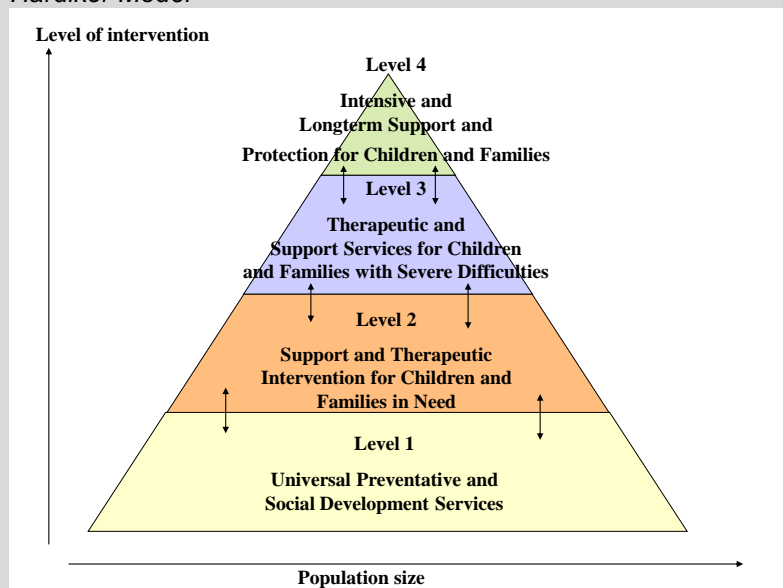
LHO	Children, adolescents and families	All other services	Older people
Dublin North West	6.10%	6.30%	1.00%
Dublin South	5.80%	7.90%	1.30%
Dublin West	3.80%	9.60%	0.60%
Meath	3.80%	7.50%	0.90%
West Cork	3.70%	9.50%	0.40%
Kildare/West Wicklow	3.10%	10.20%	1.50%
Mayo	3.00%	7.90%	1.00%
Kerry	2.90%	5.40%	0.20%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2.70%	6.50%	1.00%
Dublin North Central	2.70%	5.20%	2.40%
South Tipperary	2.20%	4.10%	0.10%
Roscommon	2.10%	9.10%	1.10%
Cavan/Monaghan	2.10%	4.00%	1.00%
Limerick	1.90%	1.10%	0.20%
North Tipperary/East Limerick	1.70%	1.20%	0.10%
Donegal	1.50%	4.00%	0.50%
Dublin North	1.40%	5.40%	3.80%
South Lee – Cork	1.40%	0.50%	0.20%
Dublin South East	1.20%	5.70%	2.90%
Dublin South City	1.20%	5.50%	2.90%
North Lee – Cork	1.20%	3.40%	1.10%
Louth	1.20%	1.90%	0.60%
Clare	0.80%	1.30%	0.30%
Wicklow	0.70%	3.10%	0.80%
Laois/Offaly	0.70%	2.20%	0.70%
Wexford	0.60%	1.10%	2.00%
Carlow/Kilkenny	0.60%	0.40%	0.20%
Longford/Westmeath	0.50%	1.50%	0.70%
Dublin South West	0.40%	3.90%	1.50%
Galway	0.40%	0.20%	0.10%
North Cork	0.30%	4.90%	1.30%
Waterford	0.10%	1.90%	0.80%
Median	1.5%	4.0%	0.8%

Staines (2010)

In 2007, Louth County Council recorded a general revenue balance of €4,050,865; in 2010 this balance was €1,685,221 (Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012) This Local Government Audit Service (2012) also recorded that in terms of Revenue Collection, Louth County Council had a total arrears of €8,580,167 for its four income sources at December 2010. The Council noted that this was a serious matter for them.

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Louth

Hardiker Model



Introduction

It was agreed by Louth CSC that the service mapping for the first three year plan would focus solely on the services and supports provided by the member organisations including projects that are core funded by the organisations. The ongoing review and updating of the service mapping is a key objective in the Change Management section of the plan.

The services outlined below have been categorised as Universal (Hardiker level 1) or Targeted (Hardiker level 2,3,4).

Louth CSC will apply for funding to develop a more detailed local child well being indicator set for the county and a framework for examining and auditing current service provision.

A more detailed list of services provided by member organisations is contained in Appendix 4.

The services below have been presented in alphabetical order.

Child and Family Support Agency

The agency will be responsible for the wellbeing of children and families who require targeted supports due to family and social circumstances. These range from support to families in the community to highly specialist interventions where children are at risk of being unsafe. Such children and families are not an isolated grouping nor are they a static grouping as children and families can move in and out of needing support as their life

circumstances change. The Child and Family Support Agency will be on a statutory basis in early 2013.

Family Support Agency

The Family Support Agency operates under the aegis of the DCYA and funds a Family Resource Centre and supports organisations providing Marriage, Relationship, Child and Bereavement counselling services. It also provides research relevant to families. It will operate under the Child and Family Support Agency from 2013.

Education in Louth

Education is compulsory in Ireland from the ages of six to sixteen or until students have completed three years of second level education.

The Irish education system is made up of:

- Early Childhood
- Primary
- Post Primary
- Further Education and Training
- Higher Education
- Qualifications Recognition

Organisation	Service	Universal/Targeted
Education	74 Primary Schools	Universal
	16 DEIS Primary Schools	Targeted
	17 Post Primary Schools	Universal
	5 DEIS Post Primary Schools	Targeted
	10 Schools deal with children with a disability	Targeted
	15 HSCL-5 Post Primary 10 Primary	

An Garda Síochána

The functions of An Garda Síochána are laid down in legislation, Section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005.

Section 7.- (1) The function of the Garda Síochána is to provide policing and security services for the State with the objective of-

- (a) preserving peace and public order,
- (b) protecting life and property,
- (c) vindicating the human rights of each individual,
- (d) protecting the security of the State,
- (e) preventing crime
- (f) bringing criminals to justice, including by detecting and investigating crime and
- (g) regulating and controlling road traffic and improving road safety.

An Garda Síochána	13 Garda Stations	Universal
	Community Policing e.g. neighbourhood watch, community alert	Universal

	3 Joint Policing Committees- Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee	Universal
	4 Garda Youth Diversion Projects-(Boyne, Cable, TEAM, High Voltage)	Targeted
	Specialist officers e.g. Immigration, Diversity, Crime Prevention, Family Liaison	Targeted

Health Service Executive

The HSE's job is to run all of the public health services in Ireland. The areas of work are as follows:

- Integrated Services- including services in the community, hospital services and ambulance services.
- Clinical Strategy and national clinical programme
- National Cancer control programme
- Communications
- Consumer affairs
- Regional Health offices
- Corporate planning

Health Service Executive	Lourdes Hospital- Emergency Department	Universal
	Social Worker, Clinical Nurse specialist for Teen Pregnancies.	Targeted
	Addiction services- North/South Louth. 2 Addiction Counsellors, 3 Outreach workers, needle exchange service	Targeted
	Health Centres x 12	Universal
	Primary Care Teams x in Co. Louth with Public Health Nurse, Registered General Nurse, Home Helps, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapists. Primary Care Networks	Universal and Targeted
	Child Health-Public Health Nursing-developmental screening, Immunisations, breastfeeding Support	Universal
	Social Work service-intake, duty, case work-in care, fostering, aftercare, child welfare and protection	Targeted
	Family Support workers- Home based family support workers Family Support Projects-Teen Parent support Programme, Family support and child welfare services team & Muirhevnamor Springboard Initiative	Targeted
	1 child and adolescent mental health team for under 16s.	Targeted
	Pre-school Inspectorate:	Universal

	monitoring compliance with legal requirements of pre-school provision	
	Traveller Primary Health Unit: Peer led health Promotion, advocacy and training for Travelling community	Targeted
	Intellectual Disability Team	Targeted

Louth County Childcare committee

Louth County childcare committee was initiated in 2001, after an intensive development period the committee became incorporated in 2002. The childcare committees were established as one key element of the government's co-ordinated strategy to develop quality childcare in Ireland.

Louth County Childcare Committee	Parent and Toddler group grant scheme (16 Parent and Toddler groups registered)	Universal
	Quality outreach service for childcare service providers	Universal
	Support for administration of Government schemes: ECCE and CETS	Universal
	102 privately owned childcare facilities	Universal
	17 Community childcare facilities	Universal
	4 Community After Schools only services	Universal

Louth County Council

Louth county council is responsible for the provision of an extensive range of public services in Louth. They are typically broken down into eight categories:

- Housing
- Planning
- Roads
- Water supply
- Development incentives and controls
- Environmental protection
- Recreation facilities
- Agriculture, education and health

Louth County Council	2 RAPID area implementation Teams	Universal & Targeted
	Age Friendly County Initiative	Universal & Targeted
	Transportation & Public Safety	Universal
	Planning and Economic Development	Universal
	Louth Sports Partnership	Universal
	Housing, community and cultural services, Comhairle na nog, County development board, Community and voluntary forum.	Universal

Louth Leader Partnership

Louth Leader Partnership is a Local Development Company funded by the Irish Government and charged with the delivery of a range of programmes whose aim is to support specific

target groups with a view to making a positive difference in their lives. The main purpose of Louth Leader Partnership is to promote and support both the urban and rural communities, promote social inclusion, support enterprise development and employment creation, facilitate access to education, training and lifelong learning and assist community groups in identifying needs and local solutions.

Louth Leader Partnership	Rural Development Programme-capital and training grants	Universal
	Local and Community development	Targeted
	Rural Transport Programme	Targeted
	Local Employment Services network/Obair	Universal
	Tus work placement programme for long term unemployed	Targeted
	Second Chance training Programme	Targeted

The Probation Service

The Probation service is an agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. The role of the service is to reduce the level of crime in the community and increase public safety by:

- The effective assessment and management of offenders
- Challenging offending behaviour
- Facilitating the integration of ex-offenders.

Probation Service	Young persons Probation - individuals case work 12-18 yrs old	Targeted
	Gaining Ground Probation Project-Cox's Demesne-Strengthening Families Programmes	Targeted
	Working with perpetrators programme-Men overcoming domestic violence	Targeted

Co .Louth VEC

County Louth VEC is a local Statutory, Education and Training Authority established under the Vocational Education Acts. County Louth VEC is involved in education provision for second level and mature students, further education, vocational training, adult education, outdoor education and special education for early school leavers.

Louth Vocational Education Committee	Post Primary schools x 4	Universal
	Post leaving Certificate Programmes- 2 centres-O'Fiach Dundalk and Drogheda Institute of Further Education. VEC can offer 1,160 places with 1491 taking up places in 2011.	Universal

	Adult and Community education	Universal
	Peace III Projects	Targeted
	Outdoor education	Universal
	Youthreach x 2 offering 90 places	Targeted
	VTOS x 2	Targeted
	Community Education Group- Education and training programmes on a community outreach basis	Targeted/Universal
	Back to Education Initiative; Education and training programmes for 16 yrs +	Targeted/Universal

Youth/Voluntary services in Louth

Under Government legislation Co. Louth VEC has a statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Youth Work Act 2001. The youth service in Louth VEC co-ordinates, supports and monitors youth activities within the county. The service works in partnership with a range of key providers of youth services including YouthWork Ireland (Louth), Dundalk Youth Centre, Foroige Youth services, Drogheda Youth Development, Cox's Demesne Community Youth Project, Drogheda and Dundalk town councils, HSE, Louth County Council and Louth Leader Partnership.

Louth Youth Services	73 Voluntary Youth Clubs registered 8 Summer Projects registered	Universal
	Youth Projects - Coxs Demesne, Muirhevnemor, YouthworkIreland, Dundalk Youth Centre, Dundalk Outcomers, Drogheda Youth Development, Respond! Housing association.	Universal & Targeted
	Specialist Youth mentoring projects-YAP, Extern and Teen Parent Support Programme, ISPC	Targeted
	Comhairle na Nog: county level youth for a	Universal

Section 4: Local Needs analysis in Co. Louth

Introduction

The findings outlined below are based on the analysis of information obtained from a variety of sources: individual consultation, group consultation, research literature review, demographic and mapping data.

In 2011 Co. Louth Children's Services Committee commissioned a data collection project which provides a detailed account of the socio-demographic profile of the children who live in Co. Louth under the National Indicator set. This piece of work will contribute to the evidence base of all those who work with children, young people and families in Co. Louth. The profile forms the basis of a data collection framework that needs to be updated regularly by Louth CSC in order to ensure that information remains current, measurable and robust.

Running alongside this research is the aim of enhancing the participation of young people in society and policymaking. The first goal of the National Children's strategy is that children will have a voice in matters that affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. To this end 20 focus groups were conducted by the Co-ordinator to give children, young people and families a say in Co. Louth's children and young peoples plan 2012-2014: specifically to explore and identify what young people have to say about community facilities, leisure activities, concerns and recommendations on services.

Finally a comprehensive profile of the services provided by statutory, community and voluntary sector was developed. The services were classified according to the Hardiker model and included service description and the area where services are delivered.

The key findings from the information researched is as follows:

1.Service Provision:

Context:

- Services in Co. Louth are being provided in increasingly difficult circumstances-resources are reducing while need and demand are increasing.
- Resources are stretched
- Economic instability coupled with population growth will prove to be a challenge for the delivery of supports in Co. Louth.

Issues:

- There are issues in relation to the availability of information about services and the accessibility of services. (Focus Group 20, Appendix 5)
- There are challenges experienced by children and families attempting to access services and supports. (Focus Group 19, Appendix 5).
- The challenges relate to information on services, referral pathways, waiting lists and eligibility for services. (Focus group 1, Appendix 5).
- There can be a lack of clarity about roles of professionals and a need to provide services to children and families in a way that they feel comfortable with and able to access.

2. Drugs/Alcohol:

Context:

- In 2010 approximately 659 referrals were made to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme in the Louth Garda division. Of the total number of referrals made in Co. Louth 503 concerned children were in the 10-17 age groups. (Ref, Statistical report for Co. Louth, 2011)
- The ease of access to and the normalisation of drugs and alcohol by young people in Louth including the use of over the counter medication and internet sales. Also, there is a worrying trend of a younger age profile using drugs.
- The devastation that substance misuse is bringing to families and communities.

Issues:

- Parents lack the information about what drugs are in circulation as well as the effects and dangers of substance misuse.
- Access to recreational and other facilities for young people is vital in prevention. (Focus group 1, Appendix 5).
- Structural/System issues affect the experience of service delivery provision e.g. Drugs/Alcohol is a separate policy issue to mental health at a national/local level.
- Support for young people with dual diagnosis (mental health and drugs/alcohol issues).
- Lack of residential facilities for 12-18 year olds in the North East experiencing drug and alcohol issues.
- The need for drug/alcohol education for young people and parents through school based and community based programmes e.g. Strengthening Families, PYE programmes. (Focus group 14, appendix 5).

3. Early School Leaving:

Context:

- In 2006 Louth had the 5th highest rate of early school leavers in the country (Census of the Population, CSO, 2006).
- Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of mothers whose highest education attainment level was primary only or no formal education in the State (Census of the Population, CSO, 2006).
- Louth had the 5th highest rate of primary school children reporting to be absent for 20 days or more in 2007/08 (National Educational Welfare Board 2007/08).

Issues:

- Without a solid foundation at the transition into school the gap widens with peers over time and requires subsequent interventions to narrow the gap (Ref: Fleming & Murphy, 2000).
- Reduced literacy/numeracy levels, language development in early years, educational and behavioural issues in the school setting impacts on retention and attendance.
- Young women who leave school early are more likely to become lone parents. (Ref. Millar et al, 1997)
- There needs to be a clear, coherent strategy to address early school leaving with the education system, community and family support.

4. Adolescent Mental health:

Context:

- 1 in 4 Irish teenagers have experienced serious personal, emotional, behavioural or mental health problems and almost 1 in 10 deliberately harm themselves. (Ref: Youthreach.ie)
- 50% of Irish people report that they have felt or suffered from depression in the past. (Ref: Unicef report on Mental Health)
- 11 (plus one occurrence < 5) children aged under 19 years were treated for deliberate self harm in Louth County Hospital and 72 (plus one occurrence of < 5) were treated at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda in 2010 (National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm Ireland, 2011).
- Between 2008 and 2011 the number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service had increased by 30%, from 221 to 288, in the Louth LHO Area (HSE, National Performance Indicators Suite, 2011).

Issues:

- Young people in Co. Louth through the consultation process identified the following as being the most common mental health issues to them: Panic Attacks, Self-harm, and continuous arguments with parents.
- The importance of promoting well-being of adolescence and building resilience. (Ref: Gilligan)
- Coping strategies identified by young people include listening or playing music as common ways of coping when feeling down. (Focus group 16, appendix 5)

5. Early Intervention:

Context:

- If we intervene early enough we can give children a vital social and emotional foundation which will help to keep them happy, healthy and achieving throughout their lives and above all equip them to raise children of their own. (Ref. Allen, 2011, Early Intervention; The next steps)
- Louth had the 2nd highest proportion of babies born with a low birth weight in the State in 2009 (National Perinatal Reporting System, 2010).
- The Louth LHO Area had the 11th lowest proportion of babies visited by the Public Health Nurse in the first 48 hours in the State (National Perinatal Reporting System, 2010).
- County Louth has by far the lowest rate of antenatal care in the State with only 33.2% of women attending antenatal care in their first trimester in 2009 (National Perinatal Reporting System ESRI, 2009).

Issues:

- The importance of support both professionally and peer support has been identified by parents particularly in the first years of their child's life, for parents of children with special needs and for parents of teenagers.
- Parents of children with special needs highlighted a perceived lack of decision making input into services for their child, waiting lists and the lack of information about rights and entitlements and how the system works. (Focus Group 19, Appendix 5)
- Access to childcare and lack of training opportunities were common feelings identified by lone parents. (Focus Group 2, appendix 5).

6.Information Systems:

Context:

- The importance of establishing baseline data for the county in order to identify needs, prioritise actions and measure progress is paramount in service planning.

Issues:

- There is a need to co-ordinate the collection, analysis and dissemination of data relevant to children and young people which would continually be updated by Louth CSC.
- To identify what data is required that is relevant in planning, delivery and evaluation of services for children and families in Co. Louth.

Louth CSC through the Information sub group will continue to update the data collection framework. The CSC will be undertaking to write up a business plan for submission to the DCYA to support this initiative.

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

*The CSC may not identify a priority area for each outcome, or it may have several priority areas under one outcome.
CSCs should include both newly identified and existing priorities or major initiatives being undertaken on an interagency basis.*

National Outcomes	Local Priority Areas * (to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services)
Healthy, both physically and mentally	Young People's Mental Health
Supported in active learning	In the lifetime of the plan it is planned to bring together key stakeholders to prioritize actions for this outcome
Safe from accidental and intentional harm / Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment	Drug & Alcohol Response Adolescents at Risk Children First Implementation Youth Homelessness Family Support Domestic Violence
Economically secure	There are no sub-groups established at present, however a number of the sub-groups explore the determinants of poverty and have actions included in the plan.
Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community / Included and participating in society	Family Support Youth Networking Group (Youth Participation) Domestic Violence
The Information sub-group is an over-arching group which covers all National Outcomes and is regularly updating information and research relevant to the plan.	

<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	<i>Information Sub-group</i>

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

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee							
National Outcome: Healthy, both physically and mentally							
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)
Young People's Mental Health	To improve communication and raise awareness of Mental Health issues with organizations and agencies who work with young people	1.Organisations are better informed 2. Organisations and agencies are aware of Mental Health Services in Co. Louth and how they are connected 3. Workers are more aware of young peoples stressors and behaviours which may be triggered by	1. 1 Information flyer 2. 1 Seminar to be held in Co. Louth 3. 50 people attending the seminar 4. 1 Community based pilot programme	1. <u>Information flyer</u> a)Gather information b)Check authenticity c)Peer/professionally reviewed d)Publish flyer 2. <u>Seminar</u> a)Establish a working group b) Identify key speakers c)Recruit key stakeholders d) Locate central	Feb 2013 September 2013	HSE, Youth Service Providers based in the Youth Networking group and DKIT. Respond! Housing association in collaboration with North Dundalk Family Support Hub	Vision for Change Statement of Strategy 2011-2014 Statistical report of Co.Louth-AIRO Headstrong annual Report

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

National Outcome: Healthy, both physically and mentally

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		underlying mental health issues		venue e) Publicise Event f) Conduct Evaluation 3. <u>Community based Pilot Programme</u> a) Consult with community b) Liase with Community leaders c) Design programme using evidence based programmes of good practice d) Evaluate the process	Jan 2012-ongoing		Agenda for Children's Services My World Survey- National Study of youth mental health
	To further develop and support multi-agency approaches to respond to the psychological and psychiatric needs of young people	1. Identification of good practice in response to the psychological and psychiatric needs of young people 2. Exploration of areas where good practice can be	1 Case Study With accompanying report on service provision in Co. Louth with a target of a county wide	1. Research the topic/Develop the Template 2. Writing of report 3. Disseminate report 4. 1 presentation to CSC committee	September 2013	Youth Service Providers	As Above

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	To build communities/ Agencies to provide Programmes to support young peoples mental health and resilience and provide appropriate responses	<p>replicated.</p> <p>3. Supporting existing programmes to further develop their service provision</p> <p>4. Support the establishment of new multi-agency responses to the psychological and psychiatric needs of young people</p> <p>More integrated care to young people in co Louth</p> <p>More support of the ground up initiatives that are developed or in the process of being developed in</p>	<p>brief for youth mental health in Co. Louth.</p> <p>2 Leadership courses delivered in Co. Louth</p> <p>PYE Programmes continued to be supported</p>	To capture current experience in the field as represented by key organisations and individuals through interviews, examination of publications and websites and	Ongoing throughout the lifetime of the plan	Youth Mental health sub-group	

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		Louth More evidenced based courses delivered	and maintained 4 Drug Awareness programmes delivered per year 2 Personal Develop Ment courses At a community level	attendance at meetings over the lifetime of the plan. To identify a number of projects where good practice is taking place. To explore through research, publications and good practice the environments and determinants that shape mental health e.g. risk and resilience factors that undermine or support Mental Health e.g. Copping On Project, Jigsaw project, Drug Awareness Programmes			

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

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				Promotion of services Via Louth CSC web-site			

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

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Drug and Alcohol Response Education actions	To ensure that all training delivered complies with the Drugs Education Forum Quality Standard Guidelines	Increased numbers of people in County have received the 2 day training programme on the Quality Standard Guidelines Improved awareness of need for compliance with training guidelines	10 additional people to be trained in County Louth during period of Action Plan All school, clubs, youth groups, etc to be made aware that all persons	1. Train 3 people per year over life of Plan 2. Target youth groups in particular 3 Use VEC to help recruit participants from their list of youth group organisations 1. Design and produce information leaflet 2. Circulate leaflet	1. By end of plan period Letter/leaflet to be issued by end Q4 2013	North East Regional Drugs Task force DEWF	NDS* 20,26, NSMS** P&E recomm 2 * National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 ** Report of the Steering Group on a National Substance Misuse Strategy 2012

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			delivering training should have completed the 2 day training course on the Quality Standard Guidelines using letter/leaflet to be issued through Department of Education	to schools, clubs, youth groups using VEC database			

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Family Education Programmes	Ensure the availability of high quality family education programmes	Future of the Strengthening Families Programme secured	Secure the future of the Strengthening Families Programme with commitment of resources, especially staff resources from key agencies Ensure that relevant	Meet relevant agencies Explore options for funding Secure funding and programme Increase the availability of the Strengthening Families Programme throughout County Louth Contact/meet all relevant agencies to stress importance of providing required resources	By end Q4 2013 2014 – Annually during Plan Period prior to Budget time	Drugs and Alcohol sub-group in collaboration with CSC Member organisations	NDS Action 29 NSMS P&E recommendation 12,14 Rehab Report* Recommendation 4.19.4 * Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation 2007

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			agencies build resources for the Strengthening Families Programme into their work plans and budgets				
Community Addiction Studies Course	Continue availability of Community Addiction Studies Courses in Louth	Community Addiction Studies Courses (in Louth) to continue to be available in County Louth	25 participants per year at a regional level, including at least 6 from Louth per year	Secure ongoing funding for programme Recruit participants Deliver course each year	Ongoing throughout plan period on an annual basis	HSE and CDB	NDS Action 24,29 NSMS P&E Recommend 2

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Sibling Family Support Group	Work with Family Support Network to establish a Sibling Family Support Group	Sibling Family Support Group established	10 siblings attended the Family Support Group over lifetime of plan	Liaison with Family Support Network Leaders appropriately trained Venue located Group established	Entire plan period	North East Region Family Support Network	NDS Action 41 MSMS T&R recommend 12,14
Dual Diagnosis	To write a paper on the importance of Dual diagnosis approach Reflect other models of good practice e.g. Cavan eating disorder team	Completed report Issue brought to Mental Health Sub-group Awareness raised with CSC member organisations	1 paper on dual diagnosis	Evidence other models Use a case study approach to practice Explore other models	2012-2014	HSE	Vision for change NDS Action 33 NSMS Treatment & Rehabilitation Actions 10,11

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To look at the feasibility of an Under 18s multi-disciplinary team	To look at the feasibility of a multi-disciplinary team to address the needs of under 18s at risk of or currently presenting to any of the services to ensure an interagency, wrap-around service for young people	Buy in from different disciplines	Child and family services Child and adolescent mental health services JLO HSE addiction services Probation youth services HSE alcohol services	Identify and address gaps in child and adolescent service provision Develop better interagency co-operation between addiction, child and family and mental health services	Ongoing from 2012-2014	HSE and key stakeholders in the mental health profession	NDS Action 24, 32,34,37 NSMS T&R recommend 7,10,12,15

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Adolescents at Risk Profile of Target Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescents at risk (12-18yrs) with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles. They display out of control behaviours in respect of the four indicators of risk: (1) Anti-social attitudes	To write a preamble/ background mapping the current situation, legislation and gaps in service provision.	1. Completed report	1. 1 Presentation to Children's Services Committee 2. Submission to CSC National Steering committee	(a) Writing of draft report (b) Writing of completed report ©Presentation to CSC committee	Dec 2012 Feb 2013 March 2013	Coordinator-CSC JLO Gardai-North and South Louth Senior Probation Worker Social Work Team leader - HSE	Youth Homeless strategy 2001 Fifth rapporture Report on Child protection 2012 The Report of the independent child death review 2012 Victoria Climbié Inquiry report 2003

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(2) Anti-social associations (3) Addictions (4) Anti-social behaviour (Ref: 4 generations of risk by Andrew & Bonta) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved with 2 or more statutory agencies With significant potential of coming into the care of the HSE & Criminal Justice System High level of school absenteeism 							

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	2.To establish interagency protocols	2.a) A set of interagency protocols drawn up b) Agreement of inter-agency protocols by 4 core agency membership	2. Endorsement by all CSC members	2. (a) Research current interagency protocols (b) Develop protocols for Co. Louth interagency Working group	September 2012 January 2013	Senior Probation Worker Social Work Team Leader, HSE	
	3. To pilot an inter-agency case management group who will develop an agreed support plan for each referred young person in North/South Louth area	3. (a) Agreed referral system established (b) Local structures in place (c) No of referrals in each area (d) No of completed support plans	3. Young People and Families- 6-10 targeted referrals in Co. Louth over a six month period	3. (a) Ensuring "buy in" of relevant agencies (b) Establishing the inter-agency case management group in North/South Louth (c) Evaluation of six month pilot	(a)January 2013 (b)April 2013 (c) November 2013	Adolescents at risk sub-group of CSC	

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	<p>4.</p> <p>(a)To clarify and update the reporting mechanisms between the Gardai and the HSE pursuant to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and welfare of children 2011.</p> <p>(b)To explore the possibility of providing an emergency shelter or place of safety for adolescents with drug and alcohol issues</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>(a)Updated reporting mechanisms</p> <p>(b) Reallocation of existing resources within Residential care structures</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>(a) Submissions of current practice with gaps and issues to senior management of Gardai/HSE</p> <p>(b)Adolescents in need of emergency shelter during a one year period</p>	<p>4. (a)</p> <p>(i) The Garda JLO's & Child Protection social workers will identify the current practice and highlight gaps or difficulties</p> <p>(ii)Reporting mechanisms clarified and updated by senior management in the Gardai and HSE.</p> <p>(b) Liaising with senior management about existing structures</p>	<p>(a)</p> <p>(i) December 2012</p> <p>(ii) March 2013</p> <p>(b) December 2013</p>	<p>JLO North Louth-Gardai/Social Work Team Leader Dundalk-HSE</p> <p>JLO-South Louth-Gardai/Social Work Team Leader south louth-HSE</p> <p>Members of sub-group</p>	Child Care Act 1991

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	5. To highlight and research the feasibility for a residential unit for young people experiencing drug/alcohol issues in the North East	5. Research conducted Recommendations completed	5. Prioritization of the issues by senior management	5. Evaluate the need for such a unit using current statistics, examples from practice and evidence based reports	January 2014	Members of Sub-group	National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016

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Children First Implementation	1. Database and Analysis	Number of Comprehensive database of non statutory groups working with Children established and analysed Number of identified	95% of all groups in Louth included	1. Collate relevant information to develop a Database of all non statutory C&V groups working with children in Louth Analyses the database to identify those groups who do not have access to child protection information/training Organise children first briefing sessions for all groups	Sept to Dec 2012 Sept to Dec 2012	Claire Woods (Lead) Sub-group members: DKIT, HSE, VEC, LCCC.	DCYA Statement of Strategy 2011-2014 Proposed action plan from Children's first communications plan Introduction to Children's First Guidelines

Louth Children's Services Committee work plan – Final Draft October 2012

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Youth Homelessness Preventative Measure	1. Provide Family Support to mitigate against family breakdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of Young people coming into care as a result of family breakdown and youth homelessness Reduction in the number of young people presenting as homeless 	Vulnerable families with adolescents and Young people in care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide appropriate family support Appropriate information sharing between relevant agencies Develop an agreed interagency holistic need assessment plan 	Ongoing Ongoing Q4 2012	Shared Responsibility between HSE, LCC and all other agencies involved in Family Support Services	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy 2001

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	2. Develop Education Programmes aimed at raising awareness and identifying key preventative strategies and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of factors resulting in Youth Homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Young people Targeted at YP deemed vulnerable to potential homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a package which will be delivered as part of a mainstream schools programme Targeted individual programmes to meet the needs of young people vulnerable to homelessness 	<p>Q1 2013</p> <p>Q1 2013</p>	HSE is lead but will need support of Education, Local Authority, Comhairle and voluntary and community agencies	<p>North East Homeless Action Plan</p> <p>National Homeless Strategy</p> <p>LCC, VEC & Schools and Housing Association</p>
	3. Engage with Local Community Groups to create an awareness and develop a capacity to respond to the challenges of youth homeless in their respective areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of community groups participating Number of programmes delivered Number of young 	All appropriate youth and Community Groups & services in Louth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a package for community groups which will create awareness and act as a resource for the 	Q2 2013	HSE	<p>North East Homeless Action Plan</p> <p>National Homeless Strategy</p>

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		people benefiting		community group (see point 2)			

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	4. Prevent the young people who are leaving care from presenting as Homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All young people leaving care will have a care plan and appropriate accommodation and support to meet their evolving needs 	Young people in care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of need Leaving and After Care Plans to include tenancy sustainment 	Ongoing	HSE	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy
Responsive Services	5. Emergency Responses to young people presenting as homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in those presenting as homeless Timely response to emergency homelessness 	Homeless young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 (Childcare Act) Provision Section 12 Child Care Act Supported Lodgings Emergency accommodation (for over 18 year olds) under section 10 of Housing Act (1998) 	Ongoing	HSE for under 18s and LCC for over 18s	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy

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	6. Assess need and plan to meet the need of young people presenting as homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of the completion of assessments and plans for individual young people 	Young people who are homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and agree a common assessment tool for youth homeless Develop a template for individual care plan Pilot assessment and care plan and evaluate implementation 	Q1 2013 for implementation Q3 2013 for evaluation of implementation	Shared responsibility between HSE and LCC	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy
	7. Develop a range of accommodation options for young people who are homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many options and placements are developed and available 	Young people who are homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase availability of supported lodgings provision Further develop links with accommodation providers and establish supported tenancies in private rented sector 	Q2 2013	Shared between HSE, LCC and Housing Association	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying accommodation options available from Local Authority Develop an innovative transitional project in partnership between the LCC, HSE and appropriate housing association on a pilot basis to provide rented accommodation in a planned way for homeless young people Identify appropriate resources available 			

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				within existing homeless service providers			
	8. Development of Supports to young people accessing services (linked to 6. above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of plans in place Number of young people moving to independent living or returning to the care of their families 	Young people accessing the services (i.e. homeless or risk of homeless)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified Key Worker who will complete assessment and deliver care plan 	Q2 2013	HSE (under 18 and in after care) and LCC for over 18	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy
Planning & Administrative Supports	9. Develop a Local Work Plan to respond to Youth Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group Established Work Plan agreed and implementation plan set out 	Young People at risk of homelessness or accessing Homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Sub Group Develop Plan Implement Plan Monitor and evaluate Implementation 	Q2 2012		North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

National Outcome: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/secure in the immediate and wider physical environmental

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)
			Services				
	10. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry Out Audit of what is available Develop Education Packages outlining what is available Disseminate information to community and statutory agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available in community and statutory agencies An increased awareness in community 	Vol & Community Sector Statutory Agencies i.e. HSE, LCC, Schools and VEC services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit of need, services and identifying deficits 	Q4 2013	LCC and HSE	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy
	11. Create a means of data collection which will capture all relevant information including the details of all homeless people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The database is set up and operational 	HSE, Louth County Council and appropriate other statutory and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new information system Explore the issues around data protection and sharing info across 	Q4 2013	HSE & Louth County Council (Shared Responsibility)	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless

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	between the ages of 16 -21 years and ensure an appropriate means of sharing the information in line with both agencies responsibilities under the data protection act.		voluntary agencies (in line with Data Protection Responsibilities)	agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track pathways for people accessing this service 			Strategy
	12. We will evaluate the above actions in line with the agreed strategy and evolving policy locally, regionally and nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce an evaluation report covering Process Outcomes 	The evaluation report will be disseminated to all stakeholders including the respective departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission an evaluation 	Q4 2014	HSE	North East Homeless Action Plan National Homeless Strategy

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ Included and participating in society

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Family Support for families with children aged 0-6 years and during the ante-natal period	Audit of services for families with children aged 0-6 and during the ante-natal period	1. Information collated 2. Accessible format 3. Widely available 4. Increased uptake of available Services.	Priority target area of families with children 0-6 years old During the ante-natal period and up to the child is 6	1. Compile a directory of family support services for children and families 2. Compile a directory of available parenting programmes 3. Ensure directory is accessible to all parents 4. Identify the most appropriate way to present information i.e. Information workshops on services e.g. School completion services, EWO, Family	1. Dec 2012 2. Dec 2012 3. June 2013 4. Dec 2013	HSE Family Support Services LCC LLP LLP	DCYA-Statement of Strategy 2011-2014 Family Support agency strategy (Draft National Family support strategy, National service delivery framework from vision into practice) (New national children's strategy)

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	Identify gaps in family support services for families with children aged 0-6 years and ante-natally	Report which outlines what are the gaps in Co. louth for children and families aged 0-6 years and ante-natally	Presentation of findings to CSC	resource centres 5.Disseminate information Community profiles-surveys Analysis of audit of services Reports form focus groups-service user consultation Research report/needs analysis • Facilitate discussions	5.Dec 2013 June 2013	HSE Family Support Services LLP Springboard CSC Members	
	Ensure that all relevant stakeholders have	Sub-group minutes Agenda item-new					

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	access to information on new child and family support agency- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Family support networks Local area pathway One Child, One plan-School completion Programme 	developments	3 group discussions 3 presentations (on new models etc.)	on all current services and new developments .	Ongoing – Agency start date January 2013	HSE & NEWB (Child and Family Support agency 2013)	

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Domestic Violence	1. To promote and develop an understanding of the dynamics of Domestic Violence among the student population and the educational sector	a) Students in Transitional Year will receive an education module on Domestic Violence currently being developed by Dept of Education and COSC. For		Agreed Training module produced Review of all relevant undergraduate programmes in DKIT to ascertain indicative course content on this	Rollout of modules to be included in 2013-2014 academic year	Domestic Violence organisations in Co.Louth/CSC sub-group	National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and gender based violence 2010-2014 Awareness

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

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	2. To improve the	inclusion into the ⁵ CPSE curriculum b) Students from DKIT, DIFE and O Fiach will receive an agreed formalized training input on a yearly basis. A more co-ordinated inter-agency response to the needs of women		topic. Agreement from educational institutions Additional training for staff delivering training Quality assurance on all modules delivered Evaluation of training programmes with			raising of Domestic and sexual violence- a survey of post-primary schools in Ireland 2012

⁵ **Target for objective 1 is:** 60% of schools in County Louth receiving the recognised module

Timeframe for completion- During the lifetime of the plan

Lead responsibility- Sub-group members **Cosc-** National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence

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	<p>response to women seeking Emergency orders in Family Law Courts.</p> <p>3. To increase the</p>	<p>More access to advice and support from the dedicated Women's services for women who present to the courts.</p> <p>More signposting of services available to families.</p> <p>Increased number of referrals form HSE Social Work service. To have an assigned social worker for each referral</p>		<p>students, staff and sub-group.</p> <p>Agreement from the court service to have a dedicated room available on Family Law day for women seeking orders in the Family Law court. Pilot an interagency model involving Women's services, Courts services and other relevant agencies.</p>	Dec 2012		

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

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	referrals to the mandated programme: Men overcoming Domestic Violence (M.O.D.V.) in Co. Louth	That the case remains open during the duration of the course.		Development of a referral protocol between the Probation service and HSE social Work dept.			

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To promote the participation of children and young people in decisions that affects their lives. Youth Participation	1. To represent the voice of youth on Louth Children's Services Committee and through forums and consultation sessions in order to have a meaningful role in the development of local policies and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Numbers of meetings with Comhairle na nog representatives over the lifetime of the plan •Numbers of children, young people and their families consulted in the development and review of the plan 	1 forum based on identified issues by young people All youth workers part of a database of information on local events/works hops Youth participation to be a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Host one forum in collaboration with Comhairle na nog to elicit responses from all young people about matters relating to policy and strategic development •Complete a submission on the public consultation for The new children's strategy. •Support any new 	Ongoing for the duration of the plan July 2012	HSE,LCC and VEC	Article 12 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child (Ratified in 1992) Young Voices: Guidelines on how to involve children and young people in youth work (2005).

Action Plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

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			regular item on the agenda of CSC meetings	initiatives that come on board through specific funding streams i.e. CNN Networking for Peace Programme- Peace III •Explore ways of consulting with young people from all sectors of society i.e. Comhairle na nog, EPIC, YAP &Extern.			

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with CSC members once a year to identify issues affecting youth 			

Change Management - Action plan for Louth Children's Services Committee

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)
Research and Information	1. To complete a statistical report providing an overview of well being indicators and relevant demographic data	A completed report using the National set of well being indicators to generate an accurate picture of children's lives and well being	100% of children's services providers in the county	Brief developed Options appraisal exercise Terms of reference Commissioned AIRO Sought funding Quality assured the information	May 2012	Coordinator CSC/Sub-group	National Strategy for research and data on children's lives 2011-2016 (DCYA,2011) State of the Nation reports (OMCYA,2010) CSO Census 2011
	2. To provide and collate a summary report of children's services and facilities in Co. Louth	Demographic Profile Completed summary report	Dissemination to the CSC committee and to relevant organisations and members of the public. Accessible to	Report completed incorporating statistical report and local data submitted. Directory of Services completed	Dec 2012	HSE staff/ Coordinator CSC/sub-group	Working for Children initiative-

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)
	3. To develop a web-site to promote the work of Co. Louth CSC	Web-site launched and active.	the public and key stakeholders	Identify a hosting agency Determination of Costs Production of web-site content Up to date web-site	Dec 2012	Information sub-group/VEC	Internal communications plan (DCYA,2011)
	4. To develop an appropriate data collection framework to ensure information remains accurate and current.	Information is always up to date and active.	Update of information on a regular basis i.e. quarterly or when new information is published.	Inputting Census 2011 information. Partner agencies kept up to date Incorporate DCYA Well being indicators Maintain Mapping module on AIRO web-site	Duration of the Action Plan	Information sub-group and CSC partner agencies as required.	
	5. To ensure key messages from the	Identification of Key/themes within	100% engagement	Establish the local needs and gaps in		Information sub-	

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)
	demographic profile are incorporated into the action plan on a regular basis	each national outcomes Monitor progress on the themes/national outcomes Liaise with relevant agencies to identify deficits	of all partner agencies Utilise the national indicators across all areas to inform the plan Service Providers and children and young people in Co. Louth	services provision Extract key messages from statistics/information on a regular basis Explore other data collection frameworks	Ongoing for duration of the plan	group	National Children's strategy
	*6. To conduct a needs analysis for the County based on identified needs and gaps in service provision *Dependent on funding	Guidance document completed Identification of quality indicators Adequately Resourced i.e. DCYA Implementation guidelines and best		Planning of Needs analysis Desktop research Focus groups/interviews Analysis of data	Dec 2013	Information sub-group	

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	7. To complete a consultation with parents and young people using focus group methods.	<p>practice</p> <p>Appropriate quality assurances in place</p> <p>20 interviews completed</p> <p>Grid analysis completed by DKIT</p>	A representative sample of service users in Co. Louth	<p>Letters to various stakeholders</p> <p>Consultation document completed</p> <p>Write up of all interviews conducted under specific headings.</p> <p>Engagement of DKIT for analysis purposes</p>	February 2012	Co-ordinator CSC	<p>Article 12 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child (Ratified in 1992)</p> <p>Young Voices: Guidelines on how to involve children and young people in youth work (2005).</p>

Other examples may include:

- Information sharing protocols
- Data Improvements
- Interagency training initiatives

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

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

Louth CSC will use the structures in place to ensure participation at all levels. The workplan will be reviewed and updated on an incremental basis.

The Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out on a number of different levels;

1. A review of Louth CSC's remit, Change Management and outcomes on an annual basis.
2. A review of the sub-groups and outcomes on a quarterly basis using the template below Figure 2.
3. A review of the Projects/Initiatives driven by the sub-groups on a quarterly basis.

The sub-groups are responsible for the objectives outlined in the workplan and together with the information sub-group will track and monitor progress on the impact on children's lives.

The progress reporting template has been devised for this purpose and will be submitted quarterly.

An annual review of the action plan will be completed and distributed to relevant stakeholders, including the CDB.

Louth CSC will comply with national reporting requirements and complete quarterly reports for the National CSC Steering Group.

Fig.2.

Implementation Progress Reporting Template

Priority Area	Action	Activities	Lead Responsibility	Progress Indicator	Progress to date	Link to other sub-groups

Section 8: Appendices

1. Co. Louth CSC Terms of Reference
2. Organisational chart of where CSC fits into National Structures
3. Statistical report of Co. Louth
4. List of Services in Co. Louth
5. Consultation Document
6. Grid Analysis of Consultations conducted by DKIT
7. Membership of CSC Sub-groups

1. Co. Louth CSC Terms of Reference

The priority for Louth Children's Services Committee (CSC) is to promote changes to the outcomes for children through greater co-ordination and inter agency cooperation via the implementation of our agreed terms of reference which are:

1. Each member of the committee undertakes to promote the interests of the child and child centred planning in their organisation in relation to services which involve children and families.
2. Louth CSC acknowledges that when organisations work together on policy development and delivery of services there is greater potential for positive outcomes for children and families. We (the member agencies and representatives) therefore commit to working together on strategic policy development and delivery of services for children and families in Louth.
3. Each member organisation will work in collaboration with other members of the committee to improve policy development and delivery of services for children.
4. Each member organisation will seek to remove unnecessary duplication and blockages to the delivery of child centred policies and services both within their own organisation and in cooperation with other organisations.
5. In order to develop a framework for child centred policy development and service delivery the committee will identify existing models of good practice and develop new models where necessary.
6. The Committee acknowledges that there are other agencies involved in the delivery of services to children and families and will endeavour to work collaboratively and in partnership with these agencies to promote the ethos of the committee and best outcomes for children.

Children's Services Committee Meeting Principles

1. The role of the chairperson of the CSC will be held by the Local Health Manager (LHM) of the HSE. The Chairperson will oversee the operation of the committee and ensure that the committee delivers on its work programme. A vice-chairperson will be nominated from the core membership of the committee to chair meetings in the event that the LHM is not available.
2. The Committee will meet six times per calendar year. It may be necessary to meet more frequently during the first six months to ensure the effective establishment and consolidation of the Committee. A quorum of at least half the membership is required for meetings to proceed.
3. Agency representatives need to be mandated and empowered to act on behalf of the whole agency on the CSC. In accepting a position on the Committee the respective agency undertakes to prioritise the work of the committee as part of the core work of the respective agency.

4. Each Committee member will liaise as is appropriate with the co-ordinator regarding the workings of the Committee and sub groups e.g. apologies, information requests, correspondence etc.
5. In the unlikely event that a Committee member was unable to attend three consecutive meetings, the relevant member/agency will be asked to reconsider their ability to commit to the role and to consider the option of an alternative nominee.
6. The CSC reserve the right to co-opt a substitute representative nominated from any of the membership agencies in the event that the standing member is temporarily unavailable. The substitute member should be of sufficient authority to make appropriate decisions on behalf of the agency being represented.
7. It is envisaged that appropriate Committee members will be nominated to chair or participate in sub group meetings. Each chairperson should have an element of expertise in that specific priority area and would be expected to provide leadership and direction to the sub group.
8. It is expected that each Committee member will be prepared for each meeting by reading the relevant materials.
9. In the event that the committee cannot make a consensus decision and there is a tied vote the chairperson may exercise a casting vote.

3. Socio- Demographic Profile of Children and Families in Co. Louth

A full statistical report on Co.Louth is available on www.airo.ie

Also available is an interactive mapping tool which can be accessed through www.airo.ie and click the mapping module icon.

4. LIST OF SERVICES

LOUTH CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health				
NAME OF SERVICE	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	TARGET GROUP	CATCHMENT AREA	Hardiker Level 1-4
Hospital Paediatric Service	The hospital provides an examination of the newborn child and gives verbal and written health education to the parents.	Newborn Children / Parents	Co. Louth and surrounding areas	Level 1
Maternity Care Services	Every woman who is pregnant and ordinarily resident in Ireland is entitled to maternity care under the maternity and Infant scheme.	All Women	Co. Louth and surrounding areas	Level 1
Public Health Nursing Services	The Public Health Nurse is Health Centre based and delivers and co-ordinates a broad based home nursing and preventative service to the community within a defined geographical area of population.	<i>Pre-School Services</i> Birth – 4 years Child Health Services <i>Primary School Children</i> Senior Infants – Vision and Hearing 5 th Class – Vision <i>Home Nursing for Children</i> All age groups	Co. Louth	Level 1
General Practitioner	General Practitioners or Family Doctors are self-employed professionals who engage in service commitments, under a range of individual contracts with the HSE.	All children	Co. Louth	Level 1
Area Medical Officer	Area Medical Officers and Senior Medical Officers working in Community Health Medicine deliver a range of frontline clinical preventative medical services to individuals and specific groups including children,	<i>Immunisation Services:</i> Neonatal BCG vaccination programmes Delivery of school vaccination programmes Td and BCG	Co. Louth	Level 1

adolescents, children with disabilities and marginalized, socially excluded children in the community, in accordance with identified needs of the population, best practice and a population health approach.

to children and adolescents in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Children, Adolescents & Families:

The Developmental examination for 7-9 month old infants and commitment to roll out the second tier specialist child health clinic for developmental problems in children, when agreement is reached nationally.

Services for Children with Physical, Sensory and Intellectual Disability:

The medical assessment of grants and allowances administered by the HSE, County Councils and Revenue Commissioner's and an Allowances Appeals process for those deemed non-eligible.

Social Inclusion:

Targeted community medical services for socially excluded groups such as refugee/asylum seekers, travellers and

		the homeless.			
Children's Dental Services	Dental Treatment can be availed of from birth to the age of 16 years. Emergency Treatment only (i.e. Treatment for Pain) is provided between 14 and 16 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-School Children - Children attending National School - Children to 16 years 	Co. Louth	Level 1	
Audiology Services	The primary focus of the paediatric Audiology service is to detect children who have permanent hearing loss.	All children suspected of having a hearing loss.	Co. Louth	Level 2	
Community Ophthalmology Services	If a child is established as having a visual defect they are then seen approximately every three months and undergo supervision to ensure that the visual acuity is improving.	Children up to 12 years. Medical Card Holders up to 16 years.	Co. Louth	Level 2	
Physiotherapy Services	Paediatric physiotherapy practice includes the assessment, clinical diagnosis, treatment and management of children who have a general developmental delay, disorder of movement, impairment or illness which can be improved, controlled or alleviated by physiotherapy advice, physiotherapeutic skills and/or use of specialized equipment or appliances.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2	
Occupational Therapy Services	The Occupational Therapist aims to give an overall picture of the child's current functional level and daily skills, and observe the impact of the child's motor and sensory skills.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2	
Speech & Language Therapy Services	The role of the Speech & Language Therapist involves the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of speech, language,	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2	

communication and/or swallowing difficulties in children and adults.

Psychology Services	Services are available to children and adults and focus on reducing psychological distress and promoting well being.	<i>Disability Services:</i> Children 0 – 18 <i>Child Psychiatry:</i> Children 0 – 16 <i>Community Care:</i> Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2
Hospital Nutrition and Dietetics Services	A dietetic service for children is available only at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Appointments are required.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2
Teen Parents Support Programme	This service aims to provide a holistic support service in Co. Louth to teenage parents and their families during pregnancy and for two years post-natally.	Age 19 or less @ time of referral.	Co. Louth	Level 2/3/4
Drug Addiction Counselling Service	The HSE North Eastern Area Addiction Service offers an accessible, confidential and non-judgemental service to individuals, families and concerned persons, whose lives are affected by addiction related problems.	Children aged 18 or less.	Co. Louth	Level 3/4
Child Protection & Case Managed Family Social Work Services	Children at home in need of protection and Case Managed Family Support.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 3/4
Fostering & Children In Care Services	The Fostering and Children in Care Department in Co. Louth	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 4

	provides a service to children in long-term Foster Care and Residential Care, and to Foster Carers. The After Care Worker also works within the fostering team and provides a service to young people who are in the process of leaving or have left care.	After Care Services: Young people 18 – 21 and up to 23 if in Education.		
Family Support & Child Welfare Services	Family Support refers to a broad range of provisions developed and delivered by a combination of statutory and voluntary agencies, to promote the welfare of children in their own homes and communities.	Children 0 – 19	Co. Louth	Level 2/3/4
Adoption Services	The Adoption Service is a regional service providing full preparation and Assessment Service for Irish and Inter-Country Adoption and a Placement and Post-Placement service for Irish and inter-Country Adoption.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth & surrounding area	Level 4
Disability – Early Intervention Team Services	The Early Intervention Team provides service to those children with developmental delay and disability.	Children 0 – 6	Co. Louth	Level 2/3/4
Disability – Autism Spectrum Disorder Team Services	The Autism Spectrum Disorder Team (ASD) provides an assessment, diagnostic, therapeutic and social work service to children and families where there is a query of Autism.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 3/4
Disability – Children's Team Services	The Children's Disability Team aims to provide a quality service to children with a physical, sensory or intellectual disability. Services are provided in a number of different settings such as home, school or clinic and are based on the assessed needs of the	Children 6 -18	Co. Louth	Level 3/4

	child.			
Child Psychiatry Team Services	The Child and Family Psychiatric Team provide a comprehensive psychiatric service to children and their families through assessment, consultation and therapeutic intervention.	Children 0 – 16	Co. Louth and surrounding area	Level 3/4
Palliative Care	Palliative Care is the continuing active total care of patients and their families, irrespective of diagnosis, when the medical emphasis has shifted from curing the illness to focusing on maximizing quality of life, accepting that life expectancy is limited.	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 4
Medical Cards / GP Visit Card	<p>A Medical Card is a card issued by the Health Service Executive (subject to the client satisfying certain criteria) which entitles its holder free of charge to a range of Health Services which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ General Medical & Surgical Services ❖ A choice of General Medical Practitioner from those doctors who have a contract with the Health Service Executive ❖ Supply of prescribed approved medicines and appliances ❖ Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural services ❖ All inpatient services in public wards in public hospitals (including consultant services) ❖ All outpatient services in public hospitals (including consultant services) <p>A GP Visit card is a card issued by the Health</p>	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2

Service Executive which entitles the holder to the services of a General Practitioner free of charge.

Long Term Illness	<p>The scheme caters for individuals who have been diagnosed as suffering from any of fifteen specified illnesses. The Scheme allows persons to obtain without charge the drugs and appliances required for the treatment of their condition. The illnesses covered by the scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mental Handicap ❖ Mental Illness ❖ Phenylketonuria ❖ Cystic Fibrosis ❖ Spina Bifida ❖ Hydrocephalus ❖ Diabetes Mellitus ❖ Diabetes Insipidus ❖ Haemophilia ❖ Cerebral Palsy ❖ Epilepsy ❖ Multiple Sclerosis ❖ Muscular Dystrophy ❖ Parkinson's Disease ❖ Acute Leukaemia 	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2
Drugs Payment Scheme	<p>This Scheme covers families and individuals for part of the cost of their prescribed medication – no individual or family will have to pay more than the approved monthly threshold amount in any calendar month for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances for use by that person or his/her family in that months.</p>	Children 0 – 18 are included on the family card.	Co. Louth	Level 2
Domiciliary Care Allowance	<p>The Domiciliary Care Allowance is a monthly means tested payment made to the carer of a child with a severe disability who lives at home.</p>	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 3

Freedom of Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The right to access official records held by Government Departments or other public bodies listed in the FOI Act. ➤ The right to have personal information held on them corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading. ➤ The right to be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect them. 	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 1
Civil Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages ❖ The re-registration of Births ❖ The late registration of Births and Deaths ❖ Registration of Coroner's Certificates ❖ Issuing of Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates 	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 1
Community Welfare Officers	<p>The Community Welfare Service provides assessment and means testing for a variety of allowances and services. While not directly applied to children, all impact on their health and development. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Back to School Clothing and Footwear Scheme ➤ Blind Welfare Allowance ➤ National Fuel Scheme ➤ Supplementary Welfare Allowance 	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 2/3
Pre-School Inspectorate	<p>The aim of the service is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Comply with the HSE's statutory duty 	Children 0 – 5	Co. Louth	Level 1

to secure the health, safety and welfare of pre-school children and to promote their development.

- ❖ To monitor and inspect all pre-school services in the Louth Community Care area and ensure that the minimum standards required by legislation are achieved.
- ❖ To promote high quality pre-school services in the region, including the provision of advice and information on pre-school services to pre-school providers, parents and other interested parties.
- ❖ To create and maintain interdisciplinary partnerships with other services who affect child care policies within the HSE North Eastern Area.

Health Promotion	<p>Health Promotion is the process of enabling people to maintain and promote their own health. The Health Promotion Department have developed a number of initiatives and provided training for health care professionals and educators, which have impacted on child and adolescent health care. Examples of specific "children" services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-School Setting • Schools Programme • Childhood Accident Prevention Programme • Youth Health 	Children 0 – 18	Co. Louth	Level 1/2
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- Programme
- Oral Health
- Community Nutrition & Dietetic Service
- Smoking Cessation Programme
- Substance Misuse Programme
- Alcohol Prevention
- Physical Activity
- Marketing – Health Literacy Enhancement

**Travellers
Primary Health
Care**

The Traveller Advisory Committee has an operational role in developing services for Travellers locally and providing support to Traveller specific initiatives such as the Primary Healthcare for Travellers Project in Louth.

Children 0 – 18

Co. Louth

Level 2

**Homeless
Services**

The Health Service Executive through the child protection and case managed family social work services is responsible for the health and in-house care needs of the homeless persons.

Children 0 - 18

Co. Louth

Level 2/3

Education				
NAME OF SERVICE	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	TARGET GROUP	CATCHMENT AREA	Hardiker Model
St. Mary Diocesan School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
De La Salle College	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Vincent's Secondary School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Bush Post Primary School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
O'Fiach College, Dundalk	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Colaiste Rís, Dundalk	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Ardee Community School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Ardee & District	Level 1
Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dundalk Grammar School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Drogheda Grammar School	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Louis Secondary School, Dundalk	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Our Lady College, Greenhills	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Drogheda Inst. of Further Education	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Scoil Ui Mhuiri, Dunleer	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dunleer & District	Level 1
St. Joseph's C.B.S.	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Mary's College, Dundalk	Post Primary School	Students 12-18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
S. N. Muire Gan Smal	Primary School	5-12 years	Termonfeckin Area	Level 1
Mullach Bui, Dundalk	Primary School	5-12 years	Riverstown Area, Dundalk	Level 1
Dulargy N.S.	Primary School	5-12 years	Ravensdale Area, Dundalk	Level 1
S.N.Padraig	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda	Level 1
St. Brighids Special School	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk	Level 2
Le Cheile Educate Together	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Mary's Special School, Drumcar	Primary School	5-12 years	Louth Area	Level 1

NAME OF SERVICE	SERVICE	TARGET GROUP	CATCHMENT	Hardiker
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	DESCRIPTION		AREA	Model
Callystown, Drogheda	Primary School	5-12 years	Clogherhead Area	Level 1
S N Columcille, Togher	Primary School	5-12 years	Togher Area	Level 1
Scoil Naomh Fainche	Primary School	5-12 years	Collan Area, Louth	Level 1
S N Muire na Trocaire ,Ardee	Primary School	5-12 years	Ardee Area	Level 1
S N Naomh Peadar	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda	Level 1
Realt Na Mara Sois	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N San Nioclas	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N Tigh an Iubhair	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
S N Tulach Aluinn, Tullyallen	Primary School	5-12 years	Tullyallen Area, Drogheda	Level 1
Scoil Bhride, Hackbalscross	Primary School	5-12 years	Hackbalscross, Dundalk	Level 1
Knockbridge Mixed NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Knockbridge, Dundalk	Level 1
Scoil Dairbhre Mixed	Primary School	5-12 years	Readypenny, Dundalk	Level 1
Bellurgan, Ravensdale	Primary School	5-12 years	Ravensdale Area, Dundalk	Level 1
Scoil Mhuire Fatima	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Scoil Na Mbraithre SN	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
St. Josephs NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N N	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Maolmhaodhagh C Dromin NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dromin/Dunleer Area	Level 1
S N Talamh Na Manach	Primary School	5-12 years	Carlingford Area	Level 1
S N Aonghusa	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Scoil Bhride Mixed NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dunleer, Drogheda	Level 1
S N Brighde,	Primary School	5-12 years	Mountpleasant Area, Dundalk	Level 1
St. Olivers NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Carlingford Area	Level 1
Castletown Rd Convent	Primary School	5-12 years	Castletown Area, Dundalk	Level 1
Ardee Monastery	Primary School	5-12 years	Ardee Area	Level 1
Scoil Phadraig Noafa	Primary School	5-12 years	Kilcurry Area, Dundalk	Level 1
S N N	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Maolmhaodhagh N				
S N San Nioclas	Primary School	5-12 years	Castlebellingham Area	Level 1
St. Nicholas Monastery NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N Mhuire, Muchgrange	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N Naomh Fhionain	Primary School	5-12 years	Dillonstown, Dunleer Area	Level 1
S N Naomh Muire B	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Gaelscoil Dhun Dealgan	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N Padraig Naofa B	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
S N Realt na Mara	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Rathmullan N S	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1

S N Bhride	Primary School	5-12 years	Omeath, Dundalk	Level 1
S N Bhride C	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
St. Francis National School	Primary School	5-12 years	Blackrock, Dundalk	Level 1
C.B.S Primary	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Ardee Educate Together NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Ardee Area	Level 1
Muire Na ngael NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N N	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Maolmhaodhagh B				
S N Naomh Lorcan	Primary School	5-12 years	Omeath Area	Level 1
S N Oilibear Beannaithe	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
Presentation Convent (Ballymakenny Rd)	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
S N Eoin Baiste	Primary School	5-12 years	Castletown, Dundalk	Level 1
SC Na Gcreagacha Dubha	Primary School	5-12 years	Blackrock Area, Dundalk	Level 1
S N an Tslanaitheora B	Primary School	5-12 years	Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk	Level 1
S N Ard Mhuire C (Ballsgrove)	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
St. Pauls Senior NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Walshetown NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Clogherhead Area	Level 1
St. Itas Special School	Primary School	5-12 years	Drogheda Area	Level 2
S N Mhuire	Primary School	5-12 years	Jenkinstown, Dundalk	Level 1
Dromiskin NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Drominskin Area	Level 1
Dun Dealgan NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Dundalk Area	Level 1
S N Rath Corr	Primary School	5-12 years	Riverstown, Dundalk	Level 1
Kilcurley Mixed NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Kilcurley, Dundalk	Level 1
S N Chaoimhin Naofa	Primary School	5-12 years	Philipstown, Dunleer	Level 1
Tallonstown NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Tallonstown, Dundalk	Level 1
Baile An Phusta NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Smarmore, Drogheda	Level 1
Naomh Seosamh	Primary School	5-12 years	Mell, Drogheda	Level 1
S N Chill Sarain	Primary School	5-12 years	Castlebellingham	Level 1
S N An Tslanaitheora C	Primary School	5-12 years	Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk	Level 1
Scoil Fhursa	Primary School	5-12 years	Haggardstown Area, Dundalk	Level 1
Louth Mixed NS	Primary School	5-12 years	Louth, Dundalk	Level 1
Termonfeckin Mixed N S	Primary School	5-12 years	Termonfeckin Area	Level 1
Youthreach, Drogheda	Second Chance Education	15-20 yrs Young School Leavers	Drogheda Area	Level 2/3
Youthreach, Dundalk	Second Chance Education	15-20 yrs Young School Leavers	Dundalk Area	Level 2/3
Magnet Training Centre	Community Training Centre	16-24 years (early school leavers)	Dundalk & District	Level 2/3
Drogheda CTC	Community Training Centre	16-24 years (early school leavers)	Drogheda & District	Level 2/3
Holy Family Parish	Retention of	All School Going	Drogheda &	Level 2/3

SCP	Pupils in Primary & Post Primary Schools	Children	District	
Oriel School SCP Dundalk	Retention of Pupils in Primary & Post Primary Schools	All School Going Children	Dundalk & District	Level 2/3
Northside School Completion Programme	Retention of Pupils in Primary & Post Primary Schools	All School Going Children	Drogheda & District	Level 2/3
Youth Services				
Foreoige Clubs				
Blackrock Foreoige Youth Café	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Blackrock Area	Level 1
Cooley Park Foreoige Youth Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Cooley Area	Level 1
Collon Foreoige Youth Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Collon Area	Level 1
Drogheda Young Persons Network	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Kilkerley Foreoige Youth Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Kilkerley Area	Level 1
Oldbridge Foreoige Youth Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Oldbridge Area	Level 1
Sandpit Foreoige	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years		Level 1
Termon Abbey Aston Village Foreoige Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Drogheda Area	Level 1
Tullyemmetts Foreoige Youth Club	Voluntary Youth Club	12-18 years	Tullyallen Area	Level 1
Bayzone Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Clontygora Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Craobh Rua Homework Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Drop In	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Eagleswings Youth Initiative	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Friends Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Holy Family Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Kilsaran Wildcats Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
M & M Dance & Youth Academy	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
Oldbridge U-12's	Youth Work Ireland	Under 12	Oldbridge area	Level 1
Omeath Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland		Omeath Area	Level 1
Rowan Heights Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland		Drogheda Area	Level 1
St. Brigid's Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
St. Kevin's Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland			Level 1
St. Mary's Voluntary	Youth Work			Level 1

Youth Initiative	Ireland		
St. Patrick's Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland		Level 1
Stabannon Youth Club	Youth Work Ireland	Stabannon Area	Level 1
The Haven Community	Youth Work Ireland		Level 1
The Star Lites	Youth Work Ireland		Level 1
Welcome Youth Arts Factor	Youth Work Ireland		Level 1
Summer Projects			Level 1
Clontygora Summer Project			
Cox's Summer Project			Level 1
Craobh Rua Summer Project			Level 1
Kilkerley Summer Project			Level 1
Northside Summer Project			Level 1
Redeemer Summer			Level 1
Youth Project Cox's			
Southside Summer Project			Level 1
Tallanstown Special Needs (summer camp)			Level 2
Toberona Summer Project			Level 1
Scouts & Guides			
Guides Ardee (catholic)			Level 1
Guides Boyne Valley (IGG)			Level 1
Guides Drogheda Rangers(IGG)			Level 1
Guides Drogheda Unit (IGG)			Level 1
Guides Glyde Co. (IGG)			Level 1
Guides Kilkerley (IGG)			Level 1
Guides Monasterboice Unit (IGG)			Level 1
Guides St, Gerads (IGG)			Level 1
Guides Tullallyen (ladybirds) (IGG)			Level 1
Scouts 1 Louth			Level 1
Scouts 1/2/5 Louth			Level 1
Scouts 2 Louth			Level 1
Blackrock			
Scouts 3 Louth			Level 1
Ravensdale			
Scouts 3/4/6 Louth Drogheda			Level 1
Scouts 5 Louth			Level 1

Buionn Setanta				
Scouts 7 Louth				Level 1
Clogherhead				
Scouts 8 Louth				Level 1
Slieve Foy				
Scouts 9 Ardee				Level 1
(Ferdia)				
Independent				
Disability (3)				
Access Youth Club				Level 2
Malta House				Level 2
ABAILE Youth Club				Level 2
Independent				
Active Citizen Group				Level 1
A.I.M.				Level 1
Friary Youth Club				Level 1
Shelagh Youth Club				Level 1
Drogheda Games				Level 1
Club				
Independent Arts				Level 1
Apple Tree				Level 1
Foundation				
Ardee Concert Band				Level 1
Drogheda Brass	Our aim is to provide people with an affordable way to learn music in a fun environment.	8years up		Level 1
Band				
Lourdes Brass Band				Level 1
Lourdes Youth Choir				Level 1
Scoraiocht Lannleire				Level 1
North Louth Macra				Level 1
na Feirme				
Termonfeckin Macra				Level 1
na Feirme				
Tullyallen Macra na				Level 1
Feirme				
Togher Macra na				Level 1
Feirme				
Carlingford	Adventure Sports	All ages	All Areas	
Adventure Centre	Centre			
East Coast	Water Sports	All ages	All Areas	Level 1
Adventure Centre	Centre			
Neptune Adventure	Youth Adventure	All ages	All Areas	Level 1
Centre	Centre			
Dundalk Arch Club	Special Needs		Dundalk Area	Level 2
	Clubs			
St. Theresa's Special	Special Olympics		Dundalk Area	Level 2
Olympics club	Club			
Boyne AC	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda Area & District	Level 1
Drogheda & District	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
A.C.				
Lourdes A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dunleer A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Peters A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1

Ferdia A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Blackrock A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dun Dealgan A & S Club	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Glenmore A. C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Mountpleasant A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Gerards A.C.	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
A.A.I. Athletic Association	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
North East Runners	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Ras na Heireann	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
International Cross Country				
Ardee Athletic Club	Athletic Club	All ages	Ardee & District	Level 1
Star of the Sea	Athletic Club	All ages		Level 1
South O Hanlon Athletic Club	Athletic Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Australian Rules	Athletic Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Juvenile Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Darver Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Darver & District	Level 1
Cooley Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Cooley & District	Level 1
Ardee Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Ardee & District	Level 1
Dundalk Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Friary Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Greenhills Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Bettystown Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Julianstown Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Stamullen Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Castle Roche Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Gereldines Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
O'Raghallaighs Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Kilkerley Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Lios na Ri Badminton Club	Badminton Club	All Ages	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Kilsaran Juvenile Basketball Club	Basketball Club	Up to 18 years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Drogheda Basketball Club	Basketball Club	Up to 18 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Collon/Philipstown Boxing Club	Boxing Club		Collon/Ardee Boxing Club	Level 1
Drogheda Amateur Boxing Club	Boxing Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1

Kilkerley Boxing Club	Boxing Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Clan Noafa Boxing Club Dundalk	Boxing Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Holy Family Boxing Club(Clان Noafa)	Boxing Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dealgan Boxing Club	Boxing Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Kilkerley Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Cooley Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Carlingford & District	Level 1
Knockbridge Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Philipstown Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Dunleer & District	Level 1
Togher Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Ardee & District	Level 1
Collon Camogie Club	Camogie Club		Collon & District	Level 1
Drogheda Chess Club	Chess Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Drogheda Wheelers Cycling Club	Cycling Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Cuchulain Cycling Club	Cycling Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Beltichburn Riding Club	Equestrian Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Boyneside Riding Club	Equestrian Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Bellingham Stables	Equestrian Club		Castlebellingham & District	Level 1
Carlingford Lough Equestrian Club	Equestrian Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Kildemock Equestrian	Equestrian Club		Ardee & District	Level 1
Ravendale Lodge Equestrian & Trekking Centre	Equestrian Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Dunany Cross County Course	Equestrian Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dromin Utd F. C.	Football Club		Dunleer & District	Level 1
Walshestown Juvenile F.C	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Laurences Gate F.C	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Boyne Rovers F.C.	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
River Celtic F.C.	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Drogheda Boys F.C.	Football Club	8-16 years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Cedarfield F.C.	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Bay F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Bellurgan United	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Annamimmion Rovers	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Faughart Rovers	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Cox's Celtic F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Glenmuir Utd. F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Muirhevanmor Boys	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1

Quay Celtic	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Rock Celtic	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Greenfield & Camp	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Celtic AFC				
Shamrock F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Termonfeckin	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Ardee Celtic	Football Club		Ardee & District	Level 1
Drogheda Town F.C	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dundalk F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Rangers F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Seatown F.C.	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Dominics	Football Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Drogheda United	Football Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1
Newtown Blues G.F.C	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Oliver Plunketts G.F.C	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
O'Raghallaigh's G.F.C	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
St. Nicholas G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Wolfe Tones G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dreadnots G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Clogherhead & District	Level 1
Glen Emmets G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Tullyallen & District	Level 1
Hunterstown Rovers G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Smarmore & District	Level 1
Lannleire G.F.C. (Dunleer)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dunleer & District	Level 1
Mattock Rangers (Collon)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Collon & District	Level 1
Naomh Fionnbarra G.F.C (Togher)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dunleer & District	Level 1
Naomh Martin G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Monasterboice & District	Level 1
Naomh Feckin G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Termonfeckin & District	Level 1
St. Kevins G.F.C.(Philipstown)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dunleer & District	Level 1
St. Mary's G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Ardee & District	Level 1
Glyde Rangers G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
John Mitchells G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Ardee & District	Level 1
Sean McDermotts G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Ardee & District	Level 1
Sean Tracy's G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Mochtas G.F.C	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Stabannan Parnells G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dunleer & District	Level 1
Tallanstown G.F.C.	Gaelic Football	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1

	Club			
Cooley Kickams G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Dowdallshill G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Dundalk Geals G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Dundalk Young Gaels G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Kilkerley G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Na Piarsaigh G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Roche Emmets G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Josephs G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Naomh Malachi G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Patrick's G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Clan Na Gael G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Brides G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Geraldines G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Sean O Mahonys G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Annaghminnon Rovers G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Gael Cuchulainnn G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Gael Cuchulainnn G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
O Connells G.F.C.(Castlebellingham)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Valley Rangers G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Vincents G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Fursey's G.F.C.(Haggardstown)	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Bridget's G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Clogherhead & District	Level 1
St. Michael G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Castlebellingham & District	Level 1
St. Feckin's Ladies G.F.C.	Gaelic Football Club	Up to 18years	Termonfeckin & District	Level 1
Ardee Golf Club	Golf Club		Ardee & District	Level 1
Carnbeg Golf Club	Golf Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Co. Louth Golf Club (Baltray)	Golf Club		Louth	Level 1
Dundalk Golf Club	Golf Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Greenore Golf Club	Golf Club		Dundalk & District	Level 1
Seapoint Golf Club	Golf Club		Louth	Level 1
Townley Hall Golf Club	Golf Club		Drogheda & District	Level 1

Killenbeg Golf Club	Golf Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Wolfe Tones H.C.	Hurling Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Naomh Moninne H.C.	Hurling Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Knockbridge H.C.	Hurling Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Pearse Og H.C.	Hurling Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Knockbridge Juvenile H.C.	Hurling Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Fatima & District Juvenile H.C.	Hurling Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Silverbridge K.C.	Kayaking/Canoeing Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Outdoor Xchange	Kayaking/Canoeing Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Boyne Valley Taekwondo School	Martial Arts	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Drogheda School of Karate	Martial Arts	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Golden Dragon/Wado-Ryu	School of Karate	Dromiskin & District	Level 1
Cobra-Kan Karate/Kick Boxing Club	Martial Arts	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Blackrock Karate Club	Martial Arts	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Drogheda TDK School	Martial Arts	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Boyne R.F.C.	Rugby Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Ardee R.F.C.	Rugby Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dundalk & Carlingford Sailing Club	Sailing Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Whitworth Leisure Centre	Snooker Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Bridge Snooker Club	Snooker Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Embassy Snooker Club	Snooker Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Flannerys Snooker Club	Snooker Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
O'Rahgallaighs G.F.C.	Squash Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Dundalk Rugby Squash Club	Squash Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
St. Pauls Table Tennis Club	Table Tennis Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Ardee Tennis Club	Tennis Club	Ardee & District	Level 1
Dundalk Tennis Club	Tennis Club	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Boyne Valley Leisure Centre	Health Club & Tennis	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Ballmascanlon Leisure Club	Health Club & Tennis	Dundalk & District	Level 1
Naomh Martin Tennis Club	Tennis Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1
Termonfeckin Tennis	Tennis Club	Drogheda & District	Level 1

Club Drogheda Water Polo Club	Water Polo Club		District Drogheda & District	Level 1
Louth Childcare Committee	Support & development provision to childcare services in Co Louth	155 childcare services providing 1554 full day, 576 part-time, 1993 sessional childcare places.	Co. Louth Area	Level 1/2
The Probation Service	Our services are provided to both adult and young offenders, in the community and in custody and aim to stop those committing further offences.	Persons found guilty of an offence before the criminal courts.	Co. Louth Area	Level 3/4
An Garda Síochána Louth Division			Co. Louth Area	Level 1-4
4Word Project	Provide a variety of education personal development & employment opportunities through participation in further education & training activities	Single parents 18- 25years approx.	Dundalk & District	Level 2
DAWN Childcare Services	Pre-school, After- School & Toddler Group Services	2-3years, 3-5years, 5- 10 (afterschool)	Drogheda & district	Level 1/2
Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge Centre Ltd.	Offers shelter & safe accommodation to Women (&children) who are homeless due to violence and/or abuse or homeless.	Primarily women and their children who are suffering abuse in their own homes or homeless.	Dublin North East Area	Level 2/3/4
Drogheda Lifestart	Early years parent education programme designed for parents & children from birth to 5years	0-5years	Drogheda town	Level 2

Drogheda Youth Development	The project aims to meet the social, developmental and personal needs of young people. The work is carried out through a community development approach, which results in a supportive environment and a wide range of options for young people.	7- 25 years	Drogheda area and its hinterland	Level 1/2
YAP Ireland	YAP works in partnership with young people,families and communities and using a strengths based support model keeps young people in their communities and out of care/custody		Co.Louth	Level 3/4
EXTERN	It works directly with children,adults and communities affected by social exclusion in louth		Dundalk	Level 3/4
Dundalk Outcomers	It is a social and befriending support group for gay,lesbian and bi-sexual people.	14-25 +	Co.Louth	Level 2
Family Support & Child Welfare Services Louth	Family Support team who work in the community with vulnerable families and their children	0-10years	Co. Louth	Level 2/3/4
Rape Crisis North East	Provide a specialised, professional counselling & support service to women, men and young adults who have experienced any form of sexual violence ISPCC works and	All women & men over 18years	North East area	Level 3

ISPCC	mentors children and families through their childline service. They also have a Teenfocus project in operation in the north east. They are a child centered organisation providing a range of independent services which are preventative and empowering in nature,	All children and families	National and Local	Level 2/3
Muirhevnámór Springboard Initiative	Community based family support project whose main aim is to provide an integrated and co-ordinated service to children & families	Families with children 0-10 years	Dundalk town	Level 2/3/4
Women's Aid Dundalk	Support to women & children who have experienced domestic violence		Co. Louth area	Level 3/4

Cox's Demesne Youth & Community Project Ltd	To enable the personal and social development of young people in Cox's Demesne, especially those who are at risk of alcohol & drug misuse, petty crime, early school leaving, neglect and homelessness. The main programmes offered are; The Friday Project, The after schools service, The high voltage project, Youth clubs, Summer Project, Gaining ground probation project, Second chance Project.			Local Dundalk Area	Level 2/3/4
Lifestyle Focus Your Future Project	Training education in FETAC Level 4 General Vocational Learning	18-35year old lone parents & young people	Drogheda & surrounding areas	Level 2	

Crèche's

Pugwash Bay Crèche & Montessori	Cormorant Lodge	The Linns	Annagassan	Level 1
Pugwash Bay	Lis na Dara	Carrick Road	Dundalk	Level 1
Pugwash Bay	12 Oakvale Park	Bay Estate	Dundalk	Level 1
Pugwash Bay	97 Loughantarve	Knockbridge	Dundalk	Level 1
Pre-School	Castletown Rd Girls School		Dundalk	Level 1
Termonfeckin Playgroup	Termonfeckin Community Centre		Termonfeckin	Level 1
Lifestyle Community Crèche	The Grove Early Years Education Centre	Lifestyle Development Group Ltd, Ballsgrove Ramparts Rd.	Drogheda	Level 1
Little Partners	Partnership Court		Dundalk	Level 1
Jelly Tots Day Care Centre & Montessori	Drogheda Neighbourhood Centre	Rathmullen Road	Drogheda	Level 1
College Rise Montessori	89 College Rise		Drogheda	Level 1
Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge Centre Ltd	"St Anthonys"	Priest Lane	Drogheda	Level 1
Just Kids Creche & Montessori	31 Bothar Brugha		Drogheda	Level 1
Ladybird Lane Day Nursery & Montessori	Oriel Cove		Clogherhead	Level 1
Weebodies & Cead Ceimeanna	Boyne Valley Leisure Centre	Dublin Road	Stameen Drogheda	Level 1
Tots Paradise	Oriel Rd.		Collon	Level 1
Wizkids	32 Beech Pk		Blackrock	Level 1
Nannypoppers	1-3 Seaview Tce	Newry Rd	Dundalk	Level 1
Children's World	Dulargy	Ravensdale	Dundalk	Level 1
Tallanstown Pre-School	Tallanstown N.S.	Tallanstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Little Munchkin's Crèche	Rathdaniel	Collon		Level 1
Tir na nOg	Primary School		Louth Village	Level 1
Field of Dreams	68 Cypress Garden	Bay Estate	Dundalk	Level 1
Montessori				
Play-2-Learn	5 Rockabill Cove	Termonfeckin		Level 1
Little Angels	66 College Rise		Drogheda	Level 1
Pebble Beach	Big Street	Termonfeckin		Level 1
Play'n'Learn	Townley Hall Road	Tullyallen	Drogheda	Level 1
The Wendy House	Mountbagnal	Riverstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Bright Stars	40 Rathmount	Blackrock	Dundalk	Level 1
Maples Montessori School	"St. Catherines"	Greenhills	Drogheda	Level 1
Realt na Mara Pre-School	Mill Street		Dundalk	Level 1
Redeemer Crèche & Playgroup	Ashling Park		Dundalk	Level 1
"Kool Kidz"	Darver	Readypenny	Dundalk	Level 1
Tiny Tots	Kilkerly Community Centre	Kilkerly	Dundalk	Level 1

First Impressions Crèche	Grove Road		Carlingford	Level 1
Kate Johnston	Drumnacarra	Ravensdale	Dundalk	Level 1
Absolute Angels	Termonfeckin Road	Drogheda		Level 1
Peek A Boo	Main Street	Tallanstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Boyne View Crèche	9 Boyne Cottages	Mell	Drogheda	Level 1
Little Buds	54 Avondale Pk		Dundalk	Level 1
Little Devils	St.Patricks GFC Complex	Lordship	Jenkinstown	Level 1
Shapes and Sizes	57 Mill St.		Dundalk	Level 1
Jenny Kerley	Lannet	Corcreaghy	Dundalk	Level 1
Aladdin's Cave	Stoney Lane		Ardee	Level 1
Stepping Stones	Anne Streeet		Dundalk	Level 1
Cul an ti pre-school	Dunbin	Knockbridge	Dundalk	Level 1
Blackrock Montessori	Old Golf Links Rd	Blackrock	Dundalk	Level 1
Pre-School				
Happy Days	Old School		Dromiskin	Level 1
"Ivy Cottage"	Castletowncooley	Riverstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Scallywags Crèche	Boicetown	Togher	Dunleer	Level 1
The Magic Kingdom	Newtown Business Park		Drogheda	Level 1
Playschool & Montessori				
Footprints Pre-school	Rock Road	Blackrock	Dundalk	Level 1
Naionra Dhun Dealgan	Gaelscoil Dhun Dealgan	Muirtheimhne Mor	Dundalk	Level 1
		7 North Quay	Drogheda	Level 1
Jollytots	DCTU	Monasterboice	Drogheda	Level 1
Tots & Co	Fieldstown		Drogheda	Level 1
Aunty Paula's	394 Ballsgrove		Ardee	Level 1
Little Steps	55 Cherrybrook	Kilcurry	Dundalk	Level 1
Scoil Beag	Balrigan		Dundalk	Level 1
Women's Aid Dundalk	Long Avenue	Muirhevnamore	Dundalk	Level 1
Holy Family Comm	2 Grange Close			
Crèche				
Claddaghs Treasures	Claddagh Park	Tom Bellew Avenue	Dundalk	Level 1
Little Friends	Ardbolies		Togher	Level 1
St. Malachys Friary pre-School	Anne Street		Dundalk	Level 1
Tiny Tots	5 Harmony Heights		Drogheda	Level 1
Happy Dayz	Sandy Lane		Blackrock	Level 1
Little Treasures	Mount Hawthorn House	Blackbush Lane, Dublin Rd.	Drogheda	Level 1
Tir na nOg	Cluide		Dunleer	Level 1
ABC Childsplay	Townspark	Castletown Road	Dundalk	Level 1
Pre-School	St Fursey's National School	Haggardstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Faughert Scholars	Lower Faughart		Dundalk	Level 1
Central Park	19 St. Brigid's Tce.	Seatown	Dundalk	Level 1
Bright Beginnings	Lower Point Rd		Dundalk	Level 1
"Greenacres"	Sandpit, Termonfeckin	Termonfeckin	Drogheda	Level 1
Kidz Academy	20 Greenacres, Avenue	Avenue Rd.	Dundalk	Level 1
Little Miracles	6 Ashleigh Hts	North Rd.	Drogheda	Level 1
De La Salle Pre-School	De La Salle Primary School	Philip St.	Dundalk	Level 1

Ann McNally	113 Rathmount	Seafield Road	Blackrock	Level 1
Shining Stars Pre-School	5 Cherrybrook	Ardee		Level 1
Cool 4 Kids	24 The Green	Riverbank	Rathmullen Road	Level 1
Sandpit Playschool	Cartown	Termonfeckin	Drogheda	Level 1
Woddlers & Toddlers	Knocknagoran		Omeath	Level 1
Cala's Cabin	18 Forest Hill	Drogheda		Level 1
Tus Maith Pre-School	Nuns Walk	Main Street	Collon	Level 1
Gillian Moran	45 Cairnescourt	Roscoill Dublin Road	Drogheda	Level 1
DAWN	Georges St.		Drogheda	Level 1
First Steps Crèche & Montessori	Long Avenue Road		Dundalk	Level 1
Tiny Tots Nursery	Burex Park	Old Coes Rd	Dundalk	Level 1
Wheaton Hall Montessori Academy	Unit 7A Wheaton Hall Shop Units	Wheaton Hall	Drogheda	Level 1
Ages & Stages	Mullaharlin Park	Dublin Road	Dundalk	Level 1
Ages & Stages	Resource Centre	30 Clanbrassil St	Dundalk	Level 1
"Busy B's"	3 Wheatfields	Stabannon		Level 1
Peter Pan Crèche	Bryanstown Cross Route	Martello Village, Dublin Rd	Drogheda	Level 1
Peter Pan Crèche	Ivy House	William St.	Drogheda	Level 1
Little Nippers	New Rd.	Bellurgan	Dundalk	Level 1
Louise O'Reilly Ryan	42 Elmwood Close	Termonabbey	Drogheda	Level 1
AB Childcare	11 Teal Street	Aston Village	Drogheda	Level 1
Acorns	211 Meadowview		Drogheda	Level 1
"Kidiwinks"	60 Windmill Road		Drogheda	Level 1
Alison's Wonderland	34 Oulster Lane		Drogheda	Level 1
Ferndale Crèche	Ferndale	Matthew's Lane	Drogheda	Level 1
Barbara Rothwell	83 Windmill Road	Drogheda		Level 1
Money more Childcare Centre	Money more	Roaches Lane	Drogheda	Level 1
Little Rascals	Tullyallen		Drogheda	Level 1
Little Acorns	2 Ashdale	Wheaton Hall	Drogheda	Level 1
Knockbridge Childcare	Newtown	Knockbridge	Dundalk	Level 1
Knockbridge Pre-School	Newtown	Knockbridge	Dundalk	Level 1
Naionra Lorcan		Omeath		Level 1
Coisceim Crèche	St. John of God NE Services	St. Mary's	Drumcar	Level 1
Cooley Community Playgroup	St. Mary's Parochial Centre	Monksland	Carlingford	Level 1
Ballapousta Pre-School	Old School House	Ballapousta	Ardee	Level 1
Happy Days	CBS	Chapel St.	Dundalk	Level 1
"The Little Cottage"	Clonmore	Togher		Level 1
Annaglog Playgroup	Annaglog		Ardee	Level 1
Toddler's Hill Crèche & Montessori	54 Moorehall Rise	Ardee		Level 1
Little & Big Rascals	Dunleer Childcare	Ardee Road	Dunleer	Level 1
Right Start	St. Joseph's Campus	Tom Bellew Ave.	Dundalk	Level 1

Stepping Stones Comm Crèche	15 Tredagh Court	Marleys Lane	Drogheda	Level 1
Playmates Montessori School	Unit 11, Workspace Centre	Mayoralty St	Drogheda	Level 1
Cheeky Monkey	Ardee Parish Centre	Hale Street	Ardee	Level 1
Lios na nOg	St. Joseph's N.S.	Tom Bellew Avenue	Dundalk	Level 1
Jump Start Pre-School	Bellurgan National School	Jeninstown	Dundalk	Level 1
Playgrounds - County Council				
Carlingford Play ground	Playground			Level 1
Omeath Playground	Playground			Level 1
Ardee (incl. MUGA) Playground	Playground			Level 1
Tinure Playground	Playground			Level 1
Clogherhead Playground	Playground			Level 1
St. Helena Park Playground	Playground		Dundalk Town	Level 1
Lennon-Melia Court Playground	Playground		Dundalk Town	Level 1
Aishling Park	Playground		Dundalk Town	Level 1
Oldbridge/Toberona (MUGA)	Playground		Dundalk Town	Level 1
Muirhevnemor Playground	Playground		Dundalk Town	Level 1
St. Dominic's Park	Playground		Drogheda Town	Level 1
Moneymore Playground	Playground		Drogheda Town	Level 1
Rathmullen (MUGA) Playground	Playground		Drogheda Town	Level 1

* Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this list. However the Louth Children's Services Committee cannot be held responsible for any errors contained within it. The information will be updated during the lifetime of the three year plan. If you would like to make a comment on the list of services or add your organisation to the list, please contact Joanne Murphy, Coordinator CSC at joannea.murphy@hse.ie

Appendix 5
Children's Services Committee
Report of the Children, Young Peoples, Families
Consultation

Final Report

February 2012

Supported by the Children's Services Committee, which includes representatives from, HSE, Louth County Council, Co. Louth VEC, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, Louth County Childcare Committee, Louth Leader Partnership, Voluntary Representation, DKIT, IPPN and NAPD.

Introduction:

This report presents the findings and results of the public consultation carried out in Co. Louth between November 2011 and January 2012. The report represents a cross - community qualitative assessment of the various themes, concerns and issues raised by children, young people and families during the consultation process. These results and others have been incorporated into the children and young people's plan. The results are a snapshot in time of a cross section of young peoples and families' views in Co. Louth, ***it is not meant to be a scientific representation of all young people's views but merely a sample of issues and concerns captured in a given period of time.***

Children's Services Committee:

Co. Louth Children's Services Committee was established in 2010 by the HSE under the auspices of the Department of Children and Young People (then the OMCYA). Its membership is drawn from a number of key agencies; HSE, Louth County Council, Co. Louth VEC, An Garda Síochána, Probation, Louth County Childcare Committee, Louth Leader Partnership, Voluntary Representation, DKIT, IPPN and NAPD.

Over the past year the Louth CSC has worked to develop an opportunity where agencies engaged in service delivery to children and their families are facilitated in their work to deliver integrated services and interventions for children in Louth.

Report Organization:

The information for this report was gathered through a series of focus groups with children, young people and families in Co. Louth between November 2011 and February 2012.

The Primary results are contained in Part 1-

Executive Summary

Here we profile the Children's Services Committee before highlighting the main findings of the study. Specific aspects of the study such as participant recruitment and limitations are highlighted.

In Part 2 - The Study Data, the summaries of each of the 20 focus groups are outlined. Each session was started with a background to the Children's Services Committee and children, young people and families were asked to give their view on the following questions;

- ***Is Louth a good place for you to grow up in?***
- ***What's good about it?***
- ***What would make it better?***

The main topics for the Focus Group were:	20 Focus Groups were comprised of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Children's Services Committee • 5 National Outcomes i.e. Health, safe and secure, education etc. • Is Co. Louth a good place for you to grow up? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Schools • Secondary Schools • Youth organizations • Parent and Toddler Groups • Training Courses • Youth Clubs • Young people using HSE services • Parenting Groups • Family Support Services

Part 3 includes a section on grid analysis, where the data from the focus groups are abstracted and aligned in tables to make it easier to identify cross-group trends and variations.

Next steps:

At this stage of the project, this report highlights the findings of an exploration of people's experiences of services in Co. Louth. The findings point to a broad range of aspects which could lead to better outcomes for children in Co. Louth. The points in this study were examined, prioritised and converted into the three year action plan.

Acknowledgments

A critically important element of the development of the children's and young peoples plan was to listen to what children, young people and families have to say. The response has been extremely positive and indicates a strong desire to be heard. This report summarises the ideas and suggestions put forward.

The consultation does not end here. It will continue as part of the implementation of the plan. We wish to thank all children, young people and families who took part in this consultation and thank all the Youth Workers, Community Statutory Workers and Volunteers for their kind support and encouragement of our activities.

Part 1 - During the group discussions, it was inevitable that there would be some degree of overlap between topics. This was particularly evident in the overlap between the youth organizations and parenting groups.

Methodology:

Various methodologies were used throughout the consultations. These included “buzz groups” where each group was divided into two, initial ideas on a topic were written on post-its, discussed in the sub-group and then the group as a whole. Another methodology was the “blue sky” exercise where a sheet of paper was passed around with the heading “Young People Issues”. Each young person was asked to write down one issue on the page.

Key topics discussed

The key topics discussed at the consultation were:

- Background to Children’s Services Committee
- Key question: Is Louth a good place for you to grow up in? What’s good about it?
- Themes: Health, Education, Feeling safe in your community, Respect, Responsibility and having a say, Facilities and Activities

Summary Data:**Focus Group 1****Group profile:- Parents of Adolescents in Youth Organization**

Gender	Employment	Household Total	Rural/Urban
Female	Lone Parent	5	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	7	Urban
Female	Part time Work	3	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	4	Rural
Female	Lone Parent	8	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	3	Rural
Female	Part time Work	3	Urban
Female	Part time Work	4	Urban

Group Overview:

The eight parents were invited to attend a weekly meeting of parents. The co-ordinator introduced the project and confirmation was sought through the project worker to work around the 5 National Outcomes.

Location:

Focus Group 1 was performed in a meeting room that the parents were comfortable in. Refreshments were served and the session ran for approx one and a half hours.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>"CAMHS service was a great help when my daughter was being bullied in school and at home"</p>	<p>Waiting lists too long. Access to services Need to meet the particular needs of children with special needs and young people at risk of poverty.</p> <p>Hospital and community psychiatric services need to be developed for children's mental health needs and issues.</p> <p>A number of parents concerned about the health needs of young people who are drug users.</p> <p>Need for Counselling services for young people i.e. Mental Health</p>	<p>Best process for offering support is to provide services as part of designated community facilities.</p> <p>Counselling services related to bereavement, bullying and where parents relationships break down.</p>
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Education		<p>Interventions need to be improved when a child is having difficulties i.e. bullying before it gets too far. Waiting</p>	

Feeling safe in the Community	Some schools are very supportive and listen to the needs of parents	list to be assessed. “He is not in the right school, if he was in a DEIS 1 school, he would be assessed much quicker” Too much focus on “academic” learning not on life skills “My fella left school at 13 and there was no follow up apart from a few phone calls”	Schools need to give young people skills in thinking, working together, decision making School leavers should continue to be the responsibility of the education system, until they have received a qualification or an apprenticeship.
	There is lots of playgrounds for younger children.	There needs to be more skate board parks, places for young people to “hang out” indoors.	There should be more facilities in rural areas as well as Dundalk and Drogheda.
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Respect Responsibility and having a say	Young people when treated with respect are very helpful	“some children are not bad-you do get nice ones! (then you get the ones that will torture you”	Bring different groups together, mix older and younger people together.

	<p>Giving young people a voice. Coming to a group once a week gives them value and they can express their opinions on all matters</p>	<p>"you can't give them too much say, because they haven't their own ideas worked out"</p>	<p>Young people need skills and role models. They need to have a voice and not just certain young people. i.e. from middle class backgrounds.</p>
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Focus Group:2**Group Profile: Training Programme for young parents**

Gender	Employment	Household Total	Rural/Urban
Female	Training Course	3	Urban
Female	Training Course	4	Rural
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Rural
Female	Training Course	4	Rural
Female	Training Course	2	Rural
Female	Training Course	3	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Urban
Female	Training Course	2	Rural
Female	Training Course	2	Urban

2:2:1 Thirteen parents used the consultation as part of a training programme.

Location: The consultation was held in the training room of the participant's project. The consultation lasted one and quarter hours. The assistant co-ordinator of the project was present at the consultation

Focus Group Data:

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	P.H.N system was good. Great help with nutrition and routines	Children on waiting lists for several years waiting to be assessed by ENT specialist. Had to go private to get his tonsils out. Went into debt. Long waiting list for dental services. Worried the child's teeth will be affected by the delay.	Inform of us of the process at beginning. Had to speak to a T.D. before got any progress. Less waiting time. More information shared
Education		Long time waiting on assessments for ADHD and behavioural issues with children	More community initiatives e.g. learning groups, parenting groups.
Feeling Safe in your home and Community	Rapid response to phone calls from Gardaí after house was burgled	"I live in fear in my house of broken windows, firebombs. I won't stay in the house my own"	More Community Guards More follow up with offenders

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Respect/responsibility and having a say	Having a training course where you can speak your mind and learn new skills. Great as a lone parent to come back into the workforce		More courses. Longer time spent to obtain qualifications.
Facilities and Activities	High standards of community crèches. Feeling very secure leaving their children in the crèche. High quality childcare.	Training allowance sometimes affects crèche payment i.e. subvention	ECCE system to remain in place. Would have to leave course if it was abolished.

Focus Group 3:

Group profile: Parents who participated on a parenting course.

Gender	Employment	Household Total	Rural/Urban
Female	Lone Parent	10	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	8	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	6	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	3	Urban
Female	Lone Parent	4	Urban
Male	Lone Parent	3	Rural

2:3:1**Group Overview**

Six participants participated in a 16 week parenting programme. The co-ordinator met with the group for an hour and a half.

Location: A rented room where the parenting programme was being held.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	School is brilliant, supportive, encouraging. "I would have moved out of the country if it wasn't for the support I got from the school"	<p>Very difficult relationships with Social Workers. No continuity of Social Workers and therefore information gets lost. Felt very let down by the system. They went to Social Worker for help in the first place</p> <p>Child punching the walls in. Needs to be assessed. "Why it is rich people get seen first. It's not fair"</p>	<p>To not have so many mixed messages i.e. child told he was coming off C.P.N.S but still hasn't come off. More common sense approach More dialogue with parents</p> <p>Improve waiting list time</p>
Feeling safe and secure	Garda presence can make a difference	Don't feel safe in the community. Wouldn't walk to local shop at night. There is a need to get out of the home - and there is a fear of getting attacked in the home.	A person should not feel that they may be penalised by social welfare if family members come for extended stays.
Facilities and Activities	Youth projects are very important for young people. SOSAD suicide prevention project has been a life saver	Young people need to be encouraged to participate in activities. It's a money world today and the government don't give good example.	<p>Current priorities are misplaced. There has been a huge push to ban smoking but there seems to be little progress in dealing with drugs and their impact on anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Young people's issues need to be looked: - Drugs</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mental health- Suicide prevention- Social skills
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Focus Group 4:

Group profile: Parents who participated on a parenting course

Gender	Employment	Household total	Urban/Rural
Female	Lone parent	5	Urban
Female	Lone parent	6	Urban
Female	P/T worker	5	Urban

2.4:1 Group Overview

3 participants from a group who completed a training programme met with the Co-ordinator for an hour.

Location: A community based family support project.

Focus Group Data:

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>"I can't fight anymore"</p> <p>Health Service was supportive but their hands were tied.</p> <p>"I'm an expert too"</p> <p>"support my child to succeed"</p> <p>"I wasn't confident at the beginning but as time rolled on and I realised I was getting fobbed off. I became stronger. I had to for my children's sake"</p>	<p>Had to get a diagnosis of child's autism in another jurisdiction.</p> <p>Campaign for respite and for benefits for the children.</p> <p>It was a daily battle to get the support my children needed.</p> <p>Waiting lists for assessment for ENT.</p> <p>Dilemma of public versus private.</p>	<p>Cleaner diagnosis for children with diagnosis for autism.</p> <p>The government needs to act now and fix the social care systems. "we need a system that works with, not against parents"</p>
Education	<p>"I want teachers to understand him"</p> <p>The school was very supportive. They welcomed the child into their school.</p> <p>School Completion Programme worked very well liaising with the school.</p>	<p>Extremely difficult to get the educational support needed.</p> <p>Schools not taking a private assessment seriously.</p> <p>The child's behaviour has suffered as a result of lack of support.</p> <p>Transport - to the specific school. He was tired after the journey and found it hard to develop friendships and social skills.</p>	<p>It's unacceptable that a child has to wait for educational supports.</p> <p>Modules for new teachers which covers autism and ADHD.</p> <p>Early diagnosis by professionals</p>

Focus Group 5:**Group Profile:** Young people who have left the care of the HSE

Gender	Employment	Urban/Rural
Female	Studying	Rural
Female	Lone parent	Urban
Female	Part time work	Urban
Male	Studying	Urban

Group overview:

The co-ordinator met with the young people on a one to one basis. There findings are collated according to target group

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>Very positive experience of foster parents</p> <p>HSE aftercare worker was extremely helpful with educational options and financial support</p> <p>Social workers were very helpful to me and my sisters/brothers</p>	<p>Difficulty in connections with people because I was moved around so much.</p> <p>“My behaviour was disruptive. I was so angry”</p> <p>Had a difficult relationship with Social Workers - didn't like them and they didn't like me</p>	<p>Listen to young people</p> <p>More privacy for young people</p> <p>Foster parents need to adapt to customs and traditions of the young person</p>
Education	<p>“some teachers were very supportive but I felt I was stigmatised”</p>	<p>Was moved around so much that I couldn't do well in school.</p> <p>Left school early</p>	<p>More continuity</p> <p>More training groups</p> <p>More places in Youthreach/community training workshops</p>
Issues young people leaving care experience			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Options around housing Social skills/life skills Help with Mental Health issues Counselling for relationships, alcohol abuse etc. Discussions on Mental Health

Focus Group 6:**Group Profile:-****Children from a Primary school from a rural background in Dundalk**

Gender	Year	Urban/Rural
Female	1 st class	Rural
Male	5 th class	Rural
Male	5 th class	Rural
Female	1 st class	Rural
Female	2 nd class	Rural
Female	2 nd class	Rural
Male	4 th class	Rural
Male	6 th class	Rural
Male	6 th class	Rural
Female	5 th class	Rural
Female	4 th class	Rural
Male	3 rd class	Rural

2.6:1 Group overview

12 pupils who sit on the student council of their school met with the co-ordinator for 45 mins.

Location: Staffroom of the school

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>Attendance at a Rainbow course helped the child deal with bereavement</p> <p>All respondents had pets and loved spending time with them</p>	Bereavement in the family - worried about health	
Education	<p>No name calling in the group and nobody felt bullied by other children. Very positive about the school and the community approach to the school</p>	Worried about exams	
Feeling safe and secure	<p>Feel very secure in the community</p> <p>Love the peace and quiet of rural life</p> <p>Community is very helpful</p>		
Facilities and activities	<p>Listed are the activities the children are involved in; Boxing, football, school organized a book fair. Youth Club, Foroíge have a youth club that they go on trips. Brownies, GAA, Drama, Basketball, Soccer, Homework clubs</p>		<p>The young people were very happy children. All were involved in at least one activity organized through the school or by organizations like Foroíge etc.</p> <p>They had a strong sense of community</p>

Focus Group 7: -

Group Profile: - Students from a rural background who attend secondary school

Gender	Age	Year	Rural/Urban
Male	13	1 st	Rural
Male	15	3 rd	Rural
Female	13	1 st	Rural
Male	17	6 th	Rural
Female	16	5 th	Rural
Female	14	3 rd	Rural
Male	13	2 nd	Rural

2:71

Group overview

7 students from a variety of ages and were members of the students council met for one class period.

Location:

A classroom in the school which has a pupil population of 560

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Education	<p>Find the transition year programme a very positive experience.</p> <p>New experiences with Transition Year. Gained confidence and could speak better in public as a result</p> <p>The student's council is very important in their lives. They feel it is a mechanism for issues to be fed up the line to teachers/principals</p>	<p>Young people being competitive with each other around achievements</p> <p>A small number spoke of racism to pupils from other countries but they said it was dealt with very well by teachers.</p>	Intercultural awareness in schools
Feeling safe in the community	Very settled in the rural area	<p>Have negative experiences of people from the large towns i.e. Drinking, smoking, anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Have negative experience of people living in estates. Their perception is one of joyriding, drugs, unemployment</p>	Project to bridge Rural/Urban divide
Facilities and Activities	All involved in Youth Clubs, Rugby, G.A.A. Working on the farm Basketball	Sometimes the girls stated they were not confident and needed support to get involved in activities outside of school	<p>More promotion of healthy lifestyles through sport</p> <p>Would like to have more understanding of services i.e. Garda and Garda Projects in operation</p> <p>More emphasis on bullying and stopping physical fighting happening.</p>

Focus Group 8:

Group Profile: Young people who attend a Friday night youth club

Gender	Age	Year	Rural/Urban
Male	13	2 nd	Rural
Male	13	2 nd	Rural
Male	13	2 nd	Rural
Female	14	3 rd	Rural
Male	14	3 rd	Rural
Female	13	2 nd	Rural
Male	14	3 rd	Rural
Female	14	3 rd	Rural
Female	13	2 nd	Rural
Female	13	1 st	Rural

2:8:1 Group overview;

10 young people who attend a Friday night youth club in a rural area outside Drogheda.

Location:

A room in the G.A.A. Club grounds

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>A lot of bullying experienced on Facebook</p> <p>Feel intimidated in large shopping centres by security just because they are young people</p> <p>Love gaming and spend hours playing games, call of duty etc.</p>	<p>Lack of self esteem</p> <p>Panic attacks</p> <p>Anxiety experienced by half of the girls</p> <p>Can't go into the shopping centre dressed in a hoodie.</p> <p>Can't be in more than groups of two</p> <p>Self harm is a big issue with young people.</p> <p>Worry and anxiety is huge particularly among girls.</p> <p>Being discriminated because of the choice of music i.e. emo, mosshers.</p> <p>People have a negative perception straight away.</p> <p>Don't socialise away from computer</p>	<p>Youth clubs worked out the issues</p> <p>Needs more follow up in schools</p> <p>More awareness of young peoples issues by staff in shopping centre</p> <p>Encourage difference and individuality in society and school</p>
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement

Facilities and activities	<p>More activities like youth clubs etc. "freedom to myself"</p>	<p>Transport is a big issue - have to rely on parents the whole time to get into town</p>	<p>Better transport system</p> <p>More funding for youth clubs. Encourage diversity</p>
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Focus Group 9:-

Group profile: - young people who attend an urban youth clubs in Dundalk

Gender	Age	Rural/Urban
Male	16	Urban
Male	14	Urban
Male	14	Urban
Female	16	Urban
Male	15	Urban
Male	16	Urban
Male	16	Urban

2:9:1 Group Overview

7 Young people from various age groups living in a social housing in Dundalk

Location: A community youth project in Dundalk

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<p>2 participants had contact with Social Workers and had very positive experiences</p> <p>“Dad had to get out and we had to be safe.. so the Social Workers helped us”</p> <p>Feel bored a lot so have got involved in drugs, taking tablets, weed.</p> <p>Was on the Rainbows Bereavement Project - worked well.</p> <p>Received counselling through Appletree foundation. Very good.</p> <p>2 attend Extern and find it very positive</p>		<p>More facilities and activities</p> <p>Recreational facilities are closing down. Where do we go?</p>
Feeling safe in your community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astro -turf pitch • Youth clubs • Boxing • Friends/family • Close to town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs i.e. Weed, Heroin • Alcohol - drinking on the streets • Anxiety/panic attacks • Self harm • Vandalism/violence 	<p>More activities for young people i.e. Go-karting, cinema</p> <p>More programmes on violence, anger management.</p> <p>More understanding of services like Guards, Army etc.</p>

Focus Group 10

Group profile: - Student Council in a secondary school from an urban background in Drogheda.

Gender	Year	Rural/Urban
Female	2 nd	Rural
Male	2 nd	Urban
Male	5 th	Urban
Male	5 th	Urban
Female	4 th	Urban
Male	4 th	Urban
Male	3 rd	Urban
Female	2 nd	Urban
Male	1 st	Rural
Male	6 th	Urban

Group Overview:-

10 Pupils who sit on the student council of their school met with the Co-ordinator for the class period.

Location: Classroom of a school

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Education School student council	<p>Career Guidance/Counsellor - very important - needs to be expanded</p> <p>More open days for students to attend</p> <p>Lots of interactive learning helps us take in more information</p>	<p>Negative perception of Public schools.</p> <p>Lots of distractions in class</p> <p>Teachers too strict</p> <p>Stereotypes - coming from a bad area - people look down on you</p>	<p>Teachers need more training</p> <p>Too high a cost of travel to school</p> <p>Bus-lanróid Eireann and Rural Transport should be more lenient with bus passes</p> <p>Can't use bus pass after 6p.m. - can't study in school</p>
Health/Sport	<p>School sports encourage people to fit in.</p> <p>Lots of clubs e.g. chess clubs, dance clubs, swimming clubs.</p> <p>Good way to meet people</p> <p>Could be an exam subject - assess effort rather than fitness progress/skill</p>	<p>Unfitness due to xbox, computer games ok.</p> <p>Body perception - don't want to go out</p> <p>A lot of sporting activities very expensive</p> <p>Lack of sports for girls</p>	<p>Parents not encouraging young people - balance in life</p> <p>Reduce price schemes in Gyms for Young People</p> <p>Committees in school to stay back and train</p>
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Facilities	<p>Graffiti - can be good and bad</p> <p>Good places for young people to hang out</p>	<p>People - no respect</p> <p>Fireworks in letter boxes bonfires</p> <p>Vandalism in schools - boredom - trying to act cool in front of friends</p>	<p>Use of CCTV</p> <p>Provide places for graffiti</p> <p>Keep areas clean and tidy to avoid vandalism</p> <p>Keep public toilets clean</p>

Focus Group 11

Group Profile: - Young people in an urban youth club in Drogheda

Gender	Age	Urban/Rural
Female	15	Rural
Female	16	Urban
Female	14	Urban
Female	16	Urban
Female	16	Urban
Male	14	Urban
Male	15	Urban

Group Overview:-

7 young people who participate in an unborn youth group on Thursday night.

Location: - Small Group work room

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health Teenage pregnancy	Teen Parents Support Programme - My friend used it and it was very good.	Age is getting younger (14) and younger Condoms too expensive - should be free Younger sexual awareness classes Young people getting drunk and having sex Local G.P. should be able to give contraceptives	Access to free condoms at 15 without parental consent Provide more places where young people can talk about sexual awareness in confidence outside of school Free phone lines for discussion about Sexual Health Peer Education
Peer Pressure	Good counselling service in School - particularly for 5 th and 6 th years	A lot of pressure from friends to fit in - lots of slagging Drinking - forced to as all of my group do it Pressure from media/celebrities Lack of SPHE in school Pressure re: Body image, weight etc. Nasty texts, facebook - all forms of bullying	People going through this stay in the group and get support Needs to be highlighted Personal development needed in schools
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Drugs	Education programmes Television adverts on	Easily accessible, if you want them it's easy to find them	Drug leaflets don't work - not red People need to be more educated, more

	danger of drug use	<p>Very harmful</p> <p>Peer pressure on school buses</p> <p>Boredom - lack of amenities</p> <p>Kids coming to school with vodka in coke bottles, getting high on aerosols, paracetamol and weed/hash - but teachers don't recognise or are not that interested</p>	<p>workshops in schools</p> <p>Show children the horrors of drugs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brain Scans - Horror shots
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Focus Group 12:

Group Profile:- Young people from a youth organisation in Dundalk

Gender	Age	Rural/Urban
Male	16	Urban
Male	16	Urban
Male	15	Urban
Male	18	Urban
Female	17	Urban
Female	17	Urban
Male	16	Urban

Group Overview:-

Seven members of a Youth Group who attend on a Monday evening in a Community Youth Project

Location: Community Youth Project

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Mental Health	<p>Everything leads back to mental health i.e. exams, bullying etc.</p> <p>Good support groups but need to be advertised better i.e. Sosad, Spunout, Health forum</p>	<p>Low self -esteem</p> <p>Sexuality</p> <p>SPHE needs to be taken more seriously (at moment is seen as a doss class)</p>	<p>More support groups needed</p> <p>Education on mental health</p> <p>Buddy system</p> <p>Campaign to remove stigma</p>
Bullying	<p>Role of Prefects/Mentors/Role Models</p>	<p>Should schools have access to pupils facebook account</p> <p>Effects of bullying - self harm</p> <p>Constant bullying very serious as opposed to a one off</p>	<p>CCTV</p> <p>Independent Counselling Service</p> <p>Bullying alert system</p> <p>Guest speakers</p>
Unemployment		<p>Problems associated with unemployment</p> <p>Huge competition for any job</p> <p>Qualifications required for job?</p> <p>Adult perception of young people is they don't need a job</p>	<p>2 year work placement for 16 plus part time students when studying</p> <p>Information road shows</p> <p>Job creation</p> <p>Credit system of dole rather than giving money</p>

Focus Group 13:-

Group Profile: - Young people from a rural background that are in 6th class, primary school

26 children ages range 11-12 all from a rural background

Group Overview

26 Children during a normal school day were asked about what the issues are that they are facing as 6th class children.

Location:

Focus Group 13 was facilitated in their classroom with their teacher present. The session ran for approx 45 minutes.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Transition to Secondary School	All of the class will be together moving on to secondary school	Pressure from parents/teachers about doing well	Not so much of an emphasis on streaming
Name Calling/Bullying	"We are all friends so we know its not real"	Can be hurtful. Leads to lack of confidence. Girls particularly get hurt.	More programmes about bullying Accept difference
Youth Clubs/Sporting facilitator	Good facilities Places to talk Great variety of sports available	Sometimes expensive Great cross-border opportunities for youth clubs	Look at the price More youth clubs for younger age group (under 12's)
Computer Games/Xbox, PSP etc.	Love playing computer games Spend a couple of hours per night on computer	Sometimes play 18+ games. Parents ok with this. Can't see what affects this has.	Lower the age limit for games Bring it more into schools

Focus Group 14:

Group Profile: - Student council in a secondary school in Drogheda

22 Students ranging in age from 12-18

No. of Students	Age
2	12 years old
5	13 years old
2	14 years old
3	15 years old
6	16 years old
0	17 years old
4	18 years old

Group overview:-

22 students from a secondary school attend a weekly student council meeting to look at issues affecting student life.

Location: A school classroom with a teacher present. The session lasted one hour.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Alcohol/Smoking	Peer Education Programme (PYE) A health promotion initiative	Starting at age 12-14 Peer pressure is very strong	More programmes aimed at students
Participation of young people	Listening to what young people have to say Being asked to participate at an international conference Comhairle na nÓg	Rules Very strict with students Our opinion not as effective as others When adults don't listen properly	Include the rights of young people in everything that is produced
Computer Games	Great stimulation Hand/eye co- ordination Great variety of games	Not other social outlet Couch potato - don't get active Involved in sports	Adults examine if there is an impact on young people health cognitive development cognitive development by playing these games.
Youth Facilities/sporting facilities	Chess Rugby Fencing G.A.A. Football Girl guides/scouts <u>Sports:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve communication - Improves health - Supports teamwork - Can travel and you can represent your school - Gain confidence 	Everyone needs to be included in sporting activities Not too much competition	Make minority sports more accessible

Focus Group 15:-

Group Profile: - young people who participate on a student council and who attend a school for special needs.

Gender	Age	Rural/Urban
Male	16	Rural
Male	17	Urban
Male	14	Rural
Male	13	Rural
Male	17	Rural
Female	17	Rural
Female	17	Rural

Group Overview: - 7 Young people with varying disabilities and who are members of the student council

Location: the session happened in the teacher's office

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Student council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good participation - Get thing changed for the benefits of student i.e. locks on the toilet. - Participate in mini-companies - Everyone is involved in sports, Rugby, Golf Boy scouts, Boxing Club - It helps us socialise - Special Olympics - great opportunity - Participate for your town etc. 		<p>More youth clubs</p> <p>More facilities in rural areas</p> <p>Better transport system</p> <p>Gym - less expense</p> <p>"Appreciate our difference"</p>
Economic Issues	Advocacy - the rights of the child	<p>Third level fees (worry about the future)</p> <p>Commercialism - Young people buying designer labels, music etc.</p>	Look at influences i.e. political, religious, agenda
Sex Education	More access to contraception	<p>More young people having unprotected sex</p> <p>Teenage parents coming from economically disadvantaged areas</p>	<p>More information</p> <p>More helplines</p> <p>Abortion laws</p>
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Racism	"the best way for me is to explore diversity"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vandalism - Racist attacks - Segregation - Ignorance - Fear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate young people about social change - Confront racism
Parents	When young people are given freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control over us - Rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents should go on more parenting courses

		- Boundaries for 14 years old	- Talk young people seriously
Music	Music - Escapism Learn about justice Reality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents controlling our music - Other people judging because of what we wear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non - violent approach to parenting - Develops self - expression - Unity - dress similar - like the same kind of music i.e hip hop

Focus Group: 16

Group Profile: - 5 young people from a youth organization in Drogheda

Gender	Age	Rural/Urban
Male	17	Urban
Male	17	Urban
Male	17	Urban
Male	17	Urban
Male	17	Urban

Group Overview: - 5 young people who participate in a youth group

Group location: - room in the Community Youth Project

Focus Group 17:-

Group Profile: - Volunteers that live and work in the Dundalk area.

Gender	Employment	Household Total	Rural/Urban
Male	Unemployment	4	Urban
Male	Unemployment	4	Urban
Female	Unemployment	2	Urban
Female	Unemployment	4	Urban
Female	P/T Work	3	Urban
Female	Unemployment	4	Urban
Female	Unemployment	5	Urban
Female	P/T Work	4	Urban

Group Overview:-

The eight volunteers were invited by the Community development worker to attend a meeting in the local community house. The session lasted an hour.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Families living with addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people starting early 11-12 - Not just about the young person with the problem - whole family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More counselling available - Places to detox
Things to do with youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sporting activities - getting young people involved - somewhere to hang out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not enough funding - not enough facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More youth clubs
Parenting Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start when the people are pregnant - Include Dads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Told to go on them - Sitting for six weeks doing nothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More of a personal choice to attend a parenting programme
Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stricter controls on prescriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people buying drugs(tablets) for €10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link up with G.P.'s to discuss prescription of tablets
Teenage pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sale of cheap condoms - Help with STI information - Information - More supports in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sex education in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More education
Anger Management in Young Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people trashing houses because they are not getting their own way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities to talk about their lives
Nutrition Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice about healthy eating - Positive messages about exercise - Cheaper alternative to private gyms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eating from chippy's four times a week - Eating sweets for breakfast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diet and exercise - Well being programme
Intercultural Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More integration - More events to celebrate diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vandalism - Picking on children - Name calling - Segregation 	

Focus Group 18:-

Group Profile: Young people who attend a youth organization in Drogheda

Gender	Age	Rural/Urban
Female	16	Urban
Female	15	Rural
Female	14	Urban
Female	16	Urban
Female	16	Urban

Group Overview:-

5 Females from a local youth organization met over an hour session to discuss topics that directly affect them as young people.

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Young people seen as problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not treating us like children - It's all trouble, vandalism, joyriding, drinking, drugs etc. They never have any of the good stuff we do" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always focus on alcohol, drugs use, pregnancy, STI's - Seen as a separate social class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More good news about young people
Young people being view suspiciously by adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "sometimes we just hang out, we are not causing trouble" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In shopping centres - Seen as noisy and trouble makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better stereotyping of young people by adults
Positive things about young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "caring for other people" - Enjoy being with friends - Like being at school with friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Acknowledge youth is a time of doubt about yourself but we well get there"
Young people know more about their rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More conscious of society - Rights of children - Right to vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of involvement of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision making in schools, councils etc. - Age should be lowered - More youth forums - "ask all young people not just the good ones"

Focus Group 19:

Group Profile:- Parents who are service users of a Family Support Project in Dundalk (Muirhevnámór Springboard Initiative)

Group Overview:- 3 parents were invited to attend a half hour session with the co-ordinator. The co-ordinator met them individually.

Location: The parents were met in a meeting room attached to the project.

Gender	No. of Children	Ages of Children	Rural/Urban
Female	9	N/A	Urban
Female	4	7,6	Urban
Female	4	16,14,12,3	Urban

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Alcohol - effects of alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carers Allowance (financial independence) - United as a family against alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship breakdown - Effects alcohol had on the children - Keeping the family together 	
Role of the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School was extremely supportive - Always looked out for the children 		
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Worker assessed living conditions - Upgraded the house - Helped out with renovations 		
Springboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Support - Information - Helpful 		
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great community life - Thing to do i.e. Bingo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes don't feel safe walking 	
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big link up with Addiction Services - Counsellor is a great support to the parent - Springboard is a fantastic place - "no words to describe the project" - Had 11 years contact and have provided things like transport, decorated the home, information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social workers don't return calls - Trying to get child off the CPNs but haven't got him off yet - Very frustrating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social workers need to do the work not depend on outside services
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very positive feedback from school - Great link between Springboard and school 	-	-
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had to build positive relationships with council - Had to wait two years to get a home 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sporting facilities very good but need more places for children to play
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care extremely good for disabled children 	-	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early detection of childhood illnesses - Hospital Services - very good in community - Transport to and from hospital (excellent) - Didn't have to wait too long for speech and language assessment - the speech and language therapists were wonderful - Springboard helped out with the family problems - They decorated the house and provided study options to returning to education 		
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extremely supportive of child's illness - Provided guidance and mentoring 		
Direct Provision Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct provision were good for a short term stay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience racism in Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More progress about cultural diversity

Focus Group 20:

Group Profile:- Parents who are/were service users of a Family Support Project in Dundalk
(Muirhevnamór Springboard Initiative)

Group Overview: - 2 Parents were invited to attend a half hour session with the co-ordinator. The co-ordinator met them individually

Location: The parents were met in a meeting room attached to the Project

Gender	No. of Children	Ages of Children	Rural/Urban
Female	2	15,8	urban
Female/Male	3	18,17,12	urban

Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective (Barriers)	Improvement
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child with disability and we are given a carer for 5 hours a week - Hospital services brilliant - Springboard was a life saver - challenged me but was a very positive influence in my life and my children's - Children with disabilities need constant help financial, respite, early diagnosis and more resources - Linking in with Social Workers all the time but they sometimes don't know what is happening with progress of our case - Springboard has been extremely important for youngest son- someone to listen to interaction. Great source of information for us as parents - MABS - budgeting information in this tough time - E (+) brilliant for son but not enough hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addiction Services could have worked better with me - Need more emphasis on Addiction Services because drug is a huge issue for young people - Social Workers need to build a relationship with parents - Domiciliary allowance cut - implications for family (€800 less money) - Medical cards - waiting to be assessed, big backlog, rely on medical card for medication for son - Carer's allowance - cut in half. Huge implications for us. Mortgage arrears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to listen more professionals are not always right - More counselling services for young people - Mixed messages given all the time to me - Improve communication - More Springboards across the town to help families - Need more respite - More emphasis on life skills - Less of a backlog - More hours available for mentoring
Topic	Work Effectively	Not so Effective	Improvement

		(Barriers)	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early diagnosis of learning disability - Information on effects of medication on young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more help with life skills - Progression routes for young people when they reach 18. - very limited - Limited help for anger management of the young person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More support for parents with children that have a disability - Listen to parents , have a very tough job - Sometimes feels anger and upset and take it out on staff but just very difficult

Appendix 6 - Grid Analysis on consultations conducted by Dundalk Institute of Technology

[CSC - grid analysis-v2-2004.xls](#)

Appendix 7

Membership of CSC sub-groups:

Youth Mental Health sub-group

Name	Organisation
Mr.Jim McGuigan	HSE, Child and Family Welfare services
Ms. Joanne Belton	Extern
Mr. Gareth Phelan	Suicide Resource officer, HSE
Ms.Catrina Culligan	Coordinator, Drogheda Youth Development
Mr. Kevin Moran	Manager, Dundalk Youth Centre
Ms. Olive Branagan	Addiction Counsellor, HSE
Dr. Harry Barry	G.P. Drogheda
Mr. Peter Moroney	SOSAD
Dr. Declan Sheerin	Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Louth CAMHS, HSE
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Drugs and Alcohol Response sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms.Joan Martin	County Manager, Louth County Council
Ms.Lisa Gavillet	Development Worker, Regional Drugs Task Force North East
Mr.Andy Ogle	Coordinator, Regional Drugs Task Force North East
Ms.Samantha Teather	Positive Youth Education (PYE)
Ms.Louise Mahony	Louth Community Drug and Alcohol Team
Ms. Olive Branagan	Addiction Counsellor, HSE
Ms. Mary McDonald	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Services
Detective Sergeant Brian Mohan	Garda, Louth Division
Ms. Carina O'Reilly	Drugs Outreach Worker, HSE
Mr. Paul Plummer	Addiction Counsellor, HSE
Ms. Sandra Okome	Alcohol Misuse Prevention Officer, HSE
Ms. Tracy Monson	Regional Manager, ISPCC
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Adolescents at Risk sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms. Clodagh O'Mahony	Project Manager, Coxs Demesne Youth and Community Project.
Ms. Anita O'Shea	Juvenile Liaison Officer, Garda, Louth Division
Mr. John Brady	Juvenile Liaison Officer, Garda, Louth Division
Mr. Eoin Redmond	Team Leader, Social Work Dept, HSE
Ms. Bronagh McKenna	Team Leader, Fostering Dept, HSE

Mr. Johnny Meehan	Regional Manager, YAP Ireland
Ms. Mary Flaherty	Team Leader, Social Work Dept, HSE
Ms. Rachel O'Malley	Probation officer, Probation Services, Louth
Mr. Niall Weldon	Coordinator, School Completion Programme
Mr. Stephen McArdle	Drogheda Youthreach, VEC
Ms. Mary McDonald	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Services, Louth
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Children's First Implementation sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms. Claire Woods	Project Coordinator, Louth County Childcare Committee
Ms. Sharon Manning	Development Officer, Louth County Childcare Committee
Mr. Rodd Bond	Director, Netwell Centre, DKIT, Dundalk
Ms. Kathryn Morris	Children's First Information Officer, HSE
Ms. Margaret McDonnell	Manager, Dundalk Youthreach
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Youth Homelessness sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms. Joan Martin	County Manager, Louth County Council
Mr. Raymond Rogers	Aftercare Worker, HSE
Mr. Jim McGuigan	HSE, Child and Family Services, HSE
Mr. Joe McGuinness	Director of Housing, Louth County Council
Mr. Niall Mulligan	C.E.O. Dundalk Simon Community
Ms. Karen Smyth	Director, Drogheda Homeless Aid
Ms. Rachel O'Malley	Probation Services, Co. Louth
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Family Support sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms. Fiona Kearney	Family Support and Child Welfare Services Manager
Mr. Gerry Murphy	IPPN
Mr. Benny McArdle	HSCL, St. Joseph's School, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk
Mr. Hugh Doogan	Education Coordinator, Louth Leader Partnership
Mr. Niall Weldon	Coordinator, School Completion Programme, Dundalk
Ms. Alice Malone	Project Manager, Muirhevnamor Springboard Initiative, Dundalk
Ms. Karen Byrne	Team Leader, Family Support and Child

	Welfare Services, HSE
Ms. Mairead Meade	Project Manager, Drogheda Lifestyle
Ms. Tracy Monson	Regional Manager, ISPC
Ms. Claire Woods	Project Coordinator, Louth County Childcare committee
Ms. Nicola Coffey	Connect Family Resource Centre, Moneymore, Drogheda
Ms. Tinu Achioya	Regional Integration officer North east, The Integration centre
Mr. Paul Rothsbottom	Deeside School completion programme
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Impact of Domestic Violence sub-group

Name	Organisation
Ms. Mary McDonald	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Services, Dundalk
Ms. Lisa Marmion	Manager, Dundalk Women's Aid
Ms. Sandra Farrell	Outreach and awareness Worker, Dundalk Women's Aid
Ms. Margaret Costello	Children and Family Services Training team, HSE.
Ms. Catherine Vaughan	Senior Social Worker, Louth County Council
Ms. Teresa Wood	Tutor, Drogheda Womens and Children Refuge Centre
Inspector Paul Kiernan	Garda, Louth Division
Ms. Mary Flaherty	Team Leader, Social Work Dept, HSE
Ms. Melissa Clarke	Scoil Ui Mhuiri, Dunleer
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Information Sub-group

Name	Organisation
Dr. Padraig Kirk	CEO, VEC
Mr. Jim McGuigan	HSE, Child and Family Welfare services
Dr. Emma Clare	Senior Research Officer, HSE
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE

Youth Networking sub-group

This sub-group is supported by Martin Donohoe, Youth Participation Officer, DCYA who attends the meetings and provides information support.

Name	Organisation
Ms. Mary Deery	Louth County Council
Mr. Aidan Gaughran	Ogra Dundealgan
Mr. Banjo Bannon	TEAM Project, Muirhevnamor

Ms. Caroline Flanagan	Craobh Rua, Muirhevnamor
Ms. Catrina Culligan	Drogheda Youth Development
Mr. Ciaran Mc Loughlin	Irish Wheelchair Association
Ms. Clodagh O Mahony	Coxs Demesne Youth and Community Project
Ms. Dolores Minogue	YouthWork Ireland
Ms. Erin O'Connor	New Border Generation
Mr. Gareth Conlon	Development Perspectives
Mr. Garrett Weldon	Respond! Housing Association
Mr. Hugh Doogan	Louth Leader Partnership
Mr. Ian Walker	VEC
Ms. Jacinta Grimes	Craobh Rua, Muirhevnamor
Ms. Joanne O'Brien	Foroige
Garda John Brady	Garda, Louth Division
Mr. John Ruddy	Dundalk Outcomers
Mr. Johnny Meehan	YAP Ireland
Mr. Kevin Moran	Dundalk Youth Centre
Mr. Larry Moley	Dundalk Youth Centre
Ms. Lisa Riordan	TEAM Project, Muirhevnamor
Ms. Miriam Farrell	YouthWork Ireland
Ms. Monica Noctor	YouthWork Ireland
Mr. Niall Weldon	SCP
Garda Paul Burke	Garda, Louth Division
Ms. Paula Gribben	Louth County Council
Ms. Valerie Artherton	Drogheda Borough Council
Ms. Sharon O Toole	Rural Enablers project
Ms. Vincent McGrory	Coxs Demesne Youth and Community Project
Ms. Joanne Murphy	Coordinator, Children's Services Committee, HSE



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