



## **Donegal Children & Young Peoples Services Committee Induction Pack**

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## **Introduction:**

This Induction Pack for representatives of the Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) for County Donegal provides an introduction to CYPSC, and practical information for member's organisations and their representatives. The purpose of the induction pack is to assist organisations representatives on Donegal Children & Young people's Service Committee to become familiar with CYPSC and it their role within Donegal CYPSC.

## **Message from Michael Gallagher, Chairperson Donegal CYPSC:**

Dear CYPSC Member

I would like to take this opportunity to either welcome you, or welcome you back to the Children and Young People's Services Committee. We are about to embark upon a great endeavour, toward which all of us in our own organisations have been striving these many many years.

The eyes of the counties children and young people are upon us, and rightly so. They have a right to expect that we will work for their betterment, that we will work together for the common aim ensuring that children, young people and their families have access to services that improve their life chances; and that we will achieve this aim!

Our task will not be an easy one. However, the hopes and aspirations of our children, young people and their families are a cherished force that drives us on this journey of ours. Let us be mindful of these hopes and aspirations as we bring our best efforts to bear upon the challenges that will face us.

Knowing the services and agencies involved with CYPSC, I have a full and growing confidence in our ability to master the task in front of us, to work together and to ultimately meet our goal to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Donegal.

Let us accept nothing less.

Michael Gallagher, Chairperson

## What is a Children and Young People's Service Committee?

*Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are a structure for bringing together a diverse group of agencies and organisations in a local area to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people. The overall purpose of CYPSC is to secure better outcomes for children and young people.*

Children and Young People's Service Committees are the key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. Children and Young People's services Committees promote support and deliver national and local interagency working across services that work with and for children and young people in Ireland.

*Children and young people's services Committees secure better outcomes for children and young people by:*

- Coordinating the implementation of national and regional policies and strategies that relate to children, young people and families.
- Planning and coordinating services for children and young people in the area covered by the CYPSC
- Eliminating fragmentation and duplication of services by ensuring more effective collaboration between children, young people and family services within the area
- Influencing the allocation of resources
- Strengthening the decision-making capacity at local level

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) provides funding and strategic and policy direction for CYPSC. Four original sites were chosen to pilot this interagency work in 2007 (Dublin City, South Dublin, Donegal and Limerick City). Since then 22 CYPSCs have been established across Ireland on a phased basis, each at a different stage of development and operation. A national roll out of CYPSC to remaining counties is ongoing.

As of January 2015 a CYPSC has been established in the following locations: Carlow, Kilkenny, Cavan, Monaghan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin City North, Dublin City South, Fingal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Limerick, Longford Westmeath, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, Sligo Leitrim, South Dublin, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow. CYPSC have led and supported inspiring and positive programmes and activities in the fields of Literacy Development, Parenting Support, Early Childhood Development, Transitions to school, Youth mental health and much more.

**CYPSC Website** The new national CYPSC website [www.cypsc.ie](http://www.cypsc.ie) is now live. The website provides a focal point for national and local information pertaining to CYPSC. Information on CYPSC news and events are listed and key CYPSC documents are available for download.

## **Purpose & Mandate of Donegal CYPSC:**

The central purpose of the Donegal Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CPYSC) will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in County Donegal. Donegal CYPSC will act as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals and which bridge national policy with local provision. The mandate for CYPSCs has developed from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of *Better Outcomes Better Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*.

## **Remit:**

Donegal CYPSC is the key vehicle for interagency working for children and young people in the age range 0-24 year (inclusive), reflecting the different developmental phases and associated needs and challenges of each stage of childhood, youth and extending into early adulthood. The work of Donegal CYPSC adheres to the concept of progressive universalism and spans policy areas and service provision, from the universal to targeted services and supports for children and young people.

## **A Children and Young People's Plan for County Donegal**

Donegal CYPSC is required to develop and deliver on a 3 year Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the county. This plan

- Details how children and young people in the county are doing (a socio demographic profile)
- Describes what services, supports and groups are currently available in the county for children and young people (an audit of services)
- Identifies gaps and provides direction as to what the county can do to better to improve services and improve outcomes for children and young people (a needs analysis)
- Sets out what the CYPSC will do over a three-year period to improve outcomes under five national outcomes for children and young people (an action plan)
- Outlines how the CYPSC will monitor and evaluate its work so that it knows what has been achieved by the committee i.e. what is working and what the impact of that work has been for children and young people.

With a comprehensive picture of the needs of children, young people and families in the county, Donegal CYPSC will then identify appropriate evidence informed and/or evidence based responses. The CYPP will be informed by the CYPSC member agencies, have a specific regard for the voice of children and young people and be linked to all members agencies service plans including all other local and regional plans such as the Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan.

CYPSC projects and initiatives have contributed to improving outcomes for children and young people under a range of themes including Literacy, parenting Support, Consultation with Children and young people and identification and assessment of the needs of children and young people, to name a few.

## **National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees**

The National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees provides leadership for CYPSE at national level and supports local CYPSC through their CYPSC Chairperson and CYPSC Co-ordinator.

### **National CYPSC Contact details:**

National Co-ordinator: Colma Nic Lughadha Tel: 01 4160511, Email: [cypsc@effectiveservices.org](mailto:cypsc@effectiveservices.org)

**Project Support:** Denise Scully Tel: 01 4160528, Email: [cypsc@effectiveservices.org](mailto:cypsc@effectiveservices.org)

## **CYPSC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

The CYPSC Chairperson is the Area Manager for Tusla the Child & Family Agency (CFA). The Vice Chair is drawn from the local authority.

Donegal CYPSC Chairperson – Michael Gallagher

Donegal CYPSC Vice Chair – Liam Ward

## **CYPSC Co-ordinator**

The CYPSC Co-ordinator is responsible for communication, developing relationships, reporting, information provision and organisation and administration of meetings on behalf of their CYPSC.

Donegal CYPSC Co-ordinator – Anne Timony Meehan, Tel: 087 3527651 [Anne.TimonyMeehan@tusla.ie](mailto:Anne.TimonyMeehan@tusla.ie)

## CYPSC Membership

The average size of a CYPSC is 16 people and consists of senior managers, representing a range of agencies, services and sectors including:

- ❖ Tusla Child & Family Agency
- ❖ Local Authority
- ❖ Health Service Executive (HSE)
- ❖ An Garda Síochána
- ❖ Education & Training Board
- ❖ National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
- ❖ Irish Primary Principals Network
- ❖ National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
- ❖ City / County Childcare Committee
- ❖ Social Inclusion Partners e.g. Local Development Companies
- ❖ Community & Voluntary organisations
- ❖ Probation Services Department of Social Protection
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> level institution
- ❖ Young person 18 -24 years

Every effort is made to ensure an appropriate skill mix and range of expertise/experience on Donegal CYPSC. Membership will be sufficiently flexible to ensure that as the work of the Donegal CYPSC develops the required range of representatives across all associated agencies and sectors are invited to attend. ***It is important that membership is drawn from the most senior rank possible from each agency and stakeholder group.***

## Appendix 2- Donegal CYPSC Membership List

CYPSCs have on average 5 to 7 Sub Committees which reflect the five National Outcomes for Children and Young People and the priority areas in their Children and Young People's Plans. Each Sub Committee could comprise 5 to 10 people, many of whom do not sit on the CYPSC. Each CYPSC Sub

Committee may also have one or more working groups for specific areas of work. So any one CYPSC could have 100 or more individuals co-operating and collaborating to improve services for Children, young people and families in their area. [Appendix 3-Donegal CYPSC Structures & linkages 2016](#)

## Five National Outcomes for Children and Young People

The Government launched '*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*': *The National Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020*' on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It is the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people aged 0 – 24 years, It recognises that almost all policy has a direct or indirect effect on children and young people's lives, underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSCs) with a key role in this regard. The working of Children & young People's Services Committees is informed by the 5 national outcomes for children and young as set out in '*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*'. They are

1. **Active and Health with physical and mental wellbeing**
2. **Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
3. **Safe and protected from harm**
4. **Have economic security and opportunity**
5. **Connected, respected and contributing to their world.**

## The Children and Young People's Policy Consortium

The Children & Young People's Policy Consortium was established as part of the implementation structures outlined in '*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*.' The consortium is chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Children and Youth affairs and comprises of senior officials from Government departments and agencies and representatives from advisory and local operational fora. The Consortium has oversight of and drives cross-Government implementation for '*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*' and its supporting strategies, and reports annually to Government on progress achieved.



## **Children and Young People's Services Committee National Steering Group**

The Children and Young Peoples Services Committees National Steering Group (CYPSC SG) was established in 2012 to support the effective operation and practical implementation of Children and Young People's Services Committees at local level. It has an independent Chairperson, who is a member of the Children and Young people's Policy Consortium; representing and reporting on behalf of CYPSCs.

## **Interagency working**

The need for Interagency working is well recognised. International literature tells us that where evidence of the impact of interagency working does exist, it is mostly positive; although it takes time to become embedded in practice. When implemented well, interagency working achieves changes in the way we and our organisations work. Effective interagency working acts to create the 'permitting circumstances' for better functioning of front-line services and front-line staff. It is a vitally important part of improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, by means of its potential to improve all the front-line services to support them.

## **The 3 Key interagency messages of CYPSC are:**

- **When we work together we can make a positive difference in the lives of our children and young people**
- **Working together is a sustained way is challenging, takes time and requires continuous learning; but it is worth it.**
- **We are doing this through Children and Young People's Services Committees**

## **Policy Origins**

Children and Young People's Service Committees are underpinned by a number of major Government policies including:

- ❖ 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020.'
- ❖ Programme for Government 2011
- ❖ National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives 2011-2016
- ❖ The Agenda for Children's Services – A policy Handbook
- ❖ Towards 2016
- ❖ National Children's Strategy

## Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

**ABC** - Area Based Childhood Programme  
**ARM** - Alternative Response Model  
**BOBF** - Better Outcomes Better Futures  
**C&V** - Community & Voluntary Sector  
**CAMHS** - Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services  
**CAWT** - Co-operation & Working Together  
**CCC** - County Childcare Committee  
**CES** - Centre for Effective Services  
**CFSN** - Child & Family Support Network  
**CYPP** - Children & Young People's Plan  
**CYPSC** - Children & Young People's Services Committee  
**CYPSC SG** - Children & Young People's Services Committee Steering Group  
**DCYA** - Dept. Of Children & Youth Affairs  
**DECLG** - Dept. Of the Environment, Community and Local Government  
**DEIS** - Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools  
**DES** - Dept. Of Education & Skills  
**DLDC** - Donegal Local Development Company  
**DOH** - Dept. Of Health  
**DSP** - Dept. Of Social Protection

**DATF** - Drug & Alcohol Task Force  
**ECCE** - Early Childhood Care and Education  
**ESL** - Early School Leaving  
**ETB** - Education and Training Board  
**EWS** - Educational Welfare Services  
**FRC** - Family Resource Centre  
**HEA** - Higher Education Authority  
**HI** - Healthy Ireland  
**HIQA** - Health Information and Quality Authority  
**HSE** - Health Service Executive  
**ILDN** - Irish Local Development Network  
**INTO** - Irish national Teachers Organisation  
**IDP** - Inishowen Development Partnership  
**IPPN** - Irish Primary Principals' Network  
**LYIT** - Letterkenny Institute of Technology  
**IYJS** - Irish Youth Justice Service  
**LA** - Local Authority  
**LAP** - Local Area Pathway  
**LCDC** - Local Community Development Committee  
**LDC** - Local Development Company  
**LECP** - Local Economic and Community Plan  
**NAPD** - National Association of Principals

and Deputy Principals  
**NEPS** - National Educational Psychological Service  
**NGO** - Non-Government Organisation  
**PEI** - Prevention and Early Intervention  
**PPFS** - Prevention Partnership and Family Support  
**PPN** - Public Participation Network  
**RDATF** - Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force  
**SCO** - School Completion Programme  
**SEDO** - Sustainable Economic Development Objective  
**SICAP** - Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme  
**SPC** - Strategic Policy Committee  
**Tusla CFA** - Tusla Child and Family Agency

## Appendix 2: Donegal CYPSC Membership

	NAME	TITLE / ROLE	ORGANISATION	Role / Involvement
1.	Michael Gallagher	Acting Area Manager	TUSLA Child & Family Agency	Chair CYPSC, Chair Sub-committee (O6)
2.	Liam Ward	Dir. of Services, Com. Enterprise & Planning	Donegal County Council	Vice-Chair CYPSC Chair Sub-committee Economic Wellbeing (O4)
3.	Denise Curran	General Manager PCCC	HSE	CYPSC Member
4.	Terry Mc Ginn	Chief Superintendent	Garda Siochana	CYPSC Member
5.	Michael Harrison	Inspector	Garda Siochana	CYPSC Member, Joint Chair Sub Committee Safe & Secure (O3)
6.	Shauna McClenaghan	CEO	Inishowen Dev.Partnership	CYPSC Member, Sub-committee Parent Hub
7.	Anne Mc Hugh	CE	Education & Training Board	CYPSC Member
8.	Martina Doyle	Representative Family Resource Centres	Forge Family Resource Centre	CYPSC Member,
9.	Martina Ní Chanainn	Representative	Údarús na Gaeltachta	CYPSC Member, Sub-committee
10.	Mary Mc Gowan	Chairperson	County Childcare Committee	CYPSC Member
11.	Deirdre Mc Hugh	Senior Psychologist	National Educational Psychological Services	CYPSC Member, Sub-committee Health&Wellbeing,(O1) Working Group Wellbeing Guidelines in Schools
12.	Padraic Fingleton	CEO	Donegal Local Development Co	CYPSC Member
13.	Chris Darby	Representative	National Ass. Principals & Deputy Principals	CYPSC Member, Sub-committee Safe & Secure (O3)
14.	Pauric Cannon	Representative	Irish Primary Principals Network	CYPSC Member
15.	Paul Hannigan	CEO	Letterkenny Institute of Technology	CYPSC Member
16.	Joe Cullen	PPFS Manager	Tusla	CYPSC Member, Sub-committee PPFS (O3)
17.	Tim Coughlan	Probation Officer	Probation Service	Cypsc Member
18.	TBC	Youth Rep		

## Appendix 3: Structures and Links 2016

