



Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

Background

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

The Five Outcome areas for Children in Ireland envision that all children should be:

1. Healthy, both physically and mentally;
2. Supported in active learning;
3. Safe from accidental and intentional harm, and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment;
4. Economically secure;
5. Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community, and included and participating in society

The CYPSC in Co. Wicklow is a high level committee drawn from a range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies involved in working with children, young people and their families across Co. Wicklow. There are 14 agencies represented on the CYPSC in Co. Wicklow. The membership brings together a vast range of expertise particularly in the areas of health, education, youth work and justice.

Colette McLoughlin, Chair	ISA Manager, Tusla
Michael Nicholson, Deputy Chair	Director of Services, Social, Cultural & Community, Wicklow County Council
Emer Breen	Irish Primary Principals Network Representative
Peter Brennan	Bray Area Partnership
Frank d'Arcy	Co. Wicklow Partnership
Alison Fox	Youth Officer, Kildare and Wicklow ETB
Dr. Davina Healy	Principal Medical Officer, HSE
Denis Whelan	Superintendent, Bray Garda Station, An Garda Síochána
Dr. Glenda Kavanagh	Lucena Clinic
Jackie Kelly	HSE
Vacant since June 2015	National Education and Welfare Board (now Tusla)
Kevin Lewis	Kildare and Wicklow ETB
Alice O'Donnell	Public Participation Network - Wicklow
Emma Skinner	Juvenile Liaison Officer, An Garda Síochána
Eugene Waters	Coordinator, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
Kevin Webster	Principal Social Worker, Tusla
Deirdre Whitfield	Administrative Officer, Wicklow County Council
Rosemary Yeates	(Community & Voluntary Group Representative) Bray & East Wicklow Youth Services
Fionnuala Curry	Coordinator, Co. Wicklow CYPSC

The Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP] for 2012 to 2015 was submitted to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs [DCYA] in October 2012. In 2015 the committee will commence planning for our next three year plan 2016-2018 and this will be informed by the national policy framework 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' published in 2014. A significant development within the framework is that it covers policy in relation to all children and young people up to age 24.

The work of the CYPSC in Co. Wicklow is undertaken by six subgroups as follows:

Physical Health Subgroup – focussed on priorities such as play, healthy eating, physical activity

Youth Mental Health Subgroup – focussed on priorities highlighted in relation to youth mental health in the county

Supported in Active Learning Subgroup – focussed on concerns in relation to literacy and numeracy and transitions

Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Steering Committee – to focus on priorities identified such as parenting courses, family support services, domestic violence and the implementation of the local area pathway structure

Change Management Subgroup – a high level 'decision makers' group to focus on change during the implementation of the CYPP

Data/Planning Subgroup – this subgroup will be reformed in 2015 to plan the development of the new CYPP

Whilst each Subgroup is chaired by a CYPSC member external membership from relevant agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors is actively encouraged. The membership of subgroups significantly extends the reach of the CYPSC and greatly enhances the level of expertise involved.

Summary of successes to date

- Increased level of collaborative and interagency working across all outcome areas
- Increased play infrastructure in the county
- Re-establishment of the Sports Partnership in Co. Wicklow
- Increase in the number of healthy eating programmes being delivered in the county
- Training provided to frontline early childhood care and education (ECCE) professionals to support the delivery of literacy and numeracy work in their settings
- Targeted literacy and numeracy training to community (ECCE) workers
- Establishment of a Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the new Family Support Strategy including the local area pathway structure in this ISA area and appointment of the Child & Family Support Network Co-ordinator to support this work
- Supporting the successful application for ABC funding for the delivery of the Supporting Parents and Early Childhood Settings [SPECS] Initiative in Bray, Co. Wicklow

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