



**Kildare**

**Children and Young People's Services  
Committee**

**Children and Young People's Plan  
2015 – 2017**

**Summary Report: February 2015**

For a copy of the full plan, please contact: Emma Berney, Coordinator  
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## Introduction

Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established to plan and coordinate services for children and young people across Co. Kildare on a collaborative basis. It is an inter-agency structure which includes representation from each of the following statutory and voluntary organisations working in Co. Kildare:

Organisations	Representatives
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Pat Leogue
An Garda Síochána	Garry Madden
HSE	Justin Parkes
	Noreen Hynes
Irish Primary Principals Network	Mary Pierce
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	Patricia O'Brien
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Julie McNamara
Kildare County Council	Peter Minnock (Vice Chair)
Kildare Youth Services	Tom Dunne
National Educational Psychological Service	Annette Corkery
Probation Service	Deirdre Matthews
South West Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force	Lisa Baggott
Teach Tearmainn	Jacinta Carey
Tusla, Child and Family Agency	Patricia Finlay (Chair)
Tusla, Education Welfare Service	Jean Rafter

This plan covers the three years from 2015 to 2017, following from the first plan which covered the three years from 2012 to 2014. It defines children and young people as those aged between 0 and 24 years, a change from the previous plan which covered children and young people up to 18 years of age. The overall goal is to improve outcomes for children and families at local and community level, specifically that children and young people:

1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing
2. Are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Are safe and protected from harm
4. Have economic security and opportunity
5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world

Preparation of this plan took place over a number of months between June 2014 and February 2015. It included a review of the previous plan, consideration of other relevant regional plans, national plans and published literature relating to children's wellbeing, analysis of local demographics and service needs, consultation with members of the CYPSC, other organisations and with children, young people and parents.

**The assessment of needs as part of this plan found that current service levels in Co. Kildare are not sufficient to meet the needs of the 77,832 children and young people living in the county, and their families.**

This situation is a result of exceptional population growth, historically low levels of service, and an overreliance on deprivation measures in regional and national resource allocation, without due consideration of baseline service levels at county level. It has been further compounded by budget cuts resulting in service reductions and closures and a growth in demand on services, both in terms of the number and complexity of referrals.

The plan sets out objectives and activities relating to each of 11 priority areas for Co. Kildare. These are:

- Direct Provision
- Disability
- Domestic Violence
- Early School Leaving
- Family Support
- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Unemployment
- Youth Facilities and Activities
- Youth Participation.

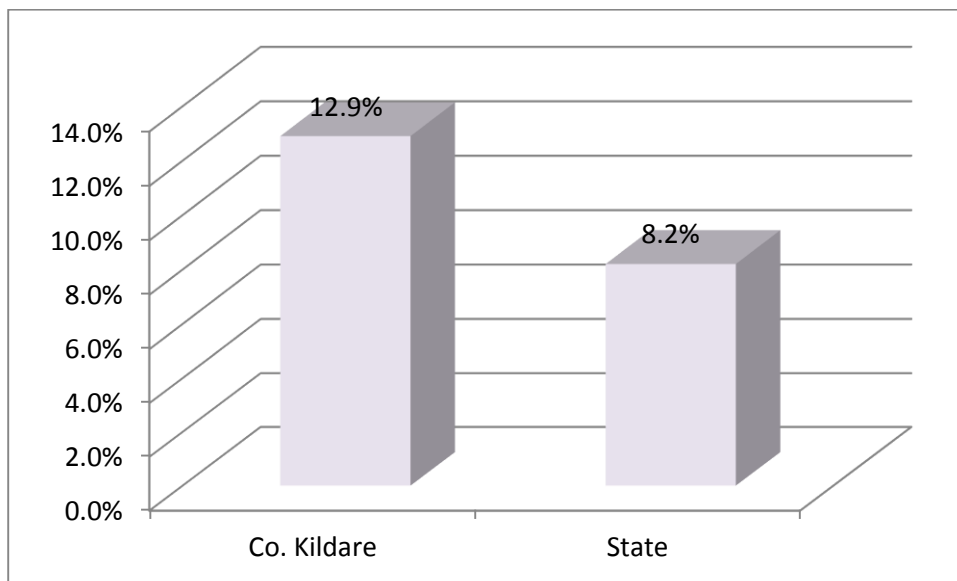
This is a summary of the full plan. The full plan is available on request from the Kildare CYPSC Coordinator.

## Demographic Profile

Overall, Co. Kildare is a young and growing county that has felt the impact of the economic recession to a greater extent than many other counties. There is evidence that children and young people are becoming increasingly vulnerable in Co. Kildare.

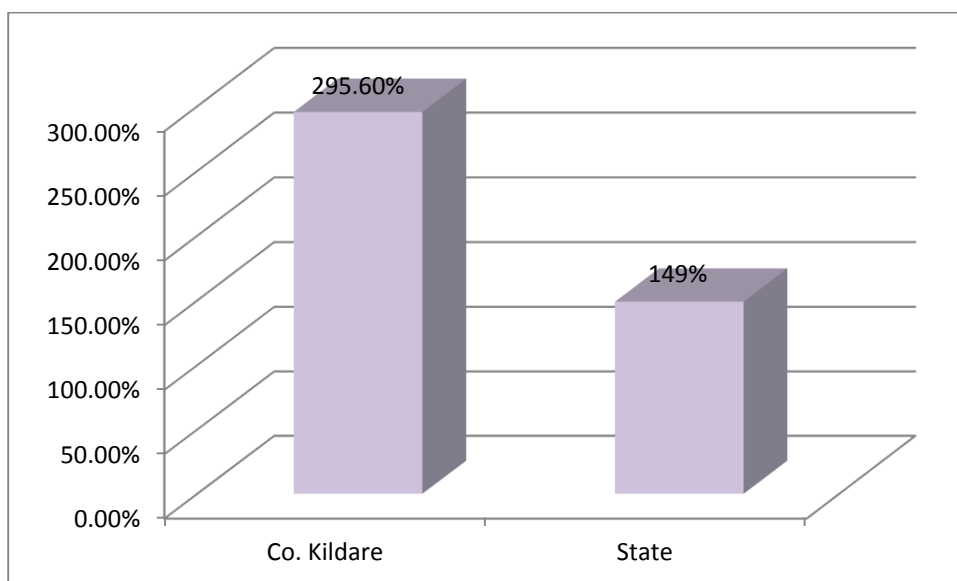
A selection of demographic comparisons is presented in the appendix to this report.

### Population growth for Co. Kildare between 2006 and 2011 significantly exceeded the national level



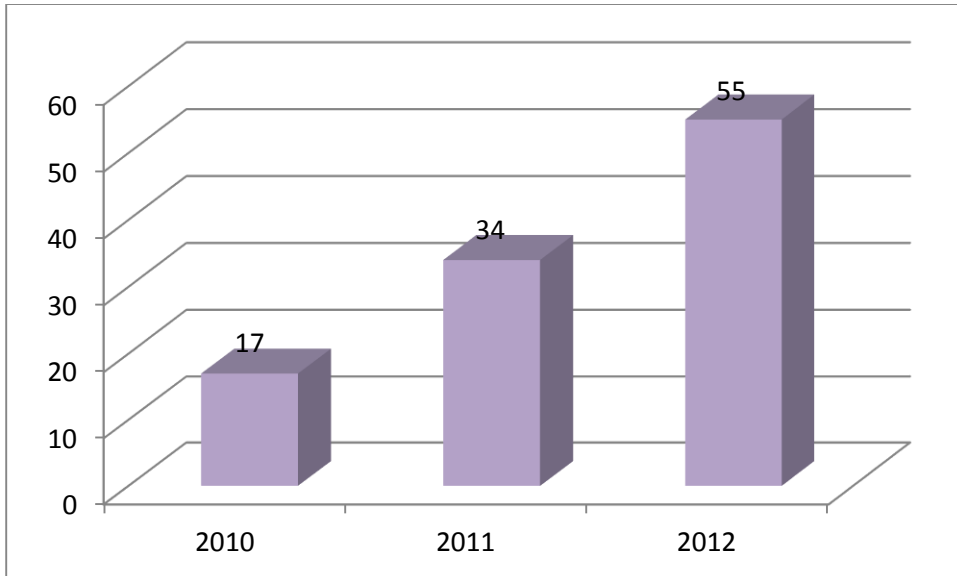
(Source: CSO Census 2006, 2011)

### Percentage increase in the number of people on the Live Register between 2004 and 2013 considerably exceeded the national level



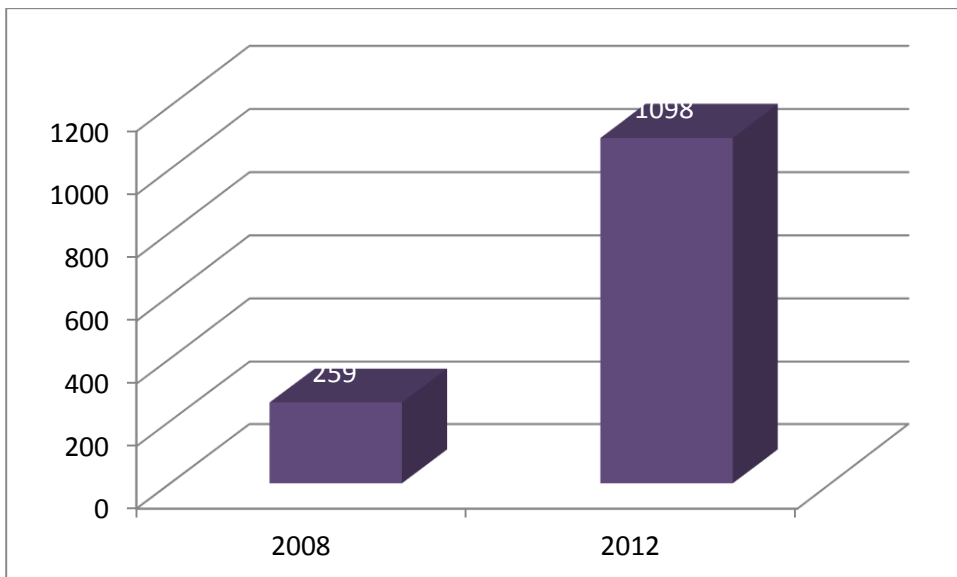
(Source: Department of Social Protection)

The number of instances of young people living in Co. Kildare aged less than 18 years being treated for substance abuse is increasing year on year



(Source: National Drug Treatment Reporting System)

The number child welfare referrals in Kildare/West Wicklow increased by more than fourfold between 2008 and 2012



(Source: HSE Kildare / West Wicklow)

## Findings from Needs Analysis

The plan presents an audit of some of the statutory and voluntary services available to the 77,832 children and young people in Co. Kildare according to the 'Hardiker' classification of services. This classification has 4 levels – with level 1 referring to universal services for all children and level 4 referring to those experiencing most difficulties.

**The assessment as part of this audit found that service levels in Co. Kildare are not sufficient to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.**

This situation is a result of:

- Exceptional population growth in the county
- Historically low levels of service in the county, and
- An overreliance on deprivation measures in regional and national resource allocation, without due consideration of baseline service levels

It has been further compounded by:

- Budget cuts resulting in service reductions and closures in recent years, and
- Growth in demand on services, both in terms of the number and complexity of referrals.

It has become increasingly difficult to sustain existing service levels or develop new services in the county and waiting lists for services are increasing. **Children, young people and families are finding it very difficult to access the services they need when they need them, leading to an escalation of difficulties.** This makes the task of achieving the five national outcomes for children extremely challenging.

### Service Deficits

Examples of service deficits include:

- The number of GMS contracted GPs in Kildare/West Wicklow is 98. The rate of GPs per 10,000 of child population (0-17 years) is 15.2 in Kildare/West Wicklow. This is significantly below the national rate of 24.7 GPs per 10,000 child population.
- Of the 5 HSE Primary Care Network areas in Kildare/West Wicklow, 2 do not have any Primary Care Social Work service. This includes the north of the county - Kilcock, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and surrounding areas (Network 5) and Kildare Town, Rathangan, Monasterevin and surrounding areas (Network 4).
- There are also gaps in coverage of the HSE Primary Care Psychology service – Network area 5 is not covered by the service.
- There is no registrar to support mental health needs of young substance misusers and there is no methadone maintenance clinic in the county.
- Kildare Youth Services (KYS) receives no funding to provide services in large parts of the county (Monasterevin, Maynooth, Kilcock, Carbury, Clane, Allenwood, Rathangan, Prosperous, and Robertstown).
- Two of the four self-contained accommodation units in the Teach Tearmainn domestic violence refuge service remain unopened due to resource constraints, despite significant numbers of women and children seeking refuge.

- There are only two family resource centres in Co. Kildare, compared with 13 in Co. Kerry, the children's population for which is 59% that of Co. Kildare (34,940 compared with 59,449 aged under 18 years in each of Co. Kerry and Co. Kildare respectively in 2011).

## **Inadequate Resource Allocation**

Examples of inadequate resource allocation include:

- Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) funding per capita (aged 10-24 years) for Local/Regional Drugs Task Force, Special Projects for Youth and Youth Information Centres in Co. Kildare in 2011 was €13.55. The national average was €22.31 per capita.
- The per capita funding of local authorities was €585 in Co. Kildare in 2013. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest per capita of the 31 local authority areas in the country.

There has been a number of high quality, yet ultimately unsuccessful, funding applications from Co. Kildare in recent years (since the first CYPSC plan was submitted). There is a sense that the needs of Co. Kildare may be at risk of being eclipsed by urban areas within the same HSE region, i.e. Dublin South West (Tallaght, Clondalkin etc.) which historically have experienced high levels of need. The system of allocating resources does not appear to be taking account of this growing disparity in service levels across the region.

Examples of unsuccessful funding applications:

- Area Based Response to Child Poverty Initiative
- Jigsaw Youth Mental Health application
- National Early Years Access Initiative
- Genio 2014 grant application

Budgets cuts of up to 44% were experienced by services across the county, for example:

- HALO, the Co. Kildare substance misuse treatment service for children under 18 years of age experienced a 44% cut in budget from 2008.
- Funding for the Drug Prevention & Education Initiative (DPEI) has reduced by 42% since 2008.
- Department of Children & Youth Affairs funding to KYS, the county youth service, has reduced by 31% since 2007.
- Funding to Kildare County Childcare Committee has reduced by 19.12% since 2008.

## **Service Closures**

Examples of services that have been compelled to cease over the course of the last plan include:

- Naas Child & Family Project community playgroup and a range of community programmes.
- Lifestart - the early intervention/family support project in North West Kildare.
- The Pathways Tracking & Mentoring Project for Early School Leavers in Athy & North West Kildare.



## Growing Demand on Services

Numbers of referrals have increased across a range of children's services across the county. For example:

- Referrals to Naas Child & Family Project increased by 52% from 23 in 2010 to 44 in 2014.
- Overall referrals to KYS youth counselling service increased by 22% from 2011 to 2013 (from 297 to 361).
- Referrals to HALO, the substance use service for children under 18 years of age grew from 44 in 2009 to 96 in 2013. This represents an increase of 118% over that period.
- In 2014 there were 226 new referrals to ARAS – the adult substance misuse service in the county.

The nature of the challenges facing children, young people and families in Co. Kildare is becoming increasingly complex. Examples of the complexity of issues encountered by services include:

- Deliberate self-harm
- Suicidal ideation
- Anxiety in young children
- Attachment and behavioural issues
- Young people going missing / running away from home
- Young People in residential / foster care
- Learning difficulties
- Underage sexual activity disclosures requiring Child Protection Notification.
- Parents presenting as extremely distressed / overwhelmed
- Parents with limited English language skills.

Waiting lists for children's services are increasing. Examples of services where waiting lists have increased include:

- KYS Youth Counselling service
- Newbridge Family Resource Centre counselling service

There are significant waiting times across specialist services such as:

- Speech and Language
- Occupational Therapy
- Assessment of Need
- Disability services
- Psychology
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health

*Please refer to the full plan for the complete list of service deficits, service reductions and closures, and increases in demand on services.*

## Local Priorities

A set of 11 priority themes emerged from the planning process. These are referred to as the local priority areas for the plan. Linking of the 11 local priority areas to the five outcome areas is shown in the table to follow.

National Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Youth Facilities and Activities</li> </ul>
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early School Leaving</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Disability</li> </ul>
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Domestic Violence</li> </ul>
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment</li> </ul>
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Provision</li> <li>• Youth Participation</li> </ul>

Of the 11 priority areas, five are new to this plan. They are: disability, homelessness, domestic violence, unemployment and direct provision. The other six continue from the previous plan.

## Planned Activities

The full plan sets out the local priority areas under each of the five national outcome areas. One or more objectives are listed for each priority area. A set of target groups, specified activities, timeframes for completion, lead agencies and indicators to measure achievement are then set out for each objective.

In total the plan sets out 19 objectives related to 11 priority areas. Within these are 29 activities targeted at achievement of the 19 objectives. These 29 activities are extracted in the table to follow.

Priority Area	Concerns	Activities	Lead Agency
<b>Direct Provision</b>	Co. Kildare is one of 16 counties in which there is an asylum seeker Direct Provision Centre. Children, young people and families living in these circumstances over an extended period of time are increasingly vulnerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the provision of socialisation, recreational and developmental supports for children and young people living in the asylum seeker Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge.</li> <li>• Provide support for families moving from Direct Provision to independent living in the community.</li> </ul>	KYS  County Kildare LEADER Partnership
<b>Disability</b>	30% of the referrals on the Tusla Family Support Service waiting list have a primary referral reason of child with disability or special need. There are service gaps where therapy grades on Network Disability Teams remain unfilled and waiting times for services are a challenge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children with disabilities and their families to identify issues, gaps &amp; possible responses</li> </ul>	HSE
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	Service levels are inadequate to meet the presenting needs. Domestic violence has been identified as a growing concern across a range of service providers – from specialist services such as Tusla to Family Resource Centres and pre-schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the provision of supports to children living in refuge accommodation.</li> <li>• Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families affected by domestic violence to identify issues, gaps &amp; possible responses.</li> </ul>	Teach Tearmainn
<b>Early School Leaving</b>	There is small but significant cohort of young people who are not engaged in education, training or employment in Co. Kildare. Post-primary school absenteeism figures in the county are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the free pre-school year and Aistear to parents.</li> <li>• Support the local implementation of the National Early Years strategy.</li> <li>• Support the expansion of the Junior Transition</li> </ul>	Kildare County Childcare Committee

Priority Area	Concerns	Activities	Lead Agency
	<p>higher than national figures as is the proportion of the population with second level education only. The impact of early school leaving on future outcomes is well documented and evidenced in referrals to support services in the county. The importance of quality early education and supporting transitions in the education lifecycle to promote retention is widely acknowledged in the research.</p>	<p>Programme (I CAN Book) in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the data collection exercise with Post Primary schools on an annual basis to establish the number, profile and destination of students in the county who leave school. Discuss the key findings with schools and explore together possible responses.</li> <li>• Map the progression pathways in education, training and employment for young people out-of-school, those who left school early and 18-24 year olds with a Leaving Cert, identify gaps &amp; develop responses.</li> <li>• Explore the expansion of <i>iScoil</i> in the county.</li> </ul>	<p>Tusla EWS</p> <p>Kildare &amp; Wicklow Education &amp; Training Board</p> <p>Tusla EWS</p>
<b>Family Support</b>	<p>There are a large number of families in the county. Significant gaps have been identified in relation to family support in general, as well as for specific groups. It is widely acknowledged in research and good practice literature that supporting parents is the best way to support children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development &amp; sustainability of existing and new Parent &amp; Toddler groups.</li> <li>• Support the Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum in the development of a local Parenting Strategy.</li> <li>• Develop the <a href="http://parentingsupport.ie">parentingsupport.ie</a> website as an information hub for parents &amp; professionals in the area of parenting &amp; family support.</li> </ul>	<p>Kildare County Childcare Committee</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>
<b>Homelessness</b>	<p>Increases in homelessness are being reported across services such as Naas Hospital Emergency Department, Newbridge Family</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to the needs of children and their families who are homeless to</li> </ul>	<p>Kildare County Council</p>

Priority Area	Concerns	Activities	Lead Agency
	Resource Centre and the Simon Community.	identify issues, gaps & possible responses.	
<b>Mental Health</b>	There are gaps in the universal services in this area, with significant waiting lists for both universal & specialist supports. The mental health of children and young people is of growing concern to schools, parents and service providers. The data supports the validity of this concern e.g. presentations for deliberate self-harm are increasing, repeat presentations are increasing and the female suicide rate in the county exceeds the national rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the local implementation of the national mental health promotion campaign #littlethings</li> <li>Support a review and renewed roll out of the Community Response Plan to death by suspected suicide.</li> <li>Explore options for provision of the SPACE programme (for parents of young people who self harm), the Working Things Out Programme (mental health programme for young people), Decider skills and other relevant evidence-based mental health programme in the county.</li> <li>Support the development &amp; delivery of a support programme for families in the aftermath of death by suicide.</li> </ul>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Tusla</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>Tusla</p>
<b>Poverty and Unemployment</b>	Unemployment has increased considerably and spread far beyond areas traditionally associated with unemployment in the county. The increase in numbers on the Live Register in Co. Kildare from 2004 to 2013 is the second highest percentage change in the country. A significant proportion of those who are unemployed in Co. Kildare are under 25 years old. Services are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development &amp; sustainability of community childcare services in the county to reduce access to childcare as a barrier to education, training and employment.</li> <li>Convene a themed multi-agency workshop/discussion forum in relation to youth unemployment to identify issues, gaps &amp; possible responses.</li> <li>Support the multi-agency Steering Committee under the National Aftercare</li> </ul>	<p>Kildare County Childcare Committee</p> <p>County Kildare LEADER Partnership</p> <p>Tusla</p>

Priority Area	Concerns	Activities	Lead Agency
	reporting an increase in the demand from families for food vouchers, requests for support from St. Vincent de Paul & similar charitable organisations.	Policy for young people 18+ making the transition from a care placement to independent adult life in the community.	
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	This was identified as an issue by young people via Comhairle na nÓg and service providers. Their concerns are clearly reflected in the data e.g. increase in referrals to drugs services and significant service gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the continued delivery of the Strengthening Families programme on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Support for the development of an initiative relating to alcohol use utilising Dormant Accounts resources.</li> <li>• Support the delivery of the pilot programme for children/siblings of substance misusers.</li> </ul>	South Western Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
<b>Youth Facilities and Activities</b>	The need for enhanced access to youth facilities and activities was strongly identified by Comhairle na nÓg, by parents and young people and by service providers who repeatedly highlight the importance of social, recreational and sporting activities for the wellbeing of children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the development of the Youth Hub in Kildare Town.</li> <li>• Support the development of dedicated youth space in areas where a need has been identified e.g. Newbridge, Monasterevin, Rathangan.</li> </ul>	KYS/Board of Youth Hub KYS
<b>Youth Participation</b>	Research supports the link between youth participation and positive mental health and wellbeing. Children & young people's right to an opinion on decisions that affect them and for this to be taken into account is set out in <i>Article 12 of the United</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of a Participation Strategy for children, young people and parents utilising the resources being made available from Atlantic Philanthropies via Tusla.</li> <li>• Support the voice of children and young people to be heard on the Children and Young People's</li> </ul>	Tusla KYS

Priority Area	Concerns	Activities	Lead Agency
	<i>Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.</i>	Services Committee, Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee & other relevant local structures.	

## Implementation and Review

The plan sets out the following 13 activities relating to change management to enable achievement of the plan.

Change Management Area	Activities
<b>Resourcing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise the data &amp; analysis contained in the Children &amp; Young People's Plan as a tool to make the case for enhanced resourcing for Co. Kildare, including via Public Representatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Kildare CYPSC Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication plan for Kildare CYPSC.</li> <li>Review &amp; agree the values &amp; vision of Kildare CYPSC, taking account of new members and expanded remit.</li> <li>Scope out the implications of the expanded age remit of Kildare CYPSC including membership, priorities &amp; actions.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with NIRSA/AIRO to develop &amp; maintain a data management system to include indicators relevant to children, young people &amp; families.</li> <li>Explore the development of a Blocks &amp; Gaps system for children and family services, based on the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework model.</li> </ul>
<b>Inter-Agency Working</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop formal links with the Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee &amp; other relevant structures.</li> <li>Support the roll out of the Local Area Pathway/Meitheal via the LAP Working Group.</li> <li>Support the roll out of the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework via the NRF Working Group.</li> <li>Develop a multi-agency Critical Incident Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a training needs analysis of personnel working with children &amp; families in the county to identify gaps &amp; develop responses, including the possibility of a regional approach to training in partnership with neighbouring CYPSCs.</li> </ul>

Change Management Area	Activities
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop Kildare CYPSC as an information hub, including via enhanced use of social media.</li> <li>• Develop &amp; disseminate a directory of services for Co. Kildare.</li> </ul>

Implementation will be according to an annual work plan for each year of the plan. A work plan progress update will be presented at every Kildare CYPSC meeting and an annual review of the work plan will be completed by the first quarter of the subsequent year. An overall review of the three year plan will be completed as part of the planning process for the next three-year plan.

In addition to this, a quarterly submission will be made to the National Coordinator, the National Steering Group and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs by the Coordinators Network, which reports on progress under the five national outcomes, with input from all CYPSCs, including Kildare.



## Appendix: Selection of Demographic Comparisons

Figures from the latest CSO census 2011 show that:

- There were 59,449 people aged 17 years and under living in Co. Kildare, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest nationally, amounting to 28.3% of the county population of 210,212 (3<sup>rd</sup> highest proportion nationally – of 31 local authority areas).
- There were 18,383 people aged between 18 and 24 years living in Co. Kildare, which is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest nationally, amounting to 8.7% of the county population (13<sup>th</sup> highest proportionally).
- Population growth between the 2006 census and 2011 census was 12.9%. This significantly exceeded the national figure of 8.2% and was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest of 31 local authorities nationally.
- There were 4,542 foreign national children living in Co. Kildare, amounting to 7.77% of the child population for the county, up 50% on the 2006 census though just below the national average of 8.25% of the child population.
- The Traveller population has increased since the 2006 Census by 393 to 874 (+81.7%), which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of increase nationally. There are a relatively small number of Traveller families in the county, but with a high proportion of children (over half).
- At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 3,556 children with a disability aged 17 years and younger living in Co. Kildare. The percentage of children with a disability in the county as a proportion of the child population exceeds the national average.

In terms of socio economic findings:

- The county ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the country in terms of rate of owner occupiers with a mortgage at the time of the 2011 CSO Census, suggesting a high level of mortgage debt across the county.
- There were 4,135 recipients of Department of Social Protection rent supplement in Co. Kildare in 2013. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number in the country after Dublin and Cork.
- The highest number of unemployed people in Co. Kildare at the time of the 2011 CSO Census lived in the Newbridge – Kildare Municipal District (5,290). The highest rate of unemployment was 24.1% in the Athy Municipal District. This exceeded the national average at that time of 19%.
- Data from June 2013 showed that there were 19,156 people resident in Co. Kildare on the Department of Social Protection Live Register. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of residents in the country after Dublin, Cork, Galway, Donegal, Limerick and Wexford.
- The number of people on the Live Register in Co. Kildare increased from 4,350 in 2004 to 17,208 in 2013, representing a percentage increase of 295.6%. This was the second highest percentage change in the country and far exceeded the national figure of 149%.
- There were 75,578 persons eligible for GMS medical cards in Kildare/West Wicklow in 2012. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest of the 32 HSE Local Health Office areas nationally.

Recent years have shown a significant increase in the number of child welfare and child protection referrals in the county:

- There were 1,791 referrals to the HSE Social Work department from Kildare/West Wicklow in 2012. Of these referrals, 1,098 (61%) related to child welfare and 693 (39%) related to

child protection. The rate of referral per 10,000 child population in 2012 in Kildare/West Wicklow was 275 per 10,000, exceeding the rate in Dublin South West (255 per 10,000).

- Child welfare referrals per annum in Kildare/West Wicklow increased by 324% (+839) from 259 in 2008 to 1,098 in 2012. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest increase in number and percentage nationally.
- Child Protection referrals also increased from 2008 to 2012. These referrals increased by 240% (+489) – from the 2008 figure of 204 to the 2012 figure of 613. This is the highest percentage increase in the country.
- 64 young people were admitted into care in 2013, and 37 young people were discharged from care in 2013, returning to home/family, with a further 17 young people in care in 2013 reaching 18 years of age.

There are concerns for the well being of young people living in the county:

- As of October 2014, there were 19 children aged 18 years and younger living in direct provision in Co. Kildare.
- Data from the National Registry of Deliberate Self Harm showed that 58 children aged up to 17 years and 91 young people aged between 18 and 24 years from Co. Kildare presented to a hospital in 2013 because of deliberate self harm.
- 27 children from Co. Kildare were admitted to psychiatric hospital in 2011. This amounted to a rate of 45.4 per 100,000 which exceeds the national average of 37.9 per 100,000.
- There were 23 deaths by suicides in Co. Kildare in 2013. There were only three other local authority areas in the country that exceed the Kildare figure for death by suicide in 2013 – Dublin City (48), Cork County (42) and Kerry (28).
- In 2012 there were 55 instances of young people living in Co. Kildare aged less than 18 years being treated for substance misuse (these figures refer to instances and may have involved treatment of the same person on more than one occasion). These figures are increasing year on year with 34 instances in 2011 and 17 instances in 2010. There were 22 young people aged between 20 and 24 years availing of methadone treatment in the South Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Area in 2013.
- The total number of referrals to the Juvenile Diversion Programme in the Kildare Division (covering all of Co. Kildare) in 2012 was 742. Of these, 345 (47%) were referred from the Kildare Garda District. 193 (26%) from the Leixlip Garda District. 204 (27%) from the Naas Garda District.
- 170 women accessed the Teach Tearmainn Information and Support Service in 2014. 116 women and 189 children could not be accommodated by the domestic violence refuge service due to unavailability of space. A further 41 women and 82 children contacted Teach Tearmainn in relation to accommodation due to homelessness, not related to domestic violence.