Waterford Children's Services Committee

The Natural Fit between Children's Services Committee & the Local Area Pathways

Purpose of a CSC

 CSC is the structure for bring together a diverse group of agencies in local areas engaged in joint planning of services for Children

Purpose of LAP

 LAP is a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary & multi-agency approach to delivering services across all level. CSC are responsible for improving the lives of children through integrated planning, working & service delivery.

 LAP is the means of delivering services to children & families in one cohesive support system

CSC Task Groups

- Information & Research Task Group
- Education Task Group
- Family Support Task Group
- Community Based Adolescent Task Group
- LAP (Local Area Pathways)

What is the Natural Fit?

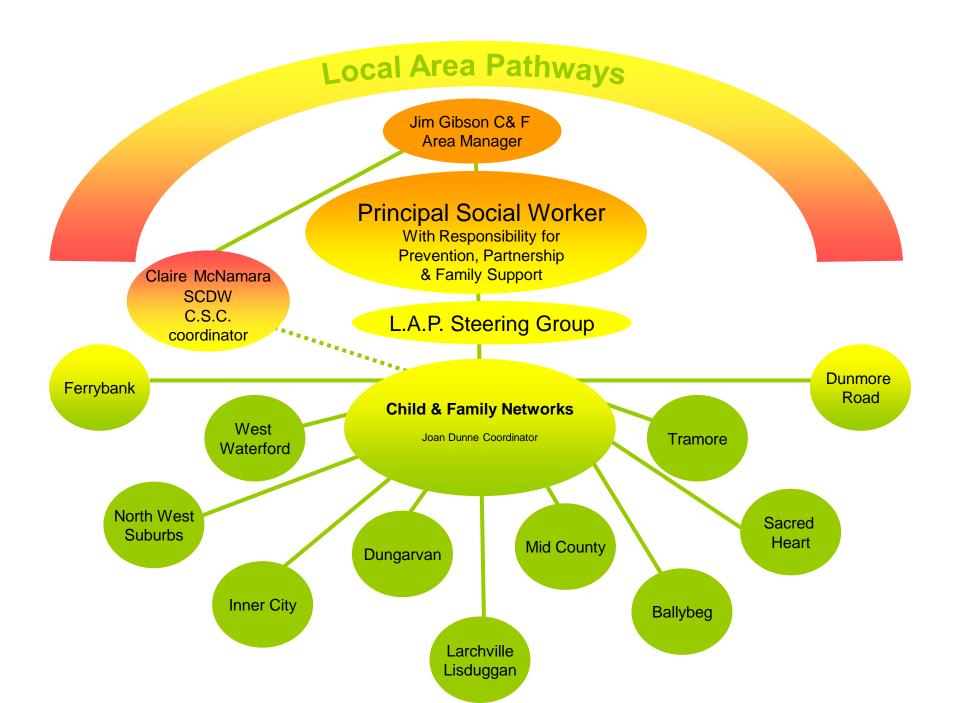
- 5 National Outcomes for Children
- CSC supports membership of the LAP
- Membership of LAP Task Group overlaps
 with other CSC Task Groups
- CSC Needs analysis informs local planning

 CSC members i.e Managers in agencies support frontline staff working with families & children to be involved in LAP

 Work of CSC Task Groups has informed the structure of the LAP in Waterford

LAP Local structure

- All agencies working with children & families in a local area are involved
- Particular efforts were made to involve the Voluntary & Community organisations as equal members
- Area Networks use existing community structures and neighbourhoods (City) to inform local working



Positives

- Greater connections for agencies with Social Work Dept.
- A sense that it feels logical
- Maximises expertise & local knowledge of Voluntary / Community Sector Staff
- Co-ordinates information flow & planning for working with a family
- Sense of support for individual staff members
- Staff/Organisations can work to their own strengths in the knowledge that it's part of a bigger work plan

Challenges

- All agencies are working with reduced resources
- Many organisations are unsure of the future work context
- A lot of meetings
- Agencies need more clarity & training re the implications for their own Staff involvement
- Agencies need to realign referral & reporting structure