



Background and Summary of the Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committees Plan, 2015-2018

What are Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC)?

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are key structures identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.

CYPSCs are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020*.

http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, has been designated as the lead agency of CYPSCs; they are chaired by the Tusla Area Manager and Tusla employs the Coordinators. There are now CYPSCs established in every local authority area in Ireland.

What is Limerick CYPSC?

The Limerick CYPSC was established as one of the four pilot CYPSCs in 2007. This coincided with the establishment of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies, and the work of the CYPSC was closely aligned with that of the Regeneration Agencies in its first phase of development. The focus on the areas prioritised under Regeneration continues, but the Limerick CYPSC now has a county-wide remit.

Among the early priorities for the CYPSC was an ambitious research programme to establish a baseline of needs for children and families in the city. This culminated in the publication of *"How are Our Kids?" Experiences and Needs of Children and Families in Limerick with a Particular Emphasis on Limerick's Regeneration Areas* in 2012. This continues to be a valuable resource for all those working in the child and family sector in Limerick City. Other early priorities included the Limerick Assessment of Need System (LANS) and Restorative Practices. The LANS Project informed the development nationally of the Local Area Pathways and *Meitheal - a National Practice Model*. Both of these are core elements of the Tusla National Service Delivery Framework which aims to improve outcomes for children. The Restorative Practices Project has continued to develop and grow and is having a demonstrable impact in schools and communities in Limerick City.

The Limerick CYPSC has also prioritised Early Intervention and Prevention in the Early Years of childhood. PAUL Partnership, on behalf of Limerick CYPSC, was successful in securing funding under the *National Early Years Access Initiative* to develop the *Start Right Programme*. The programme received additional funding from the Limerick Regeneration programme and the Programme

Innovation Development Fund. In 2014, the Limerick CYPSC application (with PAUL Partnership acting again as the lead agency) to the DCYA's *Area-Based Childhood (ABC) Programme* was also successful. This allowed the development and implementation of the *ABC Start Right Programme* in the Northside and City Centre of Limerick City.

In 2012, Limerick CYPSC was selected as a key strategic partnership to receive funding under the *Programme Innovation and Development Fund* (PIDF, a partnership of Government and Atlantic Philanthropies). This funding allowed the development of three key initiatives: Restorative Practices, a Parenting Support Programme (including Parenting Limerick and the Homemaker Family Support Service) and a Quality Assurance Framework.

What are the key priorities in Limerick CYPSC's current Children and Young People's Plan, 2015-2018?

The above programmes continue to be priorities for the Limerick CYPSC. In its current phase of work, and in line with the broadening of the age remit up to twenty-four years, the CYPSC is continuing to build on the learning and outcomes from the previous two plans and develop integrated responses to areas of identified need. The current areas are prioritised in the 2015-2018 Children and Young People's Plan:

- Expansion to become a county-wide CYPSC
- Developing Limerick as a Child-Friendly City
- Early Childhood Early Intervention and Prevention
- Parenting and Family Support
- Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being
- Educational Participation, Engagement and Retention
- High Needs Young People
- Restorative Practices
- Support for the Implementation of Tusla's Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Programme of Work
- Research, Learning and Communication

What Agencies are represented on Limerick CYPSC?

Membership of CYPSC is reviewed on a regular basis. Below are the agencies and organisations that are represented currently:

- Tusla (Lead Agency; Area Manager; PPFS Manager; EWS Manager)
- HSE
- Limerick City and County Council
- Department of Education & Skills (DES)
- Limerick & Clare ETB
- Young Person's Probation
- An Garda Síochána
- Ballyhoura Development
- PAUL Partnership
- West Limerick Resources
- Barnardos
- Hospital Family Resource Centre (on behalf of all Limerick FRCs)
- Irish Primary Principals Network
- National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (currently vacant)