

Seed Funding Projects for Child and Youth Participation

2017-2018



TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Seed Funding for Participatory Practice 2017/2018

Under the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support programme, Tusla agreed to assist areas in exploring and developing participatory practice projects from 2016—2018. Tusla has made seed funding available to support new and developing projects that require initial or additional funding in order to progress. Now in year two, projects will avail of funding for the period of 1st July 2017 to the 30th June 2018.

Services and areas had the opportunity to submit one or a number of proposals. Each application required endorsement by the relevant Area Manager. Tusla's guidance document, "Towards the Development of a *Participation Strategy for Children and Young People*" and the "National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making" (DCYA, 2015) were recommended for reference when completing applications.

Applications were accepted for projects from:

- Tusla services either individually or a coalition of Tusla services
- Tusla services in conjunction with funded agencies
- Tusla service in conjunction with partner agencies
- A Tusla Service Area either individually or a coalition of Tusla Service Areas

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young Peoples Participation 2017-2018 Dublin North East

Area	Name of Project	Description
Cavan/ Monaghan	Tusla Champs (2016 – 2018)	Tusla Champs is a collaborative project with the Child and Wellbeing Centre Castleblaney, YAP, Extern and Compass. This project is a leadership and development programme for young people aged 16 – 18 who have experienced Tusla services either in the community or as a child in care. In 2017-2018 this project will concentrate on engaging with the young people to improve services in Cavan/Monaghan.
Cavan/ Monaghan	“Staying Safe” Halloween Project (2017-2018)(New)	The Staying Safe Halloween Project from Clones FRC and Clones Community Connect will engage with children and young people in the community to identify issues surrounding Halloween Safety. Through art, music and drama workshops children and young people will give their views on a child safe environment.
Cavan/ Monaghan	Aftercare Stories (2017-2018) (New)	The Cavan/Monaghan Aftercare Service will run a project whereby care leavers tell their story of their time in care. This project will run alongside a leaflet and poster campaign and the information gathered in the stories will be used for service improvement.
Cavan/ Monaghan	Eco Club Youth Café (2017-2018) (New)	Youth Work Ireland will work in partnership with children and young people to create an environmental project. The Eco Club will give young people a platform to identify and strive to change issues they feel are important with regard to the environment and climate change.
Cavan/ Monaghan	Extern’s Choir Project (2017-2018) (New)	Through the medium of music Extern will help at risk youths to explore and discuss issues relating to body image, mental health, relationships and achieving dreams. Children and Young people will learn how to compose their own song and record their song onto a CD to be shared with their family. The compositions will be themed in inspiring young people to develop a positive outlook on life .
Cavan/ Monaghan	Teach Oscail Youth Project (2017 – 2018) (New)	Teach Oscail FRC will work in conjunction with Foróige Garda Youth Diversion Project (365 Project) to bring together young people in a safe space where they can have a voice to air their views and contribute to the wider society in a positive way. Young people will engage in a range of workshops focusing on health and well-being. This holistic programme will facilitate young people to identify factors that influence and impact on their personal health and well-being. Project participants will demonstrate their learning from the project via the medium of art, drama or dance.
Louth/ Meath	Multi – Functional Room (2017-2018) (New)	North Louth and Springboard PPFS will engage with children and young people to create a multi-functional room. This room will create a safe space for working with children individually and in a group setting. This room will be used to support Family Support Services.
Louth/ Meath	Domestic Violence Peer Education Programme (2016 – 2018)	The Domestic Violence Peer Education Programme is now in its second year. In year one, a Domestic Violence Peer Education Programme Training manual was developed. In Year Two, this project will consult with young people to increase their understanding of Domestic Violence and support these peer educators to develop a Domestic Violence Awareness Programme for Young People.
Louth/ Meath	Meeting the Transition from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle (2016 – 2018)	Moving on from the success of the creation of the transition from Primary to Secondary school leaflet. The Navan School Completion Programme listened to young people where they identified a concern around their experiences of moving to senior cycle. In partnership with young people a leaflet will be created for students in 5 th year to support them with the transition.
Louth/ Meath	Mindful Warrior Programme (2016 – 2018)	By engaging young people in programme design the Mindful Warrior Programme offered a space where young people explored their own mindfulness, empowerment and self-esteem. In year two the project will build on last year and offer the programme to two further groups.

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Area	Name of Project	Description
Louth/ Meath	Youth Council (2017 – 2017) (New)	Meath Springboard Family Support Service will form a youth council of children and young people aged 9 to 17. The Youth Council will meet once every 4 months and coincide with the Board of Management meetings where their inputs and ideas will be discussed. They will have a direct input or full autonomy to make decisions on the plans for Meath Springboard Family Supports.
Louth/ Meath	Simple Complexities (2016 – 2018)	The Tusla PPFS Team will focus on examining elements of “Daily Life Events” in an exploratory form with a group of young people, starting from self and going onto impact on society. In Year One a Young Person’s Wellbeing Programme was established after putting into action the views and requests of young people, this group will continue into year two.
Louth/ Meath	Tusla Family Resource Centre (2017 – 2018)	The Tusla Family Resource Centre listened to the views of children and young people when they identified the lack of groups for children under 5 in the centre after an open day consultation. The Centre will further listen to the young people involved when establishing the new groups to be formed. The young people will also have input and review information leaflets in relation to the services provided by the centre.
Louth/ Meath	Creating a Child Friendly Space (2017 -2018) (New)	A social work team in Louth/Meath will provide a child friendly space for children that come into the social work department. This space will be created by listening to the views of what the children and young people think would make this space comfortable and friendly for children of all ages.
Dublin North City	Re-Imaging St. Helena’s/Hear Me Roar (2016 – 2018)	The young people from Extern and St Helena’s designed and created the Lazy Lounge, a tranquil space for young people to use for discussion topics. From this year one project young people identified that they sometimes struggle to verbalise how they felt. In year two, through the mediums of art, pottery and music young people will create works to have their voices heard in other ways.
Dublin North City	Youth Leadership Programme (2016 – 2018)	The Youth Leadership Programme is led by the Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP) in the North Inner City. It involves developing the leadership and mentoring skills and restorative practices of young people who are current and past members. In year one, this project met its aim as the young people were role models for the younger children that attended. Year Two this programme will further develop leadership skills and restorative practices and expand training to First Aid and Sports Coaching Skills.
Dublin North City	MOST Project (2017 –2018) (New)	The MOST Project is a Garda Youth Diversion Project based in the North West Inner City of Dublin. The project will work with children and young people who have been in trouble with the law or at risk of engaging offending behaviour. The project will centre on a photo documentary project for young people who lived in O’Devaney Gardens to record the story of their childhood. The aim of the project is to engage young people in fun, developmental activities that divert them away from criminal activity and promote positive social and personal development.
Dublin North	Sensory Garden and Sensory Room (2016-2018)	In year one, this project established the “Krafty Kids” group, a group aged between 6 to 11 with sensory difficulties. They visited a number of sensory garden sites and designed their own sensory garden using memory boxes, sketches, photography and scent boxes. They met with a landscape gardener and set their plans to scale. Alongside this in year two, an indoor sensory room will also be created. This idea came from feedback from the group, as they voiced that that would like a room for children that don’t like to go outside. There are now three “Krafty Kids” Groups and participation has grown from 8 to 18 members.

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Area	Name of Project	Description
Dublin North	Cyber Safety Hub <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	Three focus groups of children and young people were established to identify the core issues for young people in relation to online issues, in particular cyber bullying. A literature review was carried out on cyber bullying both in Ireland and internationally and staff were trained in Camera Org Cyber Safety Training. In year two, the children and young people focus groups will facilitate “Agenda Days” to engage with children and young people on the issues of cyber safety.
Dublin North	The Kids Table <i>(2017 – 2018) (New)</i>	Blakestown Mountainview Family Resource Centre listened to the children and young people of the community and created The Kids Table. The Kids Table is a cookery programme for young people to learn how to cook healthy meals with their parents.
Dublin North	Mulhuddart Football Club <i>(2017 – 2018)</i>	PPFS Dublin North will support the establishment of a new football club to enhance children and young people’s participation in the community of Mulhuddart and surrounding areas.

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young Peoples Participation 2017 – 2018 South

Area	Project Name	Description
Carlow/ Kilkenny/ South Tipp	Headhackers – Ossory Youth (2016 – 2018)	In partnership with Tusla and Ossory Youth, this project met its year one objective of influencing how services interact with young people who are coping with anxiety and stress. A young person led, bespoke programme was created to support coping mechanisms and resilience building. Young people were able to share their experiences with likeminded peers. This project will continue to build to include young people that have been referred with the aim that at the end of the group young people involved would have the skills to participate in other activities.
Carlow/ Kilkenny/ South Tipp	Children in Care Focus Group - Carlow (2016 – 2018)	The Children in Care Focus Group was established in year one. Now in its second year, it aims to continue to empower children and young people to voice their opinions, views and worries through a group setting, creating peer support. The peer support group was achieved through a variety of mediums such as “BOI Earn to Learn” programme, a horticulture project and musical and drama activities. The group also consulted and gave valuable feedback on the “Tell Us” Tusla forms. From listening to the opinions of young people, the project, in year two will involve “Theraplay” and more Musical and Drama activities.
Waterford/ Wexford	Waterford Youth Participation Project (2016 – 2018)	This project involved the development of a young person’s forum to design, plan, organise and evaluate a Child and Youth Participation Conference. 7 young people aged between 13 to 18 engaged in a planned programme to build leadership capacity, facilitation skills, organisational skills and planning. “The Youth Forum” was held on the 13 th May 2017. An additional 20 young people participated in activities and discussions on the day. This project, championed by the Community Based Adolescent Sub Group, involved young people from Comhairle na nÓg, Foroige Waterford and Tipperary and was supported by Waterford CYPSC. Moving forward to year two, the project will promote the valuable outputs from year one such as DVD’s, posters, postcards and resources to reach practitioners working directly with children and young people.
Waterford/ Wexford	Wexford Children & Young Peoples Participation Project Just Be You (2016 – 2018)	The “Just Be You” Project by FDYS raised awareness and opportunities for young people within the LGBTI community to gain access to supports available within Co. Wexford and influence service delivery. A programme was developed working with students in 5 different classes in 2 schools in rural Wexford. “Just Be You – Teach” was also delivered and a “Just Be You Resource Pack” was delivered to all secondary schools in the county. The Resource Pack and “Just Be You Coming Out Guide” are also available to download on the FDYS and Wexford CYPSC websites. In Year Two, the project will further expand the delivery of the “Just Be You - Teach” programme to another three schools. A showcasing event will also be hosted to give groups the opportunity to demonstrate good practice examples of children and young people’s participation.
Cork	iGirls (2016 – 2018)	The “iGirls” project, led by Springboard Cork is directed at 14- 16 year old girls. At this age group there are significant transitional changes and the project aims to build self-esteem and improve the mother and daughter relationship. The project will be run in conjunction with local schools and is being evaluated by University College Cork. The overall aim of the intervention is to take on board the views and suggestions of these girls in the creation of an integrative Health and Social Care initiative looking to improve the disjointed service delivery the girls experience at present. The project will be youth led and informed. In year one the project delivered a full programme of “iGirls”. In year two the project will be developed to be available for other services to avail of.

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young Peoples Participation 2017 – 2018 South

Area	Name of Project	Description
Cork	Cork Matters <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	<p>The ISPCC’s Children’s Advisory Committee (CAC) ran a “Douglas Matters” event in 2015 following a consultation process that identifies a number of themes that were of concern in the community. This event was centred on the World Café model and a working group has been established to work on the solutions on the day. Given the success of the “Douglas Matters” event, the ISPCC’s CAC plan to utilise this funding to facilitate further events in other communities in Cork. In year one the communities identified were Youghal/Killeagh and Ballincollig. The project reviewed the CYPSC social demographic reports and reviewed the ISPCC waiting list. The Children’s Advisory Committee designed questionnaires and templates to gather information from a variety of different groups. The project had 4 focus groups with young people and stakeholders, two focus groups with parents and interviews with community leaders regarding to life in these communities.</p> <p>In year two we will consult with the CAC for two further World Café sessions to ensure they are fun, child centred events. We will also work with the CAC to launch a report of our findings and to disseminate our recommendations from this participatory practice and consultation work with Young People.</p>

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young Peoples Participation 2017 – 2018 Dublin Mid Leinster

Area	Project	Description
Dublin South West/ Kildare/ West Wicklow	Child and Young Person Friendly Spaces <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	This two year project involves engaging children, birth parents and foster carers to design family rooms and waiting rooms in our new building to make them more child-centred. In year one, feedback was received from children and birth parents that used the room during access visits. Improvements were made to the current access room based on the feedback. In year two this project aims to carry out research of the social work room's usage and perceptions. It also aims to use this as a pilot project and apply the learning and principals to promote other child friendly spaces in DSW/K/WW.
Dublin South West/ Kildare/ West Wicklow	Creative Group Project for Birth Children of Fostering Families <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	In year one a support group for birth children of foster carers has been established. After an initial focus on creative art and consultation there is currently a participative core group of eight children ranging from age 10 to 16 with additional interest from other fostering families. The group named themselves "I Believe" and have ownership of the group and set the agenda at each meeting. The aims for year two include the completion of an expressive art project and to present this project at an exhibition to be attended by family and friends.
Dublin South West/ Kildare/ West Wicklow	Support Project for Children in EROC <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	EROC a centre for refugees in Monasterevin have worked with over 50 young people between the ages of 10 and 24, in year one, to better equip them to make the transition from life in the centre to community life. Connections have been made with youth and other support services in the destination locations allowing young people to link directly with support in their new location. For year two, a developed programme of youth support work and interventions will be delivered. This programme will be delivered using a variety of mediums such as art, music and drama to promote engagement.
Midlands	Mighty Midlanders <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	Tusla and YAP brought together a group of young people to create art pieces that are a visual representation of the "voice of young people". The project also aimed to support the young people to express their views on their experiences of Tusla services. This project was completed over ten sessions with a community artist and several pieces of art have been created. The young people involved have voiced the positives such as the "different" way staff were working with them, giving them more choice, a voice and feeling heard. Four of the group members attended "Agenda Days" training and presented their project to the senior social work staff. In year two the project will continue to work with young people to develop their leadership skills by rolling out "Agenda Days". Young people will also develop a presentation and be supported to meet with social work teams to inform them of the benefits of participatory practice
Midlands	Longford/ Westmeath Child and Young Persons Services Committee <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	Through detailed planning and decision making the CYPSC Children and Young People's sub group met this project's year one aims. This project involved collaboration from a number of partners; Tusla, Barnardos, Longford Childcare Committee, Foroige, Lus na Greine, Westmeath Youth Services, Comhairle na nÓg and Westmeath LCDC. Consultation across the two counties, took place involving children, young people and young adults aged 3 – 24 years. Approx. 400 children and young people were involved, including Seldom Heard young people in activities such as art based workshops and youth led World Cafés. In year two the project will expand to reach more children and young people to include their voice in the on-going development of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC's Children and Young People's Plan.

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young Peoples Participation 2017 – 2018 Dublin Mid Leinster

Area	Project	Description
Midlands	Youth Voice Advocacy Group <i>(2017 – 2018)</i> <i>(New)</i>	This project aims to establish youth participation and a youth voice advocacy group as part of Comhairle na nÓg and Youth Work Laois. The group will act as a consultation/reference group to enhance the ways in which we hear the views and engage the opinions of young people. The group will work with CYSPC to ensure they consider how they engage with and listen to the views of young people.
Dublin South Central	Development of Deansrath Family Centre Coderdojo into “The Academy” <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	The aim of this project is to develop the current Coderdojo after school project into “The Academy”. The Deansrath Family Centre (DFC) Coderdojo established the youth led Young Persons Working Group (YPWG). The group meets every six weeks and gives their input and views on decisions about “The Academy”. The YPWG supported staff at the Dojocon, where 17 young people presented their coding project. In 2017 – 2018, the group will focus on the requests from young people “to have a space to talk” and “someone to talk too” and defining key services they want from “The Academy” such as educational supports. A mentoring programme, fundraising plan for our new premises and governance policy for “The Academy” will also be created with the engagement of the YPWG.
Dublin South East/ Wicklow	National Child Friendly Website <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	Children and young people were engaged in the decision making process for this project with an “Agenda DayÓ” which brought together approx. 20 – 30 young people. The main recommendation from the youth led “Agenda DayÓ” was the development of a national child friendly website. A smaller group of young people established a research group ensuring they are involved in the design, development and evaluation of the website with support from Tusla Communications. This two year project will continue to build with monthly research group meetings with young people, a further two/three Agenda DaysÓ will be held and the website content and design will be developed.

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation 2017 – 2018 West

Area	Project	Description
Donegal	Participation of Children and Young People Initiative (2016 – 2018)	To support the development of a youth participation structure young people across Donegal were consulted. Tusla staff and a number of services identified Seldom Heard young people that would be interested in participating on the Tusla Youth Reference Group. In a meaningful and engaging way young people gave their input on the best way to develop a youth participation structure that would empower them to fully participate. 35 young people have committed to date. In year two and using the valuable input of the reference group a County Youth Reference Group, inclusive of Seldom Heard young people, will be formed. It will represent the voices of approximately 300 young people aged 10 – 18 years. This group will be the reference and consultation group in relation to services Tusla provides in Donegal. The Youth Reference Group will meet every second month and a team building day has been planned and organised.
Sligo/ Leitrim/ West Cavan	Participation Lab for Children and Young People (2016 - 2018)	The creation of a participation lab to enable consultation with children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim to ensure their voices are heard in relation to: the quality of services they receive; their involvement in the planning of services; and decision making in relation to the development of services.
Mayo	Children and Young Persons Advocacy Group (2016 – 2018)	The Children's and Young Person's Advisory Group (CYPAG) has been established in Co. Mayo. Formed as part of Comhairle na nÓg with the specific purpose and function to engender and develop greater input and participation of young people in relation to the delivery and evaluation of Tusla services. In year one, the "Youth Researchers" have reviewed a variety of local and national information leaflets and provided constructive feedback on their content. The group also audited Tusla premises in Mayo to determine their suitability for children and young people. In year two the aim is to engage many other young people across Mayo to engage and participate in all areas of civic life and in particular regarding the services developed by Tusla and funded agencies. A county conference to promote child and youth participation and the work of the CYPAG, Youth Researchers and other young people will be showcased at this young person led event.
Galway	Youth Research Programme Galway 2017– 2018)	PPFS seeks to engage young people in a participatory research programme seeking to establish the views of secondary school students on how services for young people might best be delivered locally. This participatory research programme is informed by the Youth as Researchers model devised by the Child and Family Research Centre, NUI, Galway. The programme will incorporate four research sites across the county. Work at each research site will be coordinated by a Working Group of the local Child and Family Support Network. The first research site will be Athenry town; a market town with a second level school population in excess of 2,000 students. Following a review process, the programme will be rolled out in the remaining three sites. Participatory research can be empowering and can be educational, involving a partnership approach between the researcher and members of the group being researched. As well as improving access to the sample cohort, the participation of young people in this research study, and in the dissemination of the research findings, will contribute to their learning and development. The research findings will provide an insight into how young people across the county perceive service delivery aimed at young people and will gather proposals for change. Research teams will be invited to present their findings to the local Child and Family Support Network and to the Galway Children and Young People's Services Committee. Findings will help inform the Galway Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021.

Seed Funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation 2017 – 2018 West

Area	Project	Description
Roscommon	Social Peer Research <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	The Social Peer Research Project met its year one aim to carry out social action research to inform plans of Tusla, CYPSC and voluntary agencies in Roscommon. 23 focus groups were established with children and young people aged between 3 ½ and 24 years. Groups included children in early years settings, schools (national and secondary), disability services, children in care, those involved in child protection, family support and youth services. The young people will be training in research skills, starting in in year two, September 2017. Focus groups will continue and the needs and suggestions will form part of the social research which the young people will carry out themselves.
Midwest	Mid West Youth Participation Project <i>(2016 – 2018)</i>	The Mid West Youth Participation Project met the findings of a HIQA report and developed a forum to formally elicit children's views and opinions. In year one the project held "Agenda Days" to engage with young people who had direct experience of Tusla services and Tusla funded services. A steering group was also established and has become a learning and exchange network about child and youth participation and members attended the Child and Youth Participation training. A number of key learning sites were developed to bring the learning back to the communities and support was given to youth participation initiatives in three counties. In year two, projects identified by young people to address the issues raised will be established in partnership with local agencies. The project will carry out more "Agenda Days" at a community level, within partner organisations and local service departments.