



County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan

2011 to 2013

Contact

County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about this plan.

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Foreword by the Chair of CCCYPSC

I am very pleased to present the Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee (CCCYPSC) Children and Young People's Plan which covers the three years from 2011 to 2013. It reflects the hard work of the members of CCCYPSC and it captures the initiatives and actions planned for Carlow to meet the 'Seven National Outcomes for Children in Ireland'.

Carlow has grown and changed significantly over the last fifteen years. There has been a movement of people into Carlow and a high birth rate. As a result, the last census highlighted that there is a higher youth demographic than the national. Education levels are still somewhat below national levels and there are also marginally higher numbers of children with a disability than nationally.

Carlow has been severely impacted by the current economic recession and many of our children and young people experience social disadvantage.

Overall there are some pockets of extreme social disadvantage across the county, particularly in Carlow town, Graiguecullen and Tullow and also within the two minority Traveller and Rohingya communities. Meeting the needs of the most marginalised children and young people in these communities will be critical to the success of this plan.

At this time of increased demand for services accompanied by reductions in available resources the need for a strategic approach to interagency working has never been more important for children, young people and families in Carlow.

We acknowledge the commitment of OMCYA (now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs) in supporting CCCYPSC to plan and coordinate initiatives and services across Carlow towards better outcomes for our children and young people.

This plan presents a coordinated interagency approach to the delivery of services to children and young people in Carlow from 2011 to 2013 by all agencies working with children and young people in Carlow.

We welcome feedback in relation to this plan and we are committed to reviewing it at regular intervals.

On behalf of CCCYPSC, I look forward to better developmental outcomes and a better future for our children and young people.

Breda Kavanagh

HSE General Manager of Community Services
Chair of CCCYPSC

30 June 2011

Plan Summary

This plan presents a roadmap for the delivery of outcome-focused services and interventions to children and young people in Carlow, from 2011 through to 2013. It follows from the 'Seven National Outcomes for Children in Ireland', which were combined into five outcomes for planning purposes, setting out that all children should be:

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

The plan is based on data from a number of regional and national sources together with the collective experience of all agencies represented within CCCYPSC and following an in-depth local consultation exercise.

At this stage of the work, CCCYPSC have prioritised a number of key objectives under four of the five outcomes. The key objectives are listed below.

| Priority Area | Objectives |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 Mental health and wellbeing | 1. Promote positive mental health and wellbeing amongst young people |
| | 2. Support all those impacted by a sudden traumatic incident and link them into appropriate services |
| | 3. Extend the availability of Youth Counselling outside of Carlow town. |
| | 4. Use web technology to promote the Mental Health Services in County Carlow. |
| | 5. Map appropriate referral routes for 6-12 year olds who have behavioural or mental health problems |
| | 6. Link and work with substance misuse services to develop responses for children, young people and families with addiction issues |
| 1.2 Promotion of healthy lifestyles | 1. Collect and analyse data relating to the levels of childhood obesity in Carlow |
| | 2. To support parents and early years providers to have a better understanding of food allergies and intolerances |
| | 4. To develop and pilot practical programmes of physical activities maximising existing resources |
| 2.1 Preventing Early School Leaving | 1. Retention of more children in second-level and encourage their continuation in education |
| | 2. Document the work of school retention initiatives to help inform other schools of the processes used to support children to remain in school. |

| Priority Area | Objectives |
|---|---|
| 2.2 School Attendance of Traveller Children | 1. Develop a clear understanding of the value of education among Traveller parents and children. |
| | 2. Promote the greatest possible participation in education by both Traveller parents and children. |
| | 3. Document the impact of the loss of the Visiting Teacher for Travellers. |
| 2.3 Integration of children with special needs in mainstream environments | 1. Facilitate children with special needs to experience the mainstream pre-school environment. |
| | 2. Support children attending specialised day care service to integrate into the mainstream on a part-time basis. |
| 3.1 Child welfare | 1. Analyse data re children in care in context of electoral divisions. |
| | 2. To support children to be cared for in their own homes. |
| | 3. Development of guidelines for effective sharing of relevant and appropriate information – protocols for interagency work. |
| | 4. Develop pathways for referrals for more relevant use of services. |
| | 5. Promote full implementation of Children First Guidelines. |
| 5.1 Parenting support | 1. Coordination of parenting programmes throughout the county. |
| | 2. Research new ways of engaging with and providing support for parents of teenagers. |
| | 3. Develop models of individual parenting support. |
| | 4. To maximise informal parenting support drawing on existing resources (such as parent and toddler groups). |
| | 5. To support parents of children with emerging needs. |
| | 6. To support teenagers with a disability to participate in mainstream youth education/training and social activities. |
| | 7. Support DESSA to implement training with parents. |
| 5.2 Rohingya resettlement | 1. Support the transition from settling in to increased involvement and participation of the Rohingya children and young people (0 -18) in the Community of Carlow |
| 5.3 Community facility for Tullow Road | 1. Support the work of the interagency group to establish a community facility on the Tullow Road so that Children have access to a range of support services appropriate to their needs in their community 2. Link and work with HSE and RAPID to apply for location of a SpringBoard Family Support Initiative in Tullow Road RAPID area |

These actions are being undertaken by CCCYPSC, the participating agencies and CCCYPSC subgroups which are being formed.

The focus of the plan is:

- To be child and young person centred, reflecting the voice of children and young people.
- To empower and support parents in their central and critical role in supporting children and young people through their development towards adulthood.
- To ensure that children and young people feel safe and secure.
- To ensure that there is a balance of service delivery and opportunities for children and young people in rural as well as urban parts of the county.
- To promote and support opportunities that improves the outcomes for socially excluded children, young people and their families.
- To acknowledge and embrace diversity, ensuring inclusivity and equality for all.

1 Introduction

This section presents:

- The purpose of this plan
- An overview of who we are
- The planning process
- Principles and values
- Environmental context, and
- Plan structure.

1.1 The Purpose of This Plan

The purpose of the children's services committees across Ireland is to secure better developmental outcomes for children through more effective integration of existing and future services and interventions at local level. The committees aim to place the child at the centre of all policy development and service delivery. The committees also promote a whole child/whole system, approach to meeting the needs of children and their families. The Carlow Committee has included the words 'Young People' in the title of its committee to ensure that the needs of teenagers as well as children are included in the work that is focussed on in this county.

This strategic plan formulates how County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee (CCCYPSC) will meet this goal.

It is based on a number of key strategic national and regional policy documents. Central to and underpinning the strategy are the 'Seven National Outcomes for Children in Ireland'. These outcomes have been amalgamated into five outcomes for planning purposes. The five abridged outcomes are that all children should be:

- Healthy, both physically and mentally:
- Supported in active learning:
- Safe from accidental and intentional harm / secure in the immediate and wider physical environment.
- Economically secure:
- Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / included and participating in society.

1.2 Who We Are

There is a strong history of collaborative working in County Carlow. This is reflected in a number of successful multi-agency initiatives initiated through the work of the County Development Board, Sports Partnership, Development Partnership and other initiatives. Collaborations and working relationships are strong across the statutory and voluntary/community sectors and many agencies work positively together across many initiatives in Carlow relevant to children, young people and families.

HSE operations in Carlow form part of the HSE Carlow/Kilkenny regional structure. This includes local health offices in each of Carlow and Kilkenny.

The organisations working with children, young people and families in Carlow were very keen to establish a children and young people's services committee in Carlow, to help to formalise and build on collaborations in the county. The HSE Childcare Manager and the Carlow County Development Board agreed that a committee should be established in Carlow.

The first meeting of CCCYPSC was on 1st March 2010. The committee continued to meet throughout 2010 and developed a statement of purpose and guiding principles, clarified roles/membership and prepared to employ a co-ordinator. This pre-implementation phase continued into the early part of this year.

In February of this year, a part time co-ordinator was employed on a two year contract. This role is hosted by and located in Carlow Regional Youth Services. At this stage the committee commenced the planning process. An external facilitator was made available to the committee to assist in this phase of the work.

The following statement of purpose and guiding principles informed and guided the planning process and final plan.

Statement of Purpose

CCCYPSC will be responsible for improving the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level, through participation and consultation with children and young people, integrated planning, working and service delivery. It will also ensure that professionals and agencies work together with children, young people and families to achieve best possible outcomes and more accessible services for children young people and families.

Guiding Principles

CCYPSC will be:

1. Child and young person centred
2. Family oriented
3. Equitable
4. Inclusive
5. Action oriented
6. Integrated
7. Innovative
8. Empowerment focused.

CCYPSC Membership

Key agencies have engaged and participate very well on the CCCYPSC since its establishment, as has been the experience of a number of collaborations in Carlow. They have met on approximately a bi-monthly basis with more frequent meetings and smaller group meeting held in May/June as part of the planning process. The steering group members are as follows:

| Name | Position/Organisation |
|----------------------|--|
| *Breda Kavanagh | General Manager Community Services, HSE (chairperson) |
| Marie Kennedy | Childcare Manager, HSE (acting chairperson when designated chairperson is not in attendance) |
| Aine Gahan | Co-ordinator, Carlow County Childcare Committee |
| Dr. Clare O'Sullivan | Principal Medical Officer, HSE |
| Ann-Marie McCabe | Attendance Officer, National Education Welfare Board |
| Bernie O'Brien | Director of Services, Carlow Local Authorities/CDB |
| Marian Duffy | Adult Education Officer, County Carlow VEC |
| Elaine Rowe | Youth Diversion Officer, Garda Síochána |
| **Jennie McAleese | Disability Services, HSE |
| Kathryn Wall | Director, Carlow Regional Youth Services |
| Margaret Moore | Administrative Officer, Carlow County Council / CDB |
| Marian Dowd | Project Manager, Barnardos |
| Mary Lee Stapleton | Director of Services, St. Catherine's Community Centre |
| Patricia Wall | Principal, Holy Family BNS, Carlow |
| ***VACANT | Carlow Co. Development Partnership |

* Mary O'Hanlon, HSE chaired the CCCYPSC when first established

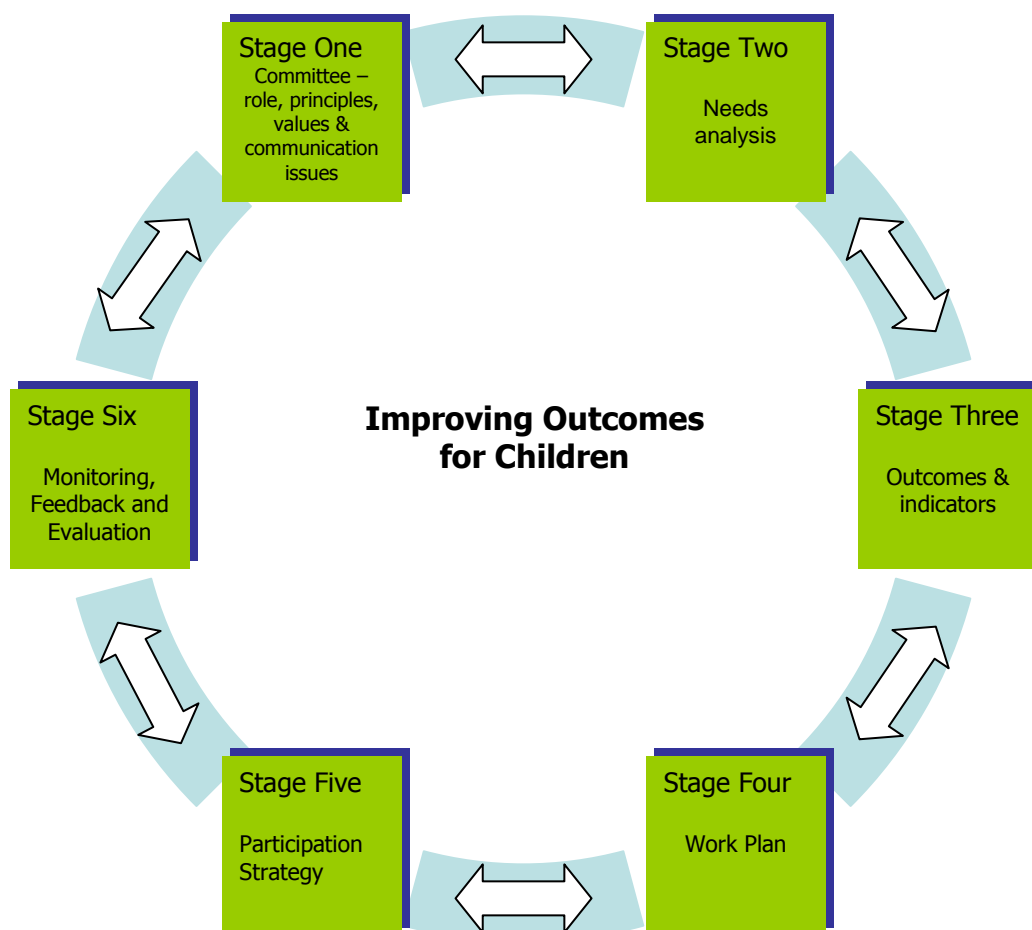
** Jacinta Culliton , Area Co-ordinator, previously represented HSE Disability Services

***Pat Cullinane, Social Inclusion Manager previously represented CCDP

The Planning Process

The planning process is followed the guideline stages set out within the 'Toolkit for the Development of a [Children's Services] Committee' by OMCYA in June 2009. This guidance document outlined a process consisting of six stages of action for CSCs, with delivery of a plan as the output from stages one through to four. This process is show in the figure to follow:

OMCYA Planning Flowchart Guidance to CSCs:



On the basis of this process, the terms of reference for this work were:

- Stage 1: Agree the role of CCCYPSC and set out principles and guiding values including the consideration of key communications issues.
- Stage 2: Carry out a needs analysis to establish the evidence base for CCCYPSC. This involves the collation of socio-demographic and epidemiological data for the Carlow area and collation of current and existing children's services, and analysing the findings.
- Stage 3: Clarify which broad outcomes (based on the 7 national outcomes) CCCYPSC will focus on, and which specific indicators will be used to assess progress
- Stage Four: Develop a work plan based on stages 2 and 3.

The planning process involved:

- Deskwork
- Consultation
- Facilitated sessions
- Review and
- Agreement to the final plan.

The initial phase of planning focussed on analysing relevant national, regional and local reports. These included the SIM Carlow Socio-Economic Profile 2009, VEC Audit of Youth Work 2010 and the County Carlow Development Plan 2009. Research carried out by the community/voluntary sector prior to the establishment of the committee was also considered, e.g. RAPID Implementation Plan, the proposal to establish the community facility on the Tullow Road.

An extensive open consultation process took place across the county. This included one-to-one sessions and focus group meetings with key stakeholders, including agencies represented in the membership and others such as Comhairle na nÓg. (See appendix 2 for the list of stakeholders consulted as part of the planning process)

Direct consultation (questionnaires) with 191 children and young people to ensure inclusion of the 'voice of the child' in the plan, took place in preschools, primary schools and youth services as follows:

| Age Group | Number | Source |
|--|------------|---|
| Preschool (ages 4 to 5 years) | 87 | ECCE rooms in 5 urban/suburban facilities in Carlow town ECCE room in 1 urban in FRC in Tullow |
| Primary school (ages 8 to 10 years) | 74 | 3 rd class pupils in 1 urban DEIS school (boys) 3 rd class pupils in 1 urban school (girls) 3 rd class pupils in 1 rural school (mixed) Service users - Barnardos |
| Youth services (13 to 18 years) | 32 | Mixed group of young people using The Vault Youth Café and Comhairle na nÓg members |
| Total | 193 | |

A small steering group composed of the chairperson, CDB representative, CRYS representative and the co-ordinator met to guide the planning process and to discuss data gathering. Three facilitated planning sessions were held with the steering group to agree the planning process and priorities.

Small groups led by steering group members, with input from other representatives took place to agree and expand on local priorities and actions.

The final plan was agreed by the steering group on 24th June 2011.

The co-ordinator played a pivotal role, collating information, collaborating with the external facilitator, consulting with key stakeholders, presenting information and in preparing the plan for presentation at board.

In terms of broader outcomes achieved as part of the planning process:

- The committee reached the second stage of the application for inclusion in the National Early Years Access Initiative.
- In April 2011 the committee successfully applied to the County Carlow Development Partnership to secure 10 Special Needs Assistants to work with pre-schools under the Tús Initiative. This was identified as an opportunity to respond to the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream pre-schools at the steering group meeting in February.

1.3 Policy and Environmental Context

This section provides the contextual background to the delivery of CCCYPSC plan. It covers:

- Reporting structure
- Reorganisation of statutory services, and
- Interagency collaboration within the current economic environment

1.3.1 Reporting Structure

Children's Services Committees were originally established by the then Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) in 2007. The purpose has been to improve outcomes for children and families at local and community level. The new Government has amalgamated health, education, justice and other functions that relate to children and young people into a new Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA).

The previous Government 'Towards 2016' social partnership framework made provision for the establishment of Children's Services Committees under the aegis of the County Development Boards, which comprise of representatives of local government, local leaders, the social partners and state agencies. Carlow CDB's central involvement in CCCYPSC is within this context.

1.3.2 Reorganisation of Services

The ongoing restructuring of statutory services is an important part of the context of the work of many children's services committees. For example within the HSE the establishment of Integrated Services Areas (ISA) that are expected to combine operational responsibility for Primary, Community, Mental Health and Acute Medical Services. This integration will provide a new organisation structure for governance, accountability and support to facilitate the integration of Secondary Care, Primary Care and Continuing Care Services. Furthermore, the national restructuring of Children and Family Services will also impact on CCCYPSC.

The NEWB are now charged with undertaking responsibility for developing a single, strategic approach to meeting the needs of children at risk of early school leaving or of developing attendance problems. This has resulted in two previously separate agencies integrating with the NEWB: the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL), the School Completion Programme (SCP).

1.3.3 Interagency Collaboration within the Current Economic Environment

Ireland has been in economic recession since 2008. Put simply, economic recession means the economy is contracting and there is a lesser amount of monetary support for jobs and services. This has impacted children and families two-fold:

- A greater number of children and families are experiencing social disadvantage due to unemployment and the sense of hopelessness that results from prolonged financial strain and lack of opportunity. This creates increased demand for support services. This is particularly acute for some of the most vulnerable segments of the local population such as young people at risk of leaving school early.
- At the same time, the funding available to support services for children and families has been reduced, which means that a greater number of children and families are being supported with less resources than were available in previous years. Among the many examples of this is the pending loss of the Visiting Teacher for Travellers and the post of interpreter for the Rohingya community which is still at an early stage of integration within the community with many needs emerging.

This is a double impact for the most at risk children and families in Carlow.

The economic environment has also had an impact on the capacity of organisations to engage in interagency work. Many CCCYPSC members feel that interagency work is now of greater importance, as it is effective in increasing efficiencies and making better use of more scarce resources. However, it is important that interagency work is seen as core to the delivery of business plans to maintain the current level of engagement of organisations and their representatives.

1.4 Plan Structure

The plan is structured as follows:

Section 2: Socio-demographic profile of Carlow

Section 3: Local needs analysis

Section 4: The Plan, including initiatives under each outcome

Section 5: Action plan

Section 6: Monitoring and review.

2 Socio-Demographic Profile of Carlow

This section presents a summary socio-demographic profile of Carlow with an emphasis on the age structure of the population, levels of disadvantage and identification of children and young people potentially at risk. It is based on the 2006 CSO census, labour force and vital statistics data and it makes reference to a number of supporting reports including:

- SIM Carlow Socio-Economic Profile 2009
- VEC Audit of Youth Work 2010
- County Carlow Development Plan 2009
- Key Profile for County Carlow (Pobal - Trutz Haase)
- The Needs of the Traveller Community in Co. Carlow: St. Catherine's Community Centre, 2006.

Although up to date birth rate and live register data has been obtained, census data presented in this section is based on the 2006 census and it is expected that some socio-demographic comparisons will have changed when Census 2011 results emerge.

The key points from this are:

- Population growth has been high over the last fifteen years
- The birth rate has been higher than the average rate across the state
- There is a higher youth demographic than average
- There is severe deprivation in pockets, mainly in Carlow town (including the Graiguecullen area) and Tullow
- Education levels are not quite at the levels nationally, with marginally higher than average numbers with primary education only and Lower than average mothers with third level education
- The number of Travellers reflects rates across the state, however they represent a very marginalised group in Carlow
- There are marginally higher numbers of children with a disability than nationally
- The lone parent rate is double the national average in some areas such as Carlow town, (including Graiguecullen) and Tullow town
- An ongoing mainstreaming strategy is required to continue to support the integration of the Rohingya community who have come from a very different cultural background.

Overall there are some pockets of extreme social disadvantage across the county, particularly in Carlow town (including Graiguecullen) and Tullow and within the Traveller and Rohingya communities.

It is within this challenging context that the strategic plan for the County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee has been prepared. These points are developed in detail in the following sections:

- County description
- Age profile
- Education
- Diversity
- Disability
- Disadvantage
- Children and young people at risk.

2.1 County Description

County Carlow is located in the south east region of the country, bordering counties Kilkenny, Laois, Wexford and Kildare. The principal towns are:

- Carlow
- Tullow
- Bagenalstown
- Hacketstown
- Borris

The map below illustrates the county, showing key towns and bordering counties.



Carlow town and county are linked to surrounding counties by road and to a number by rail. Carlow town is located just off the Dublin - Waterford Motorway (M9) which also gives access to Kilkenny City and is accessed by national routes serving Wexford and Tullow. The mainline Irish Rail service between Dublin and Waterford serves Carlow and Bagenalstown. Bus routes link Carlow town with the other towns in the county and various towns in Counties Kilkenny, Laois, Waterford, Wexford and Kildare.

The rural bus service 'Ring-a-Link' provides a targeted, affordable bus service in rural areas not served by the main bus services; although an assessment by the Development Partnership in 2007 determined that the service in the south and north east of the county may not be adequate.

Carlow is a vibrant town in many ways. The educational infrastructure includes 2 well-established third-level colleges with almost 5,000 students and 250 staff in total.

2.2 Population

Between 1996 and 2006 the population of Carlow grew from 41,616 to **50,349**, an increase of **21.0%**.

Ireland has experienced a population growth of 20.3% over the past 15 years, while Carlow has had a slightly higher rate of growth at **21.0%**. This is largely attributable to international and internal migration. During the 'Celtic Tiger' era of the early to mid 2000s, Carlow became part of the broader Dublin commuter belt. Many young families came to live in Carlow due to lower house prices, the rail service to Dublin and planned motorway developments.

2.3 Age Profile

The children and youth population to age 18 years is 13,049, which amounts to **25.9%** of the total population. The birth rate is almost one percentage point above the national average. This is possibly linked to the influx of young families in the 2000s.

Carlow and State Birth Rates: 2009 (Source CSO)

| Area | Population | Births | Rate | Per Thousand Population |
|---------------|------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| Carlow | 50,349 | 976 | 1.84% | 18.4 |
| State | 4,239,848 | 74,278 | 1.75% | 17.5 |

Carlow and State Age Profile: 2006 (Source CSO)

| Age Group | Carlow Total | State Total | Carlow Proportion | State Proportion |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Up to age 3 (0 to 3 years) | 3,105 | 242,633 | 6.2% | 5.7% |
| Up to age 6 (0 to 6 years) | 5,255 | 418,612 | 10.4% | 9.9% |
| Up to age 18 (0 to 18 years) | 13,409 | 1,094,360 | 25.9% | 25.8% |

Local electoral divisions by highest numbers of children and young people are shown in the table to follow:

Young people aged 0-18 Top 5 EDs in Carlow 2006 (Source CSO)

| ED | Number |
|--------------------|--------|
| Carlow Rural | 3,729 |
| Carlow Urban | 912 |
| Tullow Urban | 764 |
| Bagenalstown urban | 671 |
| Leighlinbridge | 439 |

There were 4,368 family units in Carlow in 2006 where all the children were under 15 years of age.

2.4 Education

There has been a continuous improvement in the level of education amongst adults over the past 15 years throughout Ireland. In 1991, 36.7% of the adult population had primary education only. This dropped to half that level (18.9%) in 2006. The primary school education only rate for County Carlow has fallen from 38.1% in 1991 to 20.1% in 2006. This is a reduction of 18.1 percentage points (compared to -17.8 percentage point nationally). Overall, there are fewer people with primary level education only nationally and in Carlow, though the numbers in Carlow are marginally higher than elsewhere in the state.

Mother's Education Level

Mother's education level is an important measure in relation to outcomes for children. Data for Carlow shows that in 2006, 28.6% of mothers of children under the age of 18 years had finished school early (i.e. their highest level of education was primary or lower secondary level).

Traveller children are even more disadvantaged with the vast majority completing primary level education only.

Mother's Education Level, 2006

(Source: OMCYA State of the Nation's Children – Ireland 2010 – based on CSO data)

| Area | Primary Only | Lower Secondary | Upper Secondary | Third Level | Not Stated |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Carlow – all children | 6.4% | 22.2% | 31.6% | 27.7% | 12.1% |
| State – all children | 6.3% | 20.8% | 32% | 30.6% | 10.3% |
| State – Traveller children | 59.9% | 11.4% | 2.2% | 0.9% | 26.7% |
| State – non national children | 5.3% | 14.9% | 25.2% | 30.7% | 23.9% |

Early School Leaving

The 2006 census data indicates that 12% of the population of County Carlow whose education had ceased left the education system at or before the age of 15 years compared to 11.9% in the State as a whole. This represents a significant decrease in the percentage population leaving school early, compared with previous years.

However, despite the considerable improvement at county level, there remain several rural areas where still considerable parts of the adult population have primary education only. Some of this may possibly be attributed to the age profile of these areas.

The rate of third level education has more than doubled over the past 15 years. In 1991, 13.0% of the national adult population had completed third level education. This grew to 30.5% in 2006. The proportion of Carlow's population with third level education has grown from 9.3% to 24.3%, a growth rate which is below the national rate (15.0% compared with 17.4%).

There are parts of County Carlow where the third level education rates are lower than the county average, e.g. Hacketstown (12.0%), Rathvilly (14.1%) and Ridge (14.9%), but none falling below the 10 per cent level.

The overall school attendance rates at primary and post-primary level for County Carlow for 2008 /2009 were higher than nationally, as can be seen from the comparisons of days missed and rates of pupils missing 20 days or more.

NEWB Comparison Figures 2008/2009

| Level | Days Missed | | 20+Days Absence | |
|--------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| | Carlow | State | Carlow | State |
| Primary | 5.9% | 6.3% | 11.1% | 11.8% |
| Post Primary | 7.5% | 7.9% | 16.1% | 17.2% |

Of the child and youth population (to age 18), there were 388 referrals to the National Education and Welfare Board across the county during the current school year (to date).

NEWB figures for County Carlow 2010/2011

| Referrals | Unexplained Absences | Expulsions | In Care | Special Needs - No School Place | Out of School – Pending Assessment |
|-----------|----------------------|------------|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 388 | 215 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

2.5 Disability

There were marginally more children with a disability in Carlow in 2006 than nationally.

Number of Children with a Disability in Carlow 2006

| Area | Children with a Disability | Total Children | % with a Disability |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| County Carlow | 552 | 12,668 | 4.4% |
| State | 42,021 | 1,036,034 | 4.1% |

2.6 Diversity

The population of Carlow is predominately white Irish, in line with Ireland in general. The proportion of Travellers (0.5%) is consistent with Ireland in general.

Ethnicity: Carlow 2006 (Source: CSO)

| Ethnicity | White Irish | White Irish Traveller | Other white | Black or Black Irish | Asian or Asian Irish | Other | Not stated | Total |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------|------------|-----------|
| Carlow Number | 44,497 | 268 | 3,204 | 345 | 319 | 432 | 831 | 49,896 |
| State Number | 3,645,199 | 22,369 | 289,041 | 44,318 | 52,345 | 46,438 | 72,303 | 4,172,013 |
| Carlow Proportion | 89.2% | 0.5% | 6.4% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 0.9% | 1.7% | 100.0% |
| State Proportion | 87.4% | 0.5% | 6.9% | 1.1% | 1.3% | 1.1% | 1.7% | 100.0% |

Members of the Traveller Community

According to the 2006 Census there were 267 Travellers living in County Carlow, 119 of whom were children.

Traveller Population in Carlow 2006 (Source CSO)

| Area | Number of Travellers | Number Travellers under 18 | Number of children | Traveller children as % of all children |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| County Carlow | 267 | 119 | 12,668 | 0.9% |
| State | 22,435 | 10,929 | 1,036,034 | 1.1% |

Nationally the Traveller population accounts for 0.5% of the population but 1.1% of the child population. The figures for Carlow are 0.5% and 0.9% respectively.

Integration and retention of Traveller children within the school system has improved in recent years through work at the St. Catherine's Pre School and elsewhere in Carlow. A survey by St. Catherine's Community Services Centre in 2008 found:

- 100% primary school enrolment of Traveller children
- Almost 100% transition to second level
- 5 Travellers sat Junior Certificates and 1 Traveller sat leaving Certificates in 2005

Rohingya Refugee Resettlement Programme

In 2009 a group of Rohingya Refugees were resettled in Carlow town as part of the UNHCR Resettlement Programme, through the Carlow Development Board structures. The Rohingya are a Muslim minority group originating in Western Burma. Prior to arriving in Carlow, the community spent a number of years in refugee camps in Bangladesh, having fled persecution.

Resettlement is being co-ordinated by an Interagency Steering Group under the Carlow County Development Board and led by St. Catherine's Community Services Centre. The Rohingya community is a Muslim minority group originating in Burma. The group arrived in Carlow in June 2009, consisting of 23 adults and 41 children and young people and five babies have been born since then. The Rohingya community now consists of 69 people.

Age Profile on Arrival

| Age | Number |
|------------------|-----------|
| Adults (over 18) | 23 |
| Teenagers 13-18 | 14 |
| Children 2-12 | 23 |
| Babies (Under 2) | 4 |
| Total | 64 |

Age Profile Now

| Age | Number |
|------------------|-----------|
| Adults (over 18) | 27 |
| Teenagers 13-18 | 16 |
| Children 2-12 | 22 |
| Babies (Under 2) | 5 |
| Total | 69 |

The resettlement programme has worked to support the Rohingya community to begin to integrate into the local community, supporting referrals into the various state and voluntary services.

As the funding for resettlement comes to an end, the Rohingya Community and the Steering Committee will be required to grapple with the ongoing challenge of full integration and participation within the wider community of Carlow. Communication with health and education service providers will be greatly hampered when the intercultural worker post ceases at the end of June 2011. This is especially difficult for the adults in the community. Post traumatic stress issues will also present challenges as the basic needs for food and shelter have now been met and underlying mental health difficulties are starting to emerge.

2.7 Disadvantage

This section examines levels of disadvantage across Carlow, including:

- Deprivation levels and associated development programmes
- Unemployment
- Lone Parents
- Minority Groups

Deprivation Levels and Associated Development Programmes

Carlow has balanced affluence/poverty according to the Trutz Haase analysis of the 2006 census.

Deprivation levels are highest in the following EDs:

- Graiguecullen urban (-12.8), which is also part of Carlow town
- Carlow Urban/Rural (-11.7)
- Coonogue (-11.7)
- Hacketstown (-11.5)

RAPID Programme

The RAPID Programme (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development), which is led by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, aims to improve the quality of life and the opportunities available to residents of the most disadvantaged communities in Irish cities and towns. It does this through targeting Government resources at the needs of these disadvantaged areas in order to improve local services and facilities.

The Tullow Road area in Carlow town and the whole of the Graiguecullen ED which is part of Carlow town, have been designated as RAPID areas. The Carlow Area Implementation Team (AIT), consisting of local State Agency personnel, the local Partnership Company and resident representatives, has drawn up a plan to address the needs of the RAPID areas in Carlow. The Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Working Group of the County Development Board acts as the County Monitoring Group for RAPID, and has an input into drawing up the local plan and ensuring delivery of services. The RAPID Co-ordinator for Carlow ensures that the plan for each area is reviewed regularly and works with the local community to maintain an audit of local needs, sees how best to tackle problems and ensures a co-ordinated delivery of services and investments. The Co-ordinator is also instrumental in organising and assisting the Carlow Area implementation Team.

CLÁR Programme

In the rural areas of the County 10 EDs were designated as eligible for the CLAR programme on the basis of a 35% population decline over the period 1926-2002. The majority of these EDs (8) are situated in the South of the County, while the remaining 2 are in the North East of the County. While the overall population in the CLAR area of Carlow increased by 7% in the 2002-2006 period, this was relatively low when compared to population increases recorded for Carlow (9.4%) and the State (8.2%). This highlights the ongoing need for interventions and services in the remote rural areas in the County.

Unemployment

Rising levels of unemployment in Carlow are impacting opportunities for young people and families in general. The numbers of people on the live register nationally are now at 443,400 (May 2011) which is a four year increase of 40% since before the recession began in early 2008 (live register numbers were 181,449 in January 2008). Of the 443,400, 55% are long term unemployed (INOU, 2011).

Unemployment figures which refer to adults in the workforce and seeking employment have increased in that period from 4.6% at the end of 2007 rising to 14.8% at the end of May 2011 (14.1% for the first quarter of 2011 – CSO Household Survey). Many of those unemployed have a number of dependents so the actual number of people impacted directly by unemployment in the country is far in excess of the 14.8% figure (i.e. children and young people dependents).

The recent live register figure for Carlow for May 2011 is 6,835 of these, 1,433 are under 25 years of age. The table below presents breakdown of these figures by social welfare local offices across Carlow (SWLO):

Live Register Figures – May 2011 (Source: CSO)

| SWLO | Live Register Figure |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Bagenalstown | 1,644 |
| Carlow | 3,719 |
| Tullow | 1,472 |
| Total | 6,835 |

Very significant increases in numbers joining the live register occurred during 2008 and 2009, as shown in the table to follow which traces year on year changes in live register figures across Carlow.

Annual Live Register Increases (Source: CSO)

| SWLO | May-08 | May-09 | May-10 | May-11 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bagenalstown | 52.9% | 104.1% | 23.8% | -3.8% |
| Carlow | 55.0% | 79.1% | 16.7% | -0.8% |
| Tullow | 42.8% | 101.1% | 10.6% | -5.6% |
| Total | 51.7% | 89.3% | 16.9% | -2.6% |

Actual figures for each of May of each year from 2007 to 2011 are presented in appendix 3.

Lone Parents

In 2006, **21.3%** of households nationally were headed by a lone parent. The overall rate for Carlow reflects the national average; however there are significantly higher levels of lone parent households in some areas such as:

- Carlow Urban/Rural **40.8%**
- Graigue urban **38%**
- Tullow urban **30.5%**

Overall, there are 2,077 lone parent households in Carlow, with 2,248 children; 85% headed by lone mothers, 15% headed by lone fathers.

Research by OPEN and the Combat Poverty Agency shows that lone parents are at significant social disadvantage:

- They are at risk of consistent poverty (census 2006 shows that 33% of lone parent families are living in consistent poverty, compared to 7% of the population as a whole)
- They have low levels of educational attainment (47% of lone parents under 35 have Junior Certificate or equivalent level only), as a result, in many cases, lone parents only have access to low paid employment
- They often experience a sense of isolation due to financial and personal constraints that affect their ability to socialise and lack of family support
- They may be stigmatised and discriminated against by some public service providers
- They are more likely to access local authority housing (approximately 38% of people on housing lists are lone parents)

Minority Groups

The key minority groups in Carlow are:

- Members of the Traveller Community, and
- Members of the Rohingya Community.

These are both very disadvantaged groups with significant children and family support needs.

2.8 Children and Young People at Risk

In May 2011 there were 380 current live child protection/welfare cases in County Carlow, which equates to over 60 cases on average per social worker. The Social Work Team is part of Carlow Kilkenny Social Work Department which is managed by a Principal Social Worker. The Carlow HSE Social Work Service is delivered by two team leaders, six social work posts and two community childcare leaders.

There are currently 95 children in foster care across County Carlow, of which 66 are from the county and the remaining 29 are from outside the county. Most children in care are in family and relative foster care placements. There are a very small number of children from Carlow in residential care.

In 2009 329 referrals were made to the Garda Diversion Programme for children in County Carlow. In 2010 383 referrals were made.

Latest mortality by age and county CSO figures date back to 2008 and show that the total deaths of children and young people in Carlow aged up to 19 years was 7 persons. This amounts to 1.3% of the national total of 535 for that year.

2008 Mortality Rates (Source CSO)

| Age Group | Under 1 year | 1 - 4 years | 5 - 9 years | 10 - 14 years | 15 - 19 years | All ages |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Carlow | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 327 |
| State | 284 | 52 | 28 | 40 | 131 | 28,274 |

Neonatal and Infant Mortality Rates, 2009 (Source: CSO)

| Group | Carlow | State |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Neonatal (under 28 days) | 3 (3.1 per thousand) | 169 (2.3 per thousand) |
| Infant (under 12 months) | 3 (3.1 per thousand) | 240 (3.2 per thousand) |

Although most child and infant mortality can be attributed to serious medical conditions, in some cases social factors contribute to the progression of a medical condition. In some other cases death results from accidental or other events.

Avoiding the risk of otherwise avoidable child and neonatal deaths is a key focus of this plan.

3 Local Needs Analysis

This section summarises the current status of children and young people in Carlow, highlighting the main concerns and issues arising from the demographic profile of the county and the overview of services.

It is structured according to seven priority needs under four of the five abridged outcomes for children.

| Outcome That all children are: | Local Priority Need |
|--|---|
| 1. Healthy, both physically and mentally | 1.1. Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing |
| | 1.2 Promoting healthy lifestyles |
| 2. Supported in active learning | 2.1 Reducing early school leaving |
| | 2.2 School Attendance of Traveller Children |
| | 2.3 Integration of children with special needs in mainstream environments |
| 3. Safe from accidental and intentional harm | 3.1 Child welfare |
| 5. Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / included and participating in society. | 5.1 Parenting support |
| | 5.2 Rohingya resettlement |
| | 5.3 Community facility Tullow Road |

The other outcome (outcome 4) that all children and young people are economically secure is not directly addressed in this plan; however it is a core theme that runs through the priorities selected.

Mapping of Services - Notes

As part of the service mapping element of the planning process, listings of services and supports that are available for children, young people and their families in Carlow. This is shown in a separate document which will continue to be adapted and updated in the coming months. Service mapping information was gathered as part of the consultation process, from relevant reports and websites. This work began using the OMCYA recommended Hardiker model, however CCCYPSC found that for a number of services, particularly the non HSE services, did not fit easily within levels defined in this model, largely due to the range of interventions provided by a number of services who work across the continuum.

Furthermore, challenges were also experienced in assessing how the services identified are responding to needs. In other words, services may be in place but determining levels of public awareness and demand, challenges experienced and quality offered was not possible within the timeframe and resources available to the committee.

Therefore, while the information gathered proved very useful, it was decided that further and ongoing work is required to comprehensively map services in the county. The committee is committed to this work and will work with the OMCYA to continue to refine how the data collected is analysed. The information collated was used to inform the local needs analysis which is presented in this section.

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Local Priority 1.1: Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing

In Carlow, services to support positive mental health and wellbeing for children and young people are provided by a range of statutory and voluntary agencies. In the sphere of education and schools, a number of programmes to support children and young people have been developed and delivered locally. Group and individual programmes have been rolled out by various agencies to respond to issues arising for children and young people. The role of youth work, sports and group participation, is central to supporting people to be mentally strong. These groups also play a vital role in supporting people to access services and supports.

However, concerns exist. There is often a stigma attached to seeking help and support to address mental health issues. There can also be a lack of awareness of services that are in place, and the centralisation of these services in Carlow town, can be a barrier for many living in rural parts of the county.

Figures from the dedicated youth counselling service Folláine (2008) indicate that young people are seeking support especially around anxiety/depression and self confidence. While specific figures for youth suicide for the county are not available, the national figures show that 23.1% of all deaths in children 10 – 17 years in Ireland are through suicide and anecdotal information suggests that this reflects patterns in County Carlow.

There have been youth suicides in County Carlow which has raised concerns and highlighted the need for mental health supports. This was highlighted consistently throughout the consultations. How agencies respond when incidents occur is very important for all concerned but particularly for the friends and acquaintances of the young person involved.

The Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Working Group of the CDB plays a leading role in co-ordinating mental health responses and the recent amalgamation of the Carlow Interagency Suicide Awareness Group and the Carlow Mental Health Association will further strengthen the work being done. Active engagement of CCCYPSC members in these forums provides a key opportunity to ensure that children and youth needs are included in county wide plans and service delivery.

CCCYPSC are aware that the Jigsaw model (supported through Headstrong) is being rolled out in a number of areas. The committee is actively considering this model as part of its work to promote mental health and wellbeing in Carlow.

The consultation exercise highlighted the following local service gaps:

- There is no core funding for youth work in Carlow – funding prioritises works with specific targeted groups of young people and is vulnerable to further reductions.
- Young people from rural areas have problems accessing regular and affordable transport into the urban areas to access the services available. This results in low participation rates of rural youth to the services.
- Addiction issues pose a serious problem facing children and young people in Carlow – both the effect on the safety and well-being of children whose parent/s have addictions and also that of the young people experiencing alcohol and drug addictions.
- In a CANDO Community Partnership study in 2006, 77% of the total sample of teenagers in County Carlow had tried alcohol. Average ages for first time alcohol consumption were higher in rural settings and amongst Traveller young people, 22% of the total sample of 12-18 year olds has used drugs.

Other themes that emerged were:

- Increase in violence in relationships
- Necessity for more counselling for young people
- Dearth of family support

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Local Priority 1.2 Promoting healthy lifestyles

Childhood obesity is acknowledged as a growing problem in most developed countries. The 2009 OMYCA / TCD/ ESRI 'Growing Up in Ireland' study 2009 found one in four 3 year olds and 9 year olds were overweight or obese. The 2010 WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative, in which Ireland participated, showed that 13% of seven-year-old boys were overweight and a further 5% obese, while 19% of girls were overweight with a further 7% obese.

Increase in levels of obesity in childhood may be partially attributable to the sedentary lives of children (and their parents) in this generation. In addition many girls lose interest in sports activities coming into their teenage years.

There is a wide range of well established sporting clubs in County Carlow from mainstream GAA, soccer and rugby to minority clubs such as martial arts, rowing and archery. There are also a great number of community groups that organise physical activity sessions, e.g. family resource centres.

The County Carlow Sports Partnership has been operating to increase participation in sports and physical activities throughout the County since 2005 and has worked with the Carlow Regional Youth Services to provide activities not catered to by the traditional sports clubs. It has also done an audit of clubs and facilities around the county and provides a directory on its website. The Sports Partnership is particularly targeting girls and women as participation in sports falls off when girls reach adolescence.

The Sports Partnership works to provide training and resources to those working on the ground with children and young people, from pre-school workers, schools and youth workers. It employs a Disability Officer to address the needs of children and young people with disabilities. This role also works directly with young people and in partnership with service providers.

The HSE Health Promotion Unit works with the Sports Partnership in the area of exercise and also provides services around food and nutrition, providing a wide range of information and training to parents and those working with children and young people. It provides training to teachers and childcare workers, parents and community groups.

Schools and various afterschool programmes provide education on healthy eating and lifestyle and DEIS schools are funded to provide healthy meals to the pupils.

Therefore, a number of opportunities exist to support children, young people and their families to promote healthier lifestyles in Carlow.

Outcome 2: Supported in active learning

Local Priority 2.1 Early school leaving reduction

The formal educational infrastructure consists of:

- 48 pre-schools
- 41 primary schools, of which 6 are in the DEIS programme (2 in Carlow town and 1 each in Garryhill, Hacketstown, Bilboa and Crettyard)
- 11 post-primary schools, of which 2 are in the DEIS programme (Carlow and Bagenalstown Vocational Schools)
- 1 special school and
- 2 third level colleges.

The Vocational Education Committee, Carlow Regional Youth Services, St. Catherine's Community Centre, family resource centres and the Community Development Project all provide additional education to early school leavers and those returning to education. Two School Completion Programmes based in Carlow Vocational School and in Tullow Community College work with Home School Liaison service and the National Education and Welfare Board to address problems with school attendance at primary and post-primary level.

While a range of initiatives exist to support retention in school, there are core complexities in ensuring that all children maximise educational opportunities from pre-school to adult learning. This is due to a number of factors many of which were raised in the consultation such as:

- Parental motivation is a major factor in school attendance
- School leaving age is too low
- There is no provision for children who are out of school
- There were no Asperser's Spectrum Disorders units in secondary schools in Carlow town (one is scheduled to open in Knockbeg College in September 2011)
- The increase in the cost of PLCs makes them inaccessible to many
- Some young people are tempted to leave school to avail of a training allowance
- There are long waiting lists for the Youthreach programme
- There is a lack of clarity about criteria for entry to youth training programmes
- There is a lack of co-ordination of provision for early school leavers and those working in school attendance
- There are no educational opportunities for 13 to 15 year olds that are expelled from school, until they are 15 years old. Often if students remain on home tuition for this two year period, they then get bored and do not do the Junior Certificate.

The CCCYPSC are keen to ensure that children have the best possible educational outcomes. Young people who leave school early are a particular concern. Collaborations between the schools, NEWB, and community support services are key to ensure that all opportunities to retain and respond to the educational needs of children at risk of leaving school early are met.

The County Carlow Development Partnership is currently developing their Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) strategic plan. School retention is likely to form part of this strategy. The Partnership is not currently represented on the committee but the committee is seeking a representative to join the committee, as it is important that there is a strong link between the work of the Partnership and that of the CCCYPSC.

Outcome 2: Supported in active learning

Local Priority 2.2 Traveller Children and Young People

There is a core Traveller population in Carlow of 168 families and a transient Traveller population of approximately 30 other families. The majority of Traveller families live in the Carlow town area, with a smaller number of families based around Tullow. Other individual families are scattered throughout the county. In recent years Travellers who previously lived on the roadside now live in private rented accommodation for various periods of time but the majority of families have settled in more long-term accommodation.

Census figures show a Traveller child population in County Carlow of 119 in 2006, 0.95% of the total child population in the county. Traveller children participation in Carlow has been quite successful with 100% enrolment in primary school and almost 100% transfer to secondary level. In 2009/2010 11 Traveller children sat the Junior Certificate, though there were no candidates for the Leaving Certificate.

There is a Traveller Interagency Strategy committee under the auspices of the CDB. The committee will link and work with this committee in developing responses to Traveller children, young people and parents in Carlow.

A number of issues in relation to the education emerged in consultations:

- The abolition of the role of the Visiting Teacher for is a major cause of concern in Carlow. The Visiting Teacher has been the significant factor in supporting Traveller children attending school. The remit of the NEWB begins at six years so the enrolling of children at pre-school and primary school level will not be supported. It is feared that the support given by the VTT to Traveller children will erode many years of work to increase Traveller participation in education.
- The early enrolment for Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) in pre-schools has meant that transient families arriving after the summer find that all the ECCE places are booked up and places are not available for their children.
- In the region of 50% of Traveller children do not attend schools with Home School Liaison/School Completion Programme services, which could provide valuable supports to school attendance and educational achievement.
- The training allowance for the FAS Youthreach Programmes can make it a more attractive option to some young people than staying in post-primary school.

Outcome 2: Supported in active learning

Local Priority 2.3 Integration of children with special needs

There are a number of well established childcare facilities in Carlow. However access to pre-school for children with special needs can be challenging at present. A review of the HSE Disability Services National Review of Autism Services, Past, Present & Way Forward, 2010 and the Report of the National Reference Group on Multi-disciplinary Disciplinary Services for children 0-18yrs', (Dec 2009) identifies that there a need to:

- Facilitate children with special needs to experience the mainstream pre-school environment
- Support children attending specialised day care service to integrate into the mainstream on a part-time basis

These needs are echoed locally. Relationships between disability and mainstream pre-school education services are becoming even stronger through the work of the committee. This plan provides an opportunity to continue to promote the integration of children with disabilities into mainstream provision.

Outcome 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm

Local Priority 3.1 Child Welfare

HSE Child Welfare and Protection Services work to promote positive change in the lives of children and families by providing services for children and families. Social workers respond to children who are not receiving adequate care and protection. As was highlighted earlier in this plan, in May 2011 there were 380 current live child protection / welfare cases in County Carlow.

There are currently 95 children in foster care across County Carlow, of which 66 are from the county and the remaining 29 are from outside the county. Most children in care are in family and relative foster care placements. There are a small number of children from Carlow in residential care.

The following issues were raised during the consultation process:

- The prevalence and challenges presented by 14 - 17 year olds with difficult behaviour.
- The non-inclusion of social workers on primary care teams
- The lack of aftercare for young people leaving care at 18 years of age. Social workers supporting the foster care placement work with the young person to make a plan for when the care placement finishes. The young person is very vulnerable at this stage and there is concern for how they will cope with no formal support structure in place.
- The lack of supported lodgings for young people who do not necessarily need a care place but need a safe place in which to stay on a less structured basis.
- The lack of resources around recruitment, assessment and ongoing training for foster carers.

The issue of child safety arose in the consultations with children in primary school when they were asked about what helped them engage in out-of-school activities. A number of children cited the need to feel safe. This strongly emphasises the need for proper training and vetting of those working with children and young people and ensuring that all organisations comply with the child protection guidelines set down in Children First. As the new Children's First Guidelines are coming on stream, there is a real opportunity to continue to promote best practice throughout Carlow.

Outcome5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / included and participating in society

Priority Area 5.1 Parenting Support

The issue of parenting is central to the achievement of all the positive outcomes for children. It is the experience of many parents and service providers that the rearing of children is a highly complex journey and subject to ever-increasing pressures in modern Ireland, particularly arising from the impact of the recession. The stakeholders consulted highlighted that working with parents is a vital component of responding to the needs of their children and young people. The importance of real, meaningful engagement was highlighted consistently. All strategies need to ensure that they are based on the premise of empowering and supporting parents, rather than disempowering which leads to dependence.

In Carlow there is a range of providers offering a broad range of supports and programmes to parents at all stages of the parenting and in addressing specific experiences and problems:

- The HSE Parent Support Programme supports parenting by providing one-to-one home visits to 57 families (82 children in total) in Carlow town. They provide the evidence based Lifestart Parenting programme.
- The Public Health Nurse programme also offers parenting support at a weekly clinic in Carlow town and at a number of Health Centres throughout the county.
- The HSE Primary Care Psychology Service run parent workshops on particular issues, which are available to the general public and a drop-in service for individual parenting support.
- The HSE Fostering Team also provides parenting support to foster carers
- Barnardos provide a wide range of support to parents and families in Carlow town: Group parenting using Parent Plus Programme (65 parents attended in 2010), individual intensive parenting and family support, supported parent & toddler groups and a drop-in information service
- Various community and voluntary services provide group parenting and specialised services such as Barnardos provide one-to-one parenting support to client families.
- The Garda Junior Liaison Officer also offers parenting support for parents whose children have been referred to Garda Diversion Programme.
- The Teen Parent Support Programme provides offers support to teenage parents throughout their pregnancy and for the first 2 years of the baby's life.

Themes emerging from the consultation included:

- It is felt that the proliferation and non coordination of parenting programmes throughout the county may be wasteful of resources.
- Parenting of teenagers was raised repeatedly and the fact that, while there is a great range of programmes for the parents of younger children, the types of support and help needed by parents of teenagers is different.
- Support for parents of children who may have emerging special needs is required to ensure that they avail of relevant mainstream and specialist services for themselves and their children
- Access to parent and toddler groups can be difficult for some, especially in rural areas.
- There is a need in some areas for more family support
- Support services and schools can have difficulty in engaging parents who most need support
- Addictions are regarded a serious issue impairing parenting practices.

Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community/ included and participating in society

Local Priority 5.2 Rohingya Community Resettlement

In June 2009 a group of 64 Rohingya refugees were resettled in Carlow town on a UNHCR resettlement programme, through the Carlow Development Board structures. The community were regarded as very vulnerable by international organisations, having experienced human rights violations prior to their evacuation to Bangladesh. They experienced difficulties in meeting their basic needs in Bangladesh and on arrival in Ireland were a very high need and culturally different group

The cultural transition to Ireland for this minority group has been enormous:

- Their language is very different and interpretation has been essential
- School attendance, especially for the older children has been hugely challenging, many of whom had never attended school before
- The age of male maturity (adulthood) is regarded as occurring on reaching puberty.
- Gender roles are very different with males 'in charge' of females, extending to different sexual norms, i.e. an expectation of sexual relations as a male right from a female partner

Some of the above differences have led to significant integration difficulties as acceptable practices, particularly relating to age and sexual norms within the Rohingya community, which can contravene Irish law. Furthermore, as basic needs are now being met mental health issues are emerging due to post-traumatic stress from earlier persecution and refugee experiences.

The Rohingya resettlement programme has been managed by the Carlow CDB Interagency Resettlement Committee employing two resettlement workers and an interpreter based in St. Catherine's Community Services Centre who have played a key role in this resettlement programme.

It is felt the following interventions have supported integration of Rohingya children and young people:

- Childcare in St. Catherine's Centre has been very successful in addressing needs of both parents and children
- Youth activities in Carlow Regional Youth Services, .e.g. cricket team
- Parenting support in Barnardos, particularly in supporting parents around parenting issues

The following issues were raised during the consultation process:

- European refugee support funding will cease in June 2012. Work has started on mainstreaming strategy but here is a need to provide training for all support services.
- If parents don't have access to English language training, smaller children will not be exposed to the same level of English as would otherwise occur. This is likely to have a substantial impact on their language development at this crucial time, impacting opportunities to support English language acquisition from preschool attendance.
- Funding for the interpreter post is due to finish in June 2011. This will result in refugees being unable to access many essential services, especially older people who have not acquired sufficient mastery of English.
- There are serious child protection issues and legal issues around sexual rights of girls and young women.
- The balance of integration versus preservation of cultural identity can be difficult.
- The prevalence of mental health problems has been high.
- The prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse issues has been high.
- Language barriers exist in addressing mental health problems.

Outcome5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community/ included and participating in society

Local Priority 5.3 Community Facility Tullow Road

The Tullow Road area has been a rapidly developing, with significant pockets of deprivation. The need has been identified by all the agencies working in the area for a facility which would allow increased provision of a range of support services appropriate to the needs of children and young people in their community – such as preschools, youth services and other supports.

Although services provide supports for children and families living in the Tullow Road area this facility is needed to provide a local base for service provision, to provide more services, to support collaborative service provision and to create a sense of community. A feasibility study is commencing, which is supported by the County Carlow Development Partnership, local authority, and other stakeholders.

The consultations raised issues and concerns:

- Intensive services are required to fulfil the needs of children, young people and their families in the Tullow Road area
- Despite plans to develop this facility, the current economic climate is creating uncertainty. Stakeholders are clear that this facility is required to respond to the service demands in this area. Continued absence of this facility could lead to greater social problems.

4 The Plan

The CCCYPSC plan consists of seven key priorities. Within the seven key priorities there are 31 key objectives.

The plan is based on:

- National reports and data
- Analysis of the demographic profile of the county
- The services and service gaps identified through the planning process
- The consultation process as part of the planning process.

This is the first plan of the CCYPSC. While it is acknowledged that other priorities also exist, the committee endeavoured to ensure at this point, that the key priorities are enacted. The plan will be regularly reviewed and monitored, where it is anticipated that adjustments will be made to respond to emerging and new priorities.

4.1 Actions

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. Healthy, both physically and mentally | 1.1 Mental health and wellbeing | <p>CCCYPSC are committed to promoting mental health and wellbeing amongst children and young people in Carlow. They will work closely with the newly forming Carlow Mental Health Association, which is linked to the CDB. CCCYPSC aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of services and supports • Reduce stigma attached to mental health services • Expand service provision • Up-skill service providers • Gather information and data • Collaborate and dovetail the work with key service providers | 1. Promote positive mental health amongst young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the trainers on Mind Matters programmes |
| | | | 2. Support all those impacted by a sudden traumatic incident and link them into appropriate services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a multi disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team • Support schools, statutory and voluntary sector organisations to develop Critical Incident Plans |
| | | | 3. Extend the availability of Youth Counselling outside of Carlow town | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Folláine Counselling services to rural towns in Carlow |
| | | | 4. Use web technology to promote mental health services in Carlow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a website for CCCYPSC which has information of mental health services available |
| | | | 5. Map and develop appropriate referral routes for 6-12 year olds who have behavioural or mental health problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map referral routes for 6-12 year olds who require mental health services |
| | | | 6. Link and work with substance misuse services to develop responses for children, young people and families with addiction issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly identify needs and responses based on evidence based approaches. |

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1.2 Promoting healthy lifestyles | In line with national concerns, stakeholders in Carlow are concerned that there are a number of children, young people and families who are not leading healthy lifestyles. This is resulting in poor nutrition, obesity and illness. | 1. Collect and analyse data relating to the levels of childhood obesity in Carlow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research obesity levels amongst children in Carlow |
| | | | 2. Support parents and early years providers to have a better understanding of food allergies and intolerances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to parents regarding food allergies and intolerances |
| | | | 3. Develop a structure to pilot practical programmes with the aim of increasing physical activity for children and young people, using existing resources available | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up subgroup to co-ordinate the services being provided and maximise benefit from existing resources |
| 2. Supported in active learning | 2.1 Preventing Early School Leaving | Increasing educational outcomes is central to breaking cycles of poverty and disadvantage. This committee want to ensure that children and young people in Carlow have equality of access and retention in education from pre-school to adult learning. | 1. Retention of more children in second-level and encourage their continuation in education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the transfer of children at risk of leaving school early from primary schools with targeted supports to secondary schools with targeted supports. |
| | | | 2. Document the work of school retention initiatives to help inform other schools of the process used to support children to remain in school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion document on the work and process of targeted supports |
| | 2.2 School Attendance of Traveller Children | Progress is being made through targeted interventions to support educational participation. CCCYPSC are keen that children who | 1. Develop a clear understanding of the value of education among Traveller parents and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate into existing and newly developing training programmes |

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | experience supports through these interventions, continue to avail of these supports as they progress through education. | 2. Promote the greatest possible participation in education by both Traveller parents and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise opportunities to promote the value of children's education through Traveller education and training programmes particularly those targeting Traveller fathers. |
| | | They are also aware that children with disabilities and Traveller children require targeted supports to ensure equality of access and participation. | 3. Document the impact of the loss of the Visiting Teacher for Travellers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion document outlining the impact of the loss of the VTT on school attendance and participation in Carlow |
| | 2.3 Integration of children with special needs in mainstream environments | The priorities for this plan are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people at risk of leaving school early Traveller children and Children with a disability | 1. Facilitate children with special needs to experience the mainstream pre-school environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure TUS staff as SNAs to work in mainstream pre-schools across Carlow with children with special needs. |
| | | | 2. Support children attending specialised day care service to integrate into mainstream pre-schools on a part-time basis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Holy Angels and pre-schools to support children to attend both specialist and mainstream services |
| 3. Safe from accidental and intentional harm | 3.1 Child welfare | Ensure that all children in Carlow are safe, secure and protected from harm is a key priority for the CCCYPSC. The committee will learn from best practice in other areas, and promote quality protection and | 1. Analyse data re children in care in context of electoral divisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather and analyse detailed data regarding children in care in Carlow Link with the National Association of Young People in Care |
| | | | 2. To support children to be cared for in their own homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a family welfare conference service |

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| | | intervention services to children most at risk. Responding to the needs of children in care is of paramount importance. CCCYPSC will develop mechanisms to ensure that the voice of this most vulnerable group of children are engaged with and listened to by stakeholders to inform their work. | <p>3. Development of guidelines for effective sharing of relevant and appropriate information – protocols for interagency work</p> <p>4. Develop pathways for referrals for more relevant use of services.</p> <p>5. Promote full implementation of the Children’s First Guidelines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop information sharing protocols • Develop and inform service providers of the pathways for referrals to support children at risk • Train staff in statutory, and voluntary sector organisations that work with children and young people to become aware of the new Children’s First Guidelines • Ensure that all adults working with children, either in statutory or voluntary sector organisations are Garda vetted |
| 5. Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours / included and participating in society | 5.1 Parenting support | CCCYPSC will work with parents to ensure that they have the information, advice and support they require. This will help to ensure that they are fully empowered to carry | 1. Coordination of parenting programmes throughout the county | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a database of programmes available in Carlow • Clarify the criteria for programmes that are available |

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|----------|------------|---|---|--|
| | | out their role as carers and educators. | 2. Research new ways of engaging with and providing support for parents of teenagers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore models that are available to support parents of teenagers • Implement a targeted programme |
| | | | 3. Develop models of individual parenting support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with the Barnardos programme which is currently begin rolled out • Learn from this programme as a possible way for other agencies to work with parents |
| | | | 4. To maximise informal parenting support drawing on existing resources (such as parent and toddler groups) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for facilitators of parent and toddler groups |
| | | | 5. To support parents of children with emerging needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inclusive policies and practices for parent and toddler groups |
| | | | 6 Support teenagers with disabilities to participate in mainstream youth education/training activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Map and create an awareness of the opportunities for teenagers to participate in mainstream youth education/training and social activities |
| | | | 7. Support DESSA to implement training with parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise DESSA training programmes |

| Outcomes | Priorities | Rationale | Objectives | Actions |
|----------|--|---|---|---|
| | 5.2 Rohingya resettlement | The CCCYPSC aim to ensure that the Rohingya community access the specific services and support they require to integrate fully into the community. Their distinct needs are extremely challenging to meet given the limited resources and complex issues that face the Rohingya community. The CCCYPSC will support the work of the resettlement committee in Carlow. | 1.Support the transition from settling in to increased involvement and participation of the Rohingya children and young people (0 -18) in the Community of Carlow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the resettlement committee to progress its work • Support the integration of the Rohingya community into mainstream services • Progress opportunities to ensure that children (under 3) have every opportunity to develop English language skills |
| | 5.3 Community facility for Tullow Road | The Tullow Road area, is home to large numbers of young families. There is no dedicated community facility in this area. Plans to establish a facility which will provide services, support and build a stronger community for people living in this part of Carlow town, is actively supported by CCCYPSC. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the work of the interagency group to establish a community facility on the Tullow Road so that Children have access to a range of support services appropriate to their needs in their community 2. Link and work with HSE and RAPID to apply for location of a SpringBoard Family Support Initiative in Tullow Road Rapid area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the completion of the feasibility study • Implement the outcomes of the study. • Use data collected for Children and Young People’s Plan to support an application for the SpringBoard Initiative to be located on the Tullow Road |

4.2 Responsibility

The tracking table to follow lists the agency responsible for leading each of the objectives (initiatives). Organisations have committed to including relevant objectives/actions into their agency plans to ensure that progress is made. It is intended that CCCYPSC fully promote the role and work of committee on an ongoing basis. The development of a website is planned.

The committee is fully committed to continuing to engage with children and young people through Comhairle na nÓg, Carlow Regional Youth Service, local schools and through other identified groups. The committee will ensure that the voices of children in care and children with a disability are included in this process. The committee also intends to develop mechanisms to engage with parents to create awareness and input into the work of the committee. Ensuring that an urban/rural balance and socio-economic balance is maintained through consultation is a key commitment of the group.

A detailed action plan follows in section 5. This sets out indicators of success, target, activities, timeframe, responsibility and links to other plans for each objective (initiative). Plans relating to change management are presented in section 6.

Initiative Tracking Table

| Priority Area | Objectives / Initiatives | Responsibility | Status |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.1 Mental health | 1. Promote positive mental health and wellbeing amongst children and young people | CRYS + Barnardos | Member |
| | 2. Support all those impacted by a sudden traumatic incident and link them into appropriate services | Carlow Mental Health Association | Non member |
| | 3. Extend the availability of Youth Counselling outside of Carlow town. | CRYS | Member |
| | 4. Use web technology to promote mental health services in Carlow | CCCYPSC | Co-ordinator |
| | 5. Map appropriate referral routes for 6-12 year olds who have behavioural or mental health problems | HSE | Member |
| | 6. Link and work with substance misuse services to ensure provision of support services to children and young people from families with addiction issues | CRYS | Member |
| 1.2 Promotion of healthy lifestyles | 1. Collect and analyse data relating to the levels of childhood obesity in Carlow | HSE Health Promotion | Non-member |
| | 2. Support parents and early years providers to have a better understanding of food allergies and intolerances | County Childcare Committee | Member |
| | 3. Develop a structure to pilot practical programmes with the aim of increasing physical activity for children and young people, using existing resources available | CCCYPSC | Co-ordinator |
| 2.1 Early School Leaving | 1. Retention of more children in second-level and encourage their continuation in education | Schools | Member |
| | 2. Document the work and process of the school completion programme (SCP) – to share this learning about working with vulnerable students with schools who don't have an SCP | Vocational Education Committee | Member |

| Priority Area | Objectives / Initiatives | Responsibility | Status |
|---|--|--|------------------------|
| 2.2 School Attendance of Traveller Children | 1. Develop a clear understanding of the value of education in all areas of their lives amongst Traveller parents and children. | Traveller Interagency Group | Non-member |
| | 2. Promote the greatest possible participation in education by both Traveller parents and children | Traveller Interagency Group + E.W.O. | Member |
| | 3. Document the impact of the loss of the Visiting Teacher for Travellers | St. Catherine's | Member |
| 2.3 Integration of children with special needs in mainstream environments | 1. Facilitate children with special needs to experience the mainstream pre-school environment. | CCCYPSC + County Development Partnership | Co-ordinator Member |
| | 2. Support children attending specialised day care service to integrate into the mainstream on a part-time basis | HSE Disability Service | Member |
| | 3. Support early years providers to provide services to children with special needs | County Childcare Committee | Member |
| 3.1 Child welfare | 1. Analyse data re children in care in context of electoral divisions | HSE Childcare Section | Member |
| | 2. To support children to be cared for in their own homes | HSE Childcare Section | Member |
| | 3. Development of guidelines for effective sharing of relevant and appropriate information – protocols for interagency work | CCCYPSC + HSE | Member |
| | 4. Develop pathways for referrals for more relevant use of services. | HSE Childcare Section | Member |
| | 5. Promote full implementation of Children First Guidelines | CCCYPSC + HSE | Member |
| 5.1 Parenting support | 1. Coordination of parenting programmes throughout the county | Carlow Parent Support Programme | Non-member |
| | 2. Address gap in provision of programmes for parents of teenagers | Barnardos | Member |
| | 3. Development of model of individual parenting support | Barnardos | Member |

| Priority Area | Objectives / Initiatives | Responsibility | Status |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | 4. To maximise informal parenting support drawing on existing resources (such as parent and toddler groups) | County Childcare Committee + Barnardos | Member |
| | 5. To support parents of children with emerging needs | County Childcare Committee | Member |
| | 6. To support teenagers with a disability to participate in mainstream youth education/training and social activities | HSE Disability Service | Member |
| | 7. Support DESSA to implement training with parents | CCCYPSC | Co-ordinator |
| 5.2 Rohingya resettlement | 1. Support the transition from settling in to increased involvement and participation of the Rohingya children and young people (0-18) in the Community of Carlow | Resettlement Committee /St. Catherine's Community Centre | Member |
| 5.3 Community facility for Tullow Road | 1. Support the work of the interagency group to establish a community facility on the Tullow Road so that Children have access to a range of support services appropriate to their needs in their community | CCCYPSC | Co-ordinator |
| | 2. Link and work with HSE and RAPID to apply for location of a SpringBoard Family Support Initiative in Tullow Road Rapid area | CCCYPSC + HSE + RAPID | Co-ordinator + Member + non-member |

5 Action Plan

The pages to follow present the action plans for each of the objectives/initiatives.

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| National Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| 1.1 Mental health | 1. Promote positive mental health and wellbeing amongst young people | No. of trainers trained No. of programs run No. of participants trained Percentage of population (14 – 18) participating | 20% percentage increase in young people participating | Provide training for local trainers on Mind Matters programme Link with Carlow Mental Health Association to ensure voice of children and young people influences its work | Complete October 2013 | Carlow Regional Youth Services (CRYS) | Carlow Mental Health Association |
| | 2. Support all those impacted by a sudden traumatic incident and link them into appropriate services | Establishment of Multi-disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team made up of Key Agencies Community and voluntary organisations, Primary and Secondary Schools have a Critical Incident Plan | One team set up for County Carlow 50% Schools/ agencies have a Critical Incident Plan in place | Establish a of Multi-disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team Support agencies /schools to put in place a Critical Incident Plan | Complete October 2013 | HSE/Carlow Mental Health Association Schools | |
| | 3. Extend the availability of Youth Counselling outside of Carlow town. | 2 new locations in rural towns Rural participants (13 - 18yrs) Counselling sessions | Counselling service available to children and young people in rural Carlow | Extend the Folláine Counselling Service to rural towns in the county | Complete October 2013 | Carlow Regional Youth Services (CRYS) | Carlow Mental Health Association |

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| National Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| | 4. Promote the Mental Health Services of County Carlow | No. of hits on website | Viable and effective website | Create a CCCYPSC website that will collate information and provide links to services that are available for children and young people in County Carlow | April 2012 | CCYPSC | Mental Health |
| | 5. Map and develop appropriate referral routes for 6-12 year olds who have behavioural or mental health problems | Map of referral pathways, for use in all relevant support services | Referral agencies working with children u-12 years | Convene and work with subgroup of relevant agencies and HSE to produce map of referral pathways and identify problem areas | June 2012 | HSE | Carlow Mental Health Association |
| | 6 Link and work with substance misuse services to ensure provision of support services to children and young people from families with addiction issues | Co-ordinated plan for provision of addiction support services | Services providing support services to children and young people from families with addiction issues | Set up a subgroup of relevant agencies to identify the needs of families with addiction issues and co-ordinate development of responses | January 2012 | CCYPSC | County Carlow Drugs Initiative Directory of Services 2010 (Unpublished – CRY5) |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|------------------|---|---|
| 1.2 Promoting healthy lifestyles | 1. Collect and analyse data relating to levels of childhood obesity in Carlow | Figures for level of childhood obesity in Carlow | All services planning provision to children and young people | To research childhood obesity levels in Carlow | June 2013 | CCCYPSC + Health Promotion unit | Health Promotion Sports Partnership |
| | 2. To support parents and early years providers to have a better understanding of food allergies and intolerances | No. of parents attending an information session. No. of early years providers attending an information session. | To increase awareness among parents and early years providers on food allergies and food intolerances. | Provider information session for parents and childcare providers on food allergies and food intolerances through an information session entitled "Food Allergies, Food Intolerances 0-6 years, What parents/early years providers should know?" | November 2011 | Carlow County Childcare Committee in conjunction with HSE. | Health Promotion HSE Parenting Support Programme |
| | 3. To develop and pilot practical programme of physical activities maximising existing resources | No. of leaders attending training No. of trained leaders available for delivery of programmes No. of children and young people participating in physical activity | To increase the availability of targeted physical activity programmes for children and young people | Bring all relevant services together to co-ordinate and develop programmes of physical activities | Ongoing | County Carlow Sports Partnership, Health Promotion Unit, CRYs | County Carlow Sports Partnership plan |

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| National Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| | | programmes | | | | | |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 2: Supported in active learning

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|---|--|--|--|--|------------------|--|--|
| 2.1 Preventing Early School Leaving | 1. Retention of more children in second-level and encourage their continuation in education | Close co-operation with E.W.O. and secondary schools to record retention Work with schools, Home School Liaison and School Completion, where applicable | Increase in number of children and young people continuing in school to 18 years of age. | Promotion of the transfer of children at risk of early school leaving to a school which has a School Completion Programme | September 2012 | Primary and Post-primary Principals E.W.O School Completion Officer Home School Liaison Officer | EWB/School Completion Programmes |
| | 2. Document the work of school retention initiatives to help inform other schools of the process used to support children to remain in school. | Trends of children leaving school early | An information and support document for school, E.W.O. and other support agencies | Document the work and process of the 2 school completion programmes (SCP) in Carlow Document the work and process of other school retention programmes throughout the country | June 2013 | V.E.C. | EWB/School Completion Programmes |
| 2.2 School Attendance of Traveller Children | 1. Develop a clear understanding of the value of education among Traveller parents and young people | Percentage of Traveller children and young people in school Increased levels of parental participation on self-development courses | Greater number of Traveller children continuing in school to 18 years of age | Provide self-development course Promote the awareness of the value of education – particularly for men in the Traveller community. | | Primary and Post-primary Principals E.W.O St. Catherine's Centre | Traveller Development Strategy Traveller Interagency Strategy Group |

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|------------------|---|---|
| National Outcome 2: Supported in active learning | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| | <p>2. Promote the greatest possible participation in education by both parents and children</p> <p>3. Document the impact of the loss of the Visiting Teacher for Travellers on school attendance and completion</p> | Percentage of Traveller children and young people of school-going age attending school | Have reliable information on school attendance trends in the Traveller community in Carlow | Design a mechanism to collect information and work with relevant agencies to gather the relevant information | December 2012 | V.E.C. CCCYPSC V.E.C. | CDB Traveller Interagency Group |
| 2.3 Integration of children with special needs in mainstream environments | <p>1. Facilitate children with special needs to experience the mainstream pre-school environment.</p> <p>2. Support children attending specialised day care service to integrate into the mainstream on a part-time basis</p> <p>3. Support Early Years providers to provide a service to children with special needs</p> | Increase the number of children with special needs attending mainstream Early Years services in County Carlow | 10 SNAs placed in Early Years services in County Carlow | Support Special Needs Assistants on Tús scheme assigned to Early Years services in County Carlow | September 2011 | Carlow County Development Partnership County Carlow Childcare Committee HSE Disability Services | HSE National Review (draft) of Autism Services, Past, Present & Way Forward, 2010' Report of the National Reference Group on Multi-disciplinary Disciplinary Services for children 0-18yrs', (Dec 2009) |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|------------------|-------------------|---|
| 3.1 Child welfare | 1. Analyse data re children in care in context of electoral divisions | Complete analysis regarding Carlow children in care and relevant contextual information | Children from Carlow currently in the care of the HSE | Gather and analyse relevant data | June 2013 | HSE | Link with National Association for Young People in Care |
| | 2. To support children to be cared for in their own homes | Alternative options to state care for children at risk | Children in care and their families | To explore the establishment of Family Welfare Conference Service | December 2012 | HSE | Agenda for Children's Services and HSE Business Plan |
| | 3. Development of guidelines for effective sharing of relevant and appropriate information – protocols for interagency work | 1. All agencies working with children and young people have access to guidelines 2. Enhanced inter agency communication 3. More effective services for children and young people | All agencies and services working with children and young people in Carlow | 1. Explore existing models of information sharing 2. Develop protocols and guidelines 3. Pilot | 2012 | HSE and Barnardos | Children First Child Protection Guidelines and National Children's Agenda |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|------------|--|--|
| | 4. Develop pathways for referrals for more relevant use of services. | Children and young people access appropriate services as efficiently as possible | Referral Agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate information develop a clear guide with access routes / referral pathways to support services for children young people and families facilitate dissemination to all relevant agencies | April 2012 | County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee | National Children Strategy Agenda for Children Services |
| | 5. Promote and facilitate the Children First Guidelines among agencies throughout County Carlow working with children and young people | Agencies trained in Children First Guidelines Agencies incorporating Children First guidelines in their child protection policies | All agencies working with children and young people | Circulate information to all services/agencies Work with HSE Children First Officer to provide training to agencies | Ongoing | CCCYPSC + HSE | Children First |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|---------------|---|--|
| 5.1 Parenting support | 1. Coordination of parenting programmes throughout the county | A calendar of courses offered throughout the county Maximum use of existing resources and value for money Increased collaboration between relevant agencies | Parents and agencies to be more informed regarding programmes available Increased number of parents reached Response to identified needs | To develop database of programmes offered what, who when and where To develop a strategy regarding the criteria for targeting programmes according to e.g. age, need, geographical location, programme type, specialism etc. | January 2012 | County Childcare Committee CCCYPSC | Barnardos HSE Parenting Support Programme |
| | 2. Research new ways of engaging with and providing support for parents of teenagers | Parents availing of support for parenting of teenagers | Specific parenting support programmes tailored to parents of teenagers | CCCYPSC to co-ordinate collaboration of relevant providers/agencies to research and develop programmes and/or supports | December 2011 | CCCYPSC | Barnardos HSE Parenting Support Programme County Childcare Committee Family Resource Centres CCD Partnership |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|---------------|--|---|--|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 3. Develop models of individual parenting support | Standardised programme of individual parenting support | Children to have needs met by parent Parents who need support to meet the physical emotional, educational, social needs of their children | Partnership with Barnardos to learn from their newly established programme | June 2013 | Barnardos | |
| | 4. To maximise informal parenting support drawing on existing resources (such as parent and toddler groups) 5. To support parents of children with emerging needs | Parent and toddler groups with trained facilitators available to support parents and their children with emerging needs | Trained facilitators available to support parents and children to attend mainstream P&T groups Parents of children with special needs | Training for facilitators of parent and toddler groups on supporting children with emerging needs in these groups | Ongoing | Carlow County Childcare Committee | Barnardos |

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|---|---|
| National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| | 6. To support teenagers with a disability to participate in mainstream youth education/training and social activities | Teenagers with disabilities participating in mainstream youth activities | Teenagers with disabilities | Identify relevant agencies and convene subgroup to assess the needs of teenagers, map available services and develop appropriate responses | | HSE Disabilities Services, Youth Services, Sports Partnership | DESSA Supporting Families Social Inclusion Strategy |
| | 7. Support DESSA training in advocacy for parents | Parents taking part in DESSA training programme | Parents of children with disabilities | Publicise DESSA training programmes | October 2011 | CCCYPSC | DESSA Supporting Families Social Inclusion Strategy |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 5.2 Rohingya resettlement | Support the transition from settling in to increased involvement and participation of the Rohingya children and young people (0 -18) in the Community of Carlow | <p>Progress report from Resettlement Committee</p> <p>Indicators which will be developed in Activity 1</p> <p>Activities for parents of infants and toddlers where the children are cared for in English language environment</p> | <p>All Rohingya children and young people linked in to appropriate services</p> <p>Rohingyan infants and pre-school children</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with the Resettlement Committee to ensure realistic goals, objectives and indicators are set to further and measure the integration of the Rohingya Community 2. Support relevant agencies provide targeted supports to the Rohingya children and young people (0 -18) where they will inform, facilitate access and encourage more participation in their services 3. Support the resettlement Committee to identify and address emerging needs of the Rohingya community and seek | <p>Oct 2013</p> <p>Sept 2011 – June 2012</p> | <p>Resettlement Committee/St. Catherine's Community Services Centre</p> | <p>ERF Resettlement Plan, Strategic Plans of relevant agencies, SIM LAPSIS</p> |

| Action Plan for CCCYPSC | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society | | | | | | | |
| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
| | | | | <p>opportunities for English language acquisition for 0 -5 year olds</p> <p>4. Support the Resettlement Committee to implement the mainstreaming strategy</p> | | | |

Action Plan for CCCYPSC

National Outcome 5: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and community / including and participating in society

| Priority Area | Objective(s) | Indicators | Target | Activities | Timeframe | Lead | Link to other plans |
|---|---|--|--|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| 5.3 Access to a range of support services in the community (Tullow Road) | Support the work of the interagency group to 1) Complete a feasibility Study and Business Plan with regard to developing a community facility on the Tullow Road 2) Progress project to implementation phase e.g. re establishment of a community facility on the Tullow Road | -A capital development on the Tullow Road to house existing and additional services e.g. -Increased facilities for children, young people and their families to access a range of support services -Additional community early years places on the Tullow Road -Additional Youth Work facilities Integrated services using a collaborative model | -Families living in the Tullow Road area. -Families referred to existing services in the area. -Children and young people who need additional support. -Pre-school children needing quality early years service | Support , inform and endorse the work of the existing Steering Group, identify appropriate development and funding opportunities | ongoing | Tullow Road Steering Group | Local Authority Plans National Children's Strategy The Agenda for Children's Services |
| 5.4 Apply for location of a SpringBoard Family Support Initiative in Tullow Road Rapid area | Link and work with HSE and RAPID to apply for location of a SpringBoard Family Support Initiative in Tullow Road Rapid area | SpringBoard Programme operating in the Tullow Road RAPID area | Children, Young People and their families on the Tullow Road area who have a range of support needs | Use data collected for Children and Young People's Plan to support an application for the SpringBoard Initiative to be located on the Tullow Road | Application September 2011 | RAPID Co-ordinator/CCCYPSC HSE representative | RAPID Family Support Implementation Plan |

6 Monitoring and Review

6.1 The Process of Change

The work of CCCYPSC will be delivered through individual agencies, in collaboration with other multi-agency initiatives and through CCCYPSC interagency sub-groups which have yet to be finalised.

CCCYPSC members are familiar with interagency working and the change in practice required. Therefore in relation to successful implementation of this plan, agreement has been secured from committee members on the following commencing in year one of the plans:

Agency Level:

- Agencies will link their agency plans with the plans of CCCYPSC and ensure that CCCYPSC is a deliverable within their plans.
- Senior managers will lead the collaboration required within their own agencies, ensure staff are aware of the work of CCCYPSC and ensure agency staff are available for sub-committee work.
- Agencies representatives will attend at least 70% of scheduled meetings, along with the annual review of CCCYPSC.
- Agency representatives will take responsibility for the provision of information as required by the Information sub-group.

CCCYPSC Level:

- CCCYPSC will continuously track and analyse the changes in the working environment and the organisations involved in relation to their impact on children and families.
- CCCYPSC will review its membership including how it works with the community and voluntary sector, as part of its annual review process.
- The working environment will enable organisations to openly discuss all relevant issues, including the impact of lesser resources on services and supports to children and families.
- Appropriate issues that are impacting children and families in Carlow will be raised at a national level, for example through the National Chairs Meeting.
- Members will participate as appropriate in national CSC structures.
- CCCYPSC will identify and develop necessary policies, protocols and procedures to enable the outcomes as agreed.

These agreements will be monitored by CCCYPSC as part of their annual review.

6.2 Monitoring Framework

In terms of continual monitoring and review through 2011 to 2013, CCCYPSC commits as follows:

CCCYPSC will review overall progress, sub-structures and planning on an ongoing basis in order to quantify the level of progress and the impact of the plans, on outcomes for children and families and harness the learning for CCCYPSC and its participating agencies.

The monitoring and evaluation will be carried out at a number of levels:

1. Review of CCCYPSC remit, partnership, change management and outcomes
2. Review of CCCYPSC sub-groups and outcomes
3. Review of projects driven by the sub-groups or agencies and outcomes

Specifically it will complete the following overall review:

| CCCYPSC | Area and Review Process | Timeframe |
|---|--|--|
| <p>CCCYPSC</p> <p>CCCYPSC Plan</p> | <p>Annual review of CCCYPSC</p> <p>Annual review of plan, agreeing adjustments and changes</p> <p>Annual Report outlining the year's work</p> <p>Progress reports on a quarterly basis to the National Children's Strategy Implementation Group.</p> <p>Quarterly OMYCA coordinator meetings</p> | <p>June 2011, 2012, 2013</p> <p>Annual December</p> <p>Quarterly</p> |
| <p>CCCYPSC Member Organisations / Agencies</p> | <p>Update on engagement with CCCYPSC, the improved outcomes for children and families from that work, change management along with activities and plans to involve children and families in its service delivery</p> | <p>Annually in June</p> |
| <p>Sub-Groups</p> | <p>Annual review of CCCYPSC sub-groups to feed into the review of CCCYPSC as outlined above. To include review of process and working of their groups along with their plans and targets.</p> | <p>Annually in June</p> |

Appendices

1. Stakeholder Consultations
2. Additional Demographic Data
3. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Consultations

| Group | Representative | Role |
|--|--|--|
| Rohingya Resettlement Programme | Clare Cody, Thomas Farrell | Resettlement Worker |
| Vocational Education Committee | Marian Duffy | **Adult Education Officer |
| Carlow County Council/County Development Board | Bernie O'Brien, Margaret Moore | **Director of Corporate, Community and Enterprise, **Administrative Officer |
| Public Health Nurses | Brenda Conway | Manager |
| School Completion Programmes | Sinéad O'Keeffe, Michael Byrne | Co-ordinators |
| Carlow Regional Youth Services | Kathryn Wall | **Director |
| Fostering Social Work Team | Alice Moore | Senior Social Work Practitioner |
| Carlow County Development Partnership | Joanne Donohoe | Community Development Worker |
| Parent Support Programme | Helen Casey and group | Manager Manager and Home visitors |
| NEPS | Mary Nugent | Regional Director |
| Child Psychology – Primary Care | Gabrielle McHugh, Diarmuid O'Callaghan | 2 x psychologists |
| NEWB | Ann Marie McCabe | Education Welfare Officer |
| Bagenalstown FRC | Ann Shortall | Manager |
| Tullow FRC | Jen Dawson | Manager |
| Barnardos | Marian Dowd | **Manager |
| Health Promotion Unit | Olive Fanning, Méabh O'Sullivan | Community HPO Physical Activity co-ordinator |
| Sports Partnership | Martha Jane Duggan, Caradh O'Donovan | Co-ordinator x 2 |
| CAMHS | Andrew Fogarty | Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist |
| St. Catherine's Traveller Support Programme | Margaret Wouters | Traveller Support Worker |
| Home School Liaison | Marian Webb, Pauline Bolger | HSLO, Askea and Hacketstown |
| Teen Parent Support Programme | Bernie Loughman | Co-ordinator |
| Open Door CDP | Ann Begley | Manager |
| RAPID Programme | Margaret Nolan | Co-ordinator |
| Visiting Teacher for Travellers | Noreen Reilly | Teacher |
| Folláine Counselling Service | Adam Byrne | Co-ordinator |

| Group | Representative | Role |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary School | Patricia Wall | **Principal |
| Garda Síochána | Elaine Rowe | **Junior Liaison Officer |
| Comhairle na nÓg | Leigh Ann Ryan and members | Youth Worker Members |
| Carlow Women's Aid | Honoria Gilchrist | Co-ordinator |
| HSE Social Work Dept | Seán Scanlon | Social Work Team Leader |
| Hacketstown Community Development Association | Mary Doyle | Community Worker |
| Irish Wheelchair Association | Betty Lawler | Manager |
| County Childcare Committee | Áine Gahan | Manager |
| Regional Suicide Resource Office | John Kennedy | ASSIST Co-ordinator |
| Foróige | Maily Venn | Youth Worker |

** These people sit on CCCYPSC and were involved in the overall planning process.

Appendix 2: Additional Demographic Data

Carlow Population by Town, 2002 and 2006, CSO Census

| Population | Persons 2002 | Persons 2006 | Change % |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Carlow, Carlow Town | 13218 | 13623 | 3.1 |
| Carlow, Carlow Urban | 4963 | 4605 | -7.2 |
| Carlow, Graigue Urban | 1702 | 1524 | -10.5 |
| Carlow, Carlow Rural* | 6553 | 7491 | 14.3 |
| Carlow, Ballinacarrig* | - | 3 | - |
| Environs of Carlow (pt.)(a), Total | 4070 | 4581 | 12.6 |
| Environs of Carlow, Carlow Rural* | 3925 | 4309 | 9.8 |
| Environs of Carlow, Ballinacarrig* | 145 | 272 | 87.6 |
| Tullow, Tullow Total | 2417 | 3048 | 26.1 |
| Tullow, Tullow Urban | 2316 | 2881 | 24.4 |
| Tullow, Tullowbeg* | 76 | 138 | 81.6 |
| Tullow, Tullow Rural* | 25 | 29 | 16 |
| Muinebeag, Muinebeag (Bagenalstown) Urban | 2540 | 2532 | -0.3 |
| Environs of Muinebeag, Muinebeag (Bagenalstown) Rural* | 188 | 203 | 8 |
| Rathvilly, Rathvilly Total | 500 | 796 | 59.2 |
| Rathvilly, Rathvilly* | 341 | 492 | 44.3 |
| Rathvilly, Rahill* | 159 | 304 | 91.2 |
| Leighlinbridge, Leighlinbridge* | 646 | 674 | 4.3 |
| Hacketstown, Hacketstown* | 614 | 606 | -1.3 |
| Ballon, Ballon Total | 284 | 596 | 109.9 |
| Ballon, Ballon* | 269 | 415 | 54.3 |
| Ballon, Rathrush* | 15 | 181 | 1106.7 |
| Borris, Borris* | 580 | 582 | 0.3 |
| Bunclody-Carrickduff (pt.)(a), Cranemore* | 251 | 319 | 27.1 |
| Graigenamanagh- Tinnahinch (pt.)(a), Tinnahinch* | 269 | 279 | 3.7 |
| Tinriland, Kellistown* | 371 | 243 | -34.5 |
| Kernanstown, Total | 244 | 230 | -5.7 |
| Kernanstown, Carlow Rural* | 170 | 130 | -23.5 |
| Kernanstown, Johnstown* | 74 | 100 | 35.1 |
| Myshall, Myshall* | - | 200 | - |
| Kildavin, Clonegall* | - | 170 | - |
| Clonegal (pt.)(a), Clonegall* | 151 | 166 | 9.9 |

SWLO Live Register Figures

| SWLO | May-07 | May-08 | May-09 | May-10 | May-11 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bagenalstown | 442 | 676 | 1,380 | 1,709 | 1,644 |
| Carlow | 1,157 | 1,793 | 3,212 | 3,749 | 3,719 |
| Tullow | 491 | 701 | 1,410 | 1,559 | 1,472 |
| Carlow County | 2,090 | 3,170 | 6,002 | 7,017 | 6,835 |

Appendix 3: Abbreviations and Acronyms used

| | |
|---------|--|
| CAMHS | Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service |
| CCCYPSC | County Carlow Children and Young People's Committee |
| CCC | Carlow County Childcare Committee |
| CCDP | County Carlow Development Partnership |
| (C)CDB | (Carlow) County Development Board |
| CRYS | Carlow Regional Youth Services |
| DEIS | Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools |
| EWO | Education and Welfare Officer |
| NEWB | National Education and Welfare Board |
| NEPS | National Educational Psychological Service |
| OMCYA | Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs |
| PHN | Public Health Nurse |
| RAPID | Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment & Development |
| SCP | School Completion Programme |
| SIM | Social Inclusion Measures |
| SWO | Social Welfare Office |
| VEC | Vocational Education Committee |
| VTT | Visiting Teacher for Travellers |

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