



Dublin City South Children and Young People's Plan 2025 - 2027

**Dublin City South
Children and Young People's Services Committee**

Contacts

Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

Please contact Dublin City South CYPSC coordinator: Nuala Nic Giobúin

Email: nuala.nicgiobuin@tusla.ie

Mobile: (353) 86 047 0848

Address:
Dublin City South CYPSC,
Tusla – Child and Family Agency,
Inchicore Primary Care Centre,
Dublin 8,
D08KW35.

Copies of this plan are available on: www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/dublin-city-south.231.html

Contents

Foreword	4
List of Acronyms	5
List of Figures, Graphs, Maps and Tables	6
Section 1: Introduction	7
Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Dublin City South	19
Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Dublin City South	31
Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Dublin City South	50
Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People's Plan for Dublin City South	85
Section 6: DCS CYPSC Action Plan for 2025 – 2027	86
Section 7: Monitoring and Evaluation	108
Appendix 1: DCS CYPSC Terms of Reference	112

Foreword

As chairperson of Dublin City South Children and Young People's Committee (DCS CYPSC), I am delighted to share our Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027. This is DCS CYPSCs fourth Children and Young People's Plan in which we aim to build on previous good work undertaken by CYPSC committee members, CYPSC sub-groups and partner agencies. The plan will prioritise actions over the coming three years through a programme of collaborative work. The plan will guide the committee's efforts to progress its overarching goal of improving outcomes for children and young people through interagency working.

Immense work and collaboration led to the development of this Plan. The priority actions for the 2025-2027 Plan were developed through a socio demographic data analysis; local needs analysis; review of previous DCS CYPSC work and consultation with children, young people, parents and services providers, as well as agreement of CYPSC members and subgroups members to the final priority actions. In developing this plan members have reconfirmed their commitment to and understanding of how we will work on joint initiatives to meet the complex needs of children, young people, families and communities in the area.

On behalf of DCS CYPSC I would like to thank all who contributed to the development of the plan and who have committed to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Dublin City South area.

Gráinne Sullivan

Dublin City South CYPSC Chairperson

TUSLA Area Manager

List of Acronyms

CAMHS	Child and Adult Mental Health Service
CFSN	Child and Family Support Networks
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
LDATF	Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
DCS	Dublin City South
DCDE	Department of Children, Disability and Equality
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DSGBV	Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
DRHE	Dublin Region Homeless Executive
ECCE	Early Childhood Education and Care
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
GYDP	Garda Youth Diversion Programme
HBSC	Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (Study)
HRB	Health Research Board
HSE	Health Service Executive
ISA	Integrated Service Area
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEA	Local Electoral Area
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LHO	Local Health Office
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NYCI	National Youth Council of Ireland
PPS	Personal Public Service
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
TESS	Tusla Education and Support Service
SA	Small Area
SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions

List of Figures, Graphs, Maps and Tables

LIST OF FIGURES	Page
Figure 1.1. Responses by DCS CYPSC members when asked ‘What is the value of DCS CYPSC or this workshop to you or your organisation?’	11
Figure 1.2 Overview of consultations undertaken as part of the development of the DCS CYPP.	22
Figure 3.1: Hardiker Model. Source: Hardiker et al, 1991.	36
LIST OF GRAPHS	
Graph 2.1 Age Group Graph. Source Census 2022.	26
Graph 2.2 Youth population by age group. Source Census 2022.	27
Graph 2.3 Proportion of children and young people with a disability. Source: Census 2022.	32
Graph 4.1. Mental health identified as a challenge by groupings.	59
Graph 4.2 Proportion of young people experiencing bullying by group.	89
LIST OF MAPS	
Map 2.1 Dublin City South CYPSC Area.	23
Map 2.2 Population change by ED 2011 -2022. Source: Census 2022.	25
Map 2.3 Population born outside Ireland. Source: Census 2022.	26
Map 2.4 Population aged 24 years and under. Source Census 2022.	27
Map 2.5 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022.	28
Map 2.6 Population classified as ‘White Irish’ Source: Census 2022.	29
Map 2.7 Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022. Source: Pobal.	30
Map 2.8 Proportion of households renting privately. Source: Census 2022.	31
Map 2.9 Proportion of population with a disability. Source: Census 2002.	32
Map 2.10 Proportion of population with No Formal or Primary Only Education. Source: Census 2022.	33
LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1.1 Outline of the Children and Young People’s Plan.	8
Table 1.2 Members of DCS CYPSC Main Committee as of March 2025.	9
Table 1.3 Overview of DCS CYPSC Achievements since 2020.	12
Table 1.4 Challenges for DCS CYPSC in recent years.	13
Table 1.5 Insights and Learning to Inform CYPP (2025-2027).	14
Table 1.6 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the CYPP (2025-2027).	21
Table 2.1 Key Comparators.	24
Table 4.1 Local Priority Areas for the period 2025 – 2027.	54

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Overview

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are interagency structures that work to achieve better outcomes for children and young people across Ireland through enhancing cooperation and collaboration among existing children, young people and family service providers, as well as supporting the delivery of targeted local interventions.

There are 27 CYPSC across Ireland that are a key structure identified by the government to plan and coordinate services for children and young people, aged 0 – 24 years in every county. CYPSC brings together a diverse group of statutory, community and voluntary services at a local level, working to progress the five national outcomes for children and young people outlined in Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023–2028. These outcomes identify that children and young people:

- are active and healthy
- are achieving in learning and development
- are safe and protected from harm
- have economic security and opportunity
- are connected, respected and contributing to their world

Each CYPSC develops a 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) to review its work and define its priorities and actions for the coming years. The CYPPs are shaped by input from CYPSC members and stakeholders and include findings from consultations with children, young people and families.

The Dublin City South (DCS) CYPP (2025–2027) was created through a thorough process conducted over a six-month period from November 2024 to March 2025. This included data gathering, analysis of the current landscape, and identification of needs. Over 800 stakeholders were consulted, including children, young people, parents/guardians, and professionals working in the area. The consultation process involved online surveys, focus groups, and strategic planning sessions with CYPSC members. Through this process, gaps, needs, and aspirations for improved outcomes were identified, categorised, and prioritised.

Through a facilitated strategic planning process involving several large in-person interagency workshops and smaller targeted meetings, DCS CYPSC has established key thematic priorities with specific objectives, actions, targets and indicators linked to the five national outcomes, as well as an additional theme of change management. DCS CYPSC main committee members and subgroups/working groups will collaborate to achieve these priorities over the next three years.

This DCS CYPP (2025-2027) serves as a strategic blueprint to enhance wellbeing and quality of life for children, young people, and families in DCS from 2025 to 2027.

Table 1.1 Outline of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Section	Contents of Section
Section 1	Introduction • Background to CYPSC. • A review of DCS CYPSC work in recent years, including key activities and achievements, impacts, challenges and learnings to inform the new CYPP. • A detailed overview of how the CYPP (2025-2027) was developed.
Section 2	Socio-demographic Profile of Dublin City South area • Key socio-demographic data about children, young people and families in the DCS area.
Section 3	Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Dublin City South A summary of key services for children, young people and families in the DCS area under the following categories: • health, social and family supports • education supports • youth clubs, projects and resources • policing and youth justice • drug and alcohol services • mental health supports • disability supports • employment, social inclusion and legal services
Section 4	Local Needs Analysis • Summary of emerging needs and gaps identified in the DCS area through the primary and secondary research conducted for the CYPP (2025-2027). • Local priorities for each of the 5 thematic areas that DCS CYPSC has identified for the coming three years, providing a rationale for same. • It includes summaries of relevant socio-economic data, findings from the consultations with children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers, other relevant research and policy, as well as an outline of what the CYPSC is planning to do for the next three years to respond to the needs identified.
Section 5	Local Priority Areas that DCS CYPSC are responsible for under each of the National Outcome Areas.
Section 6	Action Plan for 2025 – 2027 including priority themes, objectives, targets, indicators, activities, timeframe, key stakeholders and links to other relevant plans.
Section 7	Monitoring and Evaluation Processes
Appendices	• DCS CYPSC Terms of Reference • DCS CYPSC Subgroup Members

1.2 Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC)

CYPSC were established in 2007 by the then Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. They were created to enhance interagency coordination and collaboration, aiming to improve outcomes for children and young people in their areas. CYPSC unites statutory, community, and voluntary service providers, offering a platform for joint planning and coordination of services at

the local level. Their focus includes identifying needs, coordinating activities, and developing interventions.

CYPSC supports the five national outcomes in Young Ireland 2023 – 2028 by:

- Identifying and addressing the needs of children and young people,
- Planning and coordinating services while implementing national and regional policies,
- Developing quality services and practices in its area,
- Strengthening interagency collaboration and decision-making,
- Promoting quality, evidence-based practices and outcomes-focused planning and practice,
- Maximising resource use at local level and informing national policy regarding resource allocation, and
- Encouraging children and young people's participation in decision-making.

The CYPSC network is made up of 27 committees across Ireland, aligning with Young Ireland 2023–2028, a framework aimed at realising children's rights. Its vision is *"An Ireland which fully respects and realises the rights of children and young people,"* highlighting interagency collaboration as key to achieving this goal.

In 2019, Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019–2024 outlined the CYPSC roadmap for strengthening its infrastructure and set out ten high-level actions, including strengthened leadership, collaboration, capacity building, resourcing, data and evidence-based planning and evaluation, communications, joint commissioning and the participation of children and young people. CYPSC also collaborate with regional structures in their areas. This collaboration fosters effective resource use, joined-up thinking, and coordinated policymaking and service delivery at local, regional, and national levels.

1.3 Who we are

DCS CYPSC was established in 2014 following the reconfiguration of an original citywide committee, dividing the city into Dublin City South and Dublin City North CYPSC. The membership of DCS CYPSC is drawn from a range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies involved in the delivery of services to children and families in DSC. The DCS CYPSC is supported by a coordinator, and it operates under the guidance of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. The DCS CYPSC Chairperson is the Tusla Area Manager, and the Vice Chairperson is a representative of Dublin City Council.

Table 1.2 Members of DCS CYPSC Main Committee as of March 2025.

Agency	Representative
Chair: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency	Grainne Sullivan, Area Manager for Dublin South Central
Deputy Chair: Dublin City Council	Bernard Kelly - Executive Manager
Primary Principal	Mary Cawley
Tusla the Child and Family Agency PPFS	Maria Hayes - Subgroup Chair
Liffey Area Partnership	Anne Fitzgerald
Dublin South City Area Partnership	Úna Lowry - Subgroup Chair
Barnardos	Clare Deane
Health Service Executive- Social Inclusion	Concepta de Brun

Agency	Representative
Health Service Executive - Primary care	Emma Reilly - Subgroup Chair
Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services	Geraldine O'Hara
TUSLA Education Support Services (TESS)	Emer Hyland
City of Dublin Education and Training Board	Wesleigh O Hagan
CDET/ City of Dublin Youth Services	Brian Healy
An Garda Síochána	Inspector Áine Mc Carville
Family Resource Centre	Audrey Coyle
Young People's Probation	Eleanor Dwyer
Dublin South City Youth Services	Carol Hyland - Subgroup Chair

CYPSC Subgroups

DCS CYPSC work is aligned to five thematic subgroups/working groups which are made up of front-line staff from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors who have a specific interest and expertise in particular subgroup areas or themes.

1. Active and Healthy with Physical and Mental Well Being.
2. Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development.
3. Safe and Protected from Harm.
4. Economic Security and Opportunity.
5. Connected, Respected and Contributing to Their World.

1.4 Review of the work of DCS CYPSC in recent years

As part of the development of the CYPP (2025-2027), CYPSC members reviewed their work on the last CYPP, considering that not all actions of the last DCS CYPSC were achieved as set out due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown periods. Members considered the current reality in the Dublin City South region and looked to the future to identify learning and opportunities to inform the new CYPP. Through an independently facilitated process, DCS CYPSC identified and discussed the following:

- The value of CYPSC to members
- Key achievements in recent years, including activities and initiatives
- Change management and how CYPSC works together
- Learning from recent years, what worked well and challenges experienced
- Priorities for future planning

DCS CYPSC Value and Key Achievements

At the first strategic planning day members of CYPSC were asked what value DCS CYPSC had to them and/or their organisation. The following graphic (figure 1.1) illustrates that collaboration, networking and information sharing were the most frequent responses. Learning opportunities, capacity building of workforce, providing support to the community and scaffolding impact were also mentioned.

Figure 1.1. Responses by DCS CYPSC members when asked ‘What is the value of DCS CYPSC to you or your organisation?’



“A big achievement is the increased collaboration between services leading to more coordination and improved understanding of children's needs and improved service delivery to children and families.”

DCS CYPSC member

The table below (Table 1.3) provides a thematic overview of the CYPSC achievements that members highlighted, including a summary of key initiatives and projects since 2020, the beginning of the last CYPP. These achievements highlight the positive impact of DCS CYPSC’s work on community members, staff, and partner organisations, demonstrating the value of collaboration, partnership, and networking through CYPSC membership.

Table 1.3 Overview of DCS CYPSC Achievements since 2020.

Overview of DCS CYPSC Achievements Since 2020	
Enhanced Collaboration, Networking and Partnerships	Supported enhanced interagency co-operation, collaboration and teamwork across various projects and thematic subgroups, including information sharing, networking, resource pooling, and co-delivering initiatives. Examples include: • Networking and Awareness: Engaged stakeholders on infant health, mental health, and youth issues through events and outreach. • Disabilities Workshop to develop a unified pathway for children with disabilities and improved cross-sector collaboration. • Meitheal: Supported interagency coordination for children and families.
Change Management, Leadership and Expertise	• Demonstrated strong leadership, flexibility and expertise in driving initiatives, drawing on substantial expertise and collective knowledge among main and sub-committee members and the CYPSC Coordinator. • Took a flexible approach, responding to and building on the ever changing and emerging needs within communities, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian crisis.
Training and Capacity Building	Addressed training and funding needs, upskilling professionals and service providers through specialised training, webinars, and capacity-building programmes to improve service quality and reach. Examples include: • Theraplay Programme: Delivered five three-day trainings to enhance attachment and wellbeing, including a module on homelessness trauma. • Community Mental Health Action: Partnered with Jigsaw to pilot youth mental health champion training, boosting literacy and capacity. • Facilitation Skills Training: Offered a masterclass covering facilitation theory and seven essential skillsets for leading group work. • Infant Massage Instructor Training: Trained 32 staff to run parent-child massage workshops, promoting bonding and early wellbeing. • Parents Plus Programmes: Delivered PPSN and ADHD training to empower parents and train facilitators for family support sessions. • Youth Mental Health First Aid: Trained Youth Services staff to support 12–18-year-olds in mental health crises using evidence-based strategies. • Trauma Informed Practices: Produced a consultation report, hosted a webinar, and ran a two-day workshop on culturally responsive trauma care. • DESSA Disability Inclusion: Trained family support providers as inclusion advocates, enhancing disability support and collaboration. • ASIAM Autism Workshops: Delivered training to schools, Tusla, and childcare providers on autism awareness and support strategies. • Disability Equality eLearning: Applied for funding to develop a certified module on disability inclusion and human rights. • RRIGHT Play Therapy Training: Trained teachers in play therapy techniques to improve classroom interactions and address emotional needs.

	• Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Training: Delivered NVR training, supported trainer upskilling, and launched an NVR Network for ongoing learning. • Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Training: This included Women's Aid training, a support guide, webinars on child impact, and TLC Kidz/Barnardos programme rollout. • EU Child Guarantee Webinar: Hosted a webinar to raise awareness of the scheme's impact on child poverty and promote collaboration.
Community Engagement, Participation and Advocacy	Worked to promote community engagement, participation of and relationship-building with communities, including the participation of children and young people. Also encouraged the representation of diverse voices, especially young people, Traveller children, and marginalised groups. Examples include: • "Life in Lockdown 2020" Report: Partnered to consult 218 young people (12-17 years) on the impact of Covid-19, capturing their experiences and suggestions for moving forward. • Traveller Children's Voices Project: Captured views of Ballyfermot Traveller children (ages 4-12) on local services to inform change. • Youth Participation Support: Backed Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg actions and maintained formal links to promote youth involvement in policy. • National Participation Strategy Consultation: Engaged local services to gather insights on child and youth participation for more inclusive strategies. • Participation Event: Hosted a service provider event featuring youth perspectives, research, and policy discussions on child participation.
Information, Awareness Raising and Evidence based responses to needs	Dissemination of information, awareness campaigns, updated resources, and the promotion of supports and services for various needs. Examples include: • Mental Health Awareness Programme: Collaborated with local Family Resource Centres to address teen self-harm, raising awareness of its varied forms in south west Dublin. • Dolphin House Report: Co-funded a report to assess the needs of children (0-5) in Dolphin House, identifying gaps in service provision, barriers to access, and highlighting the impact of poverty and trauma on families.
Early Intervention/ Infant Mental Health and Wellbeing	Supported early intervention, infant mental health, and the wellbeing of infants and their families through focused initiatives and expanding supports. Examples include: • Infant Health and Wellbeing Group: Raised awareness and promoted collaboration through events like "Supporting Infant Health in the First 1000 Days." • Therapeutic Supports via Family Resource Centres: Delivered Play and Art Therapy to vulnerable children to support emotional expression and resilience in Ballyfermot FRC; School Street FRC and St. Matthews FRC • Sensory Strategies: Supplied sensory materials to services for children with additional needs to aid emotional regulation and stability.

	• Schools Play Charter: Promoted play-based learning post-Covid to support resilience, emotional growth, and social bonding in schools. • Early Learning Initiative: Partnered to deliver health and wellbeing programmes in disadvantaged areas, strengthening parent-child attachment. • Healthy Living Project: Encouraged healthy lifestyles across three youth services, CORE, Bluebell and Rialto, through activities on physical, sexual, and mental health, plus staff/parent training. • Family Support and Child Therapy (Dublin 12): Offered play therapy to help children process experiences and build self-esteem, empathy, and communication skills.
Parent and Family Supports	Delivered or partnered to deliver a variety of supports and training for parents in the area, addressing parenting needs and ensuring family-focused interventions. Examples include: • Playful Parenting Videos (Covid): Created themed videos to guide parents in supporting children's emotional needs during lockdown. • Family Support Webinars (Covid): Commissioned psychologist-led webinars to strengthen parent-child relationships and address trauma. • Parenting Webinar with ISPC: Delivered strategies for promoting positive behaviour, setting boundaries, and staying connected. • Newborn Parenting Booklet: Produced a guide for new parents covering health, welfare, financial supports, and childcare, with QR links. • Parenting Support Social Media Videos: Released five videos addressing parenting challenges, separation, stress, and bereavement.
Supports to Vulnerable Communities	Provided a variety of targeted supports to more vulnerable communities including people living in temporary/international protection accommodation, refugees, homeless families and young people in aftercare. Examples include: • Homeless Supports: Delivered annual Theraplay training, published resources, ran wellbeing activities, distributed play mats, and held a consultation on homelessness impact. • Support for Ukrainian Families: Hosted a webinar and provided play bags and info to aid integration and wellbeing of Ukrainian children and families. • Activities in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS): Held interagency meetings, provided equipment, vouchers, wellbeing programmes, school packs, and consulted with children to shape supports. • Aftercare: Took part in the Aftercare Steering Committee and hosted the 2024 Opportunities Fair to showcase education, training, and employment options for care-experienced youth.

“A key achievement has been building the professional capacity of staff to access training, (this has) developed service delivery within the area to provide for earlier intervention and prevention.”

CYPSC Member

“Another achievement has been spreading *Theraplay* delivery across homeless hubs and other homeless services, building relationships between parents and children in very challenging circumstances.”

CYPSC member

Challenges for DCS CYPSC in recent years

During the development of the CYPP (2025 – 2027), CYPSC members also identified and discussed challenges that they, as members and/or the CYPSC, experienced in recent years, to support learning for the future.

Table 1.4 Challenges for DCS CYPSC in recent years.

CYPSC Challenges in Recent Years	
Membership capacity and engagement	- Balanced representation and full engagement can be challenging due to membership gaps, and underrepresentation or overrepresentation of some sectors. - At times collaboration can be limited or some duplication can occur. Enhancing engagement and information-sharing among members and improved visibility into activities across organisations could help with this.
Planning and governance	- The development of clear annual plans, well-defined objectives and more time for discussion and implementation would enhance focus and effective action. - Strengthening governance and clarifying CYPSC statutory role could help to strengthen cohesion and advocacy efforts.
Funding	Funding constraints - restricted, short-term, and insecure - are a recurring issue. Red tape, unclear allocation processes, and competing needs add complexity.
Geography	The large geographic area of the DCS area poses challenges to collaboration and program delivery. Boundaries can act as barriers, making it difficult to maximise impact and coordinate efforts effectively.
Influence/Impact on Change	CYPSC impact could be further strengthened by sharing information and engaging in more proactive advocacy to foster more visible changes at a policy level and address systemic challenges.
Emerging/Increasing Needs	Societal changes such as rising homelessness, drug issues, reduced community safety, and the challenges posed by social media are driving negative outcomes for children and young people. These evolving needs require continuous attention and adaptive responses.

“Small parcels of funding make it hard to develop a long-term response.”

CYPSC member

“Pressures on all services with staff retention coming to the fore as a more serious issue post pandemic... pressure on staffing make it difficult to implement the plan.”

CYPSC member

Insights and Learning to inform the new CYPP

Looking to the future, CYPSC members discussed opportunities and things they could learn from the work of the CYPSC in recent years which they could build on and use to inform their work over the next three years.

Table 1.5 Insights and Learning to Inform CYPP (2025-2027).

Insights and Learning to Inform CYPP (2025–2027)	
Advocacy	Strengthening advocacy efforts involves establishing a unified voice, providing evidence-based feedback to influence policy, and addressing emerging needs through collaboration with statutory agencies and independent organisations.
Planning and Evaluation	- Focus on clear priorities and achievable goals. - Prioritise needs and concentrate efforts on fewer actions to maximise impact on children and families. - A strategic approach, focused on higher-level goals supported by ongoing research, will strengthen the effectiveness of initiatives. - Evaluation and time for discussion important to identify successes and address unmet objectives.
Governance and funding	- Ensuring clarity about CYPSC role, its independence, and about internal structures and processes would be helpful. - Adequate, flexible, and long-term funding is crucial to support CYPSC expand impact and resource requirements. - Expansion and diversity of membership important.
Opportunities	- Ensuring the voice of children and young people are heard and influencing. - Increased collaboration, membership and engagement. - Gathering evidence and influencing change at local and national level - with the substantial collective expertise among membership around the needs and gaps regarding children and young people. - Identifying and responding to emerging needs - taking a ground up approach.

“Advocate for change - put weight behind independent organisations when support is needed.”

CYPSC member

“Engage young people in meaningful ways that are relevant and real to them.”

CYPSC member

1.6 How the CYPP (2025-2027) was Developed

DCS CYPP (2025 – 2027) was developed over a six-month period between November 2024 and April 2025. It involved the following:

1. **Desk research:** A review of relevant policy and research, the previous DCS CYPSC CYPP, and socio-demographic data from the DCS CYPSC Evidence Baseline Report 2025.
2. **A review of services** in the DCS area.
3. **Consultations by independent researchers** with over 800 stakeholders in the DCS area including children and young people, service providers and parents/guardians. See 'distribution of consultations' below for more information on the consultation process.

4. Strategic Planning Process with DCS CYPSC Members

The strategic planning process included a series of workshops and meetings to guide the development of the CYPP (2025–2027):

a) Main CYPSC Survey and Review Meeting

A survey of the main CYPSC members followed by an online meeting, reviewed recent CYPSC work, identifying key achievements, challenges, and learnings. Outputs were collated and themed.

b) Strategic Planning Day One

A full-day, in-person workshop with CYPSC members, subgroups, and stakeholders included:

- Review of recent achievements
- Presentation of CYPP research findings (socio-demographics and consultation results)
- Group discussions on a shared vision for 2027
- Outputs themed and documented to identify emerging priorities

c) Subgroup Meetings

Follow-up meetings explored themes from Day One, agreed on Local Priority Areas, and drafted objectives to be refined in the next workshop.

d) Strategic Planning Day Two

A second in-person workshop focused on action planning:

- Finalised priority areas and draft objectives
- Refined objectives using the SMART framework
- Identified activities, challenges, solutions, indicators, and key stakeholders

e) Final Subgroup Meetings

Subgroups met to finalise objectives, activities, and targets, ensuring member commitment and ownership of the new action plan.

1.7 Overview of Consultations

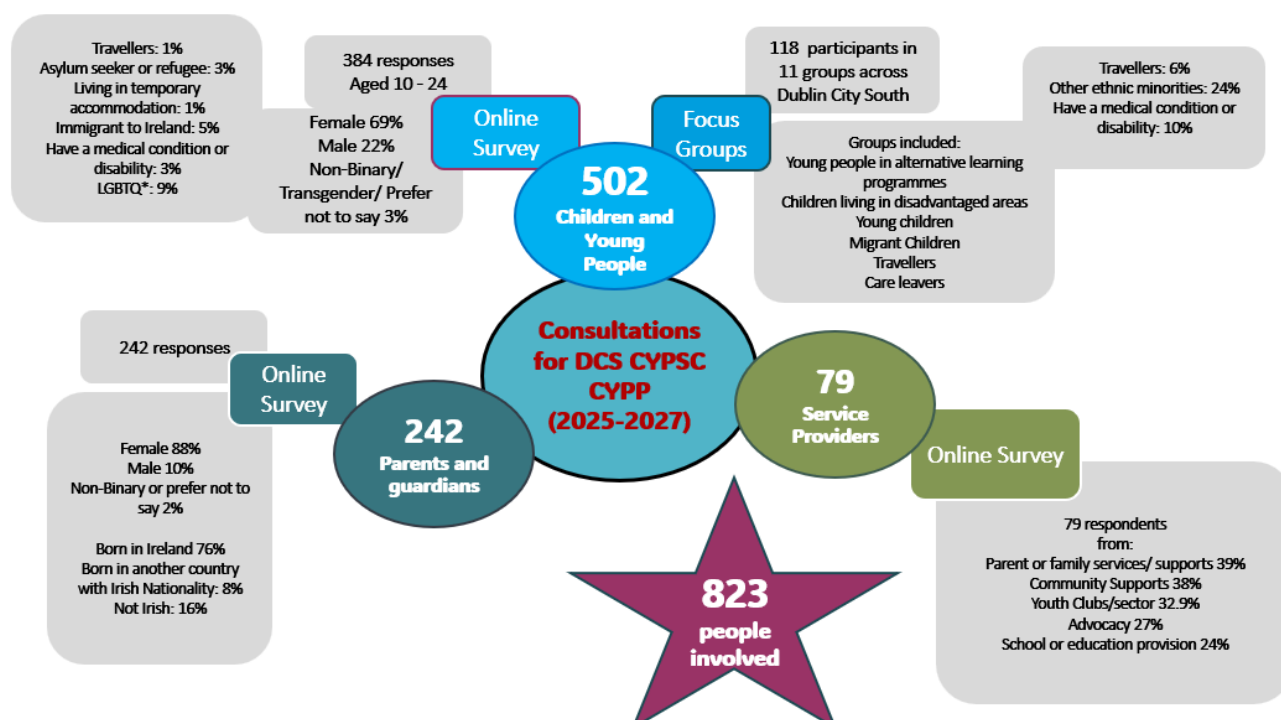
In total, 823 participants, including children, young people, parents or guardians, and service providers actively contributed to the consultation process, providing valuable insights to shape the development of the DCS CYPSC CYPP (2025-2027). The table and image below provide an overview of consultation participants, highlighting the numbers and profiles of people who responded to surveys, participated in focus groups, and attended consultation events.

Table 1.6 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the CYPP (2025-2027).

	Children and Young People	Service Providers	Parents/ guardians
Focus Groups	118	n/a	n/a
Surveys	384	79	242
Total	502	79	242

- The research involved three questionnaires which were anonymous, confidential, and included a mix of open and closed questions.
- The surveys were distributed through CYPSC members and an extensive network of organisations, schools, and youth groups, employing a random method. Eleven focus groups were also carried out with 118 children and young people across the DCS area. Participants were asked what they liked and disliked about the area where they lived, and what they would like to change to make life better for children, young people and families in the area.

Figure 1.2 Overview of consultations undertaken as part of the development of the DCS CYPP.



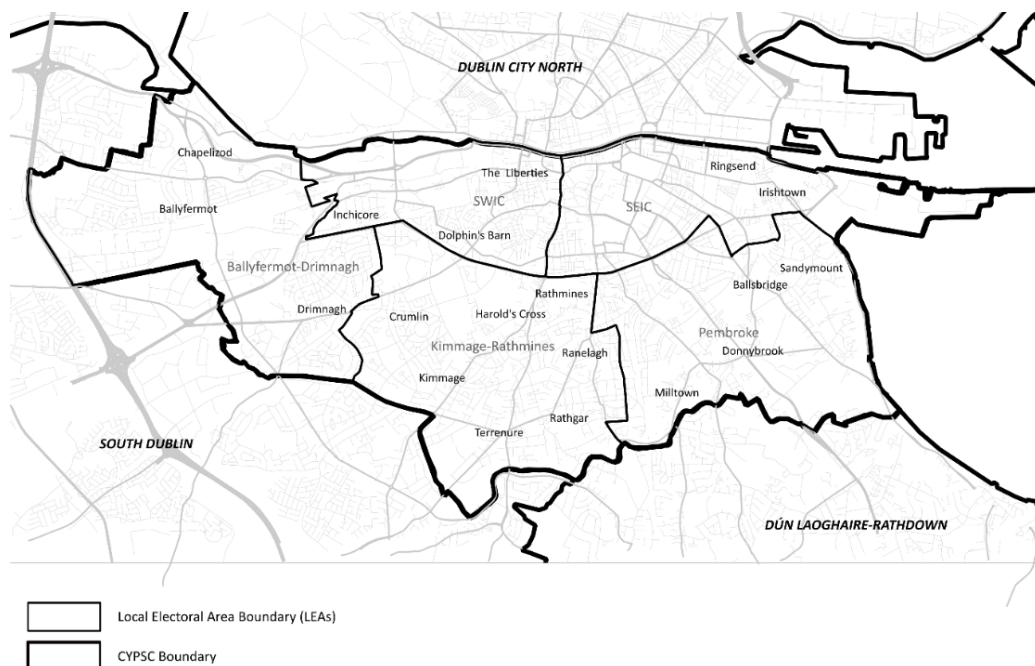
Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Dublin City South

2.1 Overview

The DCS CYPSC area covers the southern part of Dublin City Council local authority area, south of the River Liffey. It reaches from Irishtown in the east to Ballyfermot in the west and extends as far as Terenure. The total population of the area is 242,453 which represents a population growth of 10.1% between 2011 and 2022. This population growth was the lowest in the Dublin Region and lower than the State average of 12.2%. The population in DCS is characterised by:

- Having a significant urban based population
- Some of the most ethnically diverse areas in Ireland
- Areas classified as extremely disadvantaged and of great affluence

Map 2.1 Dublin City South CYPSC Area.



Key Comparator Indicators

Table 2.1 Key Comparators.

2.2 Demographics¹

Key Indicator	Dublin City South	State	Source
Child and Youth Population: Number of Children and Young People aged 0-24 years Percentage of total population	64,471 27%	1,657,058 32%	Census 2022
Child Population: Number of children under 18 years (0-17 years) Percentage of total population	39,996 16.5%	1,218,567 23%	Census 2022
Young Adult Population: Number of young people aged 18 - 24 years Percentage of total population	24,275 10.1%	438,491 8%	Census 2022
Infant Mortality: The number of deaths among infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	4.5 per 1,000 (Dublin City)	3.5 per 1,000	CSO 2022[1]
Child Mortality: Number of deaths of children by age (Dublin City breakdown not available)	Under 1 year: 25 1 - 4 years: 1 death 5-9 years: 3 deaths 10-14 years: 4 deaths 15-19 years: 3 deaths 20-24 years: 7 deaths	Under 1 year: 162 deaths 1 - 4 years: 24 deaths 5-9 years: 19 deaths 10-14 years: 30 deaths 15-19 years: 67 deaths 20-24 years: 84 deaths	CSO 2023[2]
Traveller children Number of Traveller people Rate per 1,000 population	670 3.0	32,949 6.5	Census 2022
Foreign national children Number of foreign national people Rate per 1,000 children	50,360 225	88,630 124	Census 2022
Children with a disability Number of children with a disability Rate per 1,000 children	52,740 217	1.109,557 215	Census 2022
Young Carers Number of people who provide regular unpaid personal help Rate (per 1,000) of population	10,831 45	299,128 58	Census 2022
Family Structure Number and percentage of lone-parent households Percentage of all families	9,785 34.6%	219,996 24.8%	Census 2022

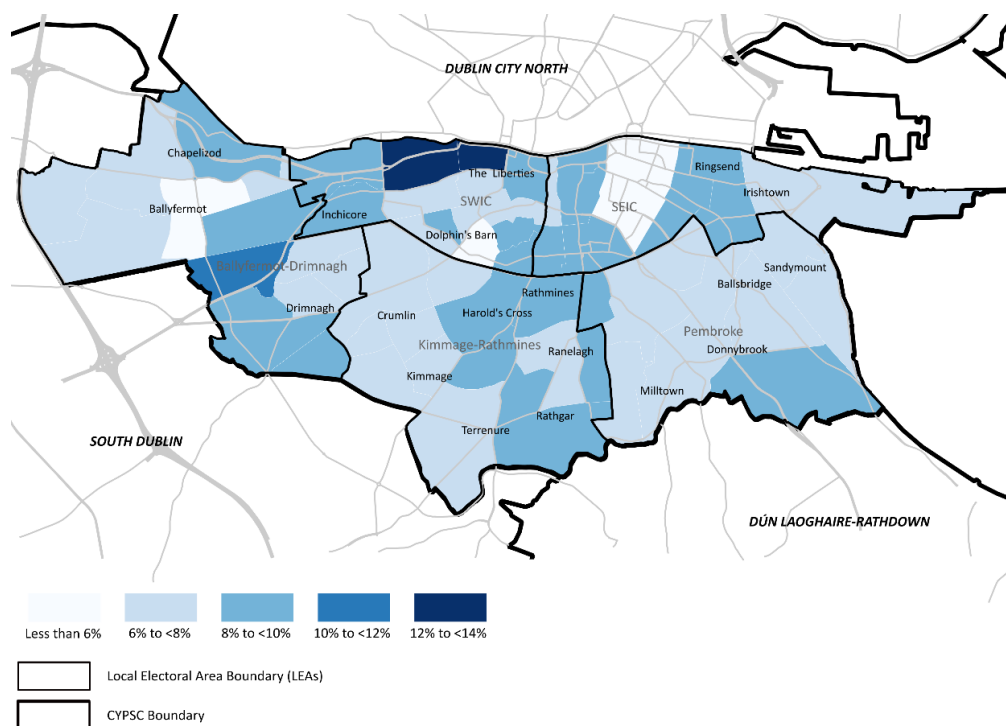
Population change

According to the Census as of April 2022, the total population in the DCS CYPSC area was 242,453. The DCS CYPSC area is characterised as an extremely diverse area in terms of the ethnic profile and where there are highly disadvantaged areas adjacent to highly affluent areas.

¹ DCS CYPSC comprehensive evidence baseline report of the area is available to download on [CYPSC.ie](https://cypsc.ie)

Map 2.2 below shows the distribution of population growth seen in DCS at Electoral Division (ED) level between 2011 and 2022.

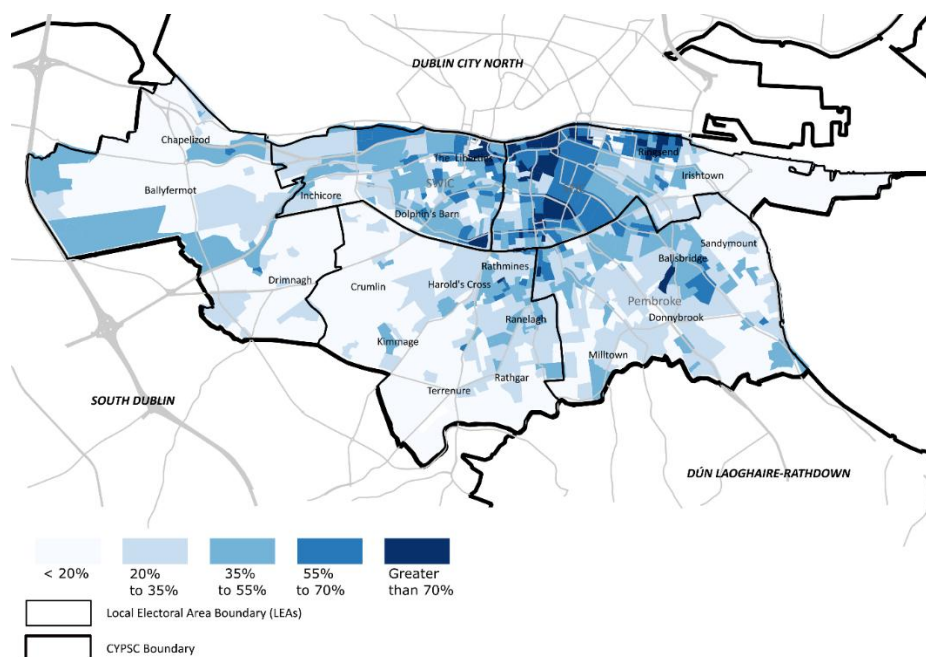
Map 2.2 Population change by ED 2011 -2022. Source: Census 2022.



Population born outside of Ireland

Data released from Census 2022 shows the diversity of the population in DCS in terms of the birthplaces of its population. Map 2.3 shows the distribution of the percentage of the population born outside of Ireland in Census 2022 at SA level. There is a clear spatial distribution with the highest proportions in the East and West of the Inner City in The Liberties, Temple Bar and Tara Street. Areas with the lowest proportions are in Donnybrook, Rathgar, Drimnagh and Ballyfermot.

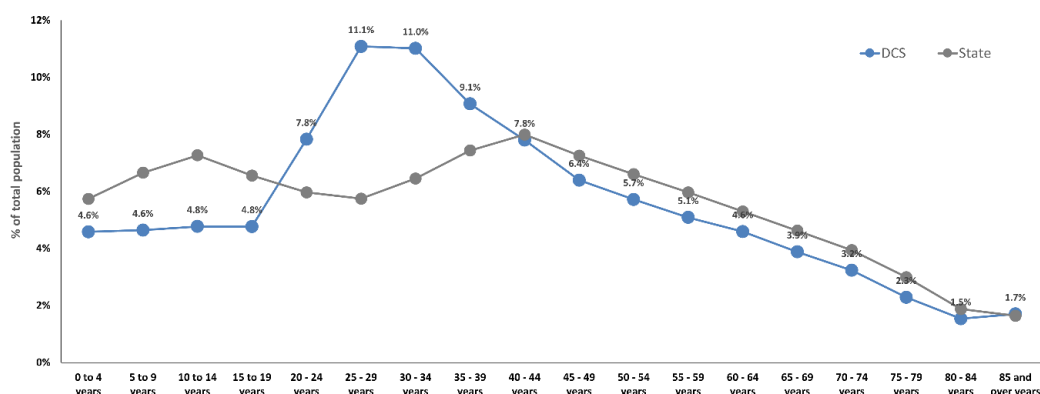
Map 2.3 Population born outside Ireland. Source: Census 2022.



Age Profile

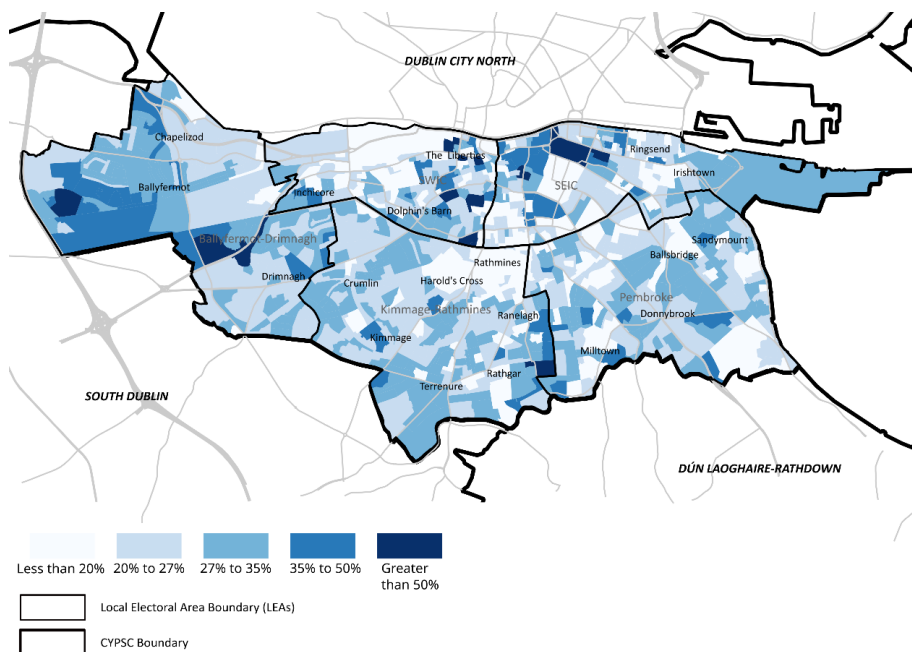
Figures released from Census 2022 shows how the age profile in DCS is not in line with the State. DCS has a far greater proportionate share in the 20 to 24 age groups as well as the working age group compared to State averages. This reflects the third level and graduate employment opportunities available in DCS. Graph 2.1 outlines the population pyramid of DCS and compares it to the State.

Graph 2.1 Age Group Graph. Source Census 2022.



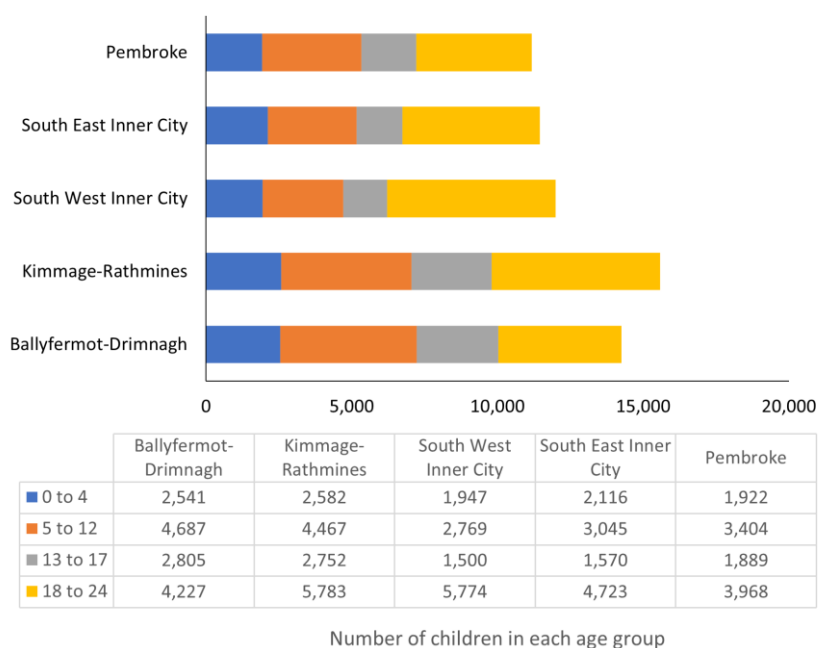
Map 2.4 highlights the areas with the highest proportions of youth population across DCS. Areas with the highest proportions are evident in Ringsend (Dublin 4), Rathgar (Dublin 6), The Liberties (Dublin 8), Bluebell (Dublin 8), and Ballyfermot (Dublin 10).

Map 2.4 Population aged 24 years and under. Source Census 2022.



Graph 2.2 examines the youth population by age group within the five separate LEAs in DCS. This graph shows that there is a greater number of youth population in Ballyfermot-Drimnagh and Kimmage-Rathmines compared to the other LEAs.

Graph 2.2 Youth population by age group. Source Census 2022.



2.3 Births and mothers

- In 2022 there were 6,967 births registered in Dublin City (breakdown of the South City is not available) according to the CSO Vital Statistics². In Dublin City, the number of births equated to a birth rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population and was the twelfth highest in the country compared to the other 31 local authorities.
- According to the Health Research Board (HRB), 100% newborns were visited by a public health nurse³ within 72 hours in the LHOs of Dublin South City, Dublin South West and Dublin West.
- According to the HRB, in Dublin South West, 81% of children reaching ten months within the reporting period had their developmental check before reaching ten months. Relative to the other LHOs this was the eight lowest rate in the country.

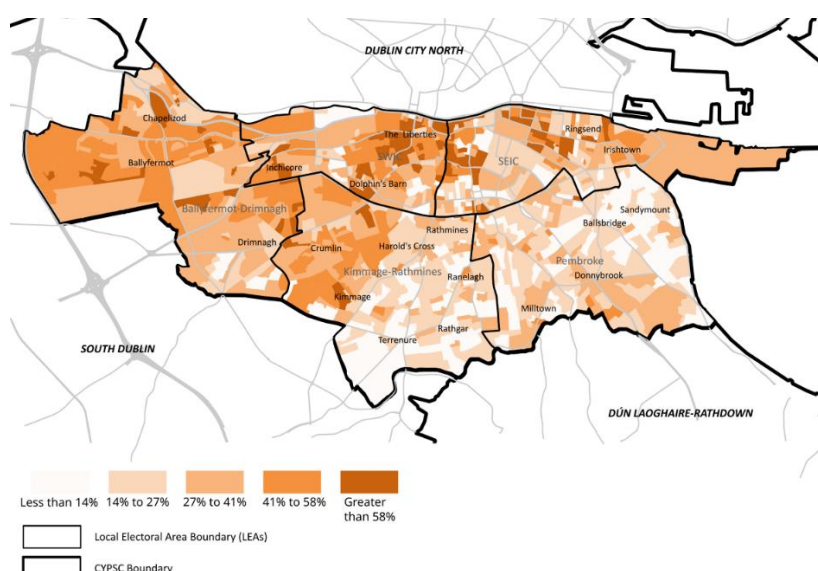
2.4 Family Structure

- As of April 2023, according to the latest Census results, there were 49,219 families living in the DCS CYPSC area. Further analysis of this showed that there were 12,579 families with children all aged under 15 years. The figure represented 45.1% of the total families and was greater than the State average of 43.2%.

2.5 One Parent Families

- According to Census 2022, there were 9,785 one parent families residing in the DCS area. This represented 34.6% of the total families in DCS. This proportion was higher than the state average of 24.9%, the Eastern and Midlands average of 25.5% and the Dublin regional average of 27.6%.
- Map 2.5 details the distribution of the one parent families at SA level throughout DCS. The SAs with the highest proportions of over 50% are in Ringsend (Dublin 4), The Liberties (Dublin 8), Drimnagh (Dublin 12) and Ballyfermot (Dublin 10).

Map 2.5 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022.



² [VSAS12 - Births Registered](#)

³ [Latest data \(hrb.ie\)](#)

2.6 International Protection Support Services (IPSS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) from Ukraine

According to the Department of Children Equality Inclusion Disability and Youth⁴, as of January 2024:

- As of January 2024, in Ireland there were 5,957 children living in IPAS accommodation. Of this total number 248 or 4.1% were living in the DCS CYPSC area.

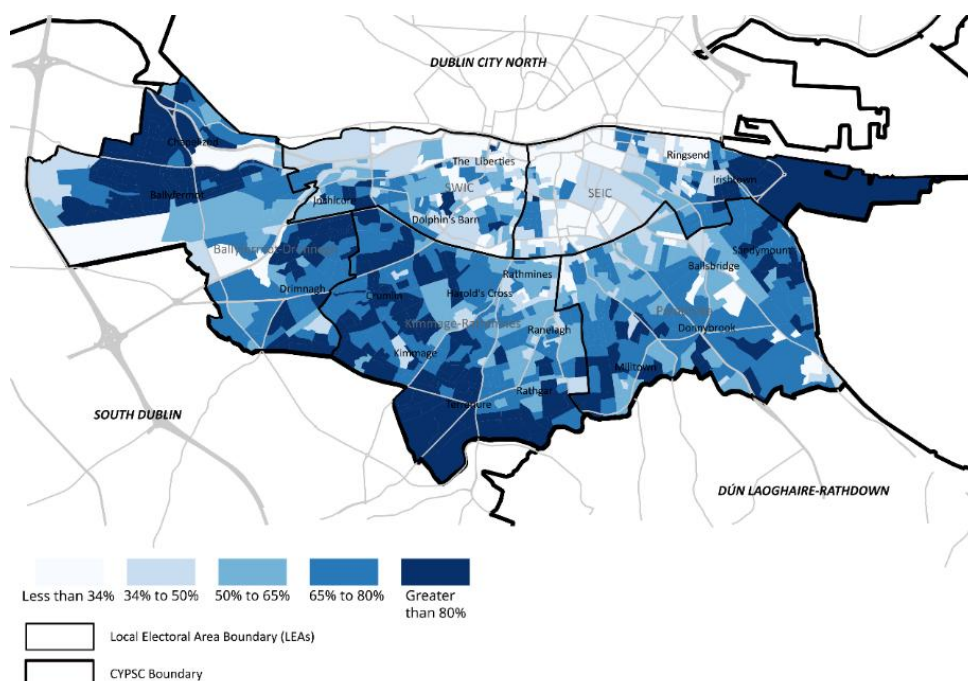
According to the CSO⁵, as of February 2025:

- 106,874 people had arrived in Ireland from Ukraine since May 2022. This data shows that of this total figure, 1,896 (or 1.8%) are residing in DCS, based on the allocation of PPS numbers.

2.7 Ethnicity

- Ethnic diversity as well as its distribution is outlined in Map 2.6 with the proportion of population classified as 'White Irish' according to Census 2022.
- Map 2.6 highlights how areas with the lowest proportions of population classified as 'White Irish' are in the Inner-City Centre and Ballsbridge.

Map 2.6 Population classified as 'White Irish' Source: Census 2022.



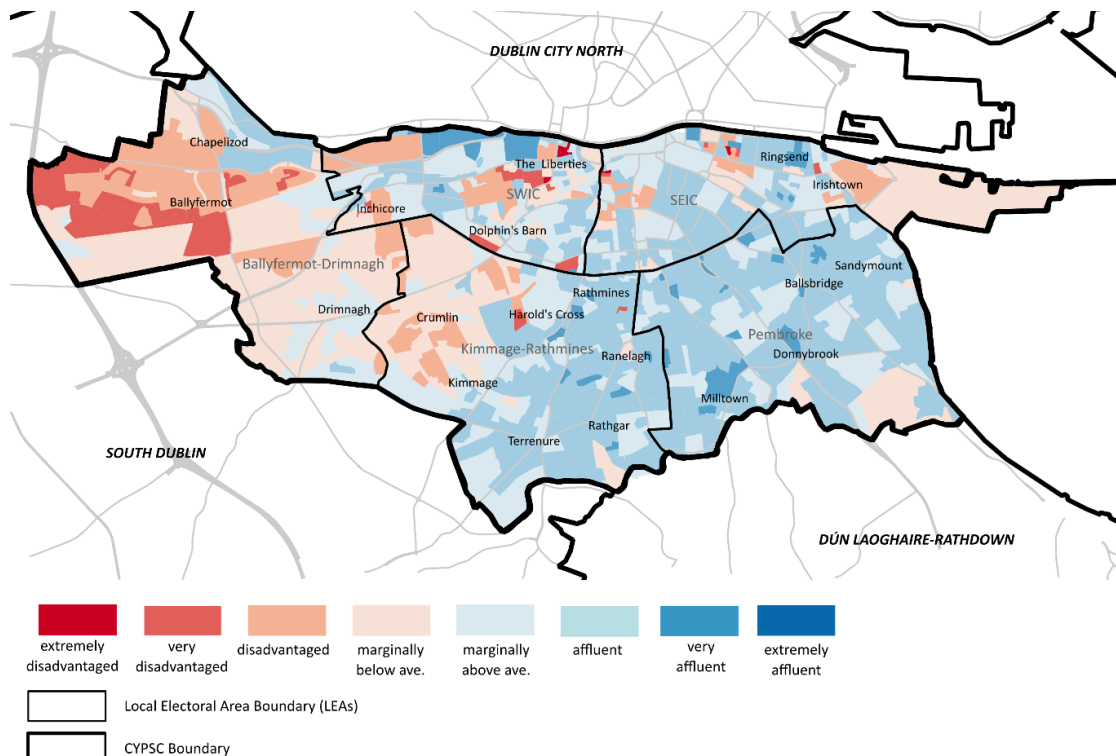
⁴ Renamed as the **Department of Children, Disability and Equality**, May 2025.

⁵ <https://data.cso.ie/table/UA05>

2.8 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

- The 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at the level of 18,919 SAs in 2022 in Ireland based on the Relative Index Scores for 2022.
- Map 2.7 shows the Pobal HP Deprivation Index by SAs throughout the DCS CYPSC area.

Map 2.7 Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022. Source: Pobal.

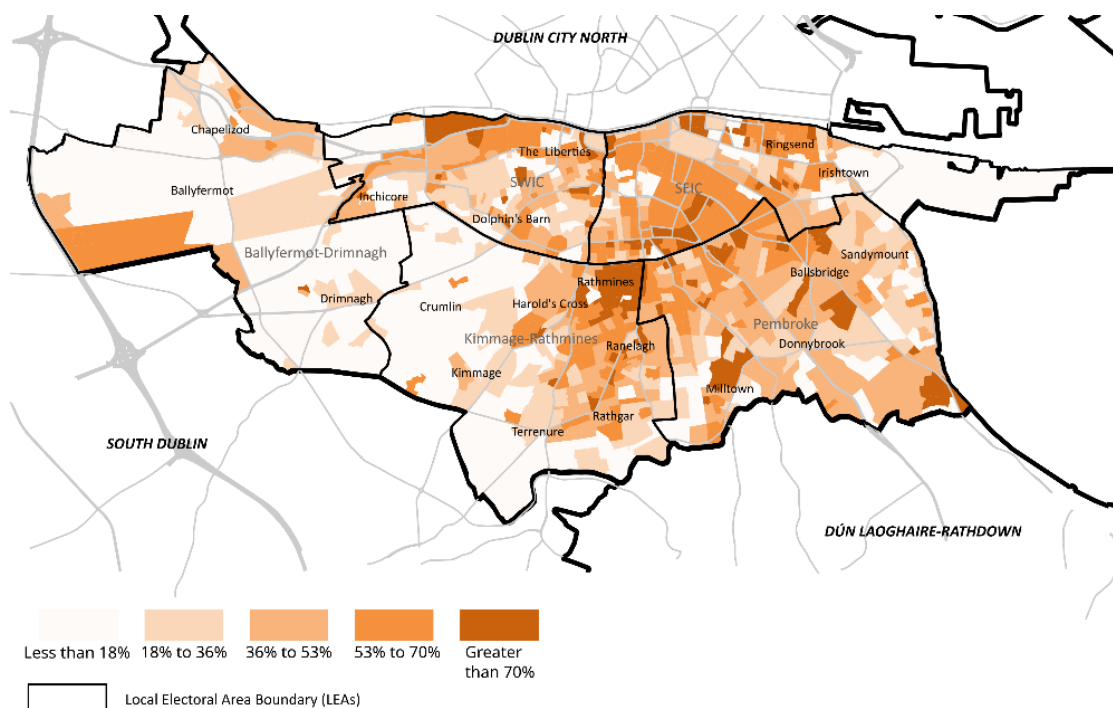


- Within the DCS area, there is a distinct distribution of the 2022 Relative Index Scores with areas in the west side of the city classed within the 'Marginally Below Average' (14.9% of SAs), 'Disadvantaged' (10.6% of SAs) and 'Very Disadvantaged' (3.1% of SAs) categories.

2.9 Housing Tenure

- According to Census 2022, 37% of houses in the DCS CYPSC area are rented from a private landlord, and this was double the State average of 18%. There are differences between the rate of private rental when the data is examined at the DCS and State level, as well as throughout the LEAs.
- The rate of private rental accommodation is far greater in DCS at 37% when compared to the country where it is only 18%. Similarly, the rate of social housing is far greater in the DCS while it is only 8% in the State.

Map 2.8 Proportion of households renting privately. Source: Census 2022.



2.10 Homelessness

- According to research carried out by the DRHE⁶ in 2023, an average of 1,128 young adults aged 18-24 years accessed emergency accommodation each month in the Dublin region, accounting for 18% of all adults in emergency accommodation. Between 2015 and 2023, there was a 195% increase in the average number of young people accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin region (four Dublin local authorities).
- According to the Summary of Social Housing Assessments⁷ published by the Housing Agency in 2023, there were 3,264 households with children on the social housing waiting list in Dublin City. Relative to the other LAs' rate, it was the third-highest rate in the state and above the state average of 23.6. Galway City recorded the highest rate of 104.6 and Roscommon the lowest at 7.0.
- As of February 2025, according to the DRHE⁸ there were:
 - 1,520 families living in homelessness in the Dublin Local Authority areas (Dublin City, DLR, South Dublin and Fingal).

⁶ [Youth-Homelessness-in-the-Dublin-Region-2023.pdf](#)

⁷ <https://www.housingagency.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/Summary%20of%20Social%20Housing%20Assessments%202023%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

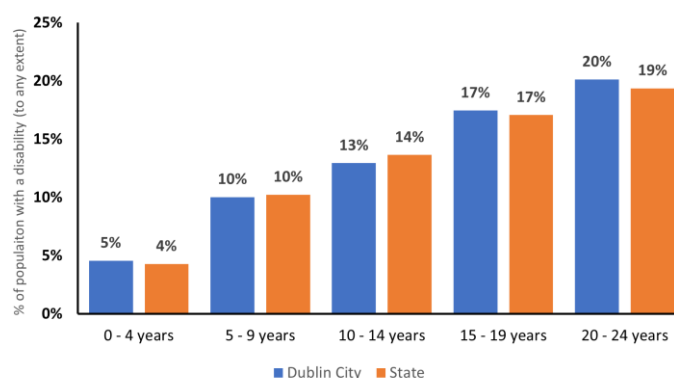
⁸ [Publications and research - Homeless Dublin](#)

- 3,434 dependent children (of the families accessing emergency accommodation).

2.11 Children with a Disability

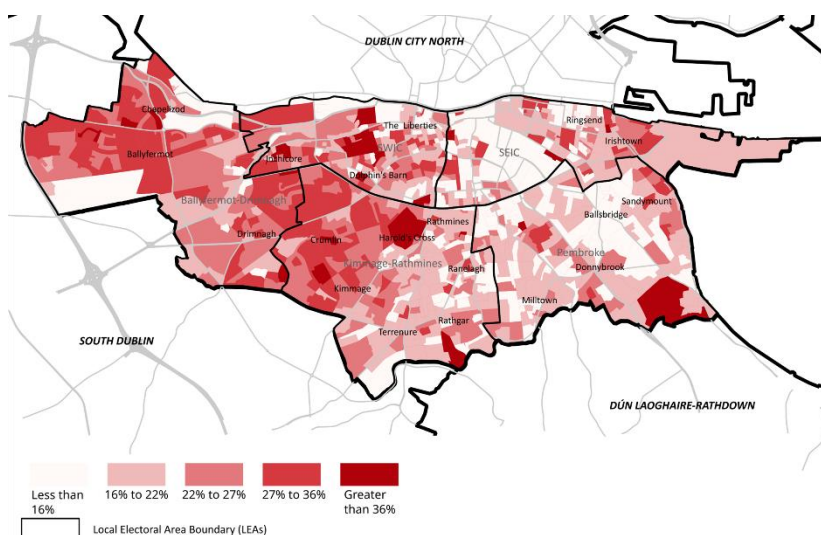
- According to Census 2022⁹, there were 22,715 children and young people in Dublin City with a disability to any extent as self-identified in the Census. This figure represents 13% of the population aged 0 to 24 years.
- Graph 2.3 breaks down this figure by age groups as well as the proportion of the total children in that age group.

Graph 2.3 Proportion of children and young people with a disability. Source: Census 2022.



Map 2.9 below shows the proportion of the population with a disability by SA in DCS according to the Census 2022.

Map 2.9 Proportion of population with a disability. Source: Census 2002.



2.12 Waiting Lists

- In 2024, 315 children in Dublin South City, 148 in Dublin South East, 879 in Dublin West and 842 in Dublin South West, were waiting to be seen for psychology treatment in Primary Care (initial assessment). These numbers equate to a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 children and young

⁹ [FY084 - Persons with a Disability as a Percentage of All Population](#)

people in Dublin South City, 3.2 in Dublin South East, 12.3 in Dublin West and 12.3 in Dublin South West.

- Information on HSE Primary Care waiting lists was obtained from the HSE in June 2024. Data available included the number of children aged less than 18 years waiting for psychology treatment. This data is recorded by Local Health Office (LHO) of which four LHOs fall in the DCS CYPSC area: Dublin South City, Dublin South East, Dublin West and Dublin South West.

2.13 Suicide

- According to the CSO Vital Statistics¹⁰ in 2022 there was a suicide rate of 8.3 in Dublin City. This rate was slightly higher than the state rate of 8.1.

2.14 Drugs and Alcohol Treatment

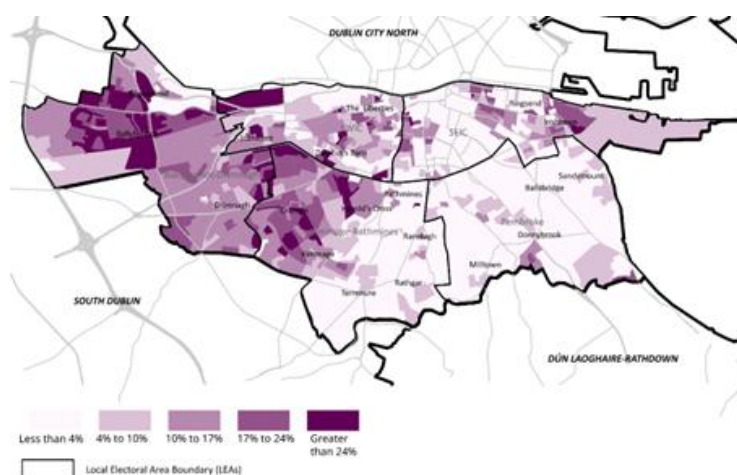
- Relative to the four LHOs that fall within the DCS CYPSC area, Dublin South West recorded the highest at 47.9 per 10,000 and was above the State average of 30.0 per 10,000. The rate in Dublin West was the third highest rate in the country and higher than the other LHOs per 10,000: Dublin South West (32.4), Dublin South City (21.9) and Dublin South East (11.2).

2.15 Education

Educational Attainment

- According to Census 2022, 167,717 people in DCS had completed their education.
- When compared with the State, DCS has a higher-than-average attainment in third level education attainment.
- Despite this Map 2.10 highlights the distribution of population with no formal or primary only education attainment throughout DCS. There is a very clear spatial distribution with the highest rates in the west of the area except for Ringsend and Irishtown (Dublin 4).

Map 2. 10 Proportion of population with No Formal or Primary Only Education. Source: Census 2022.



Early Years

According to the Pobal Early Years report in 2022/23¹¹:

- There were 9,089 ECCE places in Dublin City, this figure includes occupied and vacant spaces. Of this total figure, 9.5% of these spaces were vacant. Relative to all other local authorities, this was the thirteenth lowest vacancy rate in the State.

¹⁰ [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

¹¹ [Data sources - Pobal](#)

- There were 9,576 ECCE places in Dublin City when cross referenced with the number of children aged 3, 4 and 5 years residing in Dublin City; in the same period there were ECCE places available for 57.1% of children. Relative to all other local authorities, this was the ninth highest rate in the State.

Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Retention

- According to the Department of Education¹² in 2016 a total of 5,173 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in Dublin City. By 2019, a total of 5,018 students in that cohort had completed their Junior Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 97.4%. This was marginally below the State average of 97.6%.
- Leaving certificate retention rates are published by the Department of Education¹³ on an annual basis. This information includes the number of young people that begin secondary school and complete their Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate within five or six years. This information is released by administrative area.
- In 2016, a total of 5,173 students entered the first year of the junior cycle in Dublin City. By 2021/2022, a total of 4,661 students in that cohort had completed their Leaving Certificate. This equates to a retention rate of 90.1%. This was below the State average of 91.7%. Relative to other local authorities, this rate was the sixth lowest in the country with Sligo recording the highest retention rate of 94.1% and Carlow the lowest at 89.5%.

School absenteeism

- For the latest published data available¹⁴ for the 2021-22 school year, 2, 29.1% of the students in mainstream primary schools in the Dublin region were absent for 20 or more days. This rate was the ninth highest in the State and was lower than the State average of 10.4%.
- Relative to post-primary schools in recent years, the Dublin region experienced its highest absenteeism rate of 8.8% during the 2020/21 period. This rate persisted into the following year (2021/22), remaining at 8.8%. Notably, this increase was significant compared to the sub-5% rate recorded in 2019/20.

2.16 Garda Youth Diversion Programme

- The Garda Youth Diversion Programme (GYDP) is a national initiative provided for in the Children Act 2001. It aims to support An Garda Síochána in diverting young people away from further offending through a network of local Garda Youth Diversion Projects. They target 12–17-year-olds with the intention of diverting young people away from the criminal justice system.
- The latest published data available is for 2022. In 2022, 557 young people aged under 18 were referred to the Garda Youth Diversion scheme in the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) Southern Area. This figure equates to a rate of 103.1 per 1,000 young people aged under 18. Relative to the other divisions this was the third highest rate in 2016. In the same period, the DMR South Central Area recorded a rate of 77.0 and DMR Eastern recorded a rate of 59.1.

¹² [gov - Ministers Foley and Harris announce publication of latest Education Indicators for Ireland report \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/ministers-foley-and-harris-announce-publication-of-latest-education-indicators-for-ireland-report/)

¹³ [gov.ie - Retention \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/gov-ie-retention-2022/)

¹⁴ [AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf \(tusla.ie\)](https://www.tusla.ie/publications-and-resources/publication/aar-sar-2019-22.pdf)

2.17 Tusla Referrals and Children in Care

- According to the Tusla Data Hub^[1] in 2024 there were 7,742 children referred to Tusla in Dublin South Central. This equated to a rate of 110.2 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 17 years. When compared with the other 17 Integrated Service Areas (ISA) this rate is the second highest rate in the country.
- The rate of 110.2 per 1,000 in 2023 also represents significant growth in the rate of referrals in the Dublin South Central ISA as it was only 72.3 per 1,000 in 2021.

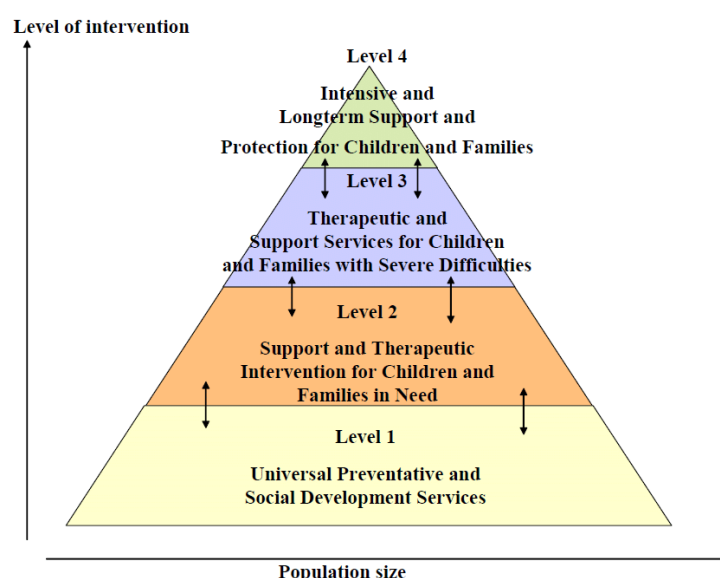
Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Dublin City South

The listing of categorised services below is based on a desktop review of those services located in the DCS area. This is not an exhaustive list of individual services, rather a broad profile of services in the region. Services are grouped into broad categories (below) and are further categorised as either Community and Voluntary Services (C and V) or Statutory (S) Services. Where groupings illustrated mixed Statutory and Community and Voluntary, these have been noted as mixed.

1. **Health, Social and Family Supports** including services for homelessness; domestic, sexual and gender-based violence; and Traveller, Roma and migrants.
2. **Education and Support** including schools, adult education, and third level institutions.
3. **Youth clubs, Projects and Resources** including special interest groups for supports.
4. **Policing and Youth Justice** including probation, prison, and Garda Youth Diversion Programmes.
5. **Drug and Alcohol services** including prevention, intervention and harm reduction services.
6. **Mental Health** including child and adolescent multidisciplinary teams, bereavement and community supports.
7. **Disability specific interventions** including autism spectrum disorder, early intervention, intellectual disability, and physical and sensory.
8. **Employment, Social Inclusion and Legal** including Local Area Partnerships, employment services, and legal aid.

These services can be understood as being universal or targeted services, and are best illustrated by the Hardiker Model, and have been categorised as such in the listing.

Figure 3.1: Hardiker Model. (Source: Hardiker et al, 1991¹⁵).



¹⁵ [Vol. 21, No. 4, August 1991 of The British Journal of Social Work on JSTOR](#)

Organisation /Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1. Health and Social			
TUSLA The Child & Family Agency	• Alternative Care: Foster Care, Residential care, Special Care, Aftercare, Separated Children Seeking International Protection, Assessment Consultation Therapy Service • Prevention Partnership & Family Support: Child & family support networks, Family Support and Parent Support Champions • Children's Services regulation: Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU), Alternative education assessment registration services (AEARS), Alternative care inspection and monitoring services (ACIMS), Early years Inspectorate (EYI) and School Age Care Regulation (SAC) • TUSLA Education Support Service: Statutory Educational Welfare Service (EWS), Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL), School Completion Programme (SCP) • Birth information, Tracing & adoption services	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Level 1, 2, 3 & 4
Health Service Executive (HSE)	• Primary care: 8 Primary care centres in the DCS area • Public Health Nursing • GP Services: Approx. 90 GP services on the HSE listing in DCS • Children's Disability Network Teams • HSE Health Promotion • HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): Locations are Linn Dara (including inpatient) and Lucena Clinic, Rathgar • HSE Dental Services for Children: Emergency services are available for all children up to their 16th birthday • Connecting for Life (CFL) (area 7): HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) • HSE Drugs and Alcohol Information Support: Counselling, Education & Training, Information & Support and Treatment & Rehabilitation services • HSE Local Drugs and Alcohol Task forces: Ballyfermot, Canal Communities, Dublin 12 and South Inner City	Statutory	Universal & Targeted, Level 1, 2, 3 & 4

Health and Social: Disability Specific Interventions			
Health Service Executive cont'd	- Disability Services - Occupational Training Support Services - Rehabilitative Training Guidance Service - Physical Disability Residential Unit - Cuan Aoibheann Residential Unit - Services for the Deaf - Hearing Services - Services for the Visually Impaired. - Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Level 1, 2, 3 & 4
Involve Autism	Involve is a parent and guardian-led advocacy and support group for children with autism in DCS. Their focus is on peer support and ensuring high-quality education for autistic children.	Voluntary	Universal
Cheeverstown Centre and School	School: primary school aged children with learning disabilities. Centre: services, facilities and supports for young people and adults with an intellectual disability.	Statutory	Universal
Enable Ireland	SeatTech: assessment and provision of mobility equipment, maintenance and repair, training, research and development, occupational therapy. Sandymount Swimming Pool Little Pals Integrated Preschool	Voluntary	Targeted 2 & 3
Health and Social: Mental Health			
Mental Health Organisations	Jigsaw: support service in Temple Bar Aware: support services, positive mental health programmes, and information and resources Solace Café: community space that provides free, out-of-hours mental health support in Ranelagh Anam Cara Supporting Bereaved Parents: grief-support group for parents who have lost a child Pieta: supporting those in suicidal distress, engaging in self-harm or bereaved by suicide. Three locations in DCS Samaritans: free crisis mental health service with a branch in Dublin 8 Grow Mental Health: Online or in person support group located on Aungier Street Luenca Clinic/St John of God: mental health services to children up to the age of 18	Community & Voluntary	Level 1 & 2
Loreto Centre Crumlin	Low-cost counselling service.	Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 & 3

Health and Social Services: Families			
Family resource centres	Locations include: Cherry Orchard FRC, Ballyfermot FRC, St. Matthew's FRC, School Street/Thomas Court Bawn FRC, Inchicore FRC St. Andrew's FRC and Fatima Groups United.	Community & Voluntary	Universal & Targeted Level 1 - 3
Barnardos	The two DCS locations are the Rialto Family Centre and Cherry Orchard. The service aims to promote the emotional wellbeing and positive learning outcomes for children.	Community & Voluntary	Universal & Targeted Level 1 to 3
Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre	Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre is a community-based initiative providing information, support and counselling for those affected by substance misuse, gambling harm, and mental health difficulties.	Community & Voluntary	Universal & Targeted Level 1 to 2
Family & Child Supports and Programmes	• The Daughters of Charity Child & Family Services: Early Childhood Development Service (ECDS), Family Centre Service, Dublin Safer Families Service and Assessment Services in Inchicore and Cherry Orchard • Irish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to children (ISPCC): Services include Childline, Teenline, Digital Mental Health & Wellbeing, Childline Therapeutic Supports, Outreach and Youth participation programmes • FAMILIBASE Centre: The Child and Family team provide high quality, evidence informed programmes such as Intensive Family Support Programme, Systemic Trauma Therapy Programme, Teen Parent Support Programme	Community, Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 & 3
Area-Based Childhood (ABC)	Prevention and early intervention to improve outcomes for children by reducing child poverty. Services: Family Matters – Liffey Partnership (D10), Early learning Initiative – National College of Ireland (South Inner City).	Community/ Statutory	Targeted Level 2 & 3
Health and Social Services: Domestic, Sexual, and Gender Based Violence			
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services	• Aoi bhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children • Sonas Domestic Violence Charity • Saoirse Domestic Violence Outreach Workers • Inchicore Outreach • Women's Aid – Dublin Based Services • Men's Aid (Meath) • Dublin Safer Families Service, Daughters of Charity • TLC Kidz programme – Barnardos • Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC): primarily for adults but crisis counselling available is for 16-18 year olds • Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (STAU): primarily medical and forensic services	Community & Voluntary/Statutory	Targeted Level 3 & 4
CUAN	The state agency specifically designed to tackle all forms of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.	Statutory	Universal

Health and Social Services: Homelessness Services			
Homeless services	• Focus Ireland • Simon Community • Crosscare • Peter McVerry • St Vincent de Paul • Depaul Trust • Novas Initiatives • Sophia • Threshold Trust • The Salvation Army • Irish Council for Social Housing • Anew	Community & Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 to 4
Health and Social: Integration Support			
Dublin City Council Integration Team	The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) works with Applicants for International Protection, those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status, Programme Refugees, and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.	Statutory	Targeted Level 2 & 3
Health and Social: Traveller and Roma Communities			
Traveller and Roma Support Services	• Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project: education, training, programmes, lobbying • Ballyfermot Family Resource Centre: meals on wheels, rooms to hire, counselling, crèche • Irish Traveller Movement (ITM): policy, programmes • Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre: programmes on a variety of topics	Community & Voluntary	Universal & Targeted

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
2. Education			
Department of Education/Schools	66 Primary Schools (36 DEIS) 32 Post-primary schools (15 DEIS) 15 Special Schools	Statutory	Universal Level 1
Dublin City Childcare Committee (DCCC)	- Information and advice on setting up a childminding service - Managing a childminding business - Supporting childminders to become registered with Tusla - Support and advice for parents looking for early learning and care solutions All Early Learning and Care (ELC) & School Age Childcare (SAC) Services: 62 community and 131 private.	Statutory & Voluntary	Universal Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3
City of Dublin ETB	The State education and training authority for Dublin City.	Statutory	Universal Level 1
National Education Psychology Service (NEPS)	NEPS psychologists are concerned with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development in school. Services include supporting individual students (through consultation and assessment), special projects and research.	Statutory	Targeted Level 2 and 3
School Completion and Alternative Education	School Completion Programme (SCP): supports young persons to complete the Leaving Certificate, equivalent qualification or suitable level of educational attainment Youthreach is a full-time programme of education, training and work-experience for early school leavers aged 16-20. Campuses in DCS: Pleasant's Street, Ballyfermot and Crumlin iScoil: online learning service that offers young people a pathway to learning, accreditation and progression	Statutory, Community & Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 and 3
Parent and Toddler Groups	Informal groups within the local community which provide an opportunity for young children and their parents/carers to meet. Some are held in local community centres or church halls while others meet in the homes of group members.	Community & Voluntary	Universal Level 1
Education: Third Level			

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
2. Education			
Third Level Education Institutions	- Trinity College Dublin (TCD) - TU Dublin - National College for Art and Design (NCAD) - Dublin Business School - Griffith College - Grafton Academy of Fashion Design	Statutory	Universal Level 1

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
3. Policing and Youth Justice			
Garda	DCS is part of the Dublin Metropolitan Region Garda Division, which includes ten Garda Stations. There are five Juvenile Liaison Officers including one sergeant in DCS, and three Garda Youth Diversion Projects.	Statutory	Targeted Level 2 and 3
Irish Probation Service	Young Persons Probation is a specialist division of the Irish Probation Service which works with young people aged 12-18 who come before the courts, or who are in Children's detention schools/centre.	Statutory Community & Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 and 3
Counselling and Offender Re-integration Projects	- Le Chéile Mentoring: one-to-one mentoring for young people who have either committed or are at risk of committing an offence. - Solas Project: programmes for young people involved in offending behaviour, and during and after custody. - Bridge Project - Candle Community Trust - WHAD	Community & Voluntary	Targeted Level 2 and 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
4. Local Authority			
Dublin City Council	Key areas include housing, planning, environment, transportation, libraries, parks, Dublin Fire Brigade, animal welfare, sports and leisure, Community Centres and Arts and Events.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
4. Local Authority			
Dublin City Council Local and Community Development Companies (LCDC)	- The preparation and implementation of the community element of the Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan (2016 – 2021) - Bringing a more joined-up approach to local and community development activity in the city - Coordinating and monitoring the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) - The approval and funding of the Community Enhancement Programme	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-3
Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)	Services provided by the DRHE include funding homeless services and managing the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS), an online shared system utilised by every homeless service provider and all local authorities in Ireland.	Statutory	Targeted Level 2 and 3
Local Development Companies (LDCs)	LDCs are partnerships that drive initiatives in community development, employment support, social inclusion, climate action, and social enterprise. There are three LDCs in DCS and include Liffey Partnership, Dublin Community City Co-Op, and Dublin South City Partnership.	Community & Voluntary	Universal and Targeted Level 1 to 2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
5. Social Welfare			
Employment and Training Services	Intreo: support for jobseekers and employers Dublin South City Partnership's Employment Team: CV support, applications, interview skills Seetec: advice on employment and training Liffey Partnership Local Area Employment Support (LAES): support with career direction, setting goals, finding courses, training. Tosú: helping people with criminal convictions to re-enter the workforce Employability: support and recruitment for people with disabilities	Statutory, Community & Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Money Advice and Budgeting Services	The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State's free financial advice service, guiding people through dealing with	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
5. Social Welfare			
	problem debt. Within DCS, they have offices in Ballyfermot and on Lombard Street in Dublin 2.		
Citizens Information Centres	Provides information on topics such as (but not limited to) social welfare, tax, employment law, and returning to work. There are four Citizens Information Centres in DCS; in Liberties, Kimmage, Aungier Street, and Ballyfermot.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Legal Aid Services	- Dolphin House Family Law Centre - Montague Court Law Centre - Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) for advice and information	Community & Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
6. Sports, Recreation Arts and Culture			
Dublin City Sports & wellbeing partnership	The fundamental goal of Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership is to provide opportunities for everyone in our communities to partake in sport and physical activity regardless of age, ability or background, through our dedicated programmes, services, and facilities.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Community, Sports & Leisure Centres	There are 59 community, sports and leisure centres offering a range of services to communities, children/young people and families located in DCS.	Statutory Community & Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Public Parks and Playgrounds	There is a total of 27 public parks in Dublin City and 19 playgrounds in a variety of designs including a range of equipment for junior and senior ages.	Statutory	Universal Level 1
Dublin City Arts Office	Dublin City Arts Office, based at The LAB, is a specialist service that represents a strategic investment in the arts by Dublin City Council.	Statutory	Universal Level 1

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
7. Youth			
Youth Services	• City of Dublin Youth Services (CDYS) • Belong To (LGBTQ+) • Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Service • Familibase Youth & Community: Youth Work Programme, Young Person Substance Misuse Programme, Arts Programme, Community Programme • The St John Bosco Youth Centre - Drimnagh • Candle Community Trust - Ballyfermot/Dublin 10 • Rialto Youth Project: one-to-one individual support and group work approaches • Ballyfermot Youth Service • Brú Youth Service, Crumlin and Walkinstown • St Ultan's Childcare Project, an in-school and out of school service for children and young people • Canal Communities Regional Youth Service - Bluebell, Inchicore and Rialto • Core Youth service – Inchicore: non-formal education, individual and group work support, activities • CLAY - Lower Crumlin • Fountain Youth Resource Centre: informal drop-in session, residentials, clubs, programmes ○ Programmes: Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Sexual Health Copping-on, Cookery, Art & Craft, Computers • South West Inner City Network (SWICN) • The Solas Project • YMCA Youth and Community Service Dublin South City • Talk About Youth, Pearse Street: clubs, training, drug education and outreach, sports, music, annual events	Community, Voluntary, & Statutory	Targeted Level 2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis for Dublin City South

4.1 Introduction

This section brings together all information gathered in the development of the CYPP (2025-2027) and presents an analysis of the needs of children, young people, and their families in DCS (under the themes of the Five National Outcomes). It also outlines DCS CYPSC priorities and objectives for the next three years that have been agreed by CYPSC members based on information and analysis from the following primary and secondary research that was carried out:

- A socio-demographic profile of DCS
- An audit of services for children, young people and families in the area
- Consultations in autumn 2024 involving over 800 stakeholders, including children, parents, and professionals working with children, young people and families in the area
- Analysis of local needs and gaps for children, young people and their families
- Strategic planning meetings where CYPSC members reviewed gaps and determined priorities, objectives, and actions for 2025–2027

These Local Priority Areas, as identified by DCS CYPSC for the 2025 – 2027 period, are detailed in the following table.

Table 4.1 Local Priority Areas for the period 2025 – 2027.

Active and Healthy	Economic Security and Opportunity
• Infant health and wellbeing • Supporting positive mental health • Supporting mental health in target groups • Alcohol substance misuse awareness	• Child, youth and family supports • Food poverty • Support for families in international protection accommodation • Care leavers/aftercare supports
Achieving in Learning and Development	Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
• Educational engagement and learning • Bullying • Anti-racism training and awareness	• Youth services • Participation and voice of children and young people • Community connections
Safe and Protected from Harm	Change Management
• Community safety and supports • Homelessness • Parental supports access and engagement • Domestic sexual, gender-based violence and coercive control (DSGBV)	• DCS CYPSC membership • Internal communications • Critical incident protocol • Strategic partnerships

4.2 Overview of Dublin City South Area

Research for this plan highlights DCS as a uniquely diverse area, with extreme affluence existing alongside disadvantage. Due to the stagnant housing market, families who might have moved to suburban areas for larger or more affordable homes are now staying in the city.

Consultations revealed that children and young people living in the area appreciate its parks, playgrounds and transport options. However, they have concerns about safety, substance misuse in communities, and vaping or smoking among children and young people. Major challenges include bullying, homelessness, mental health issues, and the lack of safe spaces for young people.

Sections 4.3 to 4.7 below outline the relevant data, consultation findings and policy context for each of the Local Priority Areas that have been identified under each of the Five National Outcomes.

4.3 Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Many children and young people who participated in the consultations for the CYPP (2025-2027) described DCS as a good place to live, highlighting plenty of parks and playgrounds, proximity to family members, and reliable transport options. However, alongside the positives, concerns were raised about issues such as excessive vaping, drug and alcohol use, and the lack of activities for young people outside of sports within their local community.

Key health-related challenges reported by young people included high levels of vaping and smoking, substance misuse, and mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and self-harm. There was strong feedback from children and young people for more youth activities, improved mental health services, and decisive action by policymakers to address vaping and substance misuse.

Parents and guardians identified body image pressures or societal expectations to look a certain way as a significant challenge for children and young people. This was followed by mental health concerns, a lack of sports and recreation activities, and difficulties accessing mental health services. Most parents who participated in the survey called for more parent supports in DCS.

Service providers echoed some of the parents' survey findings, noting that mental health challenges - such as stress and anxiety - were among the most pressing issues for children and young people, alongside general difficulties in accessing health services.

Local Priority Areas within Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Through analysis of consultation findings, in addition to socio-economic profiling, service audit and other data sources, DCS CYPSC has identified four Local Priority Areas that it will focus on over the next three years within this outcome area.

The priorities and the objectives to be achieved within each area are as follows.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Infant Health and Wellbeing	• Increase awareness of the importance of Infant Health and Wellbeing.
Supporting positive mental health	• Increase access to evidence informed wellbeing initiatives and interventions to support prevention and early intervention from mental health services.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Supporting Mental Health in target groups	Supports and information for universal mental health directed at specific target groups, such as LGBTQI +; Traveller; Roma; care leavers and identified marginalised groups.
Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness	Promote awareness of alcohol and substance misuse (ASM) amongst professionals, parents and young people.

The background and rationale for each of these priority areas are outlined below.

Local Priority 1: Infant Health and Wellbeing	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Consultations found that 57% (or n= 137) of parents who took part felt that the parental supports in the DCS area were insufficient, while 12% (or n=29) said there were enough supports and 18% (or n=44) did not know. When asked what supports were needed parents called for more affordable childcare (47% or n=113 of parents), more available childcare (38% or n=91), information on existing supports and services (30% or n=73), more classes/workshops on different topics (27% or n=66), more baby and toddler groups (24% or n=59) and opportunities to meet other parents (23% or n=55). Parents were asked what one thing they would change in DCS that would make life better for children and their families. One such parent called for the establishment of parent networks to improve resources for families: “Create a series of parent networks - one in each area - that work individually in each area and then together across Dublin to improve life for parents and children.” Parent
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	15% (or n=12) of service providers who completed the survey felt that increased family and parent supports were needed the most. Some of the service providers went on to describe how more early intervention through assessments and supports were needed particularly by marginalised and vulnerable families. One service provider stated: “Early intervention and parent support services for all families including the most vulnerable and children with additional needs and disabilities... including appropriate referrals to existing services and further expansion and investment in community-based responses e.g. early childhood home visiting, to support statutory staff such as PHNs, primary care and CDNT teams.” Service Provider
What do other data and policies say?	The Irish Association for Infant Mental Health (IAIMH) states that positive experiences in the first years of life foster secure attachment relationships and act as protection against future emotional, social, and behavioural difficulties.¹⁶ The latest census data shows there were 2,936 babies under one year of age in the DCS area in 2022.¹⁷ In 2023, according to the CSO Vital Statistics, the

¹⁶ www.iaimh.ie

¹⁷ [Census 2022 Small Area Population Statistics - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

	average age of mothers in Dublin City was 31.7 years and 92 births (1.5% of total births) were to mothers under 20 (reflecting a downward trend)¹⁸. First-time mothers' average age rose from 31.4 in 2017 to 31.7 in 2023, reflecting an upward trend of older first-time mothers nationally. Between 2018 and 2021, antenatal care attendance in the first trimester rose from 68.6% to 87.3%. However, exclusive breastfeeding rates on hospital discharge declined from 47.7% in 2018 to 38.4% in 2022. Developmental checks in DCS LHOs reached 100% in 2021 and 2022, recovering from pandemic-related lows in 2020. DCS CYPSC focus on increasing awareness of infant health and wellbeing during the first 1,000 days aligns with research, policies and initiatives that emphasise the importance of early intervention initiatives for the long-term wellbeing of babies and young children. Evidence shows that high-quality supports during early childhood can prevent future health difficulties and yield lasting benefits for families, and the early years are the most effective times to intervene due to rapid child development.¹⁹ In 2023 DCS CYPSC established an Infant Health & Wellbeing working group under the leadership of the HSE Child Health Development Office programme. The group aims to facilitate meaningful conversations, about how to further integrate service planning and delivery across community statutory and voluntary organisations, which will enable the IHWB working group of the DCS CYPSC, to further explore the potential for such collaboration to inform future planning and development, in this critical area of child and family support. This will be done through; • To increase awareness of the importance of Infant Health and Wellbeing • To acknowledge the issues and challenges for organisations and service users • To highlight the innovative and symbiotic nature of work which is taking place • To make initiatives and innovations visible to a more diverse and wider audience • To promote further interagency connection and collaboration The Government strategy First Five²⁰ emphasises the importance of early intervention and prevention, comprehensive supports for families, as well as training for service providers (including people working in early learning and care), so they can better understand and support infants and their families. Other strategies also highlight the importance of supporting parents and of equipping professionals to identify and address mental health needs in infants and their families at an early stage. These include Young Ireland 2023 - 2028,²¹ Sharing the Vision (2020)²² and the HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office
--	---

¹⁸ [Vital Statistics - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

¹⁹ Prevention and Early Intervention Network (2018) 'Prevention and Early Intervention in Child Health Services'; <https://pein.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PEIN-Child-Health-Policy-paper-FINAL-Apl-18.pdf>

²⁰ Government of Ireland (2019) *First Five, A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families*. Dublin: Government Publications. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/>

²¹ Government of Ireland (2023) *Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023–2028*. Dublin: Government Publications. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/>

²² Government of Ireland. (2020). *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*. Dublin: Government Publications. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/>

	Action Plan 2024 – 2027 ²³ . The HSE’s Mental Health Promotion Plan ²⁴ seeks to incorporate social and emotional development into early childhood development services, and the National Infant Mental Health Network has developed frameworks for the professional development of people working in the area of infant and early childhood. ²⁵
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will prioritise the area of infant health and wellbeing (during the first 1000 days) over the next three years and will work to increase awareness of the importance of this area with professionals and communities. For more information on activities for this plan, please see Section 6 .

Local Priority 2: Supporting Positive Mental Health and Local Priority 3: Supporting Mental Health in Target Groups	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to these local priorities?	In the surveys, parents and children and young people both highlighted mental health concerns as one of the most significant challenges facing children and young people in DCS. Participants of focus groups emphasised that engaging in both social, sports and recreation activities significantly contributed to their overall sense of wellbeing. However, older young people highlighted that health services were often inaccessible, unaffordable, or unavailable. One young person shared their struggles with school, describing it as a particularly challenging experience and emphasising the need for mental health supports to be available within the school environment. According to 12% (or n=30) of parents, difficulties accessing mental or physical health services were one of the main challenges in DCS. Children and young people in the focus groups called for more activities, including social, sports and recreation to support positive wellbeing; while children and young people in the anonymous online surveys stated that they needed more, and better mental health supports as well as well as people to be nicer in general. “We need better mental health supports.” Young Person “Everyone to be happy and nicer to one another.” Young Person Further analysis of the anonymous surveys revealed that children and young people from seldom-heard groups, such as LGBT+ individuals, immigrants and asylum seekers/refugees, reported higher levels of concern about mental health challenges compared to their peers who did not identify that they belonged to these groups (Graph 4.1). Graph 4.1. Mental health identified as a challenge by groupings.

²³ HSE (2024) *Child and Youth Mental Health Office Action Plan 2024–2027*. Dublin: HSE Publications. Available at: <https://www.hse.ie/>

²⁴ HSE (2022) *Stronger Together, the HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan (2022 – 2027)*

²⁵ Tusla (2024) Frameworks for Foundation Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Development <https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/IECMHFrameworkDocumentFINAL.pdf>

	Mental health concerns as a challenge <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None of the above</td> <td>16.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I live in temporary accommodation at present</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I am a member of the travelling community</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I am an immigrant to Ireland</td> <td>35.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I identify as being LGBTQI+</td> <td>37.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I am an asylum seeker or a refugee</td> <td>25.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I am a person with a disability</td> <td>10.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I have a medical condition</td> <td>16.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> % of children and young people These findings highlight a disproportionate impact of mental health issues on marginalised communities. During the focus groups, a care leaver shared the numerous challenges they encountered while navigating the aftercare system, such as difficulties in accessing healthcare and securing housing. Many parents emphasised that appropriate mental health supports are critically needed within the communities, with one noting how they felt that seldom-heard young people were most in need of supports.	Category	Percentage	None of the above	16.5%	I live in temporary accommodation at present		I am a member of the travelling community		I am an immigrant to Ireland	35.0%	I identify as being LGBTQI+	37.1%	I am an asylum seeker or a refugee	25.0%	I am a person with a disability	10.0%	I have a medical condition	16.7%
Category	Percentage																		
None of the above	16.5%																		
I live in temporary accommodation at present																			
I am a member of the travelling community																			
I am an immigrant to Ireland	35.0%																		
I identify as being LGBTQI+	37.1%																		
I am an asylum seeker or a refugee	25.0%																		
I am a person with a disability	10.0%																		
I have a medical condition	16.7%																		
Are there sufficient services in these local priorities?	Mental health challenges were identified as one of the most significant issues facing children and young people by 8% (or n=22) of service providers in DCS, ranking this as the third most pressing concern in their view. Additionally, 35% (or n=28) of service providers highlighted the urgent need to reduce waiting times for services, while 24% (or n=19) emphasised the need to enhance health and social supports for mental health needs. Service providers also called for increased resources to address these challenges, including timely access to statutory services, one-to-one support for young people, and expanded support systems for families. Service providers also stated that supports for children with neurodiversity are needed as well as more healthcare for transgender people. “Trans health care is really needed work in family support; I work with so many parents whose YP mental health is so bad because there is no access to any form of health care.” Service Provider																		
What do other data and policies say?	Research and data underscore the importance of prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Ireland. Ireland’s national suicide strategy, <i>Connecting for Life 2015–2020</i>, highlights that mental health challenges are a factor in up to 90% of suicide cases²⁶. It also identifies minority groups at increased risk of suicidal behaviour, including LGBTQI+ and Traveller																		

²⁶ Health Service Executive (HSE). (2015). *Connecting for Life: Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015–2020*. Dublin: Government Publications

	communities, people experiencing homelessness, immigrants and individuals affected by abuse and sexual exploitation. National and local statistics show that ongoing challenges exist regarding the availability of mental health services and supports for young people in Ireland and in Dublin. In 2022, psychiatric admissions for children aged 17 and under in Dublin were above the State average, and self-harm rates, particularly among females under 24, exceeded national figures.²⁷ Dublin West reported the highest self-harm rates nationally, followed by Dublin South West. Male self-harm rates, though lower, also surpassed State averages. By 2024, waiting lists for psychological assessments in Primary Care were notably higher than average, with Dublin South West (842), Dublin West (879), and Dublin South City (315) exceeding the State average rate of 8.3 per 1,000.²⁸ Various studies have revealed significant mental health challenges among young people in Ireland and in Dublin, including minority groups. The My World Survey 2²⁹ study showed 40% of over 10,000 young people experienced high levels of depression, with vulnerable groups facing increased anxiety and suicide attempts³⁰ and a 2024 BelongTo and TCD study reported 77% of LGBTQI+ 14– 18-year-olds had suicidal thoughts and three times higher rates of severe depression and anxiety.³¹ The Life in Lockdown (2020) study in Dublin City South and North found that most 12-17 year olds felt sad (91%), nervous (73%), and lonely (73%), and it stressed the need for more school-based and accessible resources and supports.³² The CYPSC commitment to promoting positive health and wellbeing of children and young people, including those at increased risk of mental health issues, aligns with national and local policies and strategies. This includes Young Ireland 2023-2028 and Sharing the Vision (2020) which highlight the importance of improved access to services and youth mental health promotion and prevention; and the <i>Intercultural Health Strategy</i> (2018–2023) which aims to reduce health inequalities affecting diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious communities. The DCS CYPSC Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan 2019–2021 highlighted the need to enhance access to services, particularly for disadvantaged groups, promote mental health awareness campaigns, implement school-based initiatives and provide accessible and culturally sensitive mental health information.³³
What will the CYPSC do in	DCS CYPSC will work on the following objectives from 2025-2027:

²⁷ Hospital In-Patient Enquiry: <https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/health-information/data-collections/hospital-patient-enquiry-hipe>

²⁸ Internal HSE Performance Report

²⁹ [My World Survey | Full Report](#)

³⁰ Dooley, B., O'Connor, C., Fitzgerald, A., and O'Reilly, A. (2019). *My World Survey 2: The National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland*. Dublin: UCD School of Psychology and Jigsaw. Available at: <https://www.myworldsurvey.ie/>

³¹ Higgins, A., et al. (2024). *Being LGBTQI+ in Ireland 2024: Mental Health and Wellbeing Report*. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin and Belong To. Available at: <https://www.belongto.org/support-our-work/advocacy/lgbtq-research/being-lgbtqi-in-ireland-2024/>

³² CYPSC (2020) *Life in Lockdown: The Impact of COVID-19 on Young People in Dublin City North and South*. Dublin: Children and Young People's Services Committees. Available at: <https://www.cypsc.ie>

³³ CYPSC. (2019). *Dublin City South CYPSC Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan 2019–2021*. Dublin: Children and Young People's Services Committees

relation to these local priorities?	CYPSC will increase access to evidence-informed wellbeing initiatives and interventions to support prevention and early intervention from mental health services; and increase supports and information for universal mental health directed at specific target groups, such as LGBTQI +; Traveller; Roma; care leavers and identified marginalised groups. For more information on activities, please see Section 6 .
--	--

Local Priority 4: Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Excessive drug and alcohol use in the community was identified as one of the main challenges facing children and young people in DCS. Children and young people who completed surveys described it as one of the biggest challenges for them, and one of the worst things about living in DCS. In contrast, parents did not identify substance misuse as one of the major challenges facing children and young people in DCS through the survey. This may be that many parents who responded to the survey had primary school-aged children and focused on broader challenges, as well as perhaps underestimating substance misuse in their community or among young people. When asked what one thing they would like to see change in the survey, many children called for a response to substance misuse that they can see in their communities. “Get rid of drugs.” Young person “I don’t want to see drugs and alcohol in our area.” Young person During focus groups, both primary and post-primary aged children and young people described witnessing substance misuse throughout their community. Younger children emphasised the prevalence of substance misuse and its ease of access for those who sought it. Older young people highlighted strong connections between crime and substance misuse, though this association did not deter some from participating, whether through dealing on behalf of adults or engaging in substance misuse themselves.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	18% (or n=14) of service providers identified substance misuse as a significant challenge facing children and young people in DCS. 70% (or n=49) of service providers did not think there were enough substance misuse services and supports in DCS, while 7% (or n=5) felt there was enough and 23% (or n=16) were unsure. 15% (or n=12) of professionals identified substance misuse services as the services that needed to be improved the most in DCS. When asked what was needed in relation to substance misuse one service provider stated that more work is needed to educate children, young people and their parents on the negative consequences of substance misuse. “Services should be designed to support young people, parents, and families affected by drug dealing and its harmful consequences - such as violence, intimidation, grooming, extortion, and fear - play a crucial role in addressing these challenges.” Service Provider

Local Priority 4: Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness	
What does other data and policy say?	HRB data³⁴ shows that in 2023, the DSC Local Health Office (LHO) reported a significantly lower rate of substance misuse treatment access among 10- to 24-year-olds compared to Dublin West, with 27.7 per 10,000 receiving treatment compared to 46.5 per 10,000 in Dublin West LHO (the second highest rate in Ireland). Dublin South East LHO had the lowest rate at 16.0 per 10,000. The data indicates that while treatment rates in the western part of the DCS area are slowing and increasing less than in past years, rates in the inner city and eastern areas are rising (see DCS Evidence Baseline Report). Across all LHOs in the DCS region, cannabis use is the predominant drug issue, while alcohol use is less common. Cocaine use is notably higher in Dublin South East and Dublin West compared to the State average. In contrast, benzodiazepine use is disproportionately higher in Dublin West and Dublin South City compared to the other LHOs and the State average. HRB emphasises the link between substance misuse and mental health challenges, advocating for integrated care, targeted interventions, and raising awareness among parents, educators, and policymakers.³⁵ The <i>My World Survey 2</i>³⁶ (2019) found that alcohol use was strongly linked to drug use in young adults.³⁷ The National Drugs Strategy 2017–2025 and its Strategic Action Plan 2023–2024 prioritise early intervention, prevention, harm reduction, and involving young people. Alongside the Public Health Alcohol Act 2018, broader health initiatives such as the Healthy Ireland Framework (2013–2025) and Sláintecare aim to reduce alcohol-related harm and promote public health. Research by the South Inner City Local Drug and Alcohol Taskforce (LDATF) highlights the need to address gaps in youth services to help deter young people from substance misuse. It also emphasises the importance of exploring the feasibility of introducing a dedicated youth drugs worker role in the area.³⁸
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will promote awareness of alcohol and substance misuse among professionals, parents and young people in the area. For more information on activities, please see Section 6.

4.4 Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

Throughout the consultations, children and young people shared that they enjoyed going to school. In the survey, 14% of respondents said having good schools in their community was one of the best things about living in the area. Focus groups revealed that younger children loved

³⁴ [HRB National Drugs Library](#) | [HRB | Health Research Board](#)

³⁵ Health Research Board (2022) Alcohol and other drug use among children and young people in Ireland: prevalence, risk and protective factors, consequences, responses, and policies. Dublin: HRB

³⁶ [My World Survey | Full Report](#)

³⁷ Dooley, B., O'Connor, C., Fitzgerald, A., and O'Reilly, A. (2019). *My World Survey 2: The National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland*. UCD School of Psychology and Jigsaw.

³⁸ Dowling, A. (2022) Needs Analysis for Young People in Dublin South Inner City, South Inner City Drug and Alcohol Taskforce. Available : https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/38909/1/SICDATF_Youth_needs_awareness_report.pdf

attending school daily- they enjoyed playing, learning, and spending time with friends. Primary-aged children also appreciated going to school and valued the support provided, such as homework help, spaces to study, reading assistance, and access to school lunches.

However, older young people felt less supported in school, especially compared to their experiences in primary school. Survey findings highlighted bullying as the biggest challenge for children and young people, while focus groups revealed fewer mentions of this issue among peer discussions. Parents identified online bullying as a significant challenge, surpassing concerns like exam pressure or study stress. Some parents also expressed dissatisfaction with the limited options for post-primary education in DCS. Service providers pointed to major concerns, including children being unhappy in school, learning difficulties, and struggles in accessing education.

Local Priority Areas within Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

Through the process of developing the CYPP (2025-2027), DCS CYPSC has identified three Local Priority Areas that it will focus on over the next three years within this outcome area. The local priorities and the objectives to be achieved within each are below.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Educational Engagement and Learning	- Children and young people supported through school transition stages: early years to primary; primary to post primary; post primary to third level including apprenticeships. - Support the education sector to integrate non formal learning in schools through targeted initiatives.
Bullying	Professionals have increased awareness of types of bullying and the impact that bullying has on children and young people.
Anti-racism training and awareness	Promote awareness of initiatives and responses to racism that encourage inclusive behaviours by children and young people, schools and communities.

The background and rationale for each of these priority areas are outlined below.

Local Priority 1: Educational Engagement and Learning	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	14% (or n=54) of children and young people reported that schools or colleges in their area were good, while only 5% (or n=21) felt they were not. However, significant education related challenges exist for young people, with 13% (or n=48) of children and young people who completed surveys highlighting stress from exam pressure and 12% (or n=46) identifying broader school or education-related challenges as key issues impacting their lives. When children and young people were asked what one thing they would change about DCS, some stated that they wanted more secondary schools, less distraction in schools and more awareness of learning challenges that children and young people face, such as dyslexia and dyscalculia. According to 21% (or n=51) of parents who completed surveys, access to education in general is a key challenge facing families in DCS. When asked what one thing they would change, some parents stated that they wanted more choice around secondary schools including an option of a non-denominational secondary school in the DCS area.

	During the focus groups, young children in early years settings and primary school expressed enjoyment in attending school and learning. However, older primary school children shared concerns about transitioning to secondary school, feeling anxious about the significant changes and unsure if they were adequately prepared. Secondary school students highlighted a lack of subject choices, particularly in practical subjects, and less educational support compared to that in primary school. Some students reported having no homework support at home, while others suspected they had undiagnosed learning disorders but faced obstacles to accessing assessments, such as high costs and limited availability. “There is no help with reading in school.” Primary school child “I have undiagnosed dyslexia - teachers overcomplicate everything and learning is hard.” Post-primary school child
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Children being unhappy in school and/or not wanting to go to school was identified as a key challenge by 17% (or n=13) of service providers who took part in the consultations. Regarding whether there are sufficient services in this area: • 73% felt there was not enough alternative education options 9% said there was, and 18% were unsure. • 60% of service providers thought there was not enough school retention or engagement 12% said there was, and 28% were unsure). • 50% of service providers did not think there was enough education provision and or places in DCS 27% said there was and 23% said they were unsure.
What does other data and policy say?	As of September 2024, 54.5% of DCS primary schools were designated as DEIS, the State average is 31.2% and at post-primary level, 46.9% of schools were DEIS, again higher than the State average of 30.9%.³⁹ Disadvantaged areas typically show lower school attendance, with DEIS schools reporting more students absent for over 20 days. While school absenteeism, heightened during Covid-19, stabilised by 2022, it remained above pre-pandemic levels.⁴⁰ A 2024 ERSI study noted ongoing academic, wellbeing, and social challenges for secondary students, particularly during transitions, were worsened by Covid-19's effects.⁴¹ A 2022 Planet Youth consultation in North Dublin revealed that while 72% felt safe at school, 36% of females, 22% of males often felt bad, and 18% wanted to quit.⁴² The National Policy Framework emphasises inclusive education for all, including marginalised groups. The Department of Education's Wellbeing Policy identifies school transitions as crucial for children's wellbeing, while its 2023–2025 strategy prioritises equity through TESS, free books, and hot meals. The Centre for Education and Youth underscore the non-formal learning role in improving outcomes and fostering life skills.

³⁹ [gov.ie - Schools](https://www.gov.ie/en/schools/)

⁴⁰ [AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf](#)

⁴¹ McCoy, S., E. Carroll and K. Ye (2024). 'Embracing Diversity in all its Forms': The Voluntary Secondary Sector in Irish Education, ESRI Research Series 182, Dublin: ESRI.

⁴² Planet Youth. (2022). *Fingal Consultation Report*. North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force

	The National Policy Framework, Young Ireland emphasises inclusive education for all, including marginalised groups. The Department of Education’s Wellbeing Policy identifies school transitions as crucial for children’s wellbeing, while its 2023–2025 strategy prioritises equity through TESS, free books, and hot meals. The Centre for Education and Youth in the UK highlights the benefits of non-formal learning in improving outcomes and fostering life skills.⁴³ Non-formal learning plays a significant role in the new Leaving Certificate reforms. It emphasises experiential and project-based approaches, fostering creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and inclusion.⁴⁴ In relation to educational engagement, The Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024–2029⁴⁵ prioritises removing educational barriers, promoting lifelong learning, and fostering collaboration to enhance young people’s educational engagement and growth.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will prioritise the area of educational engagement and learning, and will work on the following over the next three years: Children and young people will be supported through school transition stages (early years to primary; primary to post primary; post primary to third level incl. apprenticeships); and the CYPSC will work with the education sector to develop model(s) of integrating non formal learning in schools. For more information on activities, please see Section 6.

Local Priority 2: Bullying	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Over 50% primary school children who completed surveys for these consultations reported bullying as a key challenge for children and young people in DCS, while 30% of second level students highlighted it. While more females than males reported it as a challenge, it is particularly concerning to see that over 75%⁴⁶ of children and young people identifying as transgender or non-binary felt that bullying was a major challenge for young people in the area. When asked to name one thing (which was completely up to them) that would make life better in DCS for children and young people, 14 children/young people called for something to be done about bullying. “Make bullying policy better in schools.” Young person “Stop bullying.” Young person Twenty-eight per cent of people who completed the parents/guardian survey reported online bullying as a challenge for children and young people. This was second highest challenge in parents’ view, after a lack of places for teenagers to hang out (which was ranked first) and before the lack of places for children to

⁴³ Centre for Education and Youth and NCS Trust. (2021). *Enriching Education Recovery: The Role of Non-Formal Learning*.

⁴⁴ Department of Education. (2024). Non-formal learning in the new Leaving Certificate reforms.

⁴⁵ Dublin City Council. (2024). *Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024–2029*

⁴⁶ Due to the low count numbers in certain categories, these data points have been excluded from cross-referenced proportional analysis to prevent potential identification of individual survey respondents. This decision aligns with GDPR requirements and ethical research standards regarding participant confidentiality and data protection.

	play (ranked third). Online bullying was seen as a greater challenge by service providers than in-person bullying.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Service providers who participated in the strategic planning sessions felt that the issue relating to bullying should be included because of its significant impact on mental health, emotional wellbeing, and overall child development. Addressing bullying aligns with the goal of creating safe and supportive environments for children and young people. Existing gaps in services related to bullying included limited access to anti-bullying programmes and inadequate training.
What does other data and policy say?	The 2024 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey found that between 2002 and 2022, the proportion of children aged 11 – 17 reporting being bullied in school rose from 23.4% to 28.6%. Children aged 10 to 12 experienced the highest rates of bullying compared to other age groups.⁴⁷ DCU's Anti-Bullying Centre found in 2023 that 18% of Irish higher education students faced bullying (37% in person bullying and 12% on social media) and that bullying disproportionately affected ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with disabilities.⁴⁸ In 2024, the Ombudsman for Children's Office reported that 47% of second level students have experienced bullying in school. They called for increased action from schools and students highlighting a need for more education on racism and discrimination and stronger consequences for such behaviours.⁴⁹ Minority groups are disproportionately affected by bullying. BelongTo and Trinity College Dublin (2024) research with nearly 3,000 LGBTQI+ individuals found that 49% experienced bullying in school, and 62% said the bullying was not actively addressed.⁵⁰ Research has found that bullying, including cyberbullying, is linked to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal behaviour⁵¹ with victims often struggling with lower self-esteem, social isolation and also, academically.⁵² The key priorities of the Department of Education and Skills (DES) 'Cineáltas', the Action Plan on Bullying (2022), are to address different types of bullying (including cyberbullying, gender identity bullying, and sexual harassment). The Department of Education and Skills' Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018–2023 focuses on promoting wellbeing in schools as a foundation for preventing bullying.
What will the CYPSC do in	CYPSC will increase awareness among professionals of different types of bullying and its impact on children and young people, including 'response to bullying' training, sharing best practices, and providing online safety resources.

⁴⁷ [SCA07 - Home and School Life of Children aged 10 - 17 years](#)

⁴⁸ DCU Anti-Bullying Centre. (2023). *National Survey of Student Experiences of Bullying in Higher Education Institutions in Ireland*. Dublin City University.

⁴⁹ Ombudsman for Children, 2024. *Annual Report 2024*. Ombudsman for Children's Office.

⁵⁰ BelongTo and Trinity College Dublin. (2024). *Research on LGBTQI+ Bullying in Irish Schools*. BelongTo.

⁵¹ Gleeson, H. (2014). *The Prevalence and Impact of Bullying Linked to Social Media on the Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviour Among Young People*. Department of Education and Skills and HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention.

⁵² <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/press-centre/press-releases/20210823-education-committee-launches-report-on-school-bullying-and-the-impact-on-mental-health/>

relation to this local priority?	Support children and young people in having a voice regarding the impact of bullying. For more information on activities, please see Section 6 .
---	--

Local Priority 3: Anti-racism training and awareness	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Twenty per cent, of children and young people surveyed reported that being mistreated by their peers was a challenge. The issue was more prevalent among specific groups, with 30% of children and young people with a disability, and 25% of both immigrant and Traveller children identifying it as a challenge. Nine per cent of children and young people reported racism as a challenge. This issue was also more prevalent among asylum seekers or refugees (25%) and Traveller children (50%). During the focus groups Traveller children talked about how they regularly faced discrimination and said they felt stereotyped. “Country people (settled community) are mean to us – they don’t understand.” Young Person In other focus groups, young people expressed awareness of online misinformation about immigration in Ireland. They noted that exposure to this misinformation negatively affected how some children and young people perceived new communities in their community. “There is loads of misinformation online – little kids hear about it all the time.” Young Person
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Consultations showed the prevalence of racism, misinformation and the impact it was having on children and young people in DCS. Service providers in attendance at the strategic planning sessions stated that it was an area that required attention, particularly service providers from the youth sector.
What does other data and policy say?	Research by the ESRI (2024) revealed that attitudes towards immigration and refugees in Ireland are largely positive, both historically and internationally. However, there was a decline in positivity in late 2023, with more people viewing immigration as a key issue.⁵³ Also, the racist incidents reporting tool iReport highlighted a significant rise in racist incidents in Ireland between 2021 and 2022 (up from 404 in 2021 to 600 in 2022). These included criminal incidents such as assaults, illegal discrimination, and reports of hate speech. It also highlights the prevalence of racism in housing, employment, and public services.⁵⁴ The EU Fundamental Rights Agency reported that 65% of Travellers in Ireland faced discrimination, one of the highest rates across six EU states.⁵⁵ In addition, HBSC (2024) shows that in 2022, Traveller children reported the highest bullying rate (42.6%), significantly higher than the rate for all children (29.5%). Immigrant children (32.6%) also reported higher bullying rates.⁵⁶ Calling for the National

⁵³ Laurence, J., F. McGinnity and K. Murphy (2024). Attitudes towards immigration and refugees in Ireland: Understanding recent trends and drivers, jointly published Reports 5, Dublin: ESRI and then Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

⁵⁴ iReport. (2022). *Annual Report on Racist Incidents in Ireland*. iReport.ie. Perpetrators of racist crimes or racist incidents were over twice as likely to be adults (73%) than young people (29%).

⁵⁵ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2020). Roma and Travellers in six countries: Key results from the 2019 survey, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

⁵⁶ [SCA07 - Home and School Life of Children aged 10 - 17 years](#)

	Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) to be strengthened, Pavee Point has identified racism and discrimination as key factors in the marginalisation of Travellers.⁵⁷ The Immigrant Council of Ireland has made several recommendations to combat racism including access to legal supports and national standards to protect victims, stronger policies and anti-racism campaigns to promote diversity and encourage reporting of incidents.⁵⁸ The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) has highlighted that racism in schools significantly impacts minority ethnic young people's educational experiences and transitions to higher education or employment. To address and improve systemic issues, they highlight the need for anti-racism policies, staff training, and inclusive practices.⁵⁹ The National Action Plan Against Racism (2023–2027) aims to reduce both individual and structural racism and focuses on four priority areas: equality, participation, measurement, and shared racial equality. It includes racism against Travellers, Roma, and other minority ethnic groups.⁶⁰
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will work to promote awareness of initiatives and responses to racism that encourage inclusive behaviours by children and young people, services and communities, focusing on cross-sectoral support through awareness training, anti-racism messaging, and 'response to racism' training for professionals, parents, and youth. It will promote online resources for families and support an anti-racism promotional campaign. For more information on activities, please see Section 6.

4.5 Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

In the consultations, when asked what the best things were about living in DCS, 27% of children and young people reported that having enough playgrounds and parks nearby was the best and 8% said it was feeling safe in the area. While many children and young people acknowledged that there were playgrounds and parks available, focus group discussions revealed that these spaces were often unusable due to anti-social behaviour from both young people and adults. Participants highlighted issues such as crime and substance misuse as key reasons for feeling unsafe in their community. The issue of housing and how it impacts negatively on them was also highlighted by children and young people.

Parents echoed these concerns indicating that safety in general is a significant concern in DCS and that a lack of affordable and available housing is having a very negative impact on the overall wellbeing of children and young people.

Service providers stated that child protection is a growing concern facing services in DCS as rates of referrals continue to rise, and that more work on the awareness of DSGBV is required to support families that are impacted by it.

⁵⁷ Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre. (2019). Alternative Report to the CERD Committee: Racial Discrimination Against Irish Travellers and Roma. Pavee Point.

⁵⁸ Immigrant Council of Ireland. (2022). *Protocol to Support Victims of Racism and Discrimination*. Immigrant Council of Ireland.

⁵⁹ National Youth Council of Ireland. (2020). *The Silenced Struggles: Impact of Racism in Schools*.

⁶⁰ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *National Action Plan Against Racism 2023–2027*.

Local Priority Areas within Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Through the process of developing CYPP (2025-2027), DCS CYPSC has identified three Local Priority Areas that it will focus on over the next three years within this outcome area. The priorities and the objectives to be achieved within each are the following.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Community Safety and Supports	• Increase awareness of responsibilities for child protection and welfare • Promote increased community safety • Strengthen children and families' relationships with the Gardaí
Homelessness	• Support the needs of children, young people and families experiencing homelessness
Parental supports and engagement	• Strengthen positive parenting relationships between parents and babies, children and young people
Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence (DSGBV) and coercive control	• Increase service ability to recognise the impact of DSGBV and coercive control on children and families and to support and signpost appropriately

The background and rationale for each of these priority areas are outlined below.

Local Priority 1: Community Safety and Supports	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Safety concerns dominated children and young people survey responses, with four out of the top five things that children and young people did not like about living in DCS were related to general safety. Not feeling safe in their community was identified as the fourth-worst issue, 17%; excessive vaping or smoking, 36%; substance misuse 29%, and a lack of safe places to spend time with friends, 19%. Overall, 10% of children and young people identified feeling unsafe or the threat of violence as a significant challenge in DCS. When analysed by location, this concern was more evident in specific areas: Ringsend and Irishtown⁶¹ 16%; Sandymount and Donnybrook, 14%; Inchicore and Bluebell, 13%, as well as Crumlin, Kimmage, and Walkinstown 12%. While rates were lower in the City Centre 3.2% and Ballyfermot, 6.8%. In the survey, when asked what one thing they would change 12% (or n=28) of children and young people said they would like to feel safer in their community. This concern ranked as the top priority for respondents, highlighting the importance of safety in their lives. “Make places safer.” Young person “Get rid of all the teenagers that vandalise the playground and smoke in the skate park.” Young person “I think the thing that has to change are the people living there, I’m not allowed go out on my own with the fear of something happening whether it’s by an adult or a

⁶¹ Due to the low count numbers in certain categories, these data points have been excluded from cross-referenced proportional analysis to prevent potential identification of individual survey respondents. This decision aligns with GDPR requirements and ethical research standards regarding participant confidentiality and data protection.

	teenager. It's a rough area where I live and that's created by 'The wanna-be gangsters.' Young person These sentiments were echoed by children and young people during the focus groups. Younger children spoke about feeling afraid of fireworks and not always feeling safe in parks and playgrounds. Primary aged children also noted that public spaces such as parks are sometimes dangerous because of anti-social behaviour and people engaging in substance misuse. While older young people reported that anti-social behaviour among some adults as well as young people, such as crime, fireworks, violence and substance misuse, is making their local communities feel unsafe. Parents also raised safety as an issue in DCS, and some highlighted the need to reduce anti-social behaviour. "Address prevalence and influence of anti-social activity in the neighbourhoods. Children don't feel safe in their own neighbourhoods." Parent In addition, 18 (or n=14) of service providers/professionals thought child protection was a significant concern affecting children and young people in DCS.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Sixteen per cent, of service providers in the survey stated that violence or threat of violence/feeling unsafe was a challenge facing children and young people in DCS. When asked what needed to be improved, 16%, of service providers said safety in the community, and 14% said the criminal justice system. Professionals involved in the consultations reported an increase in the level of need in relation to child protection and welfare, with more vulnerable families in crisis and requiring the services of Tusla. Eighty-one per cent of service provider survey respondents did not think there was enough health and social care supports for children and young people in DCS. "I have seen an increase in the level of need and at-risk families being disclosed to Tusla." Service Provider Service providers felt that more Gardaí would increase safety in DCS particularly in the areas of crime associated with substance misuse and anti-social behaviour amongst young people. It was felt that increasing the presence of community Gardaí as well as an interagency approach could create valuable opportunities to connect with young people and potentially steer them away from involvement in criminal activities and substance misuse. "A well trained, fully staffed Garda unit (comprising of both Community and Drugs Gardai) targeted at reducing the level of power, intimidation and coercive control the drug trade has on the community." Service provider "Prevention of young people being drawn into criminal activity through early intervention and active engagement from multiple agencies approach." Service provider

What does other data and policy say?	According to the HBSC (2024), only 83% of children felt safe in Dublin, compared to 89.5% at the State level. This marks a decrease in the sense of safety among children when compared to 2012, when 85.3% of children in Dublin and 90.8% at the State level reported feeling safe.⁶² The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 emphasises enhancing community safety through interagency collaboration, accountability, understanding trauma and proactive measures to address crime and social issues. Tusla data shows that 1,911 children (aged 0 to 17) were referred to Tusla in DSC in 2023, reflecting a referral rate of 27.2 per 1,000, which is the third highest referral rate among the 17 ISAs nationwide.⁶³ Notably, the 2023 rate marks a significant growth over a six year period, when in 2017, the referral rate stood at 11.1. Several factors could have contributed to this increase, including changes in data recording methods. The substantial growth observed in Dublin South Central highlights the mounting pressure on existing resources to manage these referrals effectively. The Children First Act 2015 requires professionals and organisations working with children to report any child protection concerns, aiming to safeguard against abuse and neglect. Additionally, the Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children outlines statutory responsibilities and responses to concerns.⁶⁴
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will promote increased community safety and trauma responses for children and young people. It will promote child protection and welfare including Tusla referrals, and Children First training, promoting children's participation in services, and annually reporting examples from statutory and voluntary sectors. For more details on these activities, see Section 6.

Local Priority 2: Homelessness	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Housing and homelessness were a concern throughout the consultations. Children and young people stated that not enough housing was one of the worst things about living in DCS and homelessness was a major challenge facing children and young people in the area. When asked what one thing they would change, several children and young people stated that by solving the housing crisis, it would make life better in general for people in DCS. “Create more homes for people to live in.” “Fix the housing crisis.” Young People One young child in the focus groups explained that they and their family had to “move a lot” and that he “did not like all the change”. Primary aged children were aware of the housing crisis and stated that there were not enough houses for

⁶² [SCA07 - Home and School Life of Children aged 10 - 17 years](#)

⁶³ [Tusla Data Hub - Performance and Activity Data](#)

⁶⁴ Tusla - Child and Family Agency. (2017). *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*. Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

	everybody who needed them. Some children in the focus groups described having to live in emergency or hotel accommodation. “I have to share a small room with my mam because we can’t get a house.” Primary school child “There is nothing good about living in a hotel.” Primary school child Children living in hotels or emergency accommodation stated that they did not like it. One child said that the worst things about it was having to travel a long way to get to their school as their accommodation was quite a distance away. While young people in the consultations felt that the housing crisis was never ending, and they would not have an opportunity to ever own a home in Ireland as there were very few available and costs were too high. “There are not enough houses and loads of homelessness – we will never have a chance to own a home in Dublin.” Young Person Parents also agreed with this, stating how housing in general was a major challenge facing families in the area. Parents also described how a response to the housing crisis should be prioritised as it has negative impacts on life for families, including their mental health, and it disrupts children’s sense of belonging to an area. “More affordable housing! In the Ringsend area it is very hard to be housed which causes overcrowding and can lead to stress and anxiety in kids.” Parent “I’d fund a comprehensive home building program in the area, to ensure everyone has a permanent home and a sense of belonging to the area.” Parent
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Housing was identified by service providers as the biggest challenge facing children and young people in the area (followed by mental health challenges) and the area that needed to be responded to most by decision makers. Most service providers, 83% did not think there were enough houses for families living in the area and many stated that the housing crisis is contributing to many other challenges facing children and young people in DCS, including their overall health and wellbeing. “Housing is the most urgent need. Secure housing is the foundation of safety and a healthy childhood. The lack of housing is leading to multiple other issues for our children and young people.” Service Provider “Homelessness is an endemic currently that is impacting overtly and covertly. The outcome of this is significant on parents and children’s mental health and wellbeing, and their ability to create foundations to thrive.” Service Provider
What do other data and policies say?	Ireland’s housing crisis has a significant impact on children and families, particularly in Dublin City, where rental costs are the highest in the country, and housing vacancy rates are among the lowest.⁶⁵ Data from the latest (2023) Summary of Social Housing Assessments⁶⁶ shows that 3,264 families with children are on the social housing waiting list in Dublin City, equating to 41.9 per 1,000 families—the third highest rate nationally. This housing shortage and high living costs force many children into poor-quality, overcrowded, or temporary

⁶⁵ [Press Statement Census 2022 Results Profile 2 - Housing in Ireland Dublin - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

⁶⁶ [Summary of Social Housing Assessments \(SSHA\) 2023 | The Housing Agency](#)

	accommodation, exposing them to unsafe living conditions that negatively affect their wellbeing and stability. The impacts of homelessness and related deprivation on families are well documented. ESRI 2024 research showed how poor housing, overcrowding, and relocations harmed children's health and parental wellbeing, highlighting the need to address housing inadequacies.⁶⁷ Focus Ireland's (2022) research in Dublin showed the harmful effects for families of living in emergency accommodation, highlighting poor conditions, insufficient support, mental health issues, and instability for families and children.⁶⁸ Migrants in Dublin face additional challenges accessing homeless services, as well as barriers to accessing services and the impact of unemployment.⁶⁹ Dublin City Council has implemented measures like emergency accommodation and a dedicated Homeless Action Team to support destitute migrants.⁷⁰ The Government's Housing for All Plan⁷¹ (2021) focuses on increasing housing supply, improving affordability, supporting home ownership, addressing homelessness, and tackling vacancy. The Dublin Region Homeless (DRHE) Action Plan 2025+ prioritises preventing homelessness, enhancing emergency housing exits, and improving data use and agency coordination. The Dublin City LECP (2024-2029) promotes sustainable communities, better access to affordable housing, and overall wellbeing. Young Ireland 2023–2028 builds on strategies like the Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023–2025 by targeting child homelessness, expanding social and affordable housing, improving data collection, and ensuring Traveller-specific accommodations.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will support the needs of children, young people and families experiencing homelessness in several ways over the next three years. This includes: • Highlighting the impact of child/youth homelessness • Identify support(s) to mitigate the impact • Amplifying the voice of children and young people experiencing homelessness • Advocating for child friendly policies for homeless accommodation Ensuring good interagency collaboration to offer supports for homeless families. For more information on these activities, please see Section 6.

Local Priority 3: Parental Supports and Engagement	
What did the consultations tell us in	Over half, 57% of parents who completed a survey for these consultations felt there was not enough parent supports in their areas 12% felt there was and 18% were unsure. When parents were asked what supports or services they needed the most 51% called for more afterschool activities, 47% more affordable

⁶⁷ Laurence, J., Russell, H., and Smyth, E. (2024). *Housing, Health and Happiness: How Inadequate Housing Shapes Child and Parental Wellbeing*. Economic and Social Research Institute.

⁶⁸ Curran and Hoey (2022) Causes of Family Homelessness in the Dublin Region during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Insights into Family Homelessness Series 2022, Vol 2, No. 2, Focus Ireland.

⁶⁹ Focus Ireland and Immigrant Council of Ireland. (2025). *Homelessness and Destitution: Experiences of Migrants in Dublin*.

⁷⁰ Dublin City Council. (2025). *Homeless Services and Support for Migrants in Dublin*.

⁷¹ [Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland](#)

relation to this local priority?	childcare, 38% more childcare availability, 31%) supports for parents with children with disabilities, and 30% more information on existing supports and services. In addition to more and affordable childcare and afterschool activities, parents highlighted the need for additional parental supports and stronger networks to enhance family life. Some suggested that a localised parents' council initiative could offer opportunities for community involvement. Others expressed that increased parenting resources, particularly guidance on managing their children, would be highly beneficial for families. “Create a series of parent networks - one in each area - that work individually in each area and then together across Dublin to improve life for parents and children.” Parent
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	The high level of need among communities in DCS was highlighted as the biggest challenge facing service providers. In the survey responses 53% did not think there was enough information on services available for families and 28% or said there was. In addition, 57% of professionals who completed the survey did not think there were enough parental supports, 23% said there was and 20% were unsure. Fifteen per cent of service providers said that parental supports should be prioritised over the coming years. “There needs to be more support provided to children and parents from marginalised backgrounds. They are often left unsupported and vulnerable.” Service Provider Some service providers highlighted the need for early intervention especially for seldom-heard families, as critical to support family needs in an adequate and timely manner. “Early intervention and parent support services for all families including the most vulnerable and children with additional needs and disabilities is needed badly.” Service Provider
What do other data and policies say?	According to the HBSC 2024 survey, 82.6% of children in Dublin find it easy to talk to their mother about serious concerns, slightly above the State average of 81.9%. For fathers, the figures are lower at 70.5% for Dublin and 70.2% at the State level, though both have improved since 2010.⁷² Dublin City houses 49,219 families, with 25.4% identified as pre-family couples, significantly above the national average of 9%. Other family types include preschool (8.5%), early school (8.4%), pre-adolescent (9.0%), and adolescent (8.5%). Economic opportunities and a stagnant housing market contribute to these trends. It is encouraging to observe indications of stronger relationships between parents and children. However, shifts in family demographics within DCS, particularly the rise in younger families, will necessitate adjustments in approaches and services to effectively address the changing needs of the community. The 2021 ESRI Growing Up in Ireland study highlighted the crucial role of parents in young people's wellbeing and development and found children with a positive

⁷² [SCA07 - Home and School Life of Children aged 10 - 17 years](#)

	relationship with their father are happier, less anxious, and more active.⁷³ A 2023 study by the Childhood Development Initiative⁷⁴ highlights that early parental support enhances children's engagement, with effective approaches addressing diverse needs, prioritising prevention, accessibility, and service continuity. Barnardos stresses the need for more funding to address challenges like addiction, mental health issues, conflict, and poverty, preventing harm to children.⁷⁵ Tusla's Parenting Support Strategy 2022-2027 focuses on equipping parents with resources to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families. The Government's policy Supporting Parents, A National Model of Parenting Support Services seeks to increase awareness, accessibility, inclusivity, and evidence-based parenting support.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC aims to strengthen positive parenting relationships between parents and babies, children and young people. This will include establishing a working group to coordinate parental supports, increasing awareness of parental supports, a focus on fathers' engagement with children and supports for parents of children with disabilities and/or additional needs. For more details on these activities, please see Section 6.

Local Priority 4: Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Coercive Control	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Parents in the online survey carried out as part of the consultations for this CYPP (2025 – 2027) stated that family or relationship challenges were negatively impacting children and young people in the area.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Nearly two-thirds of service providers (60% or n=42) surveyed felt there were insufficient DSGBV services, while 33% (or n=23) were unsure, and only 7% (or n=5) believed the services were adequate. Service providers also highlighted the need for improved awareness and resources to support victims effectively.
What do other data and policies say?	The prevalence of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence (DSGBV) or child-to-parent violence in Ireland remains poorly documented at both national and local levels. However, international research reveals alarming statistics, with one in four women in Ireland who have been in a relationship reporting abuse by a current or former partner, and 14% experiencing physical violence from a partner.⁷⁶

⁷³ Source: Smyth, E. and H. Russell (2021). Fathers and children from infancy to middle childhood, ESRI Research Series 130, Dublin: ESRI, <https://doi.org/10.26504/RS130>.

⁷⁴ Source: Leitaio (2023) in Irish Studies Review: 'Supporting parents with young children in Ireland: context and research supported interventions', Routledge. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09670882.2023.2265834>

⁷⁵ Barnardos (2024) General Election Manifest 2024: [Barnardos-GE-Manifesto-2024_final.pdf](#)

⁷⁶ European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (2014) Violence against Women: An EU Wide Survey.

	The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) and other organisations supporting victims of DSGBV have highlighted the prevalence of violence against women and children in Dublin and nationally. In 2023, the National Rape Crisis Helpline recorded over 18,600 contacts, reflecting a significant demand for support services. It emphasises the importance of evidence-based strategies and survivor-centred approaches to address DSGBV effectively.⁷⁷ Tusla data highlights that in over 40% of cases, children exposed to domestic violence are also frequently subjected to direct physical or sexual abuse themselves.⁷⁸ In 2023, Women's Aid recorded 4,478 disclosures of abuse against children from their support services.⁷⁹ The CSO 2022 Sexual Violence Survey highlighted childhood experiences of sexual violence, with younger individuals reporting more frequency.⁸⁰ Ireland's third National Strategy on DSGBV, Zero Tolerance 2022-2026 emphasises prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy coordination. It incorporates initiatives for vulnerable groups, including migrants, Traveller and Roma women, and individuals with substance misuse issues. Cuan, Ireland's statutory DSGBV agency, delivers victim services, expands refuge spaces, raises awareness, coordinates government actions, ensures service standards, supports research, and manages funding for organisations.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will work over the coming years to increase professionals' ability to recognise the impact of DSGBV and coercive control on children and families and to support and signpost appropriately. For more details on these activities, please see Section 6.

4.6 Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

In consultations for this Plan, 26% of children and young people surveyed identified good transport options as one of the best aspects of living in the area. However, 15% highlighted a lack of adequate housing and 14% mentioned difficulties finding jobs as a key challenge for young people. In focus group discussions, young people said they liked living close to shops and services but were concerned about housing shortages, overcrowded living conditions, and poor housing quality. Older participants expressed frustration with the difficulty of finding part-time jobs to earn pocket money. When asked what could improve life in the area, some children and young people talked about the need to reduce the cost of living and provide more housing for families in the area.

Parents shared similar concerns, pointing to housing shortages and rising living costs as significant challenges for families. Service providers also highlighted the adverse effects of the rising cost of living on marginalised communities. They particularly mentioned the negative impact on those in IPAS and on care leavers, stressing the need for more support for these groups.

⁷⁷ Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. (2025). *Policy and Advocacy: Research and Statistics*.

⁷⁸ Tusla - Child and Family Agency. (2025). *Tusla Data Hub: Performance and Activity Data*.

⁷⁹ Women's Aid. (2023). *Annual Impact Report 2023*.

⁸⁰ Central Statistics Office. (2023). *Sexual Violence Survey 2022 – Main Results*.

Local Priority Areas within Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Through the process of developing this plan, DCS CYPSC has identified four Local Priority Areas that it will focus on over the next three years within this outcome area. The priorities and the objectives to be achieved within each are as follows.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Child and youth family supports	Promote access to activities and/or supports for children, young people and families from marginalised or disadvantaged communities where costs are a barrier
Food poverty	Support DCS local programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions
Support Families in International Protection Accommodation Services	Provide support for children, young people and families living in International Protection accommodation services in the Dublin South City area
Care leavers/ Aftercare support	Care leavers/Aftercare (Tusla) young people are supported with a range of services and opportunities for them to achieve a range of life skills

The background and rationale for each of these priority areas are outlined below.

Local Priority 1: Child Youth and Family Supports and Local Priority 2: Food Poverty	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Both parents and young people reported that financial issues, the cost of living and lack of employment opportunities were challenges for children and young people in the area. “More money.” Young Person “We need jobs for kids that are still in school.” Young Person During focus groups, children and young people shared that some of them were living in poor and insecure housing conditions, which they said negatively impacted their wellbeing. Some children also spoke about a sense of inequality and unfairness, describing how they observed some people having an abundance of resources while others had very little. “Some people have loads of things that they don’t really need and I know people that have nothing.” Primary school child Some young people were finding it very challenging to access part-time employment, saying there was not enough part-time work for those that needed work, and most job applications were completed online rather than handing in CVs which they felt created additional barriers. Other challenges raised by 23% of parents were a lack of activities (not sports) for children and young people and a lack of access to youth clubs or supervised activities. Parents also voiced concerns over a lack of affordable afterschool activities for children in the area, saying it made after school activities inaccessible for their children as they could not afford to pay for them.

	“We need cheaper afterschool activities!” Parent Parents also reported that a lack of affordable and accessible childcare hindered their ability to secure employment. This was having a significant impact on their household financial situation, as well as their families' ability to afford essential items.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Service providers also reported that the cost of living was a challenge affecting families in DCS, and 43% of survey respondents did not think there were enough financial supports or services for families who were struggling, 12% agreed that there was and 45% were unsure, and that supports should be improved. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of service providers who completed the survey did not think there were enough afterschool activities for children and young people (10% agreed that there was and 14% were unsure). They talked about the need to improve the affordability and accessibility of children's activities, of childcare and of youth services in the area and the many benefits that this would bring, including building relationships with marginalised families and addressing their needs early on. “High quality, accessible, affordable childcare and universal youthwork provision for all families are key to early intervention.” Service Provider
What do other data and policies say?	In 2023, the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)⁸¹ reported that 10.6% of Ireland's population was at risk of poverty, with one-parent families facing even higher rates at 19.2%. Renters were also at a significantly greater risk compared to homeowners. In 2022, Barnardos found that a quarter of parents in Ireland, and a third of unemployed parents, worried about providing food, while one-fifth of adults skipped meals or reduced portions to ensure children were fed.⁸² DCS has Ireland's highest proportion of rented households, with some inner-city areas doubling the national average of 18%. The ESRI (2025) highlights severe deprivation among renters and low-income households in Dublin, with many unable to afford essentials⁸³ and Census 2022 shows over 60% of families in some areas are one-parent families, heightening poverty risks.⁸⁴ There is a variety of evidence showing that Irish parents are facing financial challenges in affording essentials like food and extracurricular activities, which negatively impacts children. The Children's Rights Alliance has warned that food poverty critically affects children's physical, academic, and social-emotional development and welcomes the Hot School Meals Programme expansion.⁸⁵ Barnardos' 2024 research⁸⁶ revealed nearly half of parents cut back on children's social activities due to rising costs, echoing a 2022 Irish League of Credit Unions survey noting similar cutbacks on extracurricular activities.⁸⁷ The ESRI has found that poverty hinders social and civic engagement, undermines trust, and highlights the need for investing in community

⁸¹ [Survey on Income and Living Conditions \(SILC\) 2023 - Central Statistics Office](#)

⁸² Barnardos and Aldi Ireland. (2024). *Food Insecurity in Ireland: Impact on Children and their Parents*.

⁸³ Economic and Social Research Institute. (2025). *Spatial Aspects of Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland*.

⁸⁴ [Census of Population 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

⁸⁵ Children's Rights Alliance. (2023). *Child Poverty Monitor 2023*.

⁸⁶ Barnardos. (2024). *Children's Budget 2025: Pre-Budget Submission*.

⁸⁷ Irish League of Credit Unions. (2022). *Survey on Extracurricular Activity Costs*.

	development and social infrastructure to foster connection and inclusion.⁸⁸ It has highlighted that many vulnerable groups, including lone parents and tenants, struggle to meet minimum living standards, stressing the need for targeted policy interventions and importance of social welfare initiatives. Ireland's National Anti-Poverty Strategy focuses on tackling poverty and social exclusion through coordinated government effort, and the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 aims to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less and make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU. Young Ireland 2023 – 2028 emphasises the importance of tackling child poverty through targeted measures, including improving access to education, healthcare, and social services. The Dublin City LECP (2024 – 2029) emphasises tackling poverty and disadvantage through social inclusion and community empowerment.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will promote better access to activities and/or supports for children and young people from marginalised or disadvantaged communities where costs are a barrier. It will work to address food poverty experienced by some families through supporting a local programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions. For more information on this action, please see Section 6.

Local Priority 3: Support Families in International Protection Accommodation Services	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Children and young people who identified as asylum seekers or refugees highlighted mental health issues, racism, and job-related challenges as major challenges for them and their peers. In contrast, those who did not identify as asylum seekers or refugees cited bullying, excessive vaping or smoking, and substance misuse as their top challenges.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	When asked whether they thought there were sufficient supports for migrants in the area, 63% of service providers did not think there were, 3% thought there was, and 34% were unsure. Service providers also reported that more support for immigrant families, including refugees, is needed in the area.
What does other data and policy say?	As of January 2025, according to the figures obtained from the then Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCIEDY)⁸⁹ there were 13 locations of IPAS accommodation in the DCS CYPSC area and 289 children residing in them. In its 2024 Report Card, the Children's Rights Alliance states that challenges faced by young people living in IPAS accommodation, such as overcrowding, limited access to resources and barriers to integration, can negatively impact their wellbeing, development, and opportunities for social inclusion.⁹⁰ The Irish Refugee Council has also highlighted these issues and the negative impact of living in IPAS on vulnerable groups. Its 2025 research calls for reforms to the IPAS system, including replacing the direct provision system with a rights-based,

⁸⁸ Roantree, B., Maître, B., and Russell, H. (2024). *Poverty, Income Inequality and Living Standards in Ireland: Fourth Annual Report*. Economic and Social Research Institute.

⁸⁹ [International Protection Accommodation Services \(IPAS\) | The Housing Agency](#)

⁹⁰ Children's Rights Alliance. (2024). *Report Card 2024: Is Government Keeping Its Promises to Children?*

	community-focused model; improving living conditions and access to facilities and services, including healthcare and education; and providing tailored supports for vulnerable groups, including children, young people, and those with special needs.⁹¹ Highlighting the unique challenges faced by ethnic minority young people in Ireland in accessing youth services, the NYC⁹² stated that safe, supported spaces are crucial for supporting their identity and inclusion and has recommended adapting youth work approaches to improve engagement and promote inter-cultural understanding. Young Ireland 2023 – 2028 highlights that minority ethnic young people have additional challenges and need enhanced supports. It acknowledges that experiencing ‘one’ disadvantage can increase risks of other negative outcomes, emphasising the need for targeted interventions. The Dublin City LECP (2024 – 2029) highlights the need for collaboration among agencies, community groups, and local services to address the unique challenges faced by those in IPAS, focusing on integration, inclusion, and access to essential services.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will support the needs of children, young people and families living in International Protection accommodation, through collaborating with key partners and State agencies to support responses, build community and service capacity, and promote the voices of children and young people living in IPAS. For more information on this action, please see Section 6.

Local Priority 4: Care leavers/Aftercare support	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Care leavers participated in the focus groups as part of the consultations. They described the challenges they experience trying to navigate the aftercare service despite some of them still being in full-time education. Challenges included staff turnover and not having access to consistent social workers as well as a lack of suitable accommodation being available if they wanted to live independently. “It’s hard to trust social workers when they keep changing.” Young Person “There should be more housing available for care leavers.” Young Person
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Most service providers (69%) who responded to the survey did not think there were enough services for children and young people in care as well as young people leaving care (3% felt there were enough services and 28% were unsure). Service providers felt that child protection and care in general needed to be improved. Some service providers stated that more trust is needed between service providers and communities and there is a need to strengthen relationships with social workers.

⁹¹ Irish Refugee Council. (2025). *Direct Provision and IPAS: Advocacy for Change*.

⁹² National Youth Council of Ireland. (2017). *Make Minority a Priority: Insights from Minority Ethnic Young People Growing Up in Ireland*.

What do other data and policies say?	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, provides aftercare services to support young people transitioning from State care to independent living. Services are offered to individuals aged 16-21 who spent at least 12 months in State care between ages 13-18, with support extending to 23 for those in accredited education or training. Aftercare provides guidance, individual plans, financial aid, and drop-in clinics for all care leavers. In 2022, Tusla reported 2,299 young people receiving aftercare services nationally. Of these, 75% of care leavers aged 18-22 were in education, up from 64% in 2018. For accommodation, 45% remained with their carers while 28% lived independently - an increase of 2% since 2018. Petter McVerry Trust (2025) research on the experiences of young people transitioning from State care to independent living emphasises the Capital Assistance Scheme's critical role in providing housing and support for care leavers, and recommends expanding housing options, enhancing support services, and prioritising social inclusion to improve outcomes for care leavers.⁹³ Focus Ireland (2019) research highlighted challenges care leavers face in housing, education, and employment, and stressed the importance of tailored aftercare, nationwide consistency, and improved access to education, employment, and housing.⁹⁴ The Strategic Plan on Aftercare Services for Young Adults (2023–2026) aims to ensure a smoother transition to independent living for care leavers. It emphasises improving aftercare services through tailored supports, housing stability, and education access, as well as addressing challenges like service gaps and social inclusion.⁹⁵ The Irish Aftercare Network supports professionals in aiding care leavers by sharing knowledge, advocating for better services, and providing resources, training, and a unified voice.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will work to ensure that young people leaving care are supported with a range of services and opportunities to help them achieve a range of life skills. It will: • Highlight the needs of young people leaving care with aftercare services • Support the development of information for aftercare services for young people leaving care. • Support the understanding of hidden homelessness through research and advocacy. For more information on this action, please see Section 6.

4.7 Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

When asked what they considered the best thing about living in the area, 27% of children and young people said it was having family nearby, 25% said it was having good friends and relationships and 16% said 'having a nice community'. However, 17% highlighted a lack of safe places to meet friends and limited activities beyond sports as significant drawbacks.

When asked what could improve life in the area, children and young people suggested the need for more youth groups, activities, and youth-focused spaces. Focus groups revealed concerns

⁹³ Peter McVerry Trust. (2025). *Life After Care: Perspectives on CAS for Care Leavers*.

⁹⁴ Dixon, J., Ward, J., and Stein, M. (2019). *Brighter Futures for Care Leavers: A Consultation on Outcomes and Aftercare for Young People Leaving Care in Ireland*.

⁹⁵ [Tusla Strategic Plan on Aftercare Services for Young Adults-2023-26.pdf](#)

about unkind behaviour among people and misinformation about migrants in Ireland spreading online.

Parents echoed these concerns, stating that the lack of spaces for young people to gather was one of the biggest issues. Some parents also expressed a desire for stronger consultation between young people and decision makers. Both parents and service providers reported that the absence of adequate youth-focused spaces has contributed to anti-social behaviour and substance misuse among some young people.

Local Priority Areas within Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

DCS CYPSC has identified three Local Priority Areas that it will focus on over the next three years within Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World. These priorities and the objectives to be achieved within each are as follows.

Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Youth Services	Support a structure of youth services in the Dublin South City Area
Participation of children and young people	Support a local DCS CYPSC model of participation with the purpose to ensure that babies, children and young people are involved in decision-making
Community Connections	Support intercultural awareness across DSC area through promoting positive, inclusive communities

The background and rationale for each of these priority areas are outlined below.

Local Priority 1: Youth Services	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Twenty-three per cent of children and young people identified sport activities as one of the best things about living in the area. In contrast 19% of children and young people reported that not having enough safe places to hang out with their friends was one of the worst things, followed by 17% stating that there are not enough things to do besides sports. The survey also revealed that many children and young people believe that more youth clubs and activities would greatly improve their lives. “More things for young people to do.” Young person “Children’s activity centre or club.” Young person “More things to do then go to the stupid park.” Young person In the focus groups, children and young people liked that youth services and youth groups, when they were available, gave them an opportunity to hang out with their friends and as well as providing them with a safe space during the evening and outside of school time. Young people also reported that there are not enough youth services and activities available to them locally and older young people (16+ years) stated that they require more age-appropriate services as well as there needs to be more outreach to encourage more young people to engage with locally based youth work and services. Parents agreed with these sentiments as they stated strongly that not enough places for teenagers to hang out was the greatest challenge facing children,

Local Priority 1: Youth Services	
	young people and families in the area. They also emphasised how there were not enough non-sport activities for children and young people. Parents also called for more youth-focused spaces, services and clubs. Parents reported that increasing access to safer spaces for young people could reduce their exposure to risks like anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. “Safe hangout spots for teens, there is not enough, and teens are being exposed to a lot.” Parent “We need to have more youth services available to young people and not just targeted most at risk, although I see the need for the most at risk, there are others in the Dublin 8 that are falling through the gaps because when younger they may not be the highest at risk but due to the environment and issues around they can quickly become involved.” Parent “Talk About Youth Project is our local youth service. They do fantastic work. But with more financial support and space, I'm sure they could reach out to help more teenagers and young people.” Parent
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Professionals identified insufficient places for teenagers to hang out as one of the greatest challenges; 68% of service providers did not think there were enough non-sport activities for children and young people, 23% agreed that there was, and 9% were unsure. Service providers also called for more youth services, clubs and activities in DCS, talking about the negative impact that a lack of youth services and clubs has on the overall wellbeing of children and young people. They also referred to some children and young people being exposed to crime, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour as they had nothing else to do with their free time. “Investment and expansion of youth services, a purpose-built hub for young people to be creative, to play and to just be. Young people are locked out, are 'anti-social' - but where are the pro-social activities?” Service provider
What do other data and policies say?	Data shows that there are a very limited number of youth services and clubs per head of population aged between 10 to 24 years, as well as other compounding factors such as the greatest proportion of youth population living in some of the most disadvantaged and under serviced areas in DCS. As of April 2022, there were 42,109 young people aged 10–24 in the DCS, making up 17.3% of the total population.⁹⁶ There are higher concentrations of young people in areas that are predominantly disadvantaged such as the South West Inner City (18.5%) and Ballyfermot Drimnagh (18.3%). An analysis of the data reveals that there are 4.3 UBU services and 9.7 active youth clubs for every 10,000 young people.⁹⁷ The City of Dublin Education and Training Board has stated that while youth services in Dublin cater to a diverse range of needs, engaging thousands of young people annually, challenges persist, including resource limitations,

⁹⁶ [Census 2022 Small Area Population Statistics - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

⁹⁷ [Youth Services | UBU](#)

Local Priority 1: Youth Services	
	uneven service distribution, and the need for expanded capacity to address growing demands and emerging issues.⁹⁸ The NYCI highlights the role of youth work in fostering community resilience, social inclusion, and empowering young people.⁹⁹ It has also highlighted the economic benefits of youth work and its impact on justice, health, and welfare.¹⁰⁰ The Dublin City LECP also highlights the importance of youth work in fostering social inclusion, empowering young people, and building vibrant communities. It emphasises collaboration with local stakeholders to address emerging needs and challenges faced by young people, ensuring they reach their full potential.¹⁰¹ The Youth Service Plan (2025) enhances Irish youth services by improving access, quality, and coordination, while empowering young people and addressing challenges through strategic collaboration.¹⁰² The National Framework for Young People's Participation also highlights youth work as a vital tool for empowering young people, fostering their active involvement in decision-making, and creating inclusive environments.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC aims to support capacity building and support for youth services in the Dublin South City area. It will promote children and young people's participation by implementing frameworks, supporting initiatives, piloting models, and supporting training for professionals. More details on these planned activities can be seen in please see Section 6 .

Local Priority 2: Participation of Children and Young People	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	In the focus groups with children and young people, participants, in particular post-primary students reported that they did not always feel listened to or heard by teachers. At times they felt that teachers did not care about students and that they were too focused on general school rules and if students were adhering to uniform rules rather than the overall wellbeing of students. “Teachers from the country are unrelatable.” Young Person “Teachers only care if we are wearing the right uniform.” Young Person Parents also raised concerns in their survey that children and young people were not participating enough in decisions that affected them, particularly in relation to the planning of services that impact them.
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Professionals working with children, young people and families who completed surveys highlighted the need for more consultations with children and young people, especially on youth services and dedicated spaces for them.

⁹⁸ City of Dublin Education and Training Board. (2025). *City of Dublin Youth Services: Enhancing Youth Work Provision*.

⁹⁹ National Youth Council of Ireland. (2025). *Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy for Youth Work*.

¹⁰⁰ National Youth Council of Ireland. (2025). *Vision for Youth Work*.

¹⁰¹ Dublin City Council. (2024). *Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024–2029*.

¹⁰² Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. (2025). *Youth Service Plan: Enhancing Youth Work Provision in Ireland*.

	“Audit recreation spaces for children and young people and consult with them about their needs and views about their needs.” Service provider
What do other data and policies say?	Evidence on the extent of the participation of children and young people in decision-making on matters that affect them is not readily available; however, HBSC 2022 data showed a decline in student participation in school rulemaking nationally from 34.4% in 2002 to 26.8% in 2022 and from 34.6% to 27% in the Dublin area.¹⁰³ Research by Young Social Innovators (2021) found that 78% of 16-24-year-olds want more input in policies, 53% back voting at 16, and young people face limited decision-making opportunities despite community involvement.¹⁰⁴ 2017 research found that while young people engage in various community activities, their opportunities to participate in decision-making remain limited, recommending accessible, meaningful, and tailored initiatives.¹⁰⁵ A 2024 DCDIE Y report underscores that even young children can participate effectively with adapted, purposeful consultations.¹⁰⁶ The National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making¹⁰⁷ guides organisations in meaningful decision-making with youth, emphasising "participation with purpose" based on the Lundy Model, the 2015 National Strategy, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-making: Action Plan 2024–2028 focuses on enhancing participation mechanisms for vulnerable youth in decisions on policy, laws, services, and research. The Community Engagement guide emphasises genuine, inclusive, and accountable public participation. Young Ireland 2023 – 2028 aims to promote child and youth participation by embedding their voices in decision-making across various sectors and strengthening participation through education, training, and resources. A collection of good practice case studies on children and young people's participation in decision-making was published by UNICEF in 2022. It highlights innovative approaches and lessons learned, offering guidance to organisations working with children and young people on fostering meaningful participation.¹⁰⁸ In addition, Hub na nÓg provides useful checklists for organisations, policymakers and researchers that want to ensure meaningful participation of children and young people, when either developing plans or programmes, in everyday spaces and in evaluations.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰³ [SCA07 - Home and School Life of Children aged 10 - 17 years](#)

¹⁰⁴ Source: Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2022) GenZindex Future Outlook.

¹⁰⁵ Source: Forde, C.; Horgan, D.; Martin, S. Dr; and Parkes, A (2017) "Children and Young People's Participation in the Community in Ireland: Experiences and Issues," Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies: Vol. 17: Iss. 1, Article 2.

¹⁰⁶ Source: O'Donnell, A. (2024) Report of Two Pilot Studies Exploring Approaches and Methods to Involve Babies, Toddlers, and Young Children in Participation in Decision-making, then Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

¹⁰⁷ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. (2021). *National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making*. Hub na nÓg.

¹⁰⁸ O'Donnell, A. (2022) *Child Participation in Ireland. Report on the development of a collection of good practice case studies on children and young people's participation in decision-making*. UNICEF. Available at: <https://www.unicef.ie/app/uploads/2023/02/Report-on-Case-Study-Research.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ <https://hubnanog.ie/resources/participation-framework-checklists-and-evaluation-forms/>

What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will work to increase the meaningful and purposeful participation of babies, children and young people in decision-making in the local area over the next three years. In addition to other activities, it will support a local DCS model of participation with purpose, including supporting initiatives and developing pilots with organisations/services and supporting professionals to be aware of the rights-based approach to participation through training development and workshops. For more information on these activities and plans, please see Section 6.
---	--

Local Priority 3: Community Connections																	
What did the consultations tell us in relation to this local priority?	Some of the children and young people who participated in the survey said that they were immigrants to Ireland. These participants were more likely to report that mental health and loneliness were challenges for young people in the area compared to the other survey participants. Children and young people who identified as immigrants or members of the Traveller community were far more likely to report experiencing mistreatment or racism as significant challenges. In contrast, other survey participants highlighted bullying as a more common issue (see Graph 4.2). Graph 4.2 Proportion of young people experiencing bullying by group. <table><tr><th>Group</th><th>Bullying</th><th>Being treated badly by other young people</th><th>Racism</th></tr><tr><td>Other children and young people</td><td>39%</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Members of the travelling community</td><td>25%</td><td>25%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Immigrants to Ireland</td><td>25%</td><td>25%</td><td>15%</td></tr></table> When asked one thing that would make life better for children and young people in DCS, some young people said it would be for people to be nicer to one another, to be less racist and create a more inclusive environment in general. “No racism” and “Stop racism.” Children/young people “Make people feel included regardless of background.” Child or young person “People to respect one another.” Child or young person In the focus groups, children and young people reported that people are not always nice to one another. Older young people spoke about how they were aware of racism in their communities as well as the spread of misinformation online. Some parents called for more community events, as these would be an opportunity to bring more members of the community together. Parents emphasised the need for more information on activities that are on, more local	Group	Bullying	Being treated badly by other young people	Racism	Other children and young people	39%	0%	0%	Members of the travelling community	25%	25%	0%	Immigrants to Ireland	25%	25%	15%
Group	Bullying	Being treated badly by other young people	Racism														
Other children and young people	39%	0%	0%														
Members of the travelling community	25%	25%	0%														
Immigrants to Ireland	25%	25%	15%														

	amenities, such as playing pitches and community centres, and for more safe spaces for children and teens to connect and address issues like health, poverty, and LGBTQ+ inclusion. It was suggested that establishing a community centre offering affordable activities, gardens and support services could help restore community activities for everyone. “All events even if conducted are not well advertised. The area is lacking a source (online) of information about what’s going on and where.” Parent “I would provide greater social and community amenities such as playing pitches or reopening community centres which are inexplicably closed.” Parent “Children need to feel part of a community. I feel there should be safe spaces for children and teens to interact as part of the community which could incorporate language, health, poverty, LGBTQ+, tackling their issues!” Parent “Have a conference at the beginning of each academic year showcasing all the clubs and associations so that people can come and learn about them and sign up to them. I don’t think that people know what is on offer in their areas.” Parent
What do other data and policies say?	Census 2022 data shows that DCS is an extremely diverse area. While the majority (just under 62%) of people identify as ‘White Irish’ this is significantly lower than the national average of 76.5%. While 70% of the population in DCS were born in Ireland, others were born in the UK (4.7%), Poland (1.2%), India (2.2%), other EU28 countries (8.1%), and the rest of the world (13.8%).¹¹⁰ The 2024 ESRI Monitoring Report on migrant integration in Ireland highlights housing and living costs as key challenges and emphasises integration's role in enabling migrants to contribute across economic, social, cultural, and political life.¹¹¹ The European Migration Network (2023) has highlighted the need to address barriers like racism and discrimination in order to foster social cohesion and recommends aligning national policies with local strategies to enhance migrant integration.¹¹² The Immigrant Council of Ireland and others working with immigrants have repeatedly highlighted that integration should be seen as a "two-way process" and have also stated how important it is that work takes place at a local level to foster communication and collaboration between migrants and local communities, improve community and social cohesion, and address racism.¹¹³ The Dublin City LECP (2024–2029) aims to foster inclusive communities and integration through community engagement, intercultural events, collaboration with local organisations, training for service providers, and creating spaces that celebrate diversity and equality.¹¹⁴ Dublin City's Integration and Intercultural Strategy 2021–2025 also focuses on promoting intercultural communication, supporting community engagement, and addressing discrimination to ensure equal opportunities for all.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰ <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/population/censusofpopulation2022/>

¹¹¹ McGinnity, F., Carron-Kee, E., Alamir, A., Dalton, C., Darmody, M., Hingre, G., Murphy, K., and Quinn, E. (2025). *Monitoring Report on Integration 2024*. Economic and Social Research Institute.

¹¹² European Migration Network. (2023). *New Insights on Migrant Integration in Ireland*.

¹¹³ Immigrant Council of Ireland. (2023). *Enhancing Migrant Integration at Local Level in Ireland*.

¹¹⁴ Dublin City Council. (2024). *Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024–2029*.

¹¹⁵ Dublin City Council. (2021). *Integration and Intercultural Strategy 2021–2025*.

	Young Ireland 2023-2028 acknowledges that integration is a key aspect of fostering equality and inclusion for children and young people. Related activities in Young Ireland include intercultural training for youth workers, community engagement programs, and initiatives to promote intercultural understanding among young people. The NYCI has argued that ensuring young people from minority ethnic backgrounds and Travellers can fully participate in youth work activities would help to ensure social, cultural and economic cohesion. ¹¹⁶
Are there sufficient services in this local priority?	Nearly half (44%) of service provider survey respondents did not think there were enough participation initiatives/activities, while 28% said there was and 28% were unsure. Some service providers felt there was a need for more community connection, including having community champions and CYPSC community events to encourage more engagement across the community.
What will the CYPSC do in relation to this local priority?	CYPSC will support intercultural awareness across the area over the next three years by: • Promoting intercultural and inclusive practices by engaging communities, raising awareness, supporting service providers, and amplifying the voices of children, young people and families. • Focus on skill-building, developing tools, and addressing misinformation to foster integration and shared understanding among communities. For more details on activities, please see Section 6.

¹¹⁶ National Youth Council of Ireland. (n.d.). *Practical Guidelines for Doing Intercultural Youth Work*.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People's Plan

The table below provides an overview of the Local Priority Areas for DCS CYPSC for the period 2025 – 2027. These are categorised according to the five Young Ireland National Outcome Areas for children and young people. These Local Priority Areas have been informed by the analysis on needs and gaps, which have been identified from consultations with children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers in the area, as well as socio-demographic profiling, service mapping, and broad and thematic strategy discussions by CYPSC members.

Further details on these Local Priority Areas and the objectives within each one are provided in Sections 2 to 4 above. The specific targets, indicators and activities that will be carried out to achieve each objective are outlined below in Section 6.

During the strategic planning process, DCS CYPSC members also discussed internal matters and change management, which resulted in the identification of several priority areas within the category of Change Management. These are also outlined in the table below.

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Themes
Active and Healthy	- Local Priority 1: Infant Health and Wellbeing - Local Priority 2: Supporting Positive Mental Health - Local Priority 3: Supporting Mental Health in target groups - Local Priority 4: Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness
Achieving in Learning and Development	- Local Priority 1: Educational Engagement and Learning - Local Priority 2: Bullying - Local Priority 3: Anti-racism training and awareness
Safe and Protected from Harm	- Local Priority 1: Community Safety and Supports - Local Priority 2: Homelessness - Local Priority 3: Parental supports access and engagement - Local Priority 4: Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Coercive Control
Economic Security and Opportunity	- Local Priority 1: Child, Youth and Family Supports - Local Priority 2: Food Poverty - Local Priority 3: Support for Families in International Protection Accommodation - Local Priority 4: Care Leavers/Aftercare Supports
Connected, Respected, and Contributing to their World	- Local Priority 1: Youth Services - Local Priority 2: Participation and voice of children and young people - Local Priority 3: Community Connections
Change Management	- DCS CYPSC Membership - Internal Communications - Critical Incident Protocol - Strategic Partnerships

Section 6: DCS CYPSC Action Plan (2025-2027)

This section provides details on the objectives and activities that DCS CYPSC has planned over the next three years to improve the outcomes of children and young people in the area. This information is broken down according to the National Outcomes for Children and Young People and by the Local Priority Areas that have been agreed within each National Outcome area. Details of the objectives, targets, indicators, activities, timeframe for completion, key stakeholders and links to other plans are provided for each Local Priority Area in the tables below.

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
Infant Health and Wellbeing	Increase awareness of the importance of Infant Health and Wellbeing (IHWB) (the first 1000 days)	Number of services participating	A minimum of ten services participating	Engage with stakeholders working with babies and their parents/guardians to enhance knowledge and understanding of IHWB and what the issues and challenges are in promoting IHWB Support awareness and dissemination of innovative and related work which is taking place to a more diverse and wider audience of practitioners Strengthen the workforce learning, development, practice and further interagency connection and collaboration Engage in research with practitioners, and babies, parents/guardians to establish issues and challenges in relation to supporting IHWB Signpost resources for professionals working with babies, their parents/guardians and community providers to build their understanding of perinatal IHWB Create appropriate materials to support capacity building and understanding among parents/guardians on the importance of promoting secure relationships, social emotional development and attachment (e.g. toolkit/booklet) - Host annual event to increase awareness and disseminate the innovative and symbiotic work taking place to a wider and more diverse	2025-2027	Lead: HSE Child Health Development, Health Promotion Partners The Maternity Hospital ISPCC TUSLA Local Development Partnership ABCs Barnardos Daughters of Charity Others Early years services, Childcare Committee, Prenatal infant and EC mental health working group (HSE Dublin and Midlands)	Young Ireland National Parenting Strategy First Five UNCRC National Healthy Childhood Programme Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan EU Child Guarantee HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office Action Plan (2024–2027)	Active and Healthy Economic Security
		Annual event takes place	Host DCS annual event					
		Training delivered	Training in appropriate interventions and the implementation					
		Toolkit and materials developed for professional and carers	Develop toolkit of resources/materials for professionals and parents/carers					
		No. of professionals supported	Minimum of 75 professionals and organisations working with infants/families supported					
		No. of parents/guardians of infants supported	Minimum of 100 parents/guardians					

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
			ns of infants supported	audience of practitioners and stakeholders - Identify and develop/signpost to interventions appropriate to supporting parents and IHWB (infant mental health) - Explore the voice of the baby and mother and parents/guardians to inform work			National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	
Supporting Positive Mental Health	Increase access to evidence informed wellbeing initiatives and interventions to support prevention and early intervention from mental health services	Review complete No. of practitioners participating in the review No. of interventions identified to support needs No. of service providers and participants No. of training programmes offered	Undertake review of needs with a Min. of 4 services Min. of 3 interventions identified to support needs Min. of 24 children and young people provided with interventions Min. of 3 training programmes offered.	- Engage with stakeholders/working group and include appropriate review of needs - Review current provision and gaps in need for a pilot service/community provider in relation to a model of/for prevention and early intervention programme for children and young people - Agree a programme of interventions with pilot site to support the needs of the local service - Identify and implement initiatives to meet the service gaps in MH services for target group - Evaluate the intervention provided - Showcase the learning and innovative practices undertaken/sharing the learning - Consider the development of a toolkit for programme adaptation	End 2026	Lead: HSE; Health Promotion Partners: Community and Voluntary sector TUSLA Aftercare Local Development Partnerships Barnardos wellbeing team Mental health services – staff,	Young Ireland Sharing the Vision Traveller Action Plan National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Active and Healthy

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
		Evaluation of the delivery No. services contributing to evaluation Alternative model presented	1 alternative support model supported 1 event hosted /sharing the learning			volunteers and community Suicide prevention resource officers	HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office Action Plan (24– 27) Healthy Ireland 2013 - 2025	
Supporting Mental Health in target groups	Supports and information for universal mental health directed at specific target groups, such as LGBTQI +; Traveller; Roma; care leavers	Review conducted No. of services participating in review No. of interventions identified No. of services contributing to evaluation Toolkit in place Training identified	Conduct review of current provision and supports available Min. of 12 services participating in the review Min. of 3 interventions identified to support needs Min. of 12 services who contribute to the evaluation	- Engage with stakeholders working group and include appropriate research/needs - Review current provision of Mental Health support and information for identified target group(s) - Review capacity of Mental Health support providers to target needs of specific target group - Identify issues and challenges in accessing mental health services to support needs of target group - Identify any gaps in information for specific target groups - Develop and/or utilise specific training materials to improve knowledge and confidence in understanding of large target group(s) - Identify relevant source materials to support greater understanding of role in supporting the understanding of target	End 2026	Leads: HSE/ Health Promotion Partners Community and Voluntary sector TUSLA Aftercare; Local Development Partnerships LGBTQI+ agencies Traveller and Roma agencies Inclusion Ireland CDNT	Young Ireland NITRIS HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office Action Plan (24– 27) National LGBTI Inclusion strategy National Youth strategy	Active and Healthy

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
	and identified marginalised groups.	No. of training programmes offered Event held	Toolkit developed Training initiatives identified Min. of 4 training programmes offered Hold event for YP	group (document highlighting pathways to support) - Develop where relevant toolkit to support access to universal support and information for specific target groups - Consider appropriate training to support understanding of needs of target young people - Identify and implement training initiatives to meet the service gaps - Support awareness with young people in relation to MH information and supports for targeted groups		Migrant support service IPAS EPIC DESSA	National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	
Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness	Promote awareness of alcohol and substance misuse (ASM) amongst professionals, parents and young people	Review completed and resource available online Event is held 1 alternative model researched Pilot completed and evaluation of same	Review supports available and develop resource Host event Research an alternative model Undertake pilot initiative and evaluate Min. of 3 training	- Review the addiction awareness research, information and support programmes that are available to those working with children and young people - Research alternative supports and resources for development of a sustainable approach to support and intervention - Compile an online resource to support information dissemination - Promote a shared understanding of the available resources by hosting an event to promote best practice and share/highlight understanding of addiction response for children and young people. - Pilot an initiative on vaping awareness for professionals and parents - Evaluation of initiatives undertaken	Mid 2027	Leads: HSE; Health Promotion; Community and Voluntary sector; TUSLA Aftercare; Local Development Partnerships	New policy to be implemented by Government Young Ireland HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office Action Plan (24- 27)	Active and Healthy Safe and protected from harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of trainings offered No. of agencies involved, and parents supported	supports offered Min. of 36 agencies involved, and min of 75 parents supported				National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 2: Achieving and Learning

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
Educational Engagement and Learning	Children and young people are supported through school transition stages: (early years to primary; primary to post primary; post primary to 3rd level incl. apprenticeships)	Working group Terms of Reference agreed Review completed No. of agencies involved No. of children and young people piloted at each stage No. of children and young people consulted	Working group established Review of all current/existing policy documents Min. of 12 agencies involved in support Min. of 40 children and young people piloted at each transition stage Min of 40 children and young people consulted about how they are supported	- Establish working group for each target area across various stages of educational transition - Review of current support/resources available for each transition phase and policy - Review current challenges experienced by children and young people incl. through consultation and input from children and young people - Disseminate up-to-date supports to relevant services - Promote best practice/key messages - Evaluate and review initiatives - Raise awareness of the most appropriate age to start school (i.e. 5, pre-school settings best pre-age 5)	End 2026	Lead: Education, Preschool Schools, Primary and Post Primary, 3rd Level Partners: SENO; TESS; Local Development Partnerships; Community and Voluntary sector. 3rd Level /Research Childcare Committees ABC's Early Childhood Ireland School Completion	Young Ireland Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act '04 Education Welfare Act School Completion Programme Dept of Education Statement of Strategy (2023-2025) First 5	Achieving in learning and development Economic Security and Opportunity

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 2: Achieving and Learning

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
							National Parenting Strategy National Framework for C and YP Participation in Decision-making	

Educational Engagement and Learning	Support the education sector to integrate non formal learning in schools through targeted initiatives	Working group in place	Establish working group with min. of 8 services	- Establish a working group to develop promote non-formal learning initiatives - Agree pilot area/target - Review current /existing practices, how extra-curricular supports are identified - Review resources needed by educational sector to incorporate non-formal learning - Identify pilot initiatives that can be supported /recognised - Include the voice of children in how non-formal learning is recognised and supported. - Develop a model of support to showcase what is achieved - Measure the benefits to the school community - Promote and implement a suite of activities through schools as non-formal learning models	2027	Lead: Schools; TESS Partners: Dublin City Council, Library, LAIT services; Health Promotion; Local Development Partnerships Community and Voluntary sector Comhairle na nÓg Active School flag An Taisce Pieta House Dept of Justice – Yellow Flag project	Dept of Education Statement of Strategy (2023 – 2025)	Achieving in learning and development
		No. of services supporting working group Review conducted No. of initiatives recognised No. of schools involved in pilot No. of children/young people involved	Conduct review of practices and resources needed Min. of 6 initiatives that are recognised as non-formal learning and activities Min. of 12 schools in area involved in pilot project Min. of 120 children/young people involved				Young Ireland Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004 Education Welfare Act School Completion Programme National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	

Bullying	Professionals have increased awareness of types of bullying and the impact that bullying has on children and young people	Training/awareness raising event held Anti-bullying campaign rolled out No. of agencies involved No. of courses/workshops No. of children and young people involved	Annual training/awareness raising event Anti-Bullying campaign Min. of 8 agencies involved and participating Min. of 3 awareness/training courses/workshops for professionals Min. of 120 children and young people involved	- Review types of bullying/understanding and impact on children's resources/supports - Promote bullying awareness key messages - Provide 'response to bullying' training for professionals, parents and young people - raising awareness of anti-bullying, and recognising needs and responses - Promote online safety resources for parents, children and young people - Host an event to share bullying research and best practice supports for professionals - Support the voice of Children and young people on impact of bullying - Formalise a youth lead plan regarding bullying - IT skills for parents – digital literacy programmes	End 2026	Lead: HSE Psychological Services; Partners: Department of Education/schools; National Council for Special Education; Health Service Executive TESS; Community and Voluntary sector; An Garda Síochána; Local Development Partnership; Jigsaw 3rd Level institutions Psychological Society of Ireland	Education Statement of Strategy (2023 – 2025) Young Ireland Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004 Education Welfare Act School Completion Programme National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Achieving in learning and development Active and Healthy
Anti-racism training and	Promote awareness of initiatives and	Working group established No. of services involved	Establish working group with min. of 6 reps involved Min. of 60 services participating	- Review types of supports available to address needs across sectors – awareness training models - Promote anti racism awareness key messages - Provide 'response to racism' training for professionals, parents and young people	2025-2027	Lead: Community and Voluntary sector Partners:	National Action Plan Against Racism Inclusion Ireland	Achieving in learning and Development

awareness	responses to racism that encourage inclusive behaviours by children and young people, schools and communities	Review complete No. of training courses Promotional campaign undertaken Area wide event supported No. of children and young people involved	Conduct review of supports available Min of 6 training courses for professionals in awareness raising/recognising needs and responses One promotional campaign Support 1 area wide event for professionals Min of 60 children and young people involved	- Promote online supports/resources for parents, children and young people - Support for promotional campaign - Support the voice of children and young people in raising awareness - Formalise a youth led plan responding to racism - Explore models of good practice		Schools; Youth services; TESS; TUSLA; HSE; Local Authority; LCDC; LAIT team; Local Development Partnership; An Garda Síochána; Community and Voluntary sector Belong2; Immigrant Council of Ireland; Migrant Rights Centre; Focus Ireland; Hope and Courage collective; Bohemians football club	National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy /New Policy NITRIS	Connected and respected and contributing to their world
------------------	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	--

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
Community safety and supports	Promote increased community safety responses for children and young people	TUSLA Annual briefing Child Protection & Welfare session held No. of community initiatives No. of Garda engagement/attendance No. of services involved No. of Trauma Informed community events held No. of opportunities for child, youth and parental input to local Policing fora /structures	1 briefing session held A min. of 20 services included in CPW briefing A min. of ten services involved in opportunities Min. of 3 community initiatives undertaken promoting community safety. Minimum of 12 services included in community safety event A min. of 2 opportunities for child, youth and parental input to local Policing fora /structures Host 2 Trauma informed/awareness events	- Support and strengthen child protection and welfare understanding and awareness of Tusla thresholds amongst local services - Strengthen preventative networks to support appropriate Tusla referrals - Develop initiatives for safe spaces and community activities /engagement - Promote Trauma informed awareness across all services - Support the work of CFSN Trauma Informed Network - Support local events that provide access to community safety initiatives /activities.	2026 -2027	Lead: Local Authority/Gardai Partners: Local Development Partnership; HSE LDAFT; Community and Voluntary sector; Youth Services; HSE; TUSLA; Education Sector	Policing Security and Community Safety Act 2024/Community Safety Policy Paper Local Community Safety Partnerships National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Safe and Protected from Harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/or Transformational Goal(s)
				- Identify safer spaces for youth activities - Annual input by child youth and parents to community policing structures				

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
Homelessness	Support the needs of children, young people and families experiencing homelessness	No. of events held No. of workshops No. of services engaging Children and young people consulted	1 annual information event for service providers. 2 workshops on the needs of homeless children and families Minimum of 12 services engaged in supports Consult with children and young people living in homeless service	- Provide access to supports to meet the needs of children and young people in homeless accommodation - Advocate for a child-friendly policy for all homeless accommodation and initiatives - Implementation of training support with Homeless services. - Support care leavers seeking accommodation and housing supports through the accommodation support/pathways - Amplify the voice of children and young people who are homeless - Make the best use of existing community facilities with good interagency collaboration to	2025-2027	Lead: Local Authority Partners: Local Authority; LCDCC Homeless NGOs; TUSLA aftercare; Community and Voluntary sector; HSE Health Promotion; Local development Partnerships	Young Ireland Housing for All - /Housing Plan for Ireland Dublin Region Homeless Action Plan /new policy 2025+ TUSLA Corporate Plan Child Protection and welfare practice/implementation plan National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Safe and Protected from harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
				offer supports for homeless families. Advocate for a National Subgroup of CYPSC to bring all the existing information on the impact of homelessness on C and YP together to host a significant National event highlighting the children's voices and inviting all relevant Ministers and Department officials-National CYPSC event.				
Parental Supports Access and Engagement	Strengthen positive parenting relationships between parents and babies,	No. of agencies represented on working group No. of initiatives to support parental needs No. of parental support activity per annum.	Min. of 6 agencies represented on working group 3 initiatives to support parental needs across the community -	- Parental support responses by local areas. - Increase awareness of parental supports, activities and interventions	2025-2027	Lead: TUSLA PPFS/HSE; HSE Health Promotion and Child Health Development; Partners	Young Ireland National Parenting Strategy First Five	Safe and Protected from harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
	children and young people	No. of parental activities available	Minimum of 1 parental support activity per annum. 6 parental activities available for parents of children /young people with additional needs/disabilities.	available in the community • Increase supports for parents of children with additional needs /disabilities • Focus on fathers' engagement with their children • Enhance supports for separating parents		Community and Voluntary sector; Local Development Partnership; Local Authority Library Services		

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Coercive Control	Increase services ability to recognise the impact of DSGBV and coercive control on children and families and to support and signpost appropriately	No. of agencies represented DSGBV document disseminated No. of showcase event No. of attendees No. of DSGBV related training courses provided	A minimum of 8 agencies represented on working group 1 DSGBV services document and dissemination 1 DSGBV /Coercive control stakeholder event. A minimum of 120 attendees at showcase A minimum of ten training courses provided	• Increase awareness of DSGBV and coercive control in services and the community • Support information dissemination awareness and understanding of DSGBV and Coercive control • Support training activities to understand DSGBV and its impact on children and young people • Increase supports available to children, young people and families who have experienced DSGBV and Coercive control • Support TLC Kidz programme implementation • Prevention and early intervention programmes in primary and	2025-2027	Lead: Cuan/ TUSLA SW/ PPFS; Partners Barnardos; Saoirse; Sonas; Community and Voluntary sector; HSE Health Promotion and Child Health Development; Local Development Partnership; Local Authority Homeless Services and Homeless NGOs TUSLA DSGBV, DAC Gardai and CUAN, Schools.	Young Ireland Zero Tolerance National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making TUSLA Plan Child Protection and welfare practice/implementation plan	Safe and Protected from harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
				secondary schools (conflict resolution, consent etc.) Schools support increased awareness of impact of DSGBV on children				

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
Child, Youth and Family Supports	Promote access to activities and/or supports for children, young people and families from marginalised or disadvantaged community where costs are a barrier	No. of no/low-cost activities available in community No. of resources developed No. of workshops for service providers No. of families reached No. of children and young people participating Campaign for targeted supports/groups completed Support/referral structures available Annual workshop held	Increase in no /low cost activities for children young people and families Min. of 1 resource developed to identify supports available /identified Min of 1 annual promotion /resource workshop for service providers Min. of 100 families reached Min. of 200 children and young people participating 1 campaign for targeted supports/groups completed	- Promote free activities, tutors, clubs /interest based for children and young people - Develop partnerships with sports and other national/large organisations e.g. FAI/GAA etc. to access free/reduced fees - Annual event on supports and resources for services for how they can assist families on how to budget money. - Support services to link families with employment services to raise families out of poverty. - Promote and advocate for childcare	End 2026	Lead Dublin South City Partnership Partners FRC DSCP TASK MABS Youth services Tusla FRC LDCs LCGs Youth services PPFS/CSFN DESSA Sports Partnership NWCi One Family National sporting and other orgs Young Social Innovators	Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 ESRI Report December 2024: Technical Paper on Minimum Essential Standards of Living, Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Economic Security and Opportunity

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
			Support/referral structures available Annual workshop available to support services working with family budgeting needs	- supports (NCS) for all families - Promote welfare measures that are in place to assist with working families - Campaign for more targeted supports for single parents, those with disability and unemployed				
Food Poverty	Support DCS local programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions	Working group established Research document produced No. of initiatives piloted No. of projects developed to address needs of children and young people	Establish working group with min. of 6 services engaged Research doc on Food Poverty /poverty related policy and impact Min. of 2 initiatives piloted to support food poverty in local communities Min. of 2 projects	- Develop understanding of food poverty policy response and impact of children and families - Identify key partners to replicate learning from food poverty initiatives in the area - Review models of good practice to support the needs children and young people	Mid 2026	Lead Local Development Companies; Dublin South City Partnership and Liffey Partnership Partners Local Authority Community and Voluntary sectors DSP Schools Children's Rights Alliance; Saint Vincent De Paul; RCSI FoodCloud	Food Vision 2030 Food Poverty, Government Programmes, schemes and supports DCLCDC	Economic Security and Opportunity

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
		Showcase event held	developed to address the needs of children and young people impacted by food poverty 1 event that showcases learning of food poverty in the community	• Share knowledge of research and impact of food poverty on children and families • Event to highlight learning and understanding of food poverty and its impacts • Engage with services to explore opportunities to further address needs • Develop projects to address the needs of children and young people impacted by food poverty • Identify funding opportunities or partnerships with corporates to maximise support to address needs locally • Review National campaigns re food prices, partner		Barnardos'; FRCs One Family Corporate supermarkets Dublin food co-operative		

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
				organisation and national collective CYPSCs Advocate for proper State interventions e.g. properly funded, healthy school meals/childcare				
Support for families in International Protection Accommodation	Provide support for children, young people and families living in International Protection accommodation services in the Dublin South City area	No. of activities and no. of children and young people supported No. of initiatives for parents Pathways of support developed No. of projects including	Annual programme of funded supports and activities made available for children and young people – min. of 100 supported Annual programme of funded supports and activities made available for parents – min. of 3 parental initiatives Develop 1 x pathways of support	- Identify key partners to plan for services supporting the needs of children and parents in IPAS - Engage with services to coordinate responses - Build capacity in the community to response to needs and integrate with local services - Provide an opportunity to hear the voice of children and young people who live in IPAS accommodation	2025-2027	Lead Local Authority LAIT; Local Development Partnership Partners LAIT forum members Local Schools; HSE; TUSLA PPFS; Community and Voluntary sector. Dept of Children's parent unit Youth services ETB Dept of Justice New Communities Partnership MASI	International Protection Support Service/Policy DC LCDC National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making	Economic Security and Opportunity

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
		consultations with C and YP No. of meetings of services 1 meeting of services held	2 projects that include consultations with International Protection children and young people 1 meeting of services that support the needs of children and families in IPAS 1 annual promotion of support services meeting	- Connect and build trust with State agencies, Tusla, Gardai and others - Facilitate a meeting of services that support the needs of children and families in accommodation centres - Advocate for key partners to have appropriate, fully resourced services		IRC Local 'for all' groups		
Care leavers/ Aftercare supports	Care leavers/ Aftercare (TUSLA) young people are supported with a range of services and opportunities for them to	1 Pathways support publication produced No. of care leavers aware of community supports	Publish 1 Pathways toolkit Minimum of 8 care leavers are aware of all available community supports	- Develop pathways publication for aftercare services - Promote/support the specific needs of aftercare young people/leaving care	2025- 2027	Lead TUSLA Aftercare; Partners Dublin South City Partnership Focus Ireland aftercare Local Authority; HSE; Education sector Community and Voluntary sector	Strategic Plan on Aftercare Services for Young Adults (2023–2026) National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation	Economic Security and Opportunity Achieving and learning Connected and respected and Contributing to their world

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
	achieve a range of life skills	Annual Opportunities fair for young care leavers takes place No. of young people supported through Opportunities Fair Research on hidden homelessness complete	Min. of 1 annual opportunities fair for young care leavers Min. of 30 young people supported Research, case studies and advocacy on hidden homelessness	- Showcase event / Opportunities Fair; education, training and employment opportunities - Develop understanding of hidden homelessness through research, case studies and advocacy		Possibly: Barnardos FRC Youth Services (if already linked in)	in Decision-making	

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
Services to Young People	Support a structure of Services to Young People in the Dublin South City Area	Mapping of youth services and youth clubs complete No. of training supports provided for staff No. of youth services staff attending Youth services event complete Annual training	1 mapping of youth services in the area 1 mapping of youth clubs /initiatives in the area Min. of 3 training supports provided for staff in youth services Min. of ten youth services staff and youth leaders attending training/capacity building 1 Youth services event Annual training	- Capacity building supports for DSC Youth services - Capacity building for staff and volunteers - Capacity building for young people who use the services - Map youth services supports and services including capacity, skills and needs – identify gaps and needs - Mapping of clubs and activities for young people in the area - Host a Youth Services event to enhance understanding of the work local services provide accessibility to the services and the range of needs supported - Include participation practice model for services to maximise the voice of young people in services planning and delivery - Advocate for youth service reform - Review programme for Government and impact for youth services	End 2027	Lead Dublin South City Youth Services Partners Local Authority; LCD; HSE; Education Sector; Community and Voluntary sector Youth services New expert advisory group City of Dublin	Youth Service Plan Young Ireland National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making DCDE (2025) Dept of Ed (2025)	Connected and respected and Contributing to their world Achieving in Learning and development <i>Economic Security and Opportunity</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
		provided for services on including the voice of children and young people	supports for services on including the voice of children and young people			Youth Services Crosscare		
Participation and voice of children and young people	Support a local DCS CYPSC model of participation with purpose to ensure that babies, children and young people are involved in decision-making	Working group established Pilot complete No. of services availing of workshops/webinars No. of projects	Establish working group with a min. of 8 people Pilot organisations/services Min. of 40 services avail of workshops/webinars that support the model of participation Min. of 4 projects presented to	- Establish working group - Support the implementation of the national participation framework for children and young people, to promote and support services provided to them - Support participation initiatives to hear the voice of children and young people through project supports and implementation and presentation to CYPSC - Pilot organisations/services to develop the participation model in service delivery - Support professionals with relevant organisations to be aware of the rights-based approach to participation through training development and peer support workshops	2025-2027	Lead TUSLA CFSN & Participation Unit Partners Youth Services; Community and Voluntary sector; Schools; TUSLA Local Development Partnership; Local	Young Ireland National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making Programme for Govt	Connected and respected and Contributing to their world

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of organisations who have developed practice model No. of children and young people partaking in consultation	DCS CYPSC as part of the Lundy model Support a min. of 6 organisations that have developed a practice model for their service delivery Min. of 100 children and young people partake in consultation with local service providers	- DCS CYPSC support structure by hearing the voice of children as per the Lundy model (audience/influence) - Support services to use the Lundy model of participation in their planning and project implementation - Showcase event of good practice models participation in the community - Support meaningful participation of young people in consultation with local service providers - Support development of charter of inclusion - Amplify the voice of children and young people		Authority LCDC Comhairle na nÓg Hub na nÓg NYCI BTAP BelongTo Sports Partnership 3rd level COIB		
Community Connections	Support intercultural awareness across Dublin	No. of events supported No. of families supported to	Min. of 3 events in the area supported Min. of 30 families	- Awareness raising of intercultural/integration models of good practice - Promote intercultural/integration supports to service providers	Mid 2027	Lead Community and Voluntary sector	Young Ireland National Action Plan Against Racism Migrant Integration	Connected and respected and Contributing to their world

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
	South City area through promoting positive inclusive communities	attend family days No. of children and young people supported to take part	supported to attend family day(s) Min. of 90 children and young people are supported to take part in integration projects /activities	- Work with services to implement inclusive community engagement of children young people and families - Support inclusive integrated communities - Promote and contribute to community events, family fun days and other local initiatives to share intercultural /integration - Support initiatives to include the voices of children young people and families in local communities - Misinformation vs. disinformation - Promote intercultural and integration		Partners Local Development Partnerships; HSE Health Promotion; Local Authority LCDC; Youth Services; TUSLA PPFS	Strategy: A Blueprint for the Future /Future strategy Gender Equality - National Policies and Strategies International Protection Support Service/Policy National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy /New Policy Cultural awareness NITRIS Inclusion Ireland National Framework for	Safe and Protected from Harm

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 – 2027								
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
							C and YP's Participation in Decision-making	

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
DCS CYPSC Membership	Maximise support for the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan	Annual Review completed Annual report compiled	Full CYPSC membership at appropriate level Review of DCS CYPSC Membership and Subgroup Membership	- Maximise engagement of relevant agencies at senior level on main CYPSC and across all subgroups/working groups - Review of DCS CYPSC membership as per shared vision next steps and target all agencies to request nominees as directed /gaps in membership reported to national office structure. - Increase subgroup membership over the lifetime of the plan	2025-2027	Lead Main CYPSC Committee · CYPSC Coordinator Partners CYPSC Sub-group members	Young Ireland Shared Vision Next Steps (next policy)	ALL
Internal Communications	Enhance/develop DCS CYPSC's work through relevant communication tools	No. of communication supports identified	DCS CYPSC Communication Plan DCS CYPSC publications Create Dublin	- Agree relevant communication requirements - Facilitate opportunities for local statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations to communicate regarding their work - Maintain Dublin Services Hub/website in association with 4 'other' Dublin based CYPSC	2025-2027	Main CYPSC Committee · CYPSC Coordinator Partners	Young Ireland Shared Vision Next Steps Mid-term report 2023	ALL

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
		Services hub/website	Services Hub /website					
Critical Incident Protocol	Support Dublin City South CYPSC area Critical Incident Protocol	Annual ratification complete Evaluation complete (if relevant) Critical incident responded to	Annual ratification (and if enacted) review and evaluate model of practice Critical incidents are responded to through interagency working	- Ensure all CYPSC members are aware of and committed to DCS CYPSC Critical Incident Protocol - Ensure all CYPSC members understand the role of the CIP and the process of its engagement	2025-2027	Main CYPSC Committee CYPSC Coordinator Partners	Young Ireland	ALL
Strategic Partnerships	Enhance and develop working relationships for	Review completed annually	Annual review of areas of work that are	- Identification of areas of work that the CYPP can complement /respond to emerging needs - Identify areas of duplication and/or collaboration in respective of delivery/needs	2025-2027	Main CYPSC Committee ;	Young Ireland	All

Action Plan for Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2025 - 2027

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
	strategic interagency collaboration/coordination approaches to children/young people and family's needs	Initiatives identified	responding to in-common/merging needs Identified initiatives and opportunities during the lifetime of this plan	of children, young people and families in the Dublin South City area		CYPSC Coordinator Partners		

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

DCS CYPSC members are tasked with implementing this strategy and overseeing its monitoring and review. The CYPP (2025-2027) and its actions rely on the commitment of all stakeholders, including members and partners. Each member's contribution directly influences the progress and activities outlined in the programme.

In line with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework (2017), the CYPSC will produce the following annually: an Annual Programme of Work, a Mid-year Progress Update, and an Annual Progress Report. The Annual Programme of Work helps prioritise and sequence actions while supporting the monitoring process.

The Mid-year Progress Update ensures mutual accountability and learning by assessing whether the Annual Programme of Work is on track. It also serves as a focal point for reviewing and adjusting actions, aligning with the CYPSC meeting schedule.

Annual Progress Reports will identify emerging needs and guide CYPSC decisions on updates to the three-year Strategic CYPP. The Annual Programme of Work is similarly integrated into the CYPSC meeting schedule.

Each subgroup chair, as a CYPSC member, will report on subgroup progress at mid-term review meetings. Subgroups contribute to the mid-term review and the Annual Programme of Work through their chairpersons.

The Committee, through the Coordinator, will adhere to all reporting requirements set by the national CYPSC office in Tusla and the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Appendix 1: DCS CYPSC Terms of Reference

1. Purpose and Mandate:

The central purpose of the Dublin City South Children and Young People's Services Committee (DCS CYPSC) is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in the Dublin City South area. DCS CYPSC will act as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals, and which bridges national policy with local provision. The mandate for CYPSCs has developed from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of Young Ireland: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023 – 2028.

2. Remit:

CYPSC is the key vehicle for interagency working for children and young people in the age range 0-24 years (inclusive), reflecting the different developmental phases and associated needs and challenges of each stage of childhood, youth and extending into early adulthood. The work of DCS CYPSC adheres to the concept of progressive universalism and spans policy areas and service provision, from the universal to targeted services and supports for children and young people.

3. Functions of DCS CYPSC:

DCS CYPSC will develop and implement a three-year Children and Young People's Plan designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Dublin City South area. The CYPP will be informed by the CYPSC member agencies, have a specific regard for the voice of children and young people and be linked to all member agencies' service plans. The CYPP outlines DCS CYPSC priorities and includes:

- A socio-demographic profile of the Dublin City South area
- An audit of services for children and young people in the Dublin City South area
- An analysis of the needs of children and young people living in the Dublin City South area
- A detailed action plan mapping the committee's planned actions to respond to its priorities

DCS CYPSC members will work together to leverage and make best use of existing funding to deliver on the objectives of the DCS CYPP.

CYPSC members will consider the wider knowledge and experience of the committee in relation to identifying local need and effective, evidence-informed responses to inform their organisation's priorities, actions and services going forward. (This approach is informed by Commitment G68 of 'Better Outcomes, Better Futures', which commits to: 'Use intelligence from Children and Young People's Services Committees in relation to local need and priorities to inform the allocation of national and local funding streams'.) Where funding opportunities arise, the best-placed CYPSC member agency will make the application and act as a lead agency for that piece of work.

Membership

In selecting the membership of DCS CYPSC, every effort will be made to ensure there is an appropriate skill mix and range of expertise/experience. Membership of the DCS CYPSC will be sufficiently flexible to ensure, that as the work of the CYPSC develops, the required range of representatives across all associated agencies and sectors are invited to attend. It is important

that membership is drawn from the most senior rank possible from each agency and stakeholder group.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the Chairperson are as follows:

- Chair meetings of DCS CYPSC and manage all proceedings
- Provide leadership and direction
- Ensure participation and contributions from all members
- Ensure appropriate interaction between the CYPSC and external stakeholders
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the CYPSC
- Ensure the effectiveness of the CYPSC in all aspects of its role including the development and implementation of the DCS Children and Young People's Plan

The key responsibilities of the Vice Chairperson are as follows:

- The Vice Chairperson will be a representative from the local authority
- Provide support to the Chairperson in the performance of his/her duties
- If the Chairperson is unavailable, to take the role of Chairperson for that meeting
- Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairperson's organisation and that of the other member organisations

The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Coordinator are as follows:

- Support the establishment and development of DCS CYPSC and its subgroups
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the CYPSC
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation DCS CYPSC three-year CYPP
- Foster and develop relationships with key personnel including CYPSC members, subcommittee members, CYPSC working groups and other external stakeholders, agencies and service providers.
- Assist the overall committee and sub-committees to implement the three-year work plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in Young Ireland

The key responsibilities of DCS CYPSC members are as follows:

- All members of the CYPSC are expected to fulfil their role by actively contributing to the proceedings of the CYPSC and by always maintaining a strong link between the CYPSC and their respective organisations
- Fully participate in the development and implementation of the DCS CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan
- Actively engage in the workings of CYPSC, the Sub-Committees and their respective working groups on an on-going basis
- Drive the implementation of the CYPSC objectives and work plan within their respective organisations, within CYPSC and Sub/Working groups
- Report as required to CYPSC on implementation and progress of the CYPSC objectives within their respective organisation
- Keep DCS CYPSC informed of all relevant policy and/or operational decisions within their respective organisations

5. Meetings

- Where possible, all meetings will be chaired by the Area Manager in Tusla. If the CYPSC Chair is not available, the Vice Chair will chair the Meeting
- A meeting quorum will be six members of DCS CYPSC
- Decisions made by consensus i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice. If not possible, CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision
- Meetings will be held six times a year. Dates will be decided by DCS CYPSC at the beginning of each year
- Meetings will have a maximum duration of two hours. Specific pieces of work such as CYPP planning events or presentations to CYPSC where a greater time commitment is required will be discussed and decided by the CYPSC in advance as required
- Meeting agendas and supporting documents will be prepared by the CYPSC Chairperson and Coordinator and circulated one week prior to each CYPSC meeting

6. Sub-committees

DCS CYPSC will establish sub committees/working groups aligned to the national outcomes in Young Ireland as follows:

- Active and healthy
- Achieving in learning and development
- Safe and protected from harm
- Economic security and opportunity
- Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Each Sub-committee will consist of a mix of operational and strategic staff. It is envisaged that all sub-committee members will discuss potential actions of the CYPSC internally within their respective organisations. Each sub-committee agree a Terms of Reference and develop a three year action plan to guide their work and to feed into the CYPP, supported by the CYPSC Coordinator & Project support.

Appendix 2: Dublin City South CYPSC Subgroup structures¹¹⁷.

Sub-Group	
Active and Healthy with Physical and Mental Well Being	• Emma Reilly Infant Health & wellbeing working Group (Chair) • Concepta De Brun Mental Health & wellbeing (Chair)
Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development	• Mary Galligan Primary Principals rep (Chair)
Safe and Protected from Harm	• Maria Hayes PPFS (Chair)
Have Economic Security and Opportunity	• Úna Lowry Dublin South City Partnership (Chair)
Connected, Respected and Contributing to Their World	• Carol Hyland Dublin City South Youth Services (Chair)

¹¹⁷ A full list of members / rotating structures will be kept up to date on the CYPSC website /Dublin City South page.