

KILKENNY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE



Kilkenny

Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027



CONTACT

The Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

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Copies of this plan are available on: www.cypsc.ie

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CYP

Glossary of Terms	
AIRO	All-Island Research Observatory
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CDNT	Children's Disability Network Team
CIPC	Counselling in Primary Care
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
DCDE	Department of Children, Disability and Equality
EBSA	Emotionally Based School Avoidance
ETB	Education and Training Board
EWS	Education Welfare Service
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GP	General Practitioner
HSCL	Home School Community Liaison
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPPN	Irish Primary Principals Network
JLO	Juvenile Liaison Officer
KCETB	Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board
KCEYP	Kilkenny Community Early Years Project
KLP	Kilkenny Leader Partnership
KOPC	Kilkenny One Parent Community
KTCM	Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual+
MABS	Money Advice and Budgeting Service
MD	Municipal District
MUSSI	Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute
NAPD	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NFQ	National Framework of Qualifications
OMCYA	Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
PDS	Progressing Disability Services
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
PHN	Public Health Nursing
PPN	Public Participation Network
ROSP	Resource Office for Suicide Prevention
SBLO	Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer
SBLS	Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service
SETU	South East Technical University
SHIP	Self Harm Intervention Programme
SLT	Speech and Language Therapist
SMART	Smart, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound

FOREWORD

I am proud to present the Kilkenny Children and Young People's Plan 2025 -2027, which outlines a colourful and collaborative vision for improving the lives of children, young people and families across the county. This plan is the result of deep listening - built on the voices of children and young people, the insights of families, and the collective wisdom of those who work alongside them every day.

Rooted in Kilkenny's strong tradition of partnership and cross-sector collaboration, this strategy reflects what we know from both experience and evidence: that co-ordinated responsive services developed with and for our community - creates lasting impact.

We were guided by the findings of a comprehensive socio-economic profile of Kilkenny and by meaningful consultations that reached across earlier years services, schools, youth and community services. These actions were co-developed in response to real needs and emerging challenges, but they also reflect the priorities, ideas, and lived experiences shared by children and young people throughout the consultation process.

The mission of CYPSC is clear: to ensure that services are aligned, accessible, and responsive - grounded in the real experiences and priorities of children, young people and families. Central to this mission is our commitment to keeping their voices at the heart of this plan and to champion their participation in every step of its implementation.

This plan recognises that the full range of supports needed by children, young people and their families may not always be available. Where gaps are identified, it aims to bring thoughtful attention to these areas and work in partnership with our key stakeholders to explore meaningful and achievable responses.

This plan provides a roadmap for action, collaboration, and meaningful progress. It reflects not only where we are now but where we can go when children and young people are placed at the center of our thinking and doing. We look forward to working together to bring this vision to life – making Kilkenny one of the best places in Ireland for children and young people to grow up, feel supported, and reach their full potential.



Anne-Marie Stafford
Area Manager CKST

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Kilkenny Children and Young People's Plan

The purpose of the Kilkenny Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is to set out a shared three-year framework for improving outcomes for children and young people across the county, through co-ordinated, collaborative and evidence informed action.

The plan provides a strategic focus for local services, agencies, and community partners, to work together in addressing, identifying and working towards a whole system approach to planning and delivery of supports and services for children, young people, and their families.

The Children and Young People's Plan is aligned with *Young Ireland: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023 - 2028* and is structured around the five national outcomes for children and young people. Through the actions set out in this plan, partners commit to working collectively so that children and young people in Kilkenny -

1. Are active and healthy with positive physical and mental wellbeing.
2. Are achieving their full potential in learning and development.
3. Are safe and protected from harm.
4. Have economic security and opportunity.
5. Are connected, respected, and contributing to their communities.

The plan acts as a practical road map for interagency collaboration in Kilkenny, guiding priority actions, supporting accountability, and enabling progress to be monitored over the lifetime of the CYPP.

Background to Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) were established in 2007 by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE), with the goal of enhancing outcomes for children, young people, and families at local and community level.

Since their inception CYPSC have expanded significantly, becoming a key government structure responsible for the strategic planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years in every county across Ireland. CYPSC brings together a diverse network of agencies from the statutory, community, and voluntary sectors, fostering collaborative service planning at local level. This interagency approach ensures that all major organisations working on behalf of children and young people are actively represented, driving improvements in service delivery and enhancing supports for children, young people, and families nationwide.

Young Ireland the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028, recognises CYPSC as a key mechanism for progressing national outcomes through interagency collaboration at local level. In this context, CYPSC play a critical role in translating national policy priorities into co-ordinated local action that responds to the needs of children and young people and families within their communities.

Children and Young People's Services Committee in Kilkenny

The Kilkenny CYPSC was established in April 2016 as part of phase six of the national CYPSC Development Framework. The committee held its inaugural meeting at the county hall, chaired by Marie Kennedy, then Local Area Manager for Tusla in Carlow, Kilkenny, and South Tipperary.

Aligned with the strategic guidelines outlined in the Blueprint for the Development of CYPSC (2015 to 2017), the committee set out to form a collaborative and inclusive network of key agencies. This approach ensured that all relevant stakeholders were actively involved reflecting both the policy recommendations and the unique local landscape of service provision in Kilkenny.

From (2016 to 2023), CYPSC in Kilkenny and Carlow was co-ordinated under a shared structure, with one CYPSC Co-ordinator overseeing both counties. However, in 2023, Kilkenny CYPSC reached a significant milestone, securing its own dedicated CYPSC Co-ordinator. This was a major achievement for Kilkenny, enabling a stronger, more focused approach to addressing the specific needs of children, young people, and families in Kilkenny.

Through strategic planning and co-ordinated efforts, the Kilkenny CYPSC continues to strengthen inter-agency partnerships, enhance service delivery, and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Who we are

Kilkenny CYPSC operates through a multi-layered governance structure and supports co-ordinated outcome focused action for children and young people across the county.

The CYPSC committee provides overall strategic leadership and oversight for the development and implementation of the CYPP. The committee is made up of senior representatives from statutory, community, and voluntary organisations working with children and young people and families in Kilkenny. The current membership is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Kilkenny CYPSC Membership 2025

Name	Position	Organisation
Anne-Marie Stafford, Chairperson	Area Manager	Carlow, Kilkenny, Tusla Child and Family Agency
Ian Gardner, Vice Chairperson	Director of Services	Kilkenny County Council
Sandra Collins	PPFS Manager	Carlow, Kilkenny, Tusla Child and Family Agency
Claire McNamara	Commissioning Manager	Waterford, South Kilkenny, Tusla Child and Family Agency
Fiona Fay	Senior Education Welfare Officer	Tusla
Mary Mescal	CEO	Ossory Youth
Rita Comerford	Area Manager	Foróige
Julieann Hickey	Manager	Kilkenny County Childcare Committee
Cathnia O' Muircheartaigh	Principal	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)
John O'Neill	Adult Education Officer	Kilkenny Education Training Board
Martin Rafter	Director	Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Wendy Taylor	Family Services Manager	Family Resource Centre
Mick Kenny	PPN Representative	Public Participation Network (PPN)
Alma Molloy	Inspector	Garda Síochána
Lisa Morris	Manager	Amber Domestic Abuse CLG
Karen Lennon	Senior Occupational Therapist	HSE

Subgroups

To support effective delivery of the CYPP Kilkenny CYPSC operates a themed subgroup structure aligned to the five national outcomes for children and young people. Each subgroup focuses on one outcome area and brings together relevant agencies, services, and practitioners with expertise in that theme. The subgroups are responsible for identifying needs, developing and implementing actions, and reporting progress to the CYPSC Committee.

At the commencement of this plan the following subgroups are in place.

Table 2: Kilkenny CYPSC Subgroup membership 2025.

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY	
Name	Organization
Aislinn Murphy	HSE
Claire McNamara	Tusla
Ciara Fennelly	Foróige
Ciara Kelly	Kilkenny Sports Partnership
Janette Boran	Healthy Kilkenny, Kilkenny County Council
Katie Dillion Keane	HSE
Nora Roberts	Tusla
Patrick Bookle	Ossory Youth
Sarah Hearne	HSE

ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
Name	Organization
Alicia Mastrandrea	Kilkenny Community Early Years Project
Alina Piskaryova	Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Fiona McGarry	Tusla
Josephine Coyne	Kilkenny Libraries
Kate Carroll	Foróige
Magg Hayes	Kilkenny County Childcare Committee
Majella Keating	Creative Communities, Kilkenny County Council
Saoirse Prendergast	Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board

SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM	
Name	Organization
Alicia Mastrandrea	Kilkenny Community Early Years Project
Deborah Whelan	Focus Ireland
Fiona McGarry	Tusla
Helen Casey	Tusla
Ita Teehan	Tusla
Julieann Hickey	Kilkenny County Childcare Committee
Kerina Foran	Tusla
Lisa Morris	Amber Domestic Abuse CLG
Olive Maher	Droichead Family Resource Centre
Nora Roberts	Tusla
Sandra Collins	Tusla
Wendy Taylor	Fr. McGrath, Family Resource Centre

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY	
Name	Organization
Alicia Mastrandrea	Kilkenny Community Early Years Project
Kate Carroll	Foróige
Katherine Peacock	Kilkenny County Council
Mary Mescal	Ossory Youth
Moira Duggan	Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Ruth Hession	Ossory Youth

Over the lifetime of this CYPP, Kilkenny CYPSC will establish a dedicated subgroup aligned to the outcome area Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World. This subgroup will strengthen the focus on participation, inclusion, youth voice, and community connection, ensuring that this outcome area is fully embedded within the governance and delivery structures of the CYPP.

Review of Previous Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)

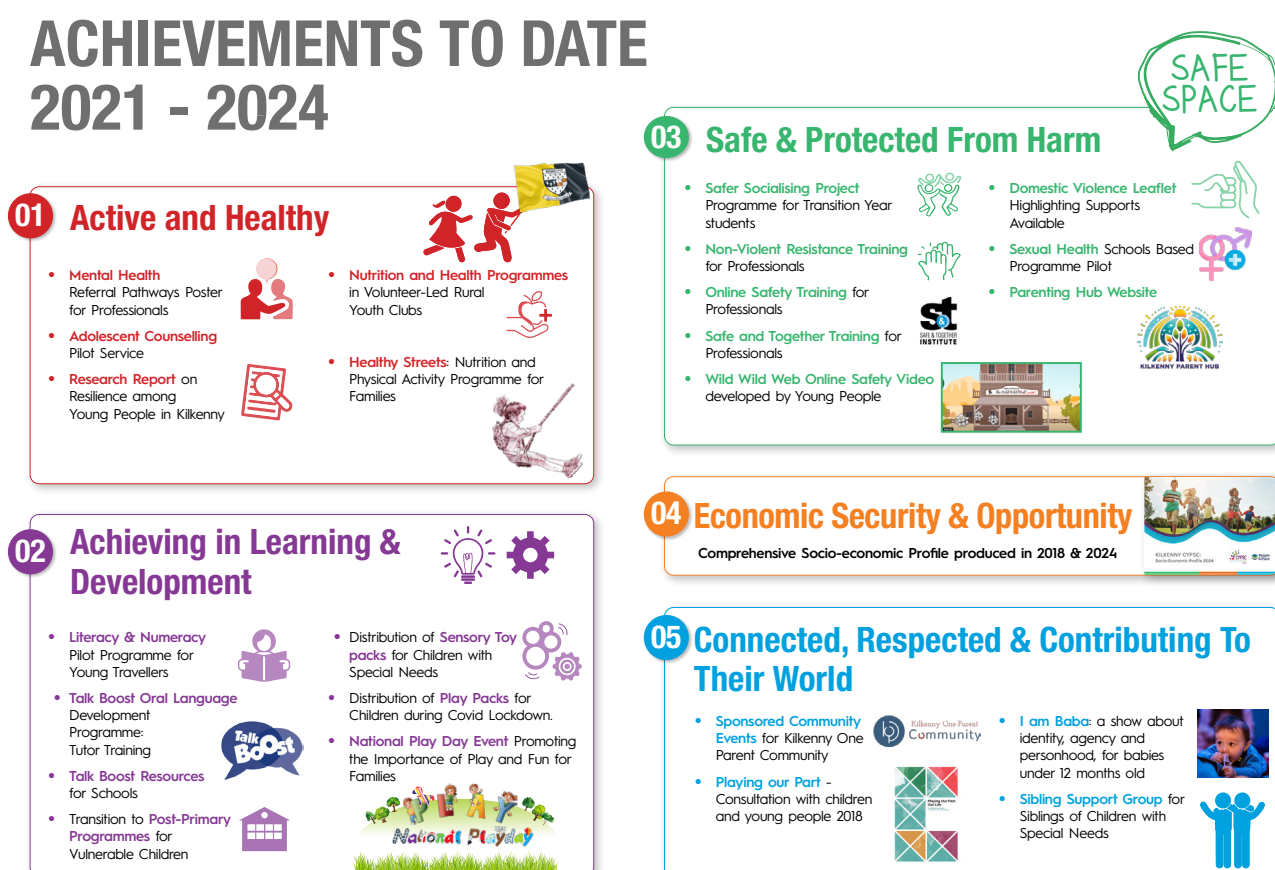
What was working well in Kilkenny?

Kilkenny has cultivated a strong culture of collaboration, which has been a key strength in delivering effective services for children, young people, and families. This collective approach has fostered robust networking and information sharing practices, ensuring that agencies and organisations remain well connected and responsive to emerging needs. Over the years agencies have demonstrated a strong willingness to engage with and support families even in cases where they may not be the most appropriate service provider. This commitment reinforces a shared dedication to achieving positive outcomes and addressing service gaps where no formal support exists. Moreover, despite ongoing staff shortages high quality work across the community, voluntary, and statutory sectors continue to drive meaningful support and service delivery. A fantastic network of youth services ensures that the voices of children and young people are not only heard and reflected in decision-making processes, but also in the provision and delivery of services safeguarding that their needs are effectively met.

CYPSC was recognised for strengthening the culture of collaboration in Kilkenny. Stakeholders reviewing the previous Kilkenny CYPP highlighted that CYPSC provided a vital platform for bringing together a diverse range of agencies, services, and organisations - connections that may not have been formed without this structure. Additionally, CYPSC was valued for its oversight of services and supports working with children, young people and families, ensuring a clearer understanding of their needs, fostering informed decision making and a more cohesive response. Beyond facilitating collaboration CYPSC was acknowledged for creating a shared space for all stakeholders to highlight emerging needs and identify critical gaps in provision. This open dialogue allowed for a more strategic, proactive and comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges for children, young people and families in Kilkenny.

Highlighted in Figure 1 is the achievements of CYPSC Kilkenny from (2021-2024), these achievements highlight the tangible benefits of services coming together in a shared space strengthening co-ordination, enhancing service delivery, and working collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people across the five outcome areas.

Figure 1: Summary of Kilkenny CYPSC Achievements 2021 -2024



Challenges Identified and Areas for Further Development

Reflecting on the previous CYPP and its implementation, several key challenges have been identified. Addressing these challenges will help strengthen our collective impact and ensure a more effective, inclusive and co-ordinated plan to supporting children and young people in Kilkenny.

1. Co-ordination and Resourcing

From 2021 - 2023 a single CYPSC Co-ordinator was responsible for covering Kilkenny and Carlow. While this ensured continuity of approach across both areas, it also presented challenges in maintaining dedicated oversight and tailored co-ordination for each county. In 2023, the appointment of a dedicated CYPSC Co-ordinator for Kilkenny strengthened local capacity enabling more focused leadership to drive and support the CYPSC agenda within the county.

2. Administrative and Transition Challenges

The previous CYPP was implemented during a period of transition in co-ordination arrangements. Changes in staff and structures, alongside the absence of a structured and documented handover process impacted continuity in administrative systems. As a result, some information relating to the implementation and progress was not consistently captured.

For the current CYPP a dedicated Co-ordinator for Kilkenny is now in place, supported by an additional project support post. This enhanced capacity provides clearer oversight, improved administrative continuity, and stronger support for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting over the lifetime of this plan.

3. Inclusivity Across all Age Groups (0-24)

The previous CYPP did not fully encompass the needs of children and young people across the entire 0 to 24 age spectrum. Moving forward a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to actions representing the needs of different age groups is planned. This will ensure that CYPSC is representative and responsive at every stage of a young person's journey.

4. Geographic and Socio-Economic Disparities

Certain areas within the county demonstrate distinct patterns of disadvantage. Capturing and analyzing data on these patterns of disadvantage will be essential to informing decision making for the new CYPP (2025-2027). The new CYPP must be countywide in its approach ensuring that all young people regardless of geographic location or socio-economic background are represented in the CYPP.

5. Enhanced Service Co-ordination and Strategic Alignment

To maximize impact, it is recommended that CYPSC align the subgroups to the five national outcomes for children and young people. In previous years, the subgroups did not fully reflect these outcomes leading to a sense of fragmentation. Moving forward, ensuring that subgroups are structured in alignment with the national priorities will strengthen co-ordination and effectiveness. Additionally, there are key stakeholders and decision makers not currently engaged with CYPSC. A more strategic and outcome driven approach will create opportunities to bring these critical voices to the table by fostering stronger collaboration and ensuring that the expertise is leveraged to drive meaningful change.

6. Sharper Focus on Impact Driven Actions

A number of the actions in the previous CYPP made it difficult to measure progress and outcomes effectively. The 2025-2027 CYPP will adopt an action-orientated approach emphasizing specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time (SMART) bound goals. This will drive meaningful impact and accountability, while ensuring that initiatives lead to tangible improvements in the lives of children and young people.

7. Visibility and Communication of the CYPSC work

Another key challenge for CYPSC has been the lack of visibility and awareness of the work being undertaken. Strengthening communication channels should be a priority to ensure that achievements, initiatives and ongoing efforts are effectively highlighted not only within CYPSC structures but also to external stakeholders, partner agencies, and the wider community.

8. Awareness and Accessibility of Services

Increasing awareness of available services remains a significant challenge. Young people, parents, and professionals may not always have clear information about what supports exists and how to access them. The new CYPP (2025-2027) should focus on improving communication strategies, service mapping, and accessibility to ensure that every family and service provider can easily navigate and connect with the available resources.

9. Embedding the Voice of Children and Young People

The previous CYPP acknowledged and demonstrated the importance of youth participation in CYPSC. Building on this, the new plan needs to deepen engagement with children and young people. They should play a central role not only in the development of the new CYPP, but also in its ongoing review and implementation. By actively involving children and young people in decision making and leadership roles, CYPSC can ensure the CYPP (2025-2027) reflects their needs, aspirations, and lived experiences.

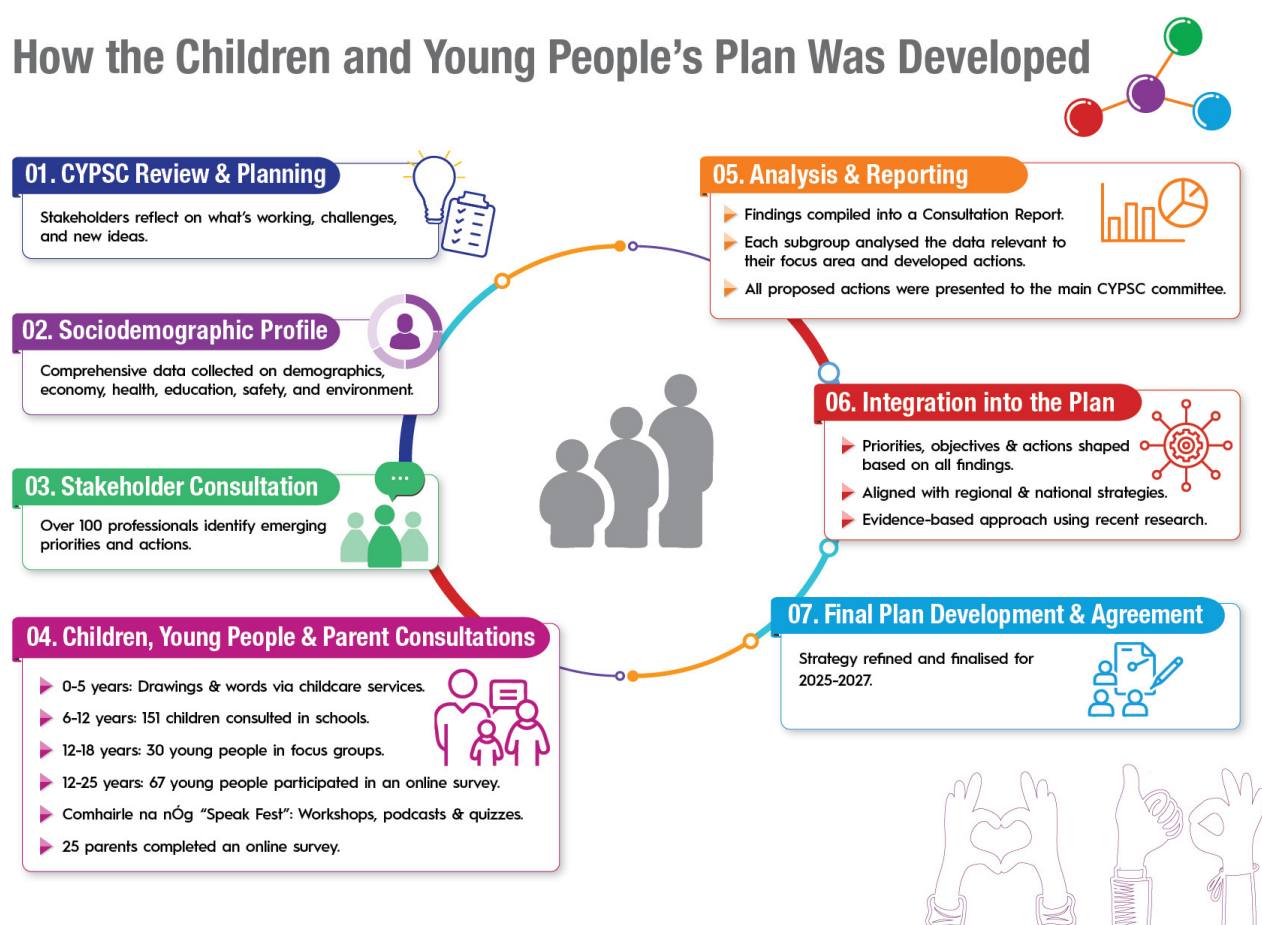
By addressing these challenges, the CYPP (2025-2027) will build on past progress while implementing key improvements to create a structured, focused, and inclusive plan that aims to support children, young people and their families across the county.

How the Children and Young People's Plan was Developed

The development of the CYPP (2025-2027) was a collaborative and evidence-based process that built on the review of the previous CYPP, stakeholder consultations, socio-demographic profiling, and input from children, young people, parents, and service providers. Figure 2 highlights the key steps in this process.

Figure 2: Overview of how the Children and Young People's Plan was Developed

How the Children and Young People's Plan Was Developed



1. Review and Planning Day

The first step was a review and planning day, which brought together key stakeholders to assess the strengths and challenges of the previous CYPP. Discussions focused on:

- What was working well?
- What challenges needed to be addressed?
- What new ideas and recommendations could enhance the work of CYPSC?
- What should change and what should remain the same?
- What advice would stakeholders give to the CYPSC Co-ordinator?

The event also examined the six national transformation goals underpinning the five national outcomes for children and young people:

- Supporting parents.
- Strengthening transitions.
- Early intervention and prevention.
- Ensuring quality services.
- Listening to and involving children and young people.
- Cross-government and inter-agency collaboration.

For each area, stakeholders explored what was working well and what required further attention.

2. Development of Kilkenny's Socio-demographic Profile

A comprehensive socio-demographic profile of Kilkenny was commissioned and developed in collaboration with People and Place. People and Place is a spin-out company from Maynooth University, with roots in the renowned socio-demographic research and expertise of the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) with the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI).

This profile provided valuable insights into key trends and challenges affecting children, young people, and families. The report included data and statistics across multiple areas, including:

- Demographics.
- Economic factors.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Education.
- Safety and security.
- Environment.

This profile served as an evidence base for decision-making in the new CYPP.

To read the full report, please see Appendix 2.



KILKENNY CYPSC:
Socio-Economic Profile 2024



3. Stakeholder Consultation

A stakeholder consultation event was held with over 80 key professionals working with children and young people. Facilitated by Lindsey Butler, this event aimed to:

- Identify emerging needs and challenges.
- Establish priorities for the new CYPP (2025-2027).
- Propose potential actions for implementation.

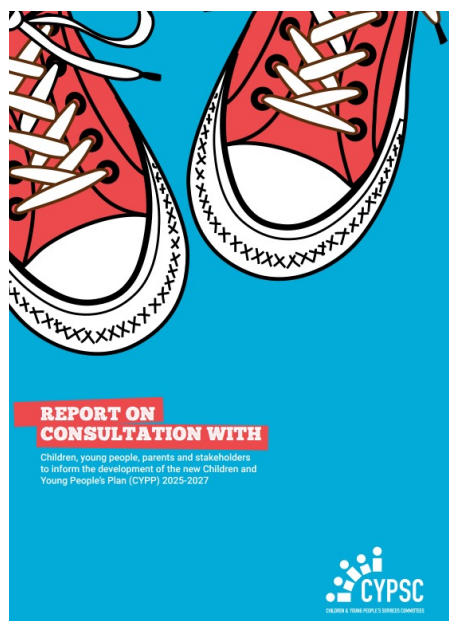
4. Consultation with Children, Young People, and Parents

A child and youth-centred consultation process was undertaken to ensure that the voices of children, young people, and parents directly informed the CYPP (2025-2027).

This process engaged a wide range of participants through various methods:

- Early Years (0-5 years): Consultation was conducted in partnership with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee and Kilkenny Community Care Project. Childcare providers facilitated activities where children could express their thoughts through words and drawings.
- Children (6-12 years): A structured consultation process engaged 151 children from both urban and rural schools.
- Young People (12-18 years): 30 young people participated in focus groups.
- Online Youth Survey (12-25 years): 67 young people contributed their views through an online survey.
- Youth-led Event: A dedicated event, “Speak Fest,” was organized by Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg, featuring workshops, podcasts, and quizzes to support the consultation.
- Parental Consultation: 25 parents completed an online questionnaire.
- One-on-One Stakeholder Interviews: In addition to the consultation events, 25 organisations providing services to children, young people, and families participated in one-on-one interviews.

To read the full report, please see Appendix 1



5. Analysis and Reporting

The consultation findings were compiled into a detailed Consultation Report, which outlined:

- Children and young people's experiences of growing up in Kilkenny.
- The perspectives of parents, families and caregivers living in Kilkenny.
- Challenges faced by stakeholders in supporting children, young people, and families.

The consultation process took place from April to September 2024 and used multiple methods to ensure the voices of diverse groups were heard. The findings from this process, alongside the review of the previous plan and the socio-demographic profile, shaped the priorities, objectives, and actions included in the new strategic plan.

6. Integration into Plan

The following national and local strategies and frameworks were referenced during the development of the Kilkenny CYPP. These frameworks provided important contextual and policy background and were considered alongside local consultation findings and socio-demographic evidence:



- Young Ireland: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023-2028).



- First 5: A whole-of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their families (2019-2028).



- National Model of Parenting Support Services (2022).



- CYPSC Shared Vision Next Steps (2019-2024).



- Healthy Ireland Framework (2019-2025).

- National Healthy Childhood Programme.
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

7. Final Plan Development & Agreement

Following the development of the consultation report and the socio-demographic profile the findings were reviewed by four CYPSC subgroups:

1. Active and Healthy.
 2. Achieving in Learning and Development.
 3. Safe and Protected from Harm.
 4. Economic Security and Opportunity.
- Each subgroup analyzed the data relevant to their focus area and worked collaboratively to develop targeted actions based on emerging priorities.
 - Additionally, actions related to outcome 5: Connected Respected and Contributing to their World and Change Management were identified and integrated into the process.
 - The proposed actions from all subgroups were then presented to the main CYPSC committee, where they were reviewed, refined and formally agreed upon as part of the CYPP (2025 -2027).

Conclusion

CYPP (2025-2027) is the result of thorough review, research, and consultation, ensuring that it reflects the real needs and aspirations of children, young people, families, and service providers in Kilkenny. By engaging a broad range of stakeholders and using a data-driven approach, the CYPP sets out a clear and collaborative strategy for the years ahead.



SECTION 2: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Introduction

As outlined earlier in this plan, Kilkenny CYPSC has developed a comprehensive socio-demographic profile to inform the identification of needs, priorities, and actions for children, young people and families aged 0-24 years. The socio-demographic profile was an integral part of the development of the CYPP. It draws on the most up-to-date and reliable data sources available. The full demographic profile is available online (See Appendix 2).

This section provides a high-level snapshot of key indicators, including population and age profile, household composition, affluence and deprivation, nationality and ethnicity, disability, caring responsibilities, educational attainment and indicators. The data presented are geographically defined using established administrative and statistical boundaries with indicators reported at the most appropriate spatial level for each variable. This approach enables a clear understanding of local patterns, variations and inequalities across the counties.

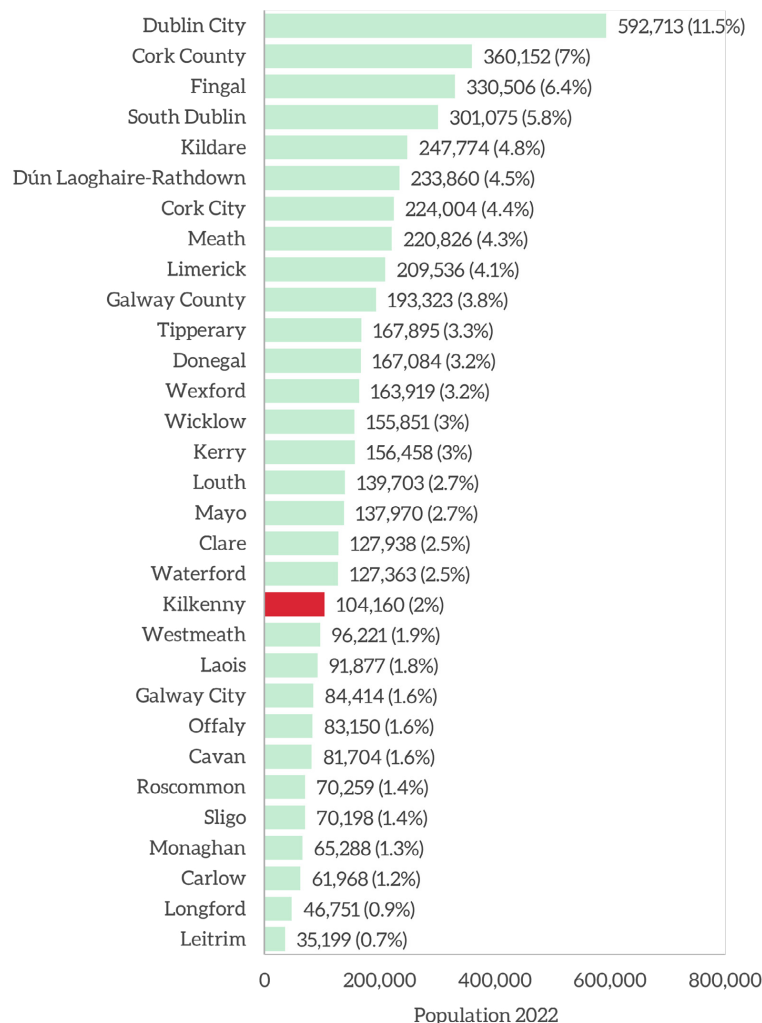
Demographics Population

According to the most recent (2022) Census of Population, County Kilkenny has a total resident population of 104,160 (2% of Ireland's population).

Its population increased by 5% since 2016 (the second-lowest rate among Ireland's 31 local authority areas). County Kilkenny has four municipal districts (MDs): Kilkenny City (most populous), Piltown, Castlecomer, and Callan-Thomastown.

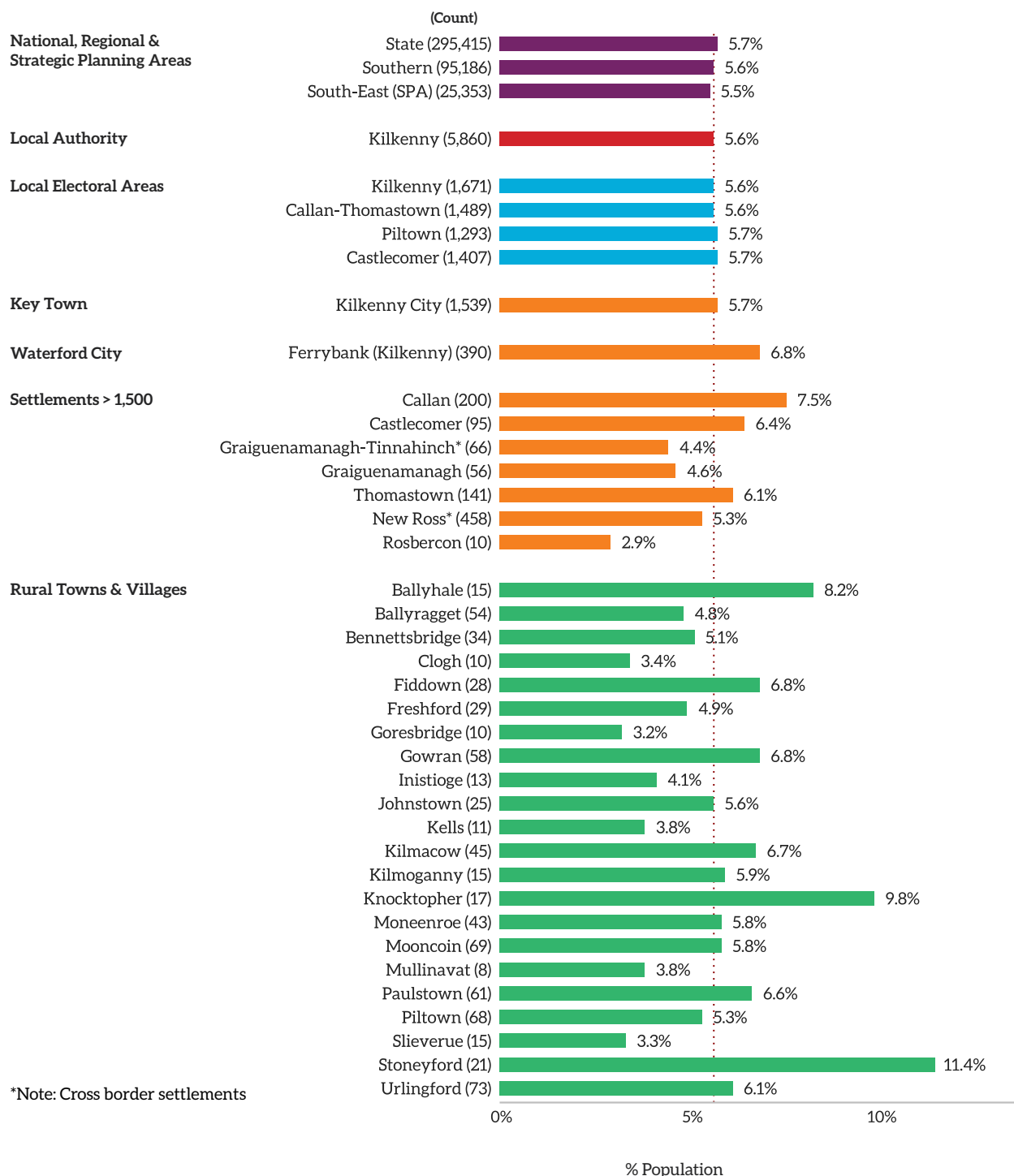
Population growth, by MD, has been variable, since 2016. Piltown has experienced the fastest growth (+7%) and the Kilkenny City MD has experienced the slowest growth (+2%).

Longer-term (since 1991) trends show, however, that the Kilkenny City MD's population increased by 46%, while the Castlecomer MD had the lowest level of long-term growth (+29% since 1991).



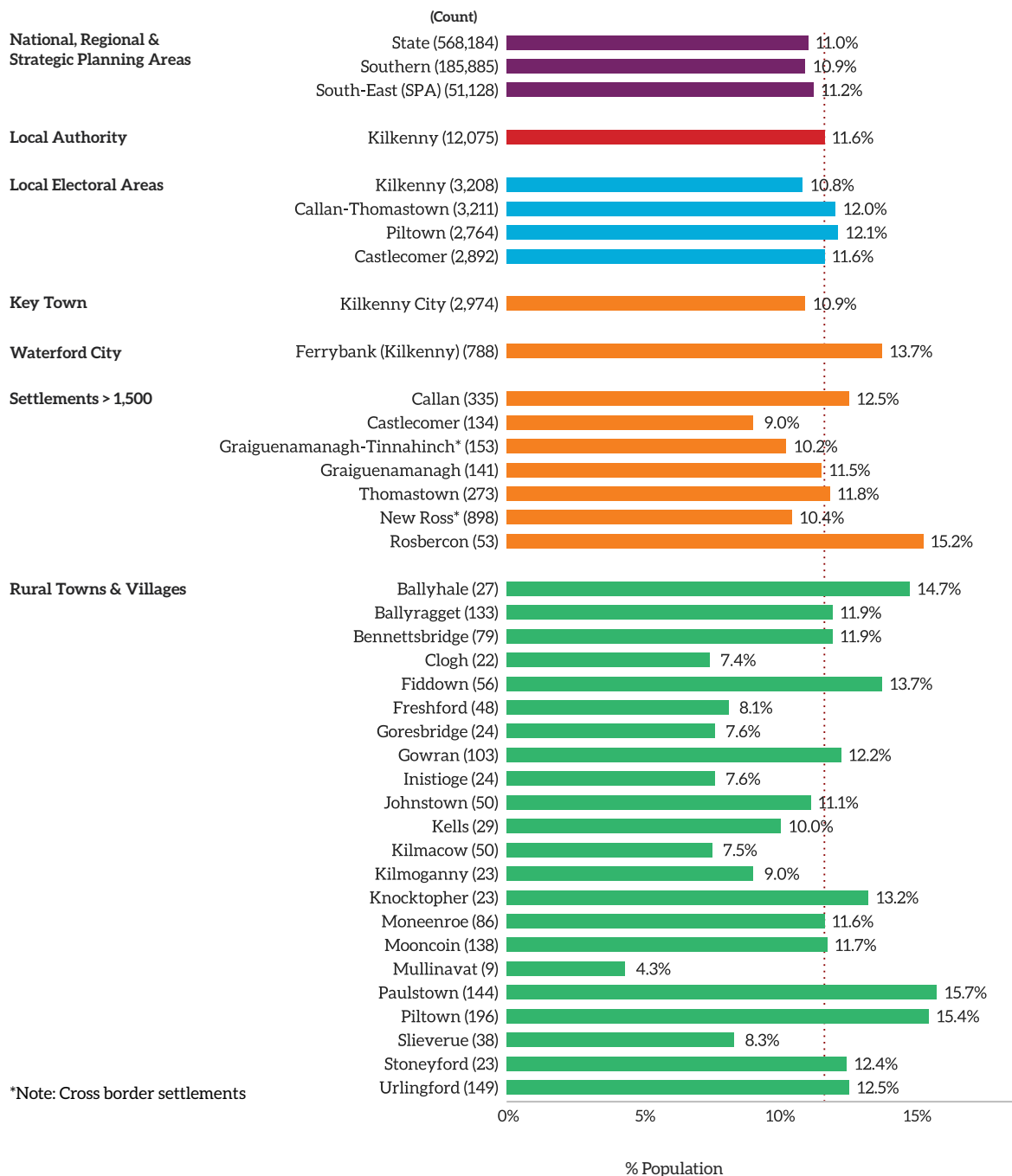
Age Profile

Children aged 0 to 4 years account for 5.6% of the population. Levels are largely consistent across MDs but notably higher in certain settlements, such as Stoneyford (11.4%), Knocktopher (9.8%), Ballyhale (8.2%). The 5.6% equates to an estimated 5,860 children aged 0 to 4 years locally. Nationally, there are 295,415 children in this age group.



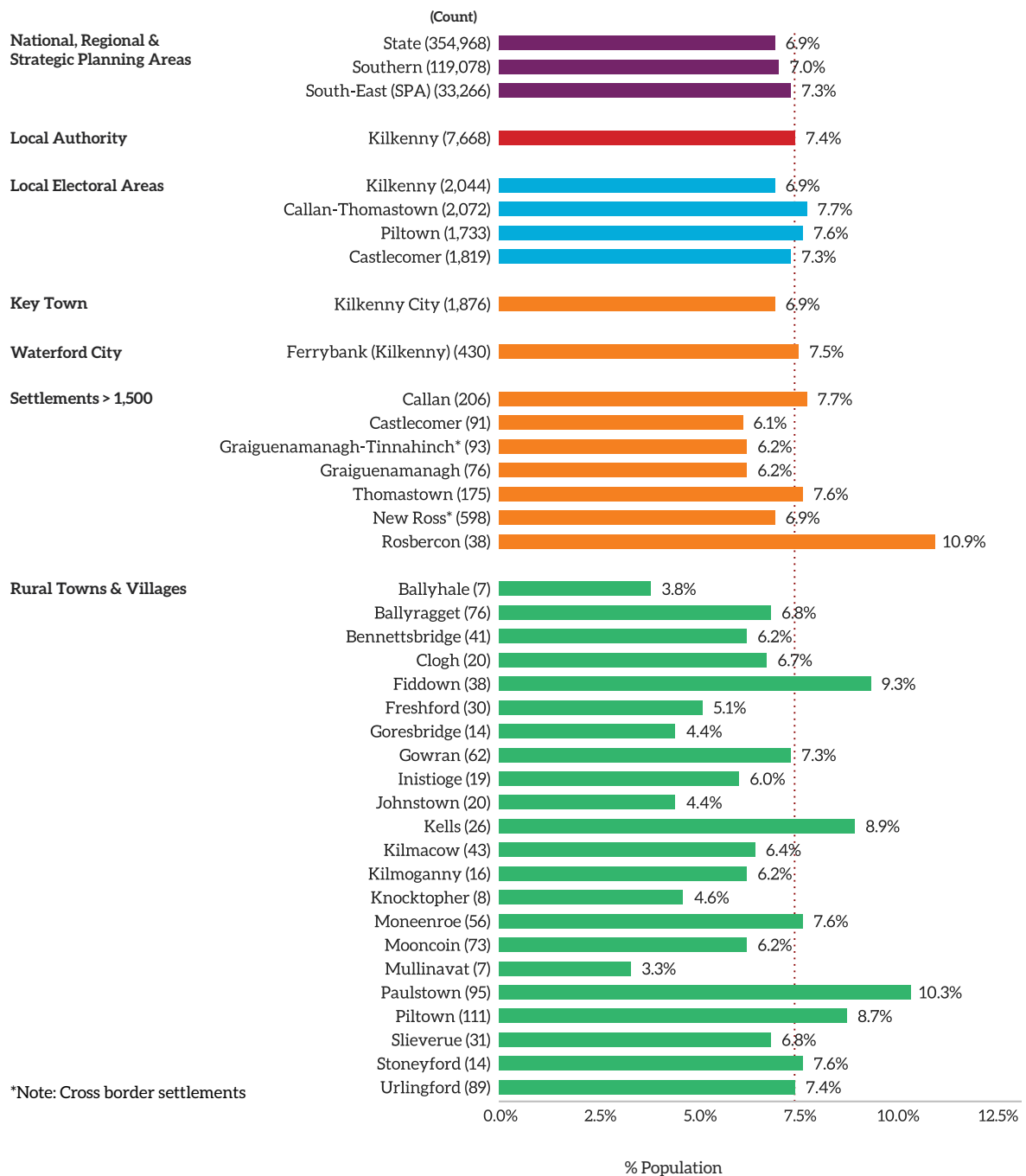
*Note: Cross border settlements

Children aged 5 to 12 years account for 11.6% of the population. A figure that is above the state (11%) and regional (11.2%) averages. This age group is most highly represented in Callan-Thomastown and Piltown MDs. The 11.6% equates to an estimated 12,075 children aged 5 to 12 years locally. Nationally, there are 568,184 children in this age group.



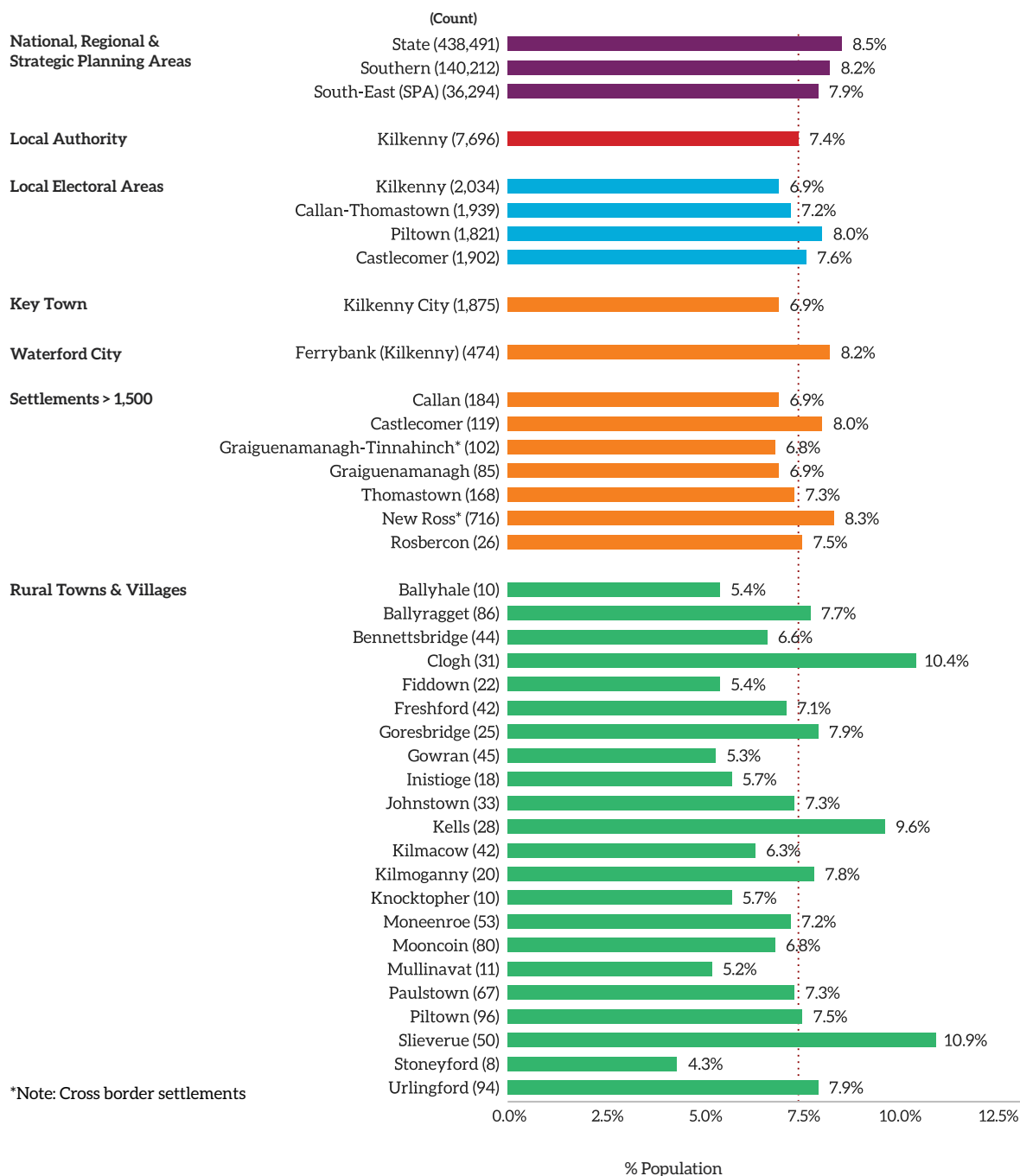
*Note: Cross border settlements

Young People aged 13 to 17 years account for 7.4% of the population. This is above state (6.9%) and regional values (7.3%), highest in Waterford City's northern environs. The 7.4% equates to an estimated 7,668 young people aged 13 to 17 years locally. Nationally, there are 354,968 young people in this age group.



*Note: Cross border settlements

Young adults aged 18 to 24 years account for 7.4% of the population. This is lower than state (8.5%) level, and the highest levels in communities like Slieverue (10.9%) and Clogh (10.4%). The 7.4% equates to an estimated 7,696 young adults aged 18 to 24 years locally. Nationally, there are 438,491 young adults in this age group.

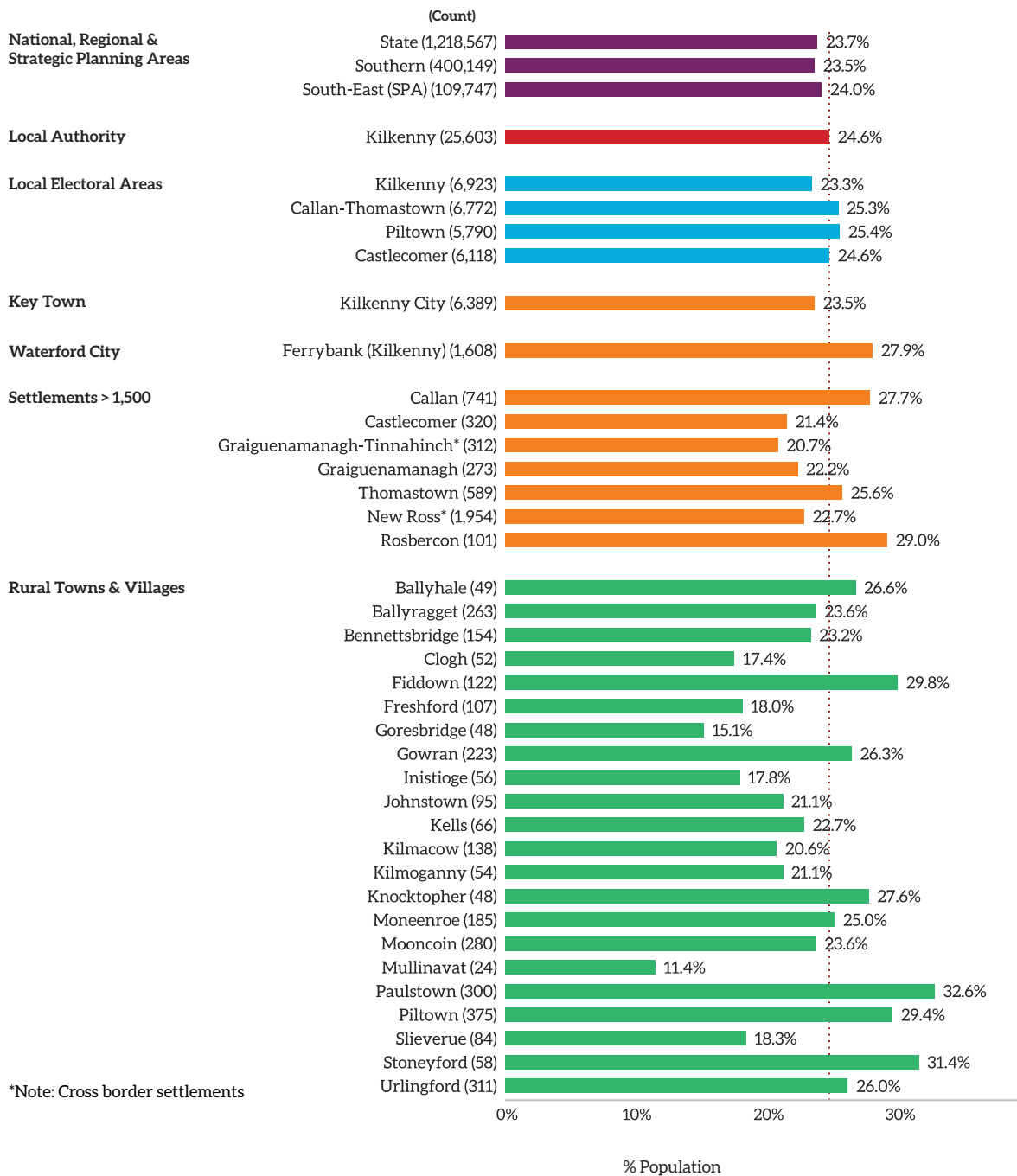


*Note: Cross border settlements



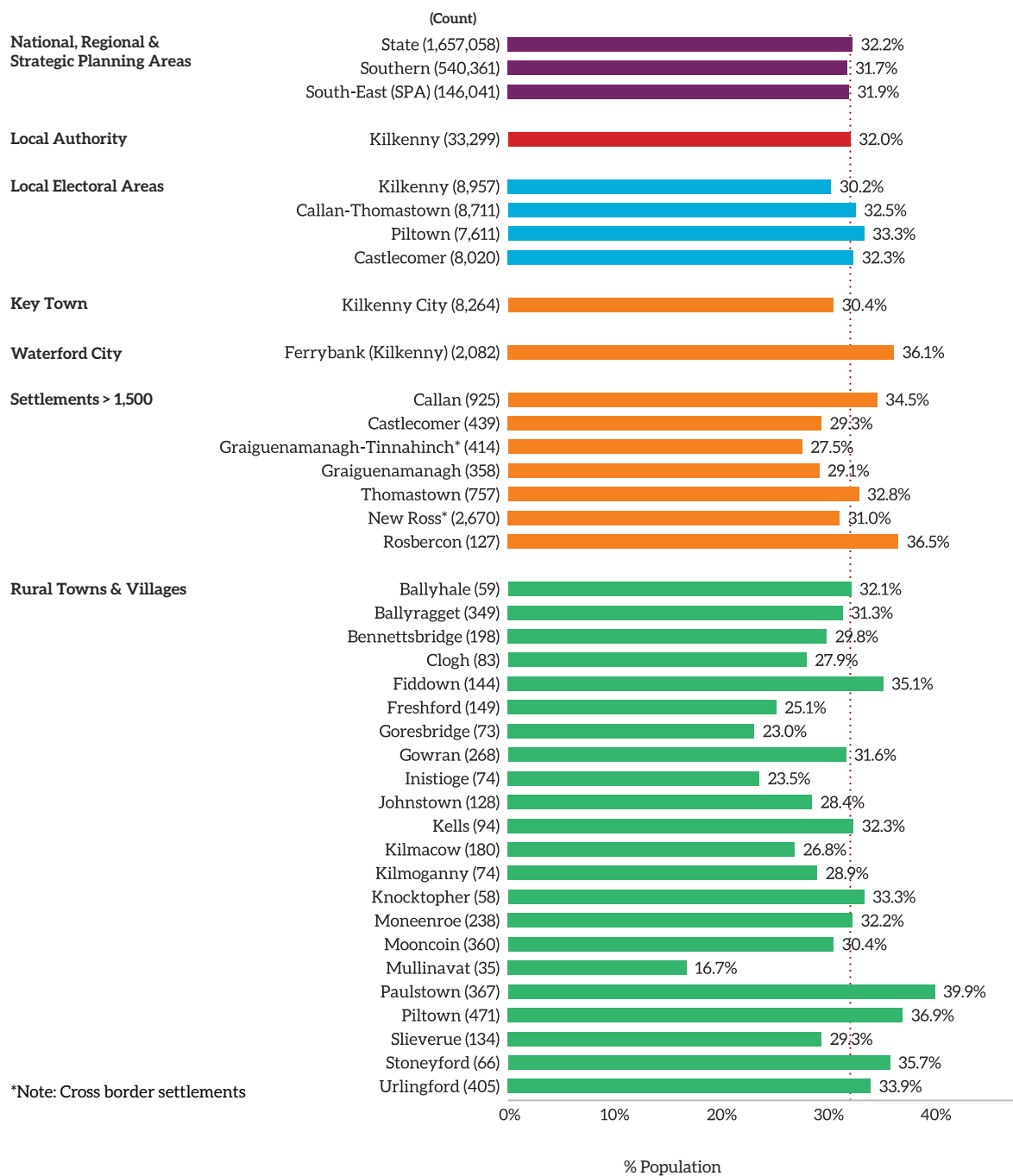
Population 18-24 Years, Census 2022

Children and young people aged 0 to 18 years account for almost a quarter (24.6%) of county Kilkenny's population. This is above state (23.7%) and regional values (24%). The 24.6% equates to an estimated 25,603 children and young people aged 0 to 18 years locally. Nationally, there are 1,218,567 children and young people in this age group.



*Note: Cross border settlements

Overall, 32% of the population is aged 0 to 24 years, with the Piltown MD having the highest proportion (36.1%). The 32% equates to an estimated 33,299 children and young people aged 0 to 24 years locally. Nationally, there are 1,657,058 children and young people in this age group.



*Note: Cross border settlements



Population 0-24 Years, Census 2022

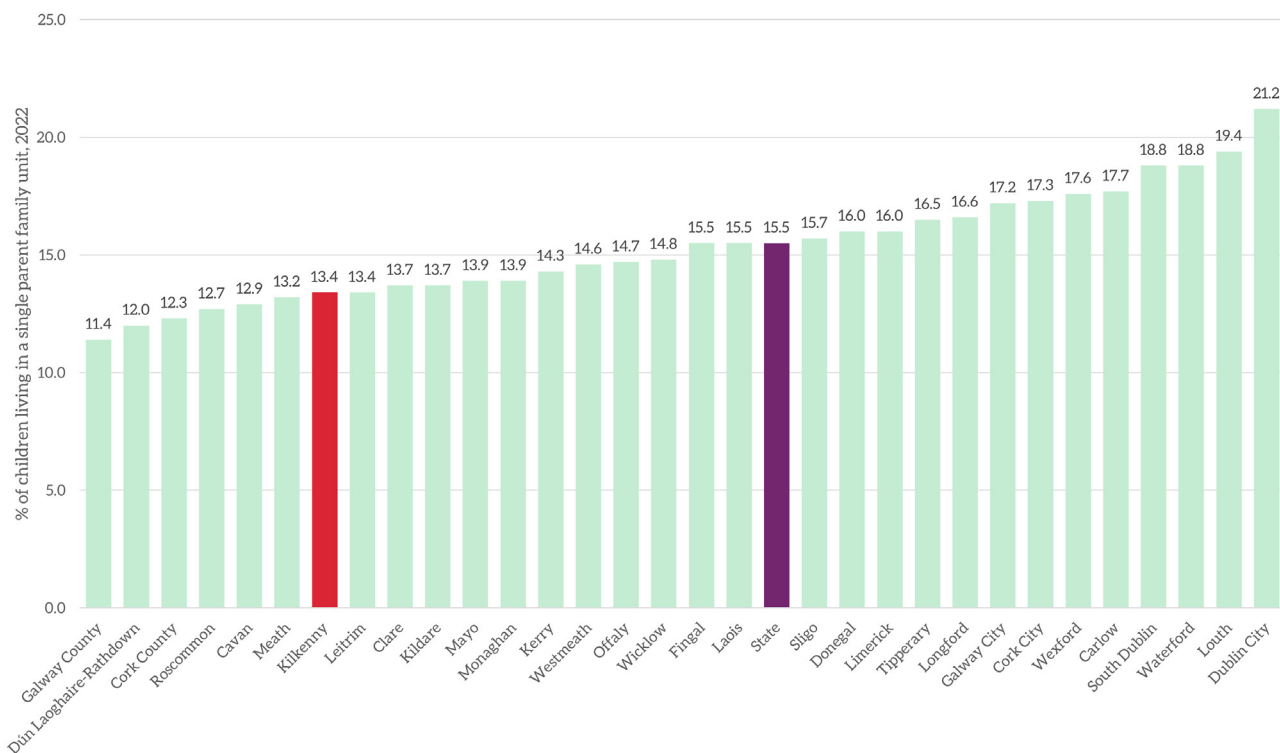
Household Composition

There are 37,300 households in County Kilkenny, of which 8,208 (23.3%) are one person households.

Children under 15 years of age in single-parent families account for 13.4% of the population. This equates to an estimated 3,356 households. Nationally, there are 187,883 single parent families with children under 15 years of age.

Fathers with children under 15 years of age represent 1.4% of the population, equating to 348 households. Nationally, this group accounts for 17,128 families.

Mothers with children under 15 years of age represent 16.9% of the population, equating to 1,032 households. Nationally, this group accounts for 170,755.



Affluence and Deprivation

Kilkenny's score: -0.41 (slightly more disadvantaged than Ireland; national score (on the index): +0.40, but more affluent than the Southeast Region).

All MDs have slightly negative scores, with Piltown MD being the most disadvantaged (-0.52).

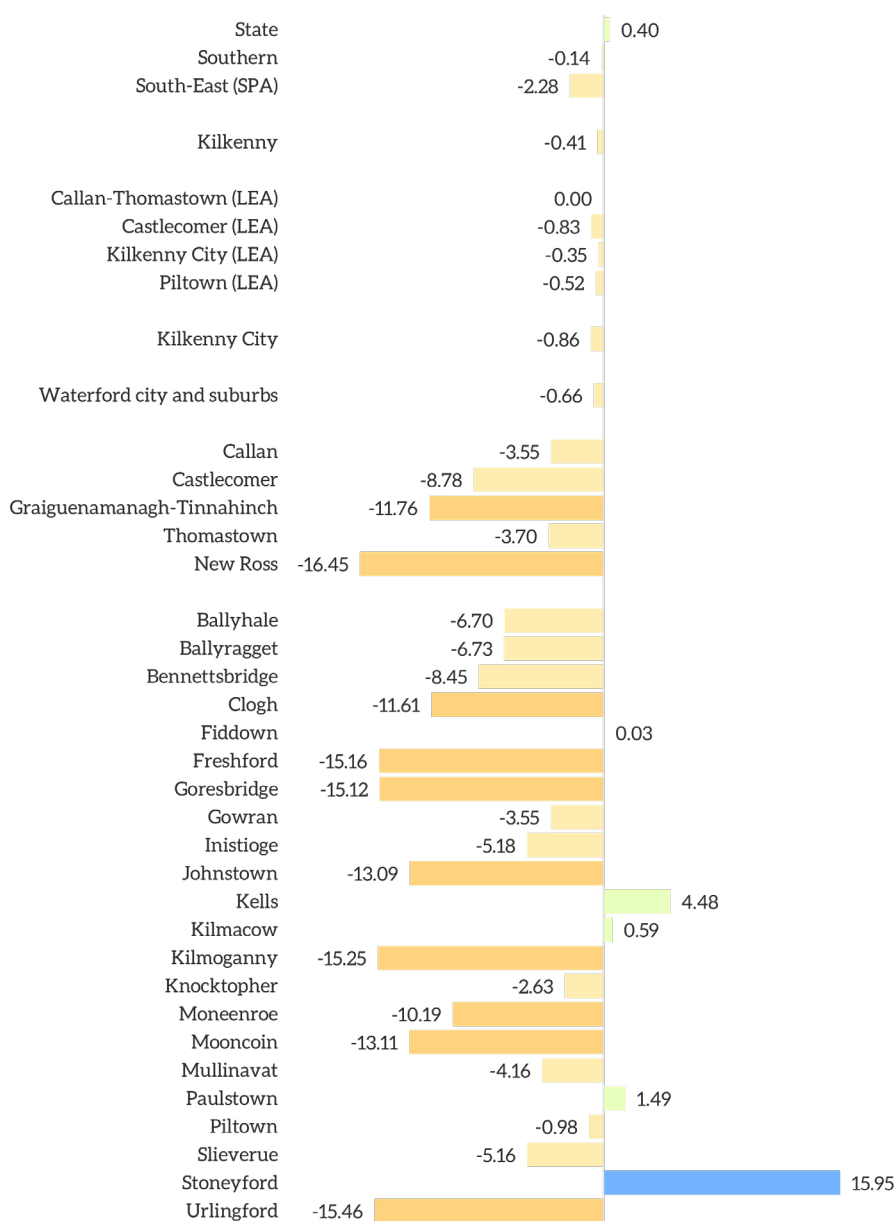
Kilkenny City shows variation in affluence / deprivation: Eastern suburbs (north/south of Dublin Road): classified as disadvantaged or very disadvantaged. Affluent areas: northeast of the city, outside the Ring Road.

Rural areas show mixed patterns of affluence and deprivation.

Most disadvantaged settlements: Urlingford, Kilmoganny, Freshford, Goresbridge, Clogh, and Moneenroe (scores of -10 or lower).

Most affluent settlements: Stoneyford (affluent), Kells, Paulstown, and Kilmacow (marginally above average).

There are areas of affluence in Kilkenny's commuter belt, and pockets of deprivation in the northwest (Urlingford, Johnstown) and northeast (Castlecomer area).



Nationality and Ethnicity

8% of the population has non-Irish citizenship, equating to an 8,250 people. Nationally, there are 631,785 (12.4%) non-Irish citizens, representing a similar proportion of the overall population.

Within Kilkenny City, the proportion is notably higher (14.4%) in comparison to the rest of the county, approximately 3,836 individuals.

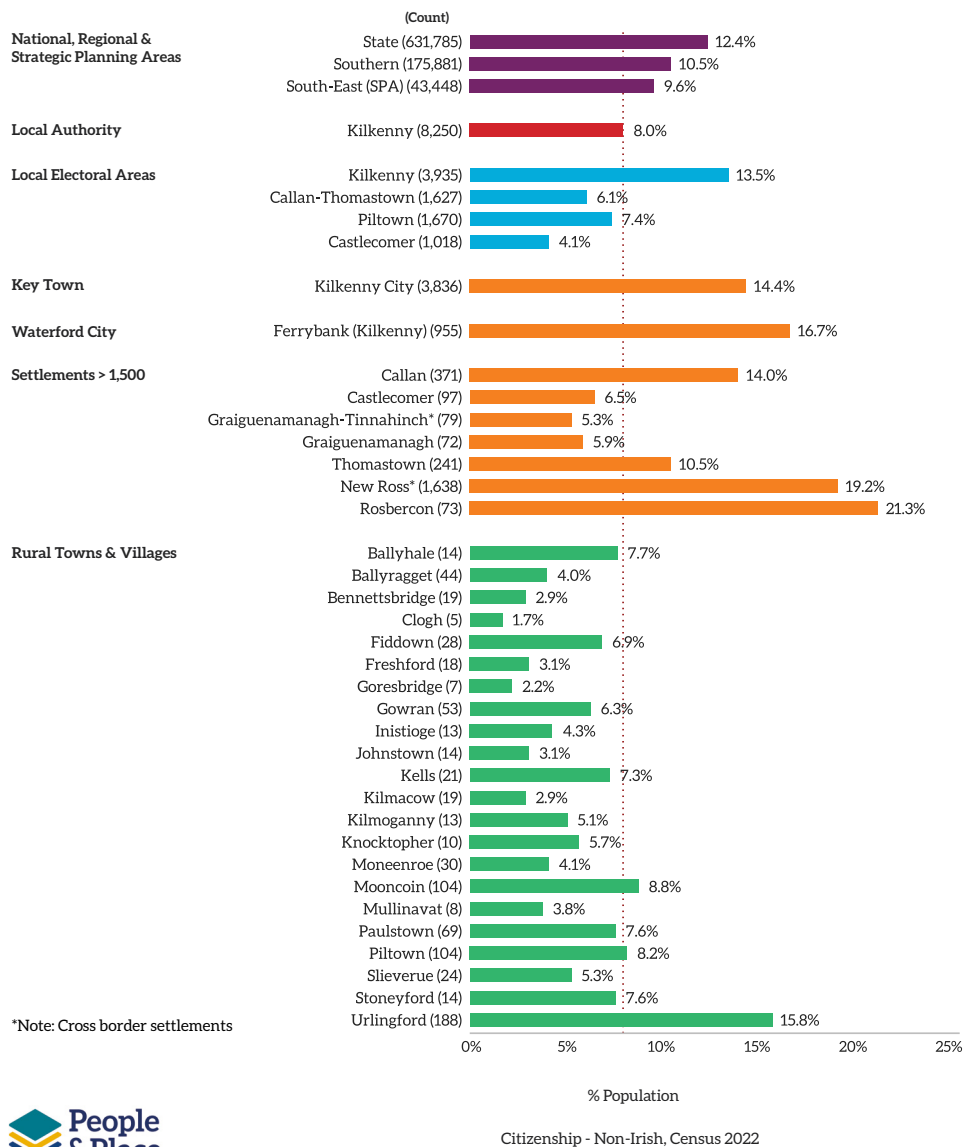
Ferrybank has the highest proportion of non-Irish citizens, as a proportion of the total resident population of 16.7%, approximately 955 individuals.

637 persons (0.6% of the population) are Irish Travellers. These are mainly concentrated in, Kilkenny City, and Urlingford.

1.8% describe their ethnicity as Asian or Asian Irish, mostly in Urlingford, Ballyhale, and Kilkenny City.

0.7% describe their ethnicity as Black or Black Irish, concentrated in Waterford's suburbs, Kilkenny City, and Urlingford.

For every 1,000 children (aged<15) in County Kilkenny, 47.4 have a citizenship other than Irish. This is the lowest proportion on any of Ireland's thirty-one local authority area.

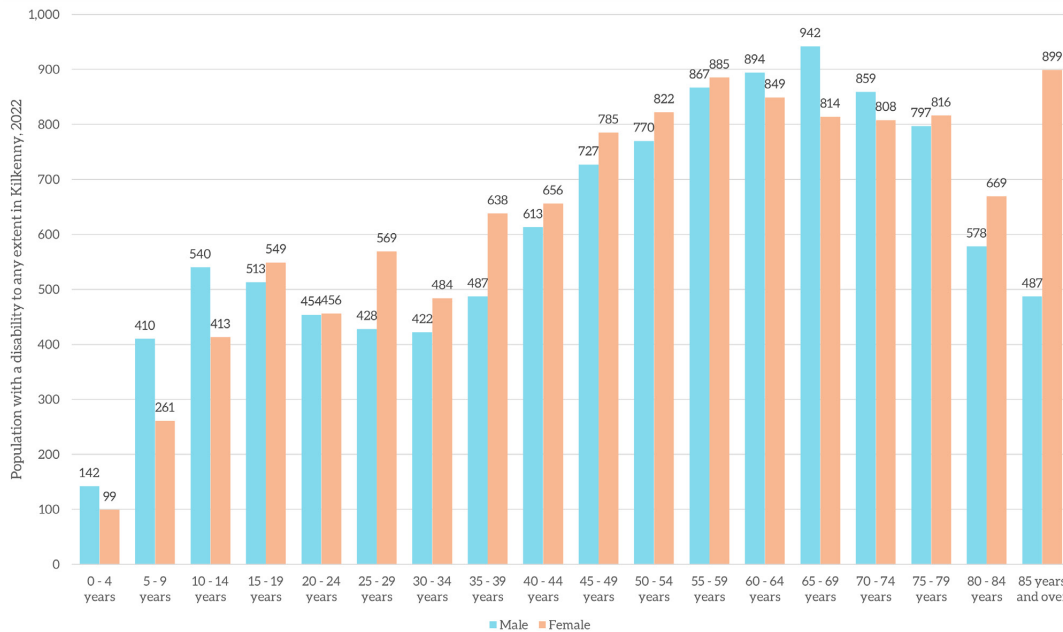


Disability

22,402 people in County Kilkenny have a self-declared disability, including 3,837 individuals aged 0 to 24 years.

Males aged 0 to 24 are more likely to have a disability than females (ratio 1.17:1).

The disability rate among children in County Kilkenny (97.1 per 1,000) is lower than the national average (108.1 per 1,000).



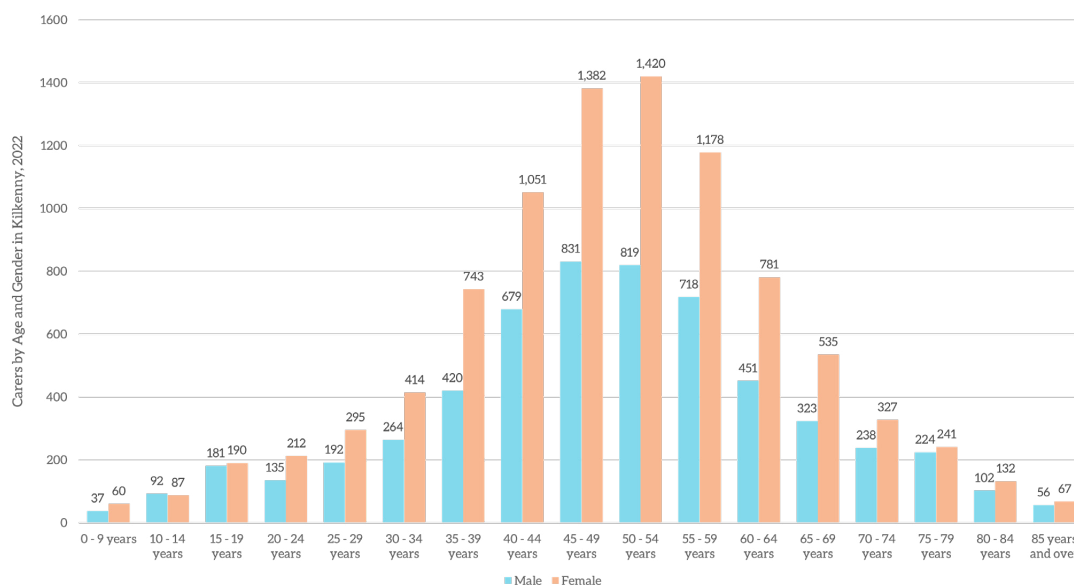
Carers

In Kilkenny, 6.2% of the population are family carers, equating to 6,501 individuals. This is slightly above the national average of 5.8% (299,128 individuals).

Of those providing care in Kilkenny, 61% are female, mostly aged 45 to 59 years.

There are 108 child carers (aged <15) and 278 young adult carers (aged 15-24), with the child carer rate (7.8 per 1,000 children) higher than the national average (6.7 per 1,000).

There are high proportions of carers in rural areas, especially in Mullinavat (11%) and Johnstown (10.1%) – among the resident population



Educational Attainment (among those aged 15+ who completed formal education)

Primary school only: 9.6%, slightly below the national (9.8%) and regional (10.9%) equivalents. Highest rates in rural areas and communities furthest from Waterford and Kilkenny Cities (e.g., Kilmoganny, Goresbridge, Clogh).

Lower secondary school: small cohort, highest rates in rural areas and peripheral towns (e.g., Johnstown, Freshford, Mooncoin).

Upper secondary school (Leaving Certificate): 18.5%, slightly higher than the national figure (18.1%). Higher in Waterford City suburbs (20.8%) and some areas (>25%, e.g. Clogh, Slieverue).

Technical qualifications/ apprenticeships: 15.1%, above national (13.1%) and regional (14.9%) equivalents. Most prevalent in rural areas, with clusters in Slieverue, Castlecomer, and areas around Callan and Freshford.

Third-level qualifications (NFQ Levels 7 to 10): 36.6%, below the national level (39.2%), but higher than regional figure (13 %). Areas with high third-level attainment: Kilkenny City suburbs, Stoneyford, Paulstown, Gowran, Callan.

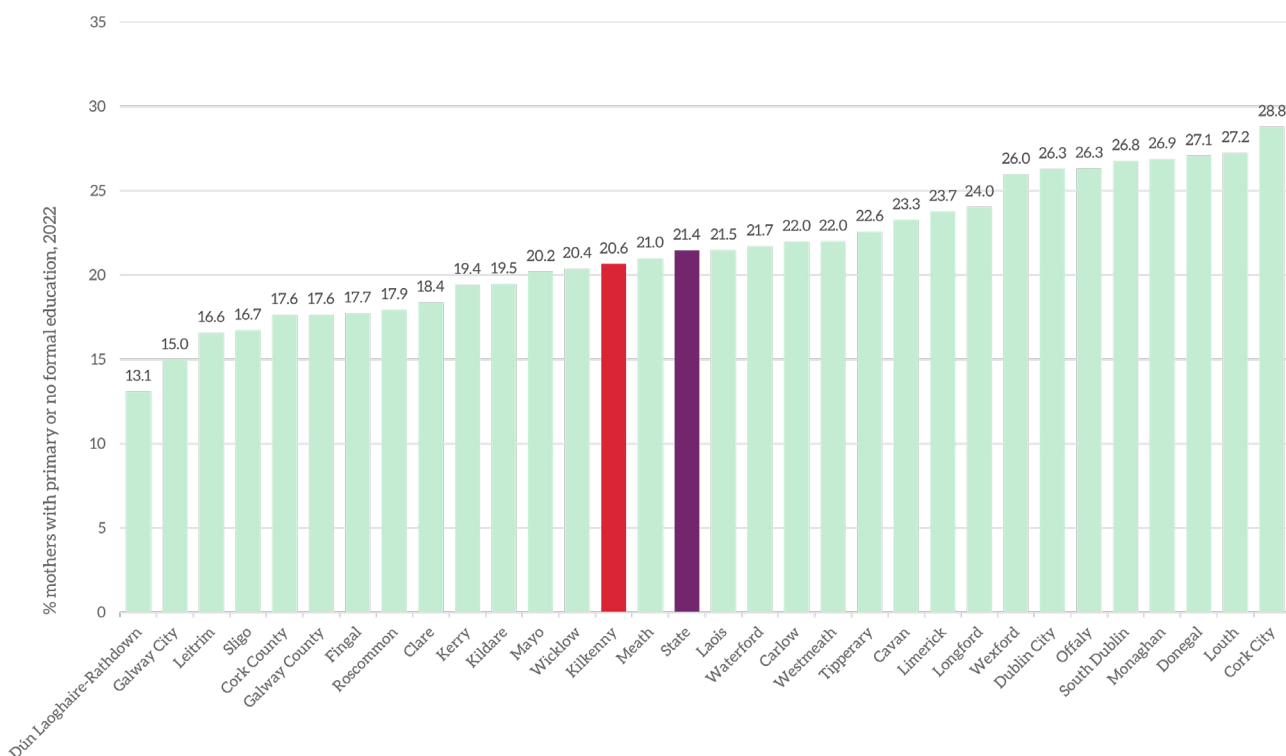
Advanced degrees (Levels 8 to 10): 22.8%, similar to regional level (20.4%) but lower than national (25.6%). Highest values in Kilkenny MD and city suburbs, lowest in disadvantaged and rural areas (e.g. Urlingford, Goresbridge, and Clogh).

Educational Indicators (Children and Young People)

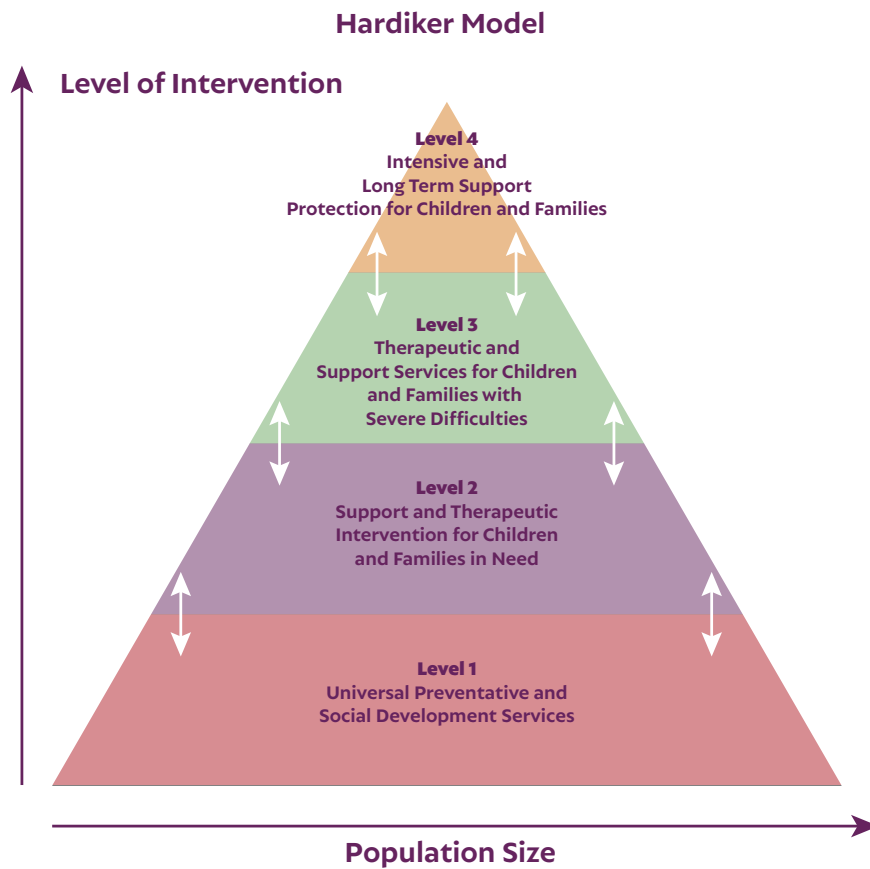
Mothers' education: 20.6% of mothers in Kilkenny did not progress beyond primary school. This is slightly better than the national figure (21.4%).

School absenteeism (2021): 36.8% of primary school children were absent for more than 20 days, lower than the national rate (39%). 26.1% of secondary students were absent for more than 20 days, lower than the national average (28%).

Leaving Certificate completion rate: 91.8% of students who started secondary school in 2016 completed their leaving certificate, similar to the national rate (91.7%)



SECTION 3: OVERVIEW OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The Hardiker Model (Hardiker et al., 1991) is a framework used in child and family services to categorize levels of need and intervention. It helps services target support appropriately for universal, more intensive, or crisis interventions. Using the Hardiker Model as a framework the following is an overview of services available to children and families in Kilkenny.

Outcome 1: Active & Healthy

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
PHN Service			
HSE Public Health Nursing Service	Public Health Nursing provide community-based nursing services across the lifespan, with a focus on promoting health, preventing illness, and supporting individuals and families. Services include child health and development, screening, postnatal visits, school health services, immunisation support, wound care, chronic disease management, and health education. PHNs work closely with GPs, hospitals, and other community services to ensure co-ordinated care.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Primary Health Care			
HSE Primary Health Care	In total there are 9 Primary Health Care Teams, which includes 1 team for Ferrybank and South Kilkenny.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Mental Health			
HSE Primary Health Care	<p>Child and Family Psychology Service is responsible for the provision of services to children and adolescents who present with the following difficulties at the mild to moderate level of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural problems. • Anger problems. • Parenting difficulties. • Anxiety. • Adjustment difficulties. • Loss and bereavement. • Emotional regulation problems. • Low self-esteem. • Attachment problems. • Interpersonal relationship problems. <p>The service aim is to support these children and adolescents to improve their psychological health and wellbeing. In addition, a variety of psycho-educational workshops on different topics are offered throughout the year.</p>	Statutory	Targeted + 2
HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	<p>CAMHS provides a specialist medical mental health service to those aged up to 18 years who have moderate to severe mental illness that requires the input of a specialist multi-disciplinary mental health team including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to severe depression. • Mood disorders. • Psychosis. • Anxiety disorders. • Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD). • Moderate/severe eating disorders. • Suicidal behaviours or ideation suspected to be due to mental illness. 	Statutory	Targeted + 4
HSE Self-Harm Intervention Programme (SHIP)	Self-harm Intervention Programme is a professional counselling service for individuals over 16 years who present with suicidal ideation and/or the impulse to self-harm. It is not a crisis response service so is unsuitable for those at immediate risk.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
HSE Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) for those aged 18 years and over	<p>Counselling in Primary Care service is suitable for people aged 18 years and over who are experiencing mild to moderate psychological difficulties. CIPC is a short-term counselling service that provides up to 8 counselling sessions with a professionally qualified and accredited Counsellor/Therapist.</p> <p>The service is only available to people who hold a medical card. Referrals to the service are accepted from GPs, Primary Care Team members or other health care professionals. The service is available throughout Kilkenny.</p>	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4
HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths	<p>Bereavement Counselling service is for individuals aged 16 years and over. This service is co-ordinated by the HSE Regional Suicide Resource Office. Access to the service is through a GP or appropriate health professional via a referral form. A total of 12 bereavement counselling sessions are offered to clients and there is no cost to the client. Parental consent is required for those aged 16 and 17 years</p>	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4
Kilkenny Bereavement Support	<p>Kilkenny Bereavement Support service is for children, young people and adults. Access to this service is self-referral by phone. Following the initial phone call a volunteer will contact the bereaved person to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>The number of sessions is agreed at the first meeting.</p>	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4
Teach Tom	<p>Teach Tom is a community-based suicide intervention, mental health awareness and bereavement support charity.</p> <p>The service offers free and immediate access to support and counselling, in a safe and nurturing environment, for those at risk of suicide or who are bereaved. Other services provided include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hour listening service 365 days a year. • School liaison service • Work liaison service 	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service	<p>Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service (SBLs) offers guidance, practical information, and emotional support to anyone affected in the immediate aftermath of a death by suicide. It also provides information and support at the time of inquest/coroners court. A Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer (SBLO) will meet with the person/family at a location of their choice. The team can assist in providing practical and emotional support.</p> <p>The team can provide guidance and assistance in accessing other therapeutic services or even talk about what has happened.</p> <p>The SBLO also provides support to parents to help support children during this difficult time. The service additionally provides information and support around the time of an inquest/coroner's court.</p>	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4
Social Prescribing	<p>Social prescribing recognises that health is heavily determined by social factors such as poverty, isolation and loneliness. Social prescribing offers GPs and other health professionals a means of referring people to a range of non-clinical community supports which can have significant benefits for their overall health and wellbeing.</p>	Community	Targeted Hardiker +2
Family Resource Centres for children, young people and families	<p>Droichead Family Resource Centre offers play therapy for children aged 5 years and over and affordable counselling to people aged 16 years and above. Referrals are accepted from professionals or self-referral by phone. The service operates on a low-cost basis.</p> <p>Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre offers a low cost counselling service in the community to people aged 16 years and over. Referrals are accepted from professionals or self-referral by phone.</p> <p>The Mill Family Resource Centre offers low cost counselling in the community to those aged 16 years and over. Referrals are accepted from professionals or self-referral by phone.</p> <p>Newpark Close Family Resource Centre provides low cost counselling and confidential support to individuals aged 16 years and over and affordable play therapy for children. Referrals are accepted from professionals or self-referral by phone.</p>	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Youth Work Services	<p>Ossory Youth is a service for children and young people aged between 12 and 24 years.</p> <p>Ossory Youth work with young people using a variety of methods including group work, one to one work, time bound issue-based programmes, advocacy and parent support. To find out more go to www.ossoryyouth.com</p> <p>Foróige is a national youth development organisation, working primarily with young people aged 12 to 18 years. However, in Kilkenny Foróige works with young people from the age of 8 years to 24 years. The purpose of Foróige is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society. Based in The Drum Youth Centre, MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre and The Old Courthouse Youth Centre Castlecomer, Foróige provide a range of targeted and universal (open to all) youth work services in Kilkenny.</p> <p>All of Foróige's work is guided by a philosophy which views young people as unique, creative, can take responsibility, interdependent with others, can make a difference to the world, have an influence and learn from every situation.</p>	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Mental Health Ireland	<p>Mental Health Ireland aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and enhance mental health, wellbeing and recovery for all individuals and communities. Support people with lived experience of mental health challenges, their supporters and family members in their recovery. 	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Aware	<p>Aware provides support and assistance to those affected by depression or bipolar disorder and to their support group.</p>	Community	Targeted Hardiker + 2
Grow	<p>Grow provides peer support, motivation, empowerment and education around emotional and mental wellbeing.</p>	Community	Targeted Hardiker + 2

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Hospital Services			
Hospital Services	<p>St Lukes's General Hospital Kilkenny. General and emergency hospital services.</p> <p>UPMC Aut Even Hospital Kilkenny. Private hospital.</p> <p>Lourdes Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilcreene. Kilkenny.</p> <p>University Hospital Waterford. General, Emergency and Orthopaedic services.</p> <p>Children Services Centre, Kilcreene, Kilkenny.</p>	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Disability			
HSE Child and Youth Disability Service	<p>Children's disability services are for children and young people aged up to 18 years who have complex needs. CDNT includes health and social care professionals. They provide services for children and young people with disabilities. Each team member specialises in different areas of child development.</p> <p>They work together to support children with complex needs. Children with less complex needs may access services from HSE Primary care.</p>	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 3,4
Jack and Jill Children's Foundation	<p>Jack and Jill Children's Foundation is a national service providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-home respite care to children under 5 years of age with severe to profound developmental delay. • In-home end of life nursing care to all children under 5 years of age. 	Statutory	Targeted 2+
Irish Wheelchair Association	<p>Irish Wheelchair Association works with and on behalf of people with physical disabilities to drive positive change in Ireland through the influencing of public policy, the provision of quality services and enabling accessibility to all aspects of society.</p>	Statutory	Targeted 2+
Enable Ireland	<p>Enable Ireland provides services to over 13,000 children and adults with disabilities and their families from over 40 locations in 14 counties.</p> <p>Covering childhood to adulthood expert teams work with the individual and their family on a plan for each life stage.</p>	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Camphill Communities	<p>Camphill Communities of Ireland is part of an international movement working with people with intellectual disabilities and other kinds of special needs.</p>	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Kingsriver Community	Kingsriver Community is a social care service provider based in Kilkenny. They provide services to adults with a various range of disabilities and life challenges. Kingsriver strive to provide the highest level of care on an individually tailored basis.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Aurora	Aurora is a non-profit organisation that supports people with severe or profound intellectual and physical disabilities – funded by the HSE.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 3, 4
SOS Kilkenny	SOS Kilkenny support adults with intellectual disabilities and autism to develop their talents and interests, to build and maintain meaningful relationships, to enjoy opportunities for further education and employment and to feel a valuable part of their local community. SOS Kilkenny strives to tailor supports to meet each person's individual needs and aspirations. SOS Kilkenny has over 20 community houses in various neighbourhoods around Kilkenny.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 3
L'Arche	L'Arche Ireland provides Day Project opportunities to adults with an intellectual disability in our Cork and Kilkenny Communities and are open Monday to Friday. Each Day Project offers Core Members who access the service a range of opportunities.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 3
ADHD Ireland	ADHD Ireland supports young people and adults with ADHD, their carers and families also.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 3
Inclusion Ireland	Inclusion Ireland provides an information and advocacy service to people with an intellectual disability and their families.	Community	Targeted 2 +
Kilkenny County Council Library Service	Kilkenny County Council Library Service provides a Healthy Ireland @ Your Library annual programme of events/workshops as well as having dedicated collections of stock/resources in the library branches.		

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Substance Misuse and Recovery			
HSE Ardú Substance Misuse Team	Ardú Substance Misuse Services work with young people and adults who want help to deal with a drug or alcohol problem, and who want to build a healthier and happier life for themselves. Ardú also provide support to friends, families and carers.	Statutory	Targeted 2+
Aislín Adolescent Addiction Centre	Aislín Adolescent Addiction Centre provides residential treatment for young people with acute addiction issues (gambling, alcohol and substance misuse). A range of therapies are employed in the treatment as appropriate.	Statutory	Targeted 2+
Community Based Drug Initiative – Ossory Youth	Community-Based Drug Initiative provides a local accessible community drugs service supporting people struggling with substance misuse issues, family members of people living with substance misuse issues and members of the community affected by substance misuse.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
South-East Recovery College	The Recovery College South East provides educational workshops for people who are experiencing mental health and addiction challenges. The workshops are all co-produced by people with lived experience of these challenges and who found recovery education beneficial to their recovery.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4



Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Early Years Services			
County Childcare Committees	County Childcare Committees' role is to develop, support and enhance a wide range of high quality, integrated, accessible and affordable childhood care and education services.	Statutory	Universal
Kilkenny Community Early Years Project (KCEYP)	KCEYP is a cross community, needs based Early Years service catering for children aged 2 to 6 years. KCEYP works to support children and families to reach their full potential in all areas of development, through the implementation of a play based emergent curriculum, while using a partnership approach in assisting, liaising and mediating with other professionals who are supporting the families.	Community	Universal
Enable Ireland	Enable Ireland is a national disability organization, providing services to children and adults with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities.	Community	Hardiker 2+
Family Resource Centres	Droichead Family Resource Centre. Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre. The Mill Family Resource Centre. Newpark Close Family Resource.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
HSE Regional Suicide Resource Office	HSE Regional Resource Office for Suicide Prevention (ROSPs) work on local implementation of Connecting for Life, related suicide prevention initiatives, and education and training in their areas.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
School			
Primary	85 Primary school (5 Deis).	Statutory	Universal
Post Primary	15 post primary schools (5 Deis).	Statutory	Universal
Specialist Schools	2 Specialist Schools.	Statutory	Hardiker 2+
ASD Units	9 units located within mainstream schools in Kilkenny that provide specialized learning environments for students with autism.	Statutory	Hardiker 2+
Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement (KTCM)	KTCM assists and supports Traveller children of primary and secondary school age, in the Hebron and Wetlands areas of Kilkenny City to do their homework. KTCM also provides recreational, cultural and social activities to the 45 participating children. Age group 4 to 16 yrs.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 1
Family Resource Centre	Afterschool Support.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Educational Supports & Services			
Home School Community Liaison Officers	The Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator (HSCL) Scheme aims to improve educational outcomes for children through supporting parents/guardians.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)	NEPS psychologists work in partnership with teachers, parents and children in identifying educational needs.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Educational Welfare Officers	The Educational Welfare Service works with children, young people and their families who are experiencing difficulty with school attendance; this is done through, home visits, educational welfare conferences and collaboratively working with different agencies.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
School Completion Programme	The School Completion Programme helps a child to: Attend school, focus on completing school, get involved in class and school activities & get the most from their education.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board	Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB) is a leading provider of education and training in the southeast, enabling 18,000 annual learners to reach their potential by offering education pathways in schools, colleges, training centres and community settings. KCETB's remit includes the management and operation of 13 post-primary schools, 2 colleges of further education and training, an extensive range of adult and community education services in 30 locations across Kilkenny and Carlow, the co-ordination of youth services, and the promotion of music education through Music Generation. KCETB's tagline is 'Flourish through learning' and their core belief is that 'learning has the power to change lives and build communities'.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4
Kilkenny County Council Library Service	<p>Kilkenny County Council Library Service run Right to Read literacy programmes throughout the year across the 8 branch network and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Little Library. • Summer Stars. • Spring into Storytime. • Family Time at your Library. • Bookville – festival of reading and literature. <p>A dedicated storyteller in residence focuses on developing literacy and a love of reading among children and families. Collections include dedicated primary and secondary school resources with a range of services for schools. A range of digital services including coding workshops, comics online, dedicated free internet PCs, Wi-Fi and laptops and makerspace programmes. A wide and varied programme of events/ workshops for all ages including story times, book clubs, workshops as well as celebrating national and local events such as Cruinniú na nÓg.</p>	Statutory	Universal

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Parenting / Family Support			
Family Resource Centres (FRC)	The FRC programme is Ireland's largest family support programme delivering universal services to families based on a life-cycle approach. They provide support, advice, information and services to everyone in the local community. <i>Droichead Family Resource Centre.</i> <i>Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre.</i> <i>The Mill Family Resource Centre.</i> <i>Newpark Close Family Resource Centre.</i>	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS)	PPFS is a comprehensive suite of early intervention and preventative services being undertaken by Tusla and its partner agencies. The aim of the PPFS is to prevent risks to children and young people arising or escalating through early intervention and family support.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Parenting Hub	The Parenting Hub provides support and information through a variety of parenting services such as drop-in centres across Kilkenny which offer free and confidential advice and support, along with a variety of parenting workshops and programmes.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2
Kilkenny One Parent Community (KOPC)	Kilkenny One Parent Community (KOPC) is a community who are parenting alone, sharing parenting or parenting following bereavement, with a vision that Kilkenny is a place where the unique experiences of One-Parent families are recognised, respected and responded to. The KOPC aims to amplify the voices and increase the visibility of one parent families in a positive and empowering way throughout Kilkenny. They aim to connect, support and celebrate each other on their parenting journey.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2
Child Welfare & Protection Services			
Tusla Child Protection Services	The Child and Family Agency has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children.		
Tusla Alternative Care	The Child and Family Agency provides foster, residential, special and after care. They also provide additional services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated children seeking international protection. • Assessment Consultation Therapy Services. 		

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Amber Domestic Abuse CLG	Amber Domestic Abuse CLG provides emergency refuge accommodation, support and information services and a 24hr Helpline to women and children in Kilkenny and Carlow who are victim-survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Amber also provides community-based outreach services in Kilkenny city and county and throughout rural county Carlow to women and children living with or fleeing the serious crime of domestic abuse. Amber deliver safe, inclusive, client centred services both at the refuge and in the community. They work to achieve equality and the right to live a life free from violence and abuse for all in our community	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
KASA Rape Crisis Centre	Kilkenny Rape Crisis Centre KASA provides supports for anyone aged over 14 who has been impacted directly or indirectly by any kind of Sexual Violence at any time in their lives. KASA offers Counselling, information, education and accompaniment supports. KASA also supports any non-abusing relatives or friends of survivors.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Justice Services			
Garda Juvenile Liaison Service	Garda JLO's are specially trained officers who are assigned to work with underage offenders (under 18 years of age). They deal with young people and their families re: crime prevention, the operation of the Youth Diversion Projects and other areas related to young people and the criminal justice system. JLO's also work informally with young people at risk of offending and liaise with teachers, Child & Family Agency staff, other relevant agencies and other Gardai in the area.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1,2
Probation Service	Probation Service assess and manage offenders in the community. The service works with offenders and others to reduce offending and to make communities safer. It is an agency within the Department of Justice and Equality.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Court Service	The Courts Service is responsible for the administration and management of the courts in Ireland. Its primary functions are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the courts. • Support the judges. • Provide information on the courts system to the public. • Provide court buildings and facilities for court users. 	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1

Outcome 4: Economic Security & Opportunity

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Financial			
Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)	MABS the Irish Money Advice and Budgeting Service have been supporting people with money advice, budgeting, and problem debt for 30 years.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1
Entrepreneurship			
Local Enterprise Office	The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny aims to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for your business ideas. Local Enterprise Office is the first stop shop for Kilkenny businesses and offer a range of supports for new and existing enterprises.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1
Kilkenny Leader Partnership	KLP lead and facilitated the creation of an integrated local development strategy to improve the economic, social and cultural quality of life of the people, communities and small enterprises of all in County Kilkenny.	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Social Welfare			
Social Welfare	The social welfare system is a State financial support for people who might need help due to different life situations. This can include people who are unemployed, sick, disabled, retired, or raising children on their own.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1
Turas Nua	Turas Nua delivers the Intreo partner National Employment Service. Its service is tailored to the unique needs of everyone. It provides job seekers with vital employment assistance and advice. Their partnership with the Department of Social Protection underscores their commitment to fostering financial independence through employment and training opportunities.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing

Organisation/ Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted Or both
Youth Services			
Ossory Youth	<p>Ossory Youth's mission is to support young people to connect, experience, learn and grow. Services provided are in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City and rural youth work. • Rural Youth Clubs. • Mental health and wellbeing. • Youth Information. • School and Community based programmes. • New Communities. • Mentoring. • Arts and creativity. • Autism. • LGBTQIA+ • Ethnic minorities. • Counselling. • Alcohol and Drugs. • Youth Diversion work. 	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Foróige	<p>Foróige works with all young people through their universal services. There are volunteer led Foróige Clubs across Kilkenny city and county including Castlecomer, Mullinavat, Piltown and Cuffesgrange. The Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme is also available throughout the city and county. The Drop in Youth Café in The Drum Youth Centre is also open to all young people. Foróige facilitates Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg, which is a youth council that represents the voices of young people in local and national matters that are important to them. In addition, Foróige provides a range of targeted services for young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drum Youth Project. • Youth Skills Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative. • Kilkenny Carlow Integrated Youth and Family Project. • Project Twenty One. • Youth Counselling. 	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3
Sports Organisation / Recreation Facilities			
Kilkenny County Council	<p>Kilkenny County Council supports a range of recreational facilities, including outdoor amenities such as playgrounds, mini pitches, public parks and public swimming pools.</p>	Statutory	Universal
Kilkenny County Council Library Service	<p>Kilkenny County Council Library Service provide a network of safe and trusted spaces across 8 branches and a mobile library service which visit over 60 stops across rural Kilkenny. Kilkenny County Council libraries have been accredited by AsIAm with dedicated sensory toy collections available in Ferrybank and Mayfair Library. With sensory packs available in all 8 libraries. Magic Table available in Loughboy, Mayfair, Castlecomer and Graiguenamanagh libraries.</p>	Statutory	Universal

SECTION 4: LOCAL NEEDS ANALYSIS IN KILKENNY

Introduction

This section presents the local needs analysis for children, young people, and families in Kilkenny. Drawing on the evidence established in Sections 1 to 3 including consultation findings, socio-demographic data, and service mapping to identify priority needs and key areas for actions across each of the CYPSC outcome areas.

Section 1 provides an overview of the development of the plan, which was underpinned by a comprehensive programme of consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, service providers, and key stakeholders. Full details of the consultation process and the findings are available online in the consultation report (See Appendix 1).

Section 2 provides a high-level snapshot of key indicators, including population and age profile, household composition, affluence and deprivation, nationality and ethnicity, disability, caring responsibilities, educational attainment and indicators. The full demographic profile is available online (See Appendix 2).

Section 3 provides an overview of services currently available to children, young people and their families across Kilkenny.

For each outcome area this section examines:

- How are children and young people in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?
- What the consultation findings tell us about their experiences and needs.
- The extent to which existing services are meeting those needs.
- The key areas requiring further attention and action.

This integrated approach ensures that the priorities identified in the local needs analysis are grounded in data, informed by lived experience, and responsive to the current service landscape in Kilkenny.

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

How are Children & Young People in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?

- There are generally positive health trends for children and young people in Kilkenny, but with pockets of poor health in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, most notably in Kilkenny city (urban core and eastern suburbs), the north-west of the county and in several rural communities.
- County Kilkenny has a higher rate of births among mothers than is the case across Ireland as a whole.
- Nearly all newborns in Kilkenny (98.9%) were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of hospital discharge.
- Psychiatric hospital admission rate for children and adolescents is low, in relative terms (0.4 per 100,000), the ninth lowest in Ireland).
- There are 108 child carers (aged<15) and 278 young adult carers (aged 15-24), higher than national average.
- 3,827 individuals aged 0-24 have a self-declared disability.
- 3.1% of children in County Kilkenny have an intellectual disability, below the national rate (7.2%).

<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of prenatal and postnatal supports and services. • Concerns about declining wellbeing of children and young people and the rising incidence of mental health challenges. • The challenges navigating and accessing mental health services experienced by stakeholders & families. • The absence of adequate support for children, young people, and families dealing with physical and intellectual disabilities. • The need to address the rate of vaping use among young people. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for support navigating mental health services. • The need for parenting support and advice. • The significant challenges faced when parenting children and young people with a disability, illness or additional needs. • Accessible and affordable activities for children, young people and families. • The need for good quality childcare. <p>Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people raised concerns about substance misuse particularly vaping. Many find it challenging to navigate peer influence and understand the risks associated with it. • They expressed the need for support with managing relationships, particularly in dealing with peer pressure and making informed decisions. • Many young people were looking for guidance on improving their mental health, managing stress, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They value accessible support systems and practical strategies for wellbeing. • Young people emphasized the importance of having safe welcoming spaces, where they can connect, relax, and engage in recreational activities. They value environments that feel inclusive, warm, and supportive.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is a wide range of supports available for children, young people and families in Kilkenny, stakeholders highlighted significant challenges regarding the capacity and resourcing of these services, particularly in disability and in mental health. • Accessing services remains difficult for those living in rural parts of Kilkenny, with transport identified as a key barrier. Many services are concentrated in urban areas placing rural communities at a disadvantage. • Stakeholders including parents and young people indicate a lack of awareness about existing supports and expressed difficulty in navigating available services effectively.

<p>Mental Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear and actionable Infant Mental Health Strategy. • Improve awareness and navigation of mental health services for young people, parents and professionals.
<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design a youth-led campaign to challenge the normalization of vaping and promote healthier lifestyle choices.
<p>Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen universal approaches to promoting wellbeing among young people and young adults. • Expand opportunities for young people to be physically active.

Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

<p>How are Children & Young People in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment levels are lower than national levels, especially in rural areas. • While school absenteeism in Kilkenny is lower than the national level, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted attendance and engagement. • The large proportion of young children, in areas such as Piltown and Callan-Thomastown, requires an emphasis on accessible and quality early childhood education. • In Kilkenny there is a correlation between rurality and low levels of educational attainment.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant gaps exist in disability services for young people transitioning from post primary education to adult services leaving many without adequate support. • Concerns were raised about parents' awareness of the effects of prolonged screen time on infants, children, and young people. • The need for greater support for parents, guardians and carers in addressing school avoidance and refusal. • Stakeholders highlighted the importance of targeted support for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), including raising awareness of available pathways and opportunities. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents identified Internet safety and social media as a key priority emphasizing the need for better education and safeguards for children and young people. <p>Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people expressed concerns about feeling unheard in school system, navigating relationships with peers and teachers and managing the stress of academic demands. • There is a need for better understanding and support for neurodivergent young people to ensure their needs are met in education and social settings and when accessing services.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability services need additional resources to meet both current and future demands ensuring adequate support for young people with disabilities. • There's a lack of opportunities for young people with disabilities to transition from secondary education to further education, training and employment. • School absenteeism continues to increase with limited interventions in place to address the issue effectively. • There are limited initiatives to support young people from rural and disadvantaged communities in progressing through secondary education and accessing further education training or employment.

<p>Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure young people with disabilities and their families are aware of appropriate pathways and options when transitioning from secondary school to further education, training and employment.
<p>School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote practical resources that support young people, families and schools in responding to school refusal.
<p>Rural Disadvantage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create targeted information and support resources aimed at young people living in rural Kilkenny that are not engaged in education, employment, or training.

Outcome Three: Safe and Protected from Harm

<p>How are Children & Young People in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pockets of socio-economic deprivation particularly through Kilkenny city and rural areas are associated with higher levels of lone parent families and young carers both of whom face distinctive challenges. • Within the Carlow/ Kilkenny / South Tipperary area there were 4361 referrals to child protection and welfare services during 2023. More than half of the referrals (2884, 61%) were welfare concerns, 34% (n=1480) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 197 referrals. Of the 1480 abuse/neglect referrals, a total of 355 were for physical abuse, 660 for emotional abuse, 273 for sexual abuse and 192 for neglect. • Within the Carlow/ Kilkenny / South Tipperary area, listed as active on the CPNS. This is the sixth highest rate of all 17 reporting areas. • Within the Carlow/ Kilkenny / South Tipperary area, there were a total of 313 children in care aged 0-17 years of age.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concerns with the rising rates in domestic violence and highlighted the need to support families, children and young people impacted. • Highlighted the need to map existing services. This would help identify gaps in supports for specific disadvantaged cohorts within Kilkenny. • Highlighted concerns about the limited resources available to support children, young people, and their families experiencing loss and bereavement. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified accessing appropriate services and supports is one of the biggest challenges of parenting in Kilkenny. • Specific gaps were highlighted in areas such as teen parent support, lone parent support, navigating services, parental wellbeing, and parenting with a disability or illness. <p>Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety was a reoccurring theme among most children and young people who participated in the consultation. They value feeling safe and having access to secure spaces where they can gather. However, they also expressed concerns about feeling unsafe in certain places and spaces.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural disadvantage was a recurring theme, with limited services and transport access being major challenges for families. • Greater collaboration among services is needed to address these gaps and ensure more equitable access to support across all communities.

<p>Parents Hub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to services and supports for children, young people and families through a centralised hub that increases awareness and connection to available resources.
<p>Domestic Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising rates of domestic violence demands sustained cross agency collaboration, increased awareness, and enhanced resourcing to support those most affected.
<p>Rural Disadvantage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the deep-rooted disadvantages in rural areas by working collaboratively and creatively across sectors to overcome service gaps, transport barriers, and unequal access to essential supports.

Outcome Four: Economic Security and Opportunity

<p>How are Children & Young People in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are high correlations between rurality, low levels of educational attainment and economic challenges. • Total unemployment just over 4000 (8% of the labour force) slightly below national and regional rates. • Kilkenny deprivation score: -0.41 slightly more disadvantaged than Ireland national score but more affluent than the southeast region. • Piltown area being the most disadvantaged (-0.52). • Kilkenny city shows variation in affluence deprivation: eastern suburbs classified as disadvantaged or very disadvantaged. Affluent areas include northeast of the city outside of the Ring Road. • Rural areas show mixed patterns of affluence and deprivation. • Most disadvantaged settlements include: Urlingford, Kilmoganny, Freshford, Clogh and Moneenroe (scores of -10 or lower). • Most affluent settlements include Stoneyford (affluent), Kells, Paulstown, and Kilmacow. • There are areas of affluence in Kilkenny commuter belt, and pockets of deprivation in the northwest (Urlingford, Johnstown) and northeast (Castlecomer area). • Children in lone-parent families represent 13.4%, lower than the national level.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by neurodivergent young people. • Training and support are needed to address barriers to gaining experience and securing employment opportunities for socially excluded young people. • There is a need for effective support to help young people stay in school, by identifying and addressing the barriers they face and remaining engaged in their education. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns over the rising cost of living, many families are struggling to meet their basic needs exasperating child poverty across our communities. <p>Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for a deeper understanding of the challenges young people and young adults face during critical transitions such as developing practical life skills, assessing post secondary education, or securing job opportunities.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of innovative employment, training & education opportunities for NEETs need to be developed and delivered in Kilkenny. • Sufficient childcare places to support families access education, training and employment. • Rural isolation & disadvantage need to be given due consideration in the development & delivery of services in Kilkenny. • Greater investment in inclusive services and tailored interventions is essential to ensure equal opportunities for neurodivergent young people. • Expanding targeted interventions that can ensure young people are better equipped for independence, education and employment.

<p>Barriers to Progression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen understanding of the barriers faced by young people not in education, employment, or training and promote inclusive re-engagement that supports long term learning and career pathways.
<p>Lifeskills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design practical life skills initiatives to support young adults in navigating their transition to independence, employment, and adult responsibilities.
<p>Neurodivergent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurodivergent young people often face unique challenges. Understanding their experience is essential to develop inclusive responses and supports that promote participation, wellbeing and equitable opportunities.

Outcome Five: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

<p>How are Children & Young People in Kilkenny CYPSC area doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people aged 0-18 comprise of almost quarter (24.6%) of county Kilkenny's population. This proportion is higher than the equivalent values for Ireland. • Many young people in Kilkenny feel connected to their community and appreciate the local infrastructure, nature, heritage and the many recreational activities. • Rural isolation and lack of transport remain a significant barrier to participation in social, education and recreational activities. • While most young people report not experiencing discrimination some have highlighted issues related to age, gender, and place of birth.
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language barriers continue to impact some young people's ability to engage fully in community life and local activities and school. <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for young people to take part in physical activity that is non-competitive. <p>Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people advocated for safe warm spaces where they can gather with their peers to socialize. • Many young people are looking for more accessible and affordable places to eat that support healthy lifestyle choices. • Young people would like more opportunities to be involved in decision making and have their voices heard in political and social matters. • Young people expressed interest in more opportunities for physical activity beyond competitive sports. • There is a strong desire among young people to have a more active role in local decision-making processes.
<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkenny offers a wide range of recreational activities and sports for young people, however accessibility remains a major issue for those living in rural areas due to limited transport options. • Many services are concentrated in urban areas leaving rural young people at a disadvantage in accessing support and recreational opportunities. • Funding for youth services is mainly directed towards targeted interventions at the cost of universal youth work, limiting access to broader, more inclusive opportunities.

<p>Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage young people in identifying the real impact of transport barriers and co-create innovative, youth informed solutions that enhance access, participation, and connection.
<p>Healthy Lifestyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design a research initiative with young people to explore barriers and opportunities around access to safe spaces, physical activity, and affordable healthy food.
<p>Decision Making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen meaningful youth participation in decision making, civic life, and community development, to empower young people to contribute purposefully to their communities.

SECTION 5: SUMMARY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN KILKENNY

Outcome Area	Summary of Priorities
Active and Healthy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening early mental health promotion and prevention to support positive and emotional development from infancy. 2. Supporting parents, young people and professionals to navigate mental health information, services and supports for children and young people aged 0-24 years. 3. Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing among young people aged 15- 24 years through targeted aged appropriate approaches. 4. Increasing opportunities for inclusive, non-competitive physical activity to support the physical health and wellbeing of children and young people. 5. Reducing exposure to smoking and vaping by promoting healthy, smoke-free and vape-free environments for children and young people. 6. Supporting educators to deliver high quality relationships and sexuality education. 7. Supporting parents and caregivers to effectively navigate and access disability services and resources for children and young people with additional needs.
Achieving in Learning and Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting healthy and balanced screen use among children and young people. 2. Strengthening understanding and inclusive responses for neurodivergent children and young people. 3. Enhancing co-ordinated and evidenced informed responses to school avoidance. 4. Improving access to education, training, and employment pathways for young people with disabilities aged 18 to 24 years. 5. Promoting intergenerational community engagement opportunities.
Safe and Protected from Harm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening awareness and understanding of child protection and safeguarding responsibilities among parents, professionals, and communities. 2. Promoting trauma informed approaches across services working with children, young people and families. 3. Improving awareness, visibility, and navigation of supports and services available to children, young people and families in Kilkenny. 4. Strengthening co-ordinated, multi-agency responses to domestic abuse. 5. Improving access to appropriate bereavement supports for children and young people experiencing loss.
Economic Security and Opportunity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving visibility, co-ordination, and access to education, training, and employment opportunities for young people who are not engaged in education, training or employment, particularly in rural areas. 2. Strengthening understanding of the barriers faced by young people who are NEET. 3. Raising awareness among decision makers of the importance of timely and accessible speech and language therapy services. 4. Enhancing financial literacy and life skills among young people.
Connected, Respected and contributing to their world	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening children and young people's understanding of and engagement with their rights. 2. Supporting the development of leadership, decision making, and civic engagement skills. 3. Ensuring that the voices, experiences, and perspectives of children and young people inform planning, decision making, and actions across the CYPSC structures. 4. Promoting youth-led approaches to design and advocate for youth friendly spaces in Kilkenny. 5. Supporting children and young people to identify and address transport and accessibility barriers in Kilkenny. 6. Improving understanding of children and young people's experiences and perceptions of safety within their communities.
Change management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening diverse and active representation across CYPSC subgroups 2. Increasing the visibility awareness and understanding of CYPSC. 3. Enhancing cross sector collaboration and collective working.

SECTION 6: ACTION PLAN FOR KILKENNY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Mental Health.	Develop and implement an Infant Mental Health Strategy.	Existence of a cross-sector Infant Mental Health Steering Group. An operational Infant Mental Health Network supporting collaboration. An agreed and published Infant Mental Health Strategy.	Steering group in place by December 2025. Network operational during the lifetime of the plan. Strategy published and implemented by December 2027.	Establish an Infant Mental Health Steering Group to guide strategic planning and implementation. Establish an Infant Mental Health Network to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing. Conduct stakeholder consultation to assess infant mental health needs. Compile findings into a report & develop the strategy.	March 2025 – December 2027.	Active and Healthy Subgroup. Public Health Nursing, HSE. Tusla. County Childcare. Midwifery, HSE.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. The First 5 Implementation Plan 2023-2025. Sharing the Vision 2020-2030.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Ensure quality services.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Mental Health.	Strengthen capacity of parents, young people, and professionals to navigate mental health resources for those aged 0 to 24 years	Existence of a comprehensive audit of mental health services, supports and resources for children and young people aged 0-24 years. Availability of user-friendly mental health guides for parents, young people and professionals. Reach of mental health information resources disseminated across agreed platforms.	1 x comprehensive audit of existing mental health services, supports and resources completed. 3 x user friendly mental health guides produced and available for dissemination. Communication campaign promoting the developed resources reaching a minimum of 500 users across multiple platforms.	Map existing mental health supports, services, and information available for those aged 0-24 years. Develop user-friendly guides for parents, young people and professionals, ensuring that the content is accessible and in multiple formats. Design and deliver a targeted communication strategy to ensure resources reach the right audience.	January 2026 - December 2026.	Active & Healthy Subgroup. HSE.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Connecting for Life: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015- 2020.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Mental Health.	Promote positive mental health and wellbeing among young people aged 15-24 years.	Availability of a mental health promotion campaign framework and resources for young people aged 15 - 24 years. Reach of mental health promotion messages among young people across agreed settings and platforms. Number of delivery partnerships established to support campaign implementation.	1 x mental health promotion campaign framework developed and available for use. Campaign implemented in 2 x youth services 2 x schools 2 x family resources centres. 1x published report documenting implementation.	Create and maintain a user-friendly website, featuring Act Belong Commit campaign messaging, activity finder, educational resources, wellbeing quiz, resources for supports and services. Engage with diverse groups of young people to develop and disseminate relatable and inclusive Act, Belong Commit campaign messages and images. Partner with key stakeholders to deliver a range of Act Belong Commit themed programmes. Work in collaboration with academia to capture the implementation in the Irish context.	January 2026 - December 2026.	Active & Healthy Subgroup. HSE.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Connecting for Life: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015- 2020.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Physical Health.	Increase opportunities for young people to engage in non-competitive physical activities.	The number of non-competitive physical activity programmes organised. The number of young people engaged in non-competitive physical activity programmes. Number of activity leaders trained and delivering activity programmes. Number of partnerships formed with schools, community organisations and local sports providers. Participation evaluation to assess changes in physical activity levels, attitudes, and social connections.	At least eight non-competitive physical activity programmes implemented across urban and rural areas. A minimum of 200 young people engaged in regular non-competitive physical activity. 15 local activity leaders trained and delivering inclusive, fun sessions.	In collaboration with young people develop non-competitive physical activity programmes. Create and implement schedule of activities to reach different areas, including urban and rural communities. Train and support activity leaders to foster inclusive and supportive environment, encouraging participation, connection & fun. Develop partnerships with schools, community organisations, and local sports providers to expand programme reach and accessibility.	September 2025 – December 2027.	Active and healthy subgroup. Kilkenny Sports Partnership. Healthy Ireland.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Get Ireland Active National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland. Healthy Ireland Strategic Framework for Action Plan 2021-2025. National Sports Policy 2018-2027.	Outcomes 1, 2 & 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Listen and involve young people. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Substance Misuse.	Reduce the normalization of smoking and vaping in spaces where children and young people live, learn and socialize.	Number of smoke free / vape free signs installed in spaces/ environments where children and young people live their lives. Number of partnerships established with schools, sports organisations, & community groups.	Smoke-free/ vape free signage installed in at least 20 key youth settings. At least 10 partnerships formed with schools, youth services, and community groups to support implementation.	Implement the 'Not Around Us Campaign' in Kilkenny. Develop campaign messages and materials in collaboration with young people. Partner with schools, youth and community organisations to implement campaign. Install 'Not Around Us' signage in designated smoke and vape free areas.	January 2025 - December 2025.	Active and Healthy Subgroup. Healthy Ireland. Ossory Youth. Foróige. Family Resource Centres.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Healthy Ireland Strategic Framework for Action Plan 2021-2025.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 5. Transformational Goals: Early intervention & prevention. Involve children & young people. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Sexual Health.	Support teachers to confidently and consistently deliver the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum.	Availability of a practical RSE resource booklet for teachers. Number of post-primary schools provided with the RSE resource booklet. Teacher feedback informing refinement and finalisation of the resource.	1 x Resource booklet developed and finalised. Pilot completed with a minimum of 5 schools RSE resource booklet distributed to all 11 post-primary schools in the county.	Engage with teachers to identify gaps in RSE content, resources, and in delivery of the content. Develop tailored content for teachers, including accurate information, resources, classroom activities, and practical guidance. Create a clear, user-friendly, visually engaging resource booklet. Pilot with a sample group of teachers to gather feedback on practicality and relevance, and revise accordingly. Disseminate the booklet to schools in both print and digital formats for broad accessibility. Collect post-implementation feedback to assess the booklet's impact on teaching confidence and effectiveness in delivering the RSE curriculum.	September 2026 - December 2026.	Active and Healthy Subgroup. Health Promotion and Improvement. HSE.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 1, 2 & 5. Transformational Goals: Early intervention & prevention. Ensure quality services. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Disability.	Enhance the ability of parents and caregivers to navigate disability services and resources for children and young people with additional needs (0-18 years).	Completion of a comprehensive mapping of existing services and supports. Development and dissemination of a user-friendly resource guide. Engagement levels including website visits, downloads and social media interactions. Completion of gap analysis report	Comprehensive mapping of existing services in Kilkenny completed and gap analysis report shared with key stakeholders. User-friendly resource guide developed and disseminated 100% of schools, healthcare providers, and community organisations. Online engagement reaches at least 500 visits and 250 downloads.	Conduct a comprehensive mapping of existing support services in Kilkenny for children and young people with additional needs. Develop a user-friendly guide in multiple formats. Distribute the resource via schools, healthcare providers, community organisations, and online platforms. Run a communication campaign to raise awareness of the resource. Document service gaps and present findings in a gap analysis report to highlight unmet needs, advocate improvements, and drive collaborative action.	January 2026 – December 2026.	Active and Healthy Subgroup. HSE.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children and Young People.	Outcomes 1, 2 & 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Ensure quality services. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving in a learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Social, Emotional and Communication Skills.	Increase awareness of the potential adverse effects of prolonged screen use on children and young people, and promote healthier screen habits among families.	Availability of educational resources addressing the impact of prolonged screen use on children and young people. Reach of information and guidance on health screen use among families and relevant settings.	A minimum of 3 educational resources on screen use and healthy digital habits developed and distributed. Partnerships established with at least 10 schools and community organisations to support dissemination. Information on healthy screen use disseminated across agreed online and community platforms.	Gather existing educational resources on the impact of prolonged screen use for ages 0-18 and promoting healthier habits. Develop materials such as articles, videos, and infographics with insights and practical tips. Use targeted social media to highlight risks and support families in managing screen time. Partner with schools, healthcare, childcare, and community organisations to share the information.	January 2026 – December 2026.	Achieving Full In-learning and Development Subgroup Kilkenny Childcare Committee. Kilkenny Community Early Years Project.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 1 & 2. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Strengthen Transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving in a learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion.	Increase understanding and support for neurodivergent young people by raising awareness of their experiences, strengths, challenges and needs.	Number of neurodivergent young people engaged in focus group and development of content (autism, ADHD, dyslexia). Number of video's infographics, podcasts, and digital materials created. Completion and distribution of an accessible resource pack for the school community.	At least 20 neurodivergent young people engaged in focus groups and content development. A minimum of 10 digital awareness resources including Vimeo's, podcasts, infographics produced and shared. One accessible resource pack developed for the school community and distributed to all schools.	Gather input from neurodivergent young people and families through surveys and focus groups. Co-create multimedia content (videos, infographics, podcasts) with neurodivergent youth to share voices, challenge stereotypes, and promote neurodiversity as a strength. Work with young people, parents, and caregivers to develop accessible school resources explaining neurodivergence and practical support strategies.	September 2025 – December 2027.	Achieving Full In-learning and Development Subgroup	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 1, 2 & 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Involve young people. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving in a learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Positively Engaging in Learning.	Strengthen interagency responses to emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) by developing collaborative evidence informed resource pack for families, young people and the school community.	Establishment of an interagency working group to address emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA). Availability of an evidence-informed EBSA resource pack. Number of schools participating in piloting and feedback on the EBSA resource pack.	Interagency group established with at least 5 key stakeholders. Pilot the EBSA resource pack in a minimum of 10 schools, with feedback from parents, students, and staff. Finalised EBSA resource pack developed, and disseminated to all post-primary schools.	Form a collaborative team of stakeholders including educators, mental health practitioners and youth service providers, committed to addressing EBSA. Collaboratively create a comprehensive resource pack that includes evidence informed strategies, practical tools, and guidance tailored for schools, families, and support services. Pilot and distribute the resource pack in partnership with schools.	September 2026 – December 2027.	Achieving Full In-learning and Development Subgroup	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 1, 2, 4 & 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Early intervention & prevention. Involve young people. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving in a learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion.	Improve access to support services, further education, training, and employment opportunities for young people with disabilities aged 18 to 24.	Availability of a comprehensive guidance resource supporting education, training and employment pathways for young people with disabilities (18-24). Level of engagement with the resource including downloads and distribution reach. Stakeholder feedback received from young people, service providers and education providers on the relevance and usefulness of the guide.	Comprehensive guide developed and distributed to at least 90% of relevant organisations and schools. A minimum of 200 downloads of the guide. Gap analysis report completed and shared with stakeholders. At least 3 presentations of gap analysis report to key decision makers.	Identify existing supports, services, training, employment pathways, and organisations. Develop clear, accessible guidance tailored to young people with disabilities. Share drafts with key stakeholders and young people with disabilities for feedback and refinement. Disseminate the guide via media platforms, disability networks, schools, and employment agencies. Document service gaps and present findings in a gap analysis report to highlight needs, advocate improvements, and drive collaborative action.	March 2025 – December 2025.	Achieving Full In-learning and Development Subgroup	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children and Young People.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Transformational Goals: Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 2: Achieving in a learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Social, Emotional and Communication Skill.	To explore and implement opportunities for intergenerational community engagement programmes fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between generations.	Number of intergenerational programmes or events delivered. Number of young people and older community members participating in intergenerational initiatives. Percentage of young participants reporting an increase in knowledge, skills or understanding as a result of participation.	Deliver at least 3 intergenerational community events or programmes. Engage a minimum of 100 young people and 50 older community members across intergenerational initiatives. At least 75% of young participants report increased knowledge, skills or understanding as a result of participation.	Identify existing successful models of intergenerational programmes and adapt them to the local context. Collaborate with schools, youth organisations, senior centers, library services and community groups to co- design initiatives that cater to both young people and older adults.	September 2025 – December 2027.	Achieving Full In-learning and Development Subgroup Library Service.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 1, 2, & 5. Transformational Goals: Involve Children. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Child Protection.	Implement targeted Children's First and Signs of Safety information campaigns that raise awareness of the importance of this training across a wide, multi-sector audience including community groups, volunteers, and statutory and non-statutory services.	Number of Children First and Signs of Safety awareness campaigns delivered across digital and communications platforms. Engagement levels with campaign content. Evidence of increased awareness of Children First and Signs of Safety Training opportunities.	Deliver a minimum of 6 targeted awareness campaigns promoting Children First and Signs of Safety over the lifetime of the plan. Achieve at least 500 combined engagements across campaign content. Demonstrate clear signposting to Children First and Signs of Safety Training within all campaign materials.	Develop a series of targeted Children First and Signs of Safety campaign messages tailored for parents, professionals and community groups. Disseminate campaign content through CYPSC communication channels including social media newsletters and partner networks. Work with key stakeholders to ensure accurate messaging and consistent signposting to training. Schedule campaigns to align with national awareness periods training cycles and local priorities.	September 2025 – December 2027.	Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup. Tusla.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.	Outcomes 3. Transformational Goals: Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Trauma and Children and Young People.	Plan, co-ordinate, and deliver a trauma informed conference.	Completion of trauma-informed analysis with key findings and recommendations. Level of stakeholder engagement in planning the conference. Number of frontline workers registered and attending the conference. Conference pre and post evaluation.	At least 100 frontline workers registered and attend the trauma informed conference. Conference themes and content co-designed with input from key stakeholders. Pre and post conference evaluations with at least 80% attendees reporting increased knowledge or confidence in trauma-informed approaches by the end of the event.	Conduct a trauma-informed needs analysis. Consult with experts, service providers, and community organisation to shape conference themes and content. Develop and deliver a structured programme with speakers, workshops and networking opportunities tailored to the identified need. Gather feedback and assess knowledge uptake to inform future capacity-building initiatives.	March 2025 – March 2027.	Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 3. Transformational Goals: Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Parenting Support.	Enhance the level of awareness among parents and professionals of available services and supports in Kilkenny.	Number of website visits, time spent on pages and downloads of resources. Social media engagement including number of followers, shares, likes, comments and reach.	Increase visits to the Parenting Hub website by 30% from baseline January 2025. Achieve at least 500 downloads of parenting-related resources from the website. Publish 12 newsletter per year on the CYPSC Parenting Hub tab.	Continue to develop the Parenting Hub website and related social media platforms as an information hub for parents and professionals who work with them. Develop a newsletter on relevant issues for parents on the CYPSC tab within the Parenting Hub website. The content would provide actionable advice, raise awareness and drive traffic to resources.	January 2025 – December 2026.	Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup. PPFS. CFSN.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 3 Transformational Goals: Support parents. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Domestic Violence and Abuse.	Continue and strengthen the existing Kilkenny Domestic Abuse Action Network (KDAAN) fostering collaboration, planning and implementation of co-ordinated actions to effectively support individuals experiencing domestic violence and abuse.	Number of active members participating in regular network meeting as activities. Diversity of representation across services. Number of joint initiatives campaigns or interventions developed and implemented by the network.	At least six network meetings held annually with active participation from key stakeholders. A minimum of three joint campaigns developed and delivered by KDAAN per year. Yearly action plan produced and aligned with national and local domestic violence strategies.	Schedule and facilitate regular meetings to maintain collaboration, develop and implement actions, and network. Develop a yearly action plan for the network. Align network activities with local regional and national strategies on domestic violence and abuse.	January 2025 – December 2027.	Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 3. Transformational Goals: Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Bereavement Supports.	Strengthen bereavement support for children and young people in Kilkenny.	Completion of a comprehensive report on existing services and identification of gaps in provision of bereavement support services for children and young people. The development of an action plan for improvement of bereavement support services for children and young people in Kilkenny. Number of services engaged in promoting and improving bereavement support services.	Comprehensive report on bereavement services shared with stakeholders. Bereavement support action plan developed and agreed with key partners. At least 10 services actively engaged in improving and promoting bereavement support for children and young people.	Conduct a thorough mapping of current bereavement support services in Kilkenny for children and young people aged 0-24 years. Research new and /or alternative approaches to bereavement support services and best practices from other regions and countries to address unmet needs in the community. Build partnerships with community, voluntary, statutory sector to expand the availability and accessibility of bereavement support services for children and young people.	January 2026 – December 2026.	Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 3. Transformational Goals: Support transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion.	Identify and document existing education, employment, and training opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in rural Kilkenny.	Completion of a comprehensive mapping of existing education, employment and training opportunities for NEET young people in rural Kilkenny. Development and dissemination of a user-friendly information resource outlining available pathways. Level of engagement with information resources, including website visits, downloads and social media interactions.	A comprehensive mapping report Completed and published. A user-friendly information booklet developed and distributed to at least 200 NEET young people and service providers. Achieve at least 300 online engagements including website visits, downloads social media interactions.	Mapping existing education, employment and training opportunities for NEET young people living in rural Kilkenny. Develop and disseminate user friendly materials that outline currently available education, training and employment options.	April 2025 – December 2025.	Economic Security and Opportunity Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025. Pathways to Work 2021-2025.	Outcomes 2, 4, & 5. Transformational Goals: Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion.	Assess access to current education, employment and training opportunities for NEET young people.	Completion of a gap analysis identifying barriers to access in education, employment, and training provision for NEET young people. Level of engagement of NEET young people in consultation and needs assessment process. Number of cross-sector partnerships or initiatives developed to address identified gaps.	A comprehensive gap analysis report completed and shared with relevant stakeholders. Engagement of 50 NEETS young people through consultation or needs assessment activities. Establishment of at least 3 new partnerships initiatives or service adaptations to address identified access barriers.	Identify gaps and barriers in current provision preventing NEET young people from accessing opportunities. Investigate potential partnerships, funding opportunities, or programme adaptations to address identified barriers and gaps.	January 2026 – December 2026.	Economic Security and Opportunity Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025. Pathways to Work 2021-2025.	Outcomes 2,4, & 5. Transformational Goals: Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Economic Security.	Increase awareness among government bodies and key decision makers of the critical role speech and language therapy (SLT) services play in supporting child development and educational outcomes.	Completion of a comprehensive report on the current number of SLTs in Kilkenny including, waiting times, unmet needs and service gaps. Identification of geographic or demographic areas experiencing significant SLT shortages or extended waiting lists. Number of formal advocacy engagements with government parties and key decision makers informed by the report findings.	Comprehensive SLT needs and capacity report completed and published. At least 3 high need areas identified where SLT waiting times are unmet. A minimum of 3 formal submissions briefings or presentations made to relevant government bodies or key stakeholders, to inform policy and funding decisions.	Develop a comprehensive report that includes: Quantitative data - SLT to child ratios waiting list lengths. Qualitative insights - testimonials from affected families and educators. Case studies showing the positive impact of early SLT intervention. Share the report with Government bodies and other stakeholders as a basis for advocacy.	September 2025 – September 2026.	Economic Security and Opportunity Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5. Transformational Goals: Support parents. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Economic Security.	Enhance financial literacy among young people by co-developing and sharing accessible, culturally relevant resources and interactive content through workshops and social media platforms.	Number of young people engaged in co-design and delivery of financial literacy initiatives. Number of financial literacy learning resources developed and disseminated. Social media reach and engagement metrics related to financial literacy content.	At least 20 young people engaged in the co-design and development of financial literacy content. Delivery of a minimum of 5 interactive financial literacy sessions. Creation and publication of at least 5 age appropriate and culturally relevant financial literacy resources. Achievement of at least 500 social media engagements across financial literacy campaign content.	In collaboration with young people develop interactive sessions covering budgeting, saving, credit management and planning for future expenses. Create and disseminate easy-to-use learning materials/resources that can be customized for different cohorts. Disseminate the materials and resources through targeted social media campaigns to increase youth engagement and access to relevant information.	January 2027 – December 2027.	Economic Security and Opportunity Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025.	Outcomes 2, 4, & 5. Transformational Goals: Involve young people. Strengthen transitions. Interagency collaboration.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Children Rights.	Empower young people to take a leading role in the promotion and advocacy of children's rights through meaningful participation and peer-led initiatives.	<p>Number of young people recruited and trained as children's rights ambassadors.</p> <p>Number of children rights advocacy or awareness initiatives youth led, or co-led by young people.</p> <p>Number of children rights awareness events delivered.</p> <p>Number of children, young people, families and stakeholders reached through children's rights materials.</p>	<p>Recruit and train at least 10 young people as children's rights ambassadors.</p> <p>Deliver a minimum of 1 children rights awareness event in Kilkenny.</p> <p>Distribute accessible children's rights materials to a minimum of 20 schools, Youth Services and community venues across Kilkenny.</p>	<p>Recruit a group of young 'Right Ambassadors' to advocate for children's rights.</p> <p>Plan and host a Children's Rights Awareness event in Kilkenny.</p> <p>Develop and distribute accessible materials on children's rights to young people, families and stakeholders.</p>	January 2026 – December 2026.	Connected, Respected & Contributing Subgroup.	<p>Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.</p> <p>Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making Action Plan 2024-2028.</p>	<p>Outcomes 5.</p> <p>Transformational Goals: Listen and involve children and young people.</p>

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Youth Participation.	Support young people to develop leadership and decision-making skills by actively engaging in community and civic life through participation in European level youth initiatives.	Completion and submission of an Erasmus+ youth participation funding application. Number of young people aged 13 to 18 actively engaged in the co-design and delivery of an international youth participation project. Evidence of youth participation in decision making processes within the project.	Submit 1 Erasmus+ funding application for a youth participation project by the end of the planning phase. Engage a minimum of 20 young people aged 13 to 18 in the co-design and participation of an international youth project. Demonstrate active youth leadership with young people involved in at least 3 key stages of the project design, implementation, and evaluation.	Collaborate with Erasmus+ and other relevant partners to design a European youth participation project. Prepare and submit a funding application to support the delivery of the project, including youth leadership and exchange components.	January 2026 – December 2027.	Connected, Respected & Contributing Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making Action Plan 2024-2028.	Outcomes 5. Transformational Goals: Involve young people.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Youth Participation.	Ensure that the views, experiences, and ideas of children and young people actively inform CYPSC planning, decision making, and actions.	<p>Number of youth panels established and completed annually.</p> <p>Diversity of youth representation across age, gender, geography and lived experience.</p> <p>Number of youth informed recommendations formally submitted to CYPSC.</p> <p>Evidence of CYPSC planning actions or decisions informed by youth panel input.</p>	<p>Establish and support at least 2 youth panels per year linked to CYPSC priority areas.</p> <p>Ensure diverse representation across all youth panels.</p> <p>Submit a minimum of 5 youth informed recommendations per year to CYPSC.</p> <p>Demonstrate at least 1 CYPSC action, decision or work plan update per year informed by the youth panel.</p>	<p>Establish time limited panels focused on priority topics relevant to CYPSC work plan ensuring diverse representation. Facilitate inclusive sessions where panel members can share insights, identify challenges, and co-develop ideas or recommendations. Document and present youth panel findings to CYPSC members to influence planning and service delivery with feedback loops to inform young people of how their input has been used.</p>	January 2027 – December 2027.	Connected, Respected & Contributing Subgroup.	<p>Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.</p> <p>Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making Action Plan 2024-2028.</p>	<p>Outcomes 5</p> <p>Transformational Goals: Involve young people.</p>

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Youth Participation.	Empower young people to lead the design and advocacy of youth friendly spaces in Kilkenny.	Establishment of a youth-led working group focused on youth friendly spaces. Number of young people actively participating in the working group. Development of a youth-led proposal for youth friendly spaces. Number of formal submissions or presentations made by young people to local authorities, or key stakeholders. Number of stakeholder engagement sessions where young people present and advocate for their proposals.	Establish a youth-led working group with at least 15 active members. Develop and submit at least 1 youth designed proposal for youth friendly spaces to key stakeholders. Facilitate a minimum of 3 stakeholder engagement sessions where young people present their ideas and advocate for support.	Facilitate workshops and visioning sessions with young people to identify needs, priorities, and ideas for youth friendly spaces in their communities. Support young people to develop a formal proposal including visuals or models outlining their vision for youth friendly spaces. Organize stakeholder engagement meetings or presentations where young people can present their proposal gather feedback and advocate for support and action.	March 2026 -December 2027.	Connected, Respected & Contributing Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making Action Plan 2024-2028.	Outcomes 5. Transformational Goals: Involve young people.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Access to Public Transport.	Empower young people to identify and address transport and accessibility barriers in their communities by developing youth informed solutions and advocating for improved transportation options.	Completion of the youth informed mapping of rural transport access and accessibility challenges in Kilkenny. Number of young people engaged in transport, consultations and mapping exercises. Development of a youth-led transport vision or recommendation document. Number of youth-led presentations or submissions made to transport providers, local authorities, or relevant stakeholders. Evidence of stakeholder engagement or response to youth recommendations.	Engage a minimum of 30 young people in youth-led consultations and mapping societies to identify transport and accessibility barriers. Complete 1 youth informed transport mapping and vision document including clear recommendations for improvement. Submit the youth transport vision document to relevant transport providers and other key stakeholders. Facilitate a minimum of 2 youth-led presentations or engagement sessions with decision makers. Secure document feedback consideration or follow up actions from at least 1 stakeholder body.	Facilitate youth-led consultations and mapping exercises to identify key transport and accessibility challenges experienced by young people. Support young people to develop a set of recommendations or solutions including potential improvements or pilot projects for local transport services. Organise stakeholder engagement meetings or presentations where young people can present their proposal gather feedback and advocate for support and action.	March 2026 -December 2027.	Connected, Respected & Contributing Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making Action Plan 2024-2028.	Outcomes 5. Transformational Goals: Listen to and Involve young people.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

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 outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Safety.	Explore and understand young people's perceptions and experiences of personal and community safety.	Number of young people engaged in a youth-led participatory action research process on safety. Completion of a youth-led safety report outlining key concerns, experiences and priorities. Development of youth-led safety resources. Number stakeholders engaged through dissemination activities.	Engage a minimum of 20 young people as co-researchers. Complete and publish 1 youth-led safety report. Co-develop minimum of 2 youth informed safety resources or awareness tools based on research findings. Facilitate at least 2 presentations or engagement sessions where young people share findings with decision makers or relevant service providers.	Conduct participatory action research. Engage young people as active researchers to document and analyze safety concerns in their communities. In collaboration with young people, create accessible resources based on research findings to raise awareness about safety challenges and potential solutions. Support and facilitate the delivery of research presentations to CYPSC members and relevant stakeholders.	September 2026 – December 2027.	Connected, Respected and Contributing Subgroup.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	Outcomes 3. Transformational Goals: Listen to and involve young people.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
CYPSC Membership.	Strengthen the effectiveness of CYPSC by ensuring diverse and active representation from key stakeholders across the main committee and its subgroups.	Number and diversity of stakeholders represented on CYPSC main committee and subgroups. Attendance and participation rates at all CYPSC meetings. Evaluation of Stakeholders satisfaction with representation and engagement.	Increase stakeholder representation by at least 25% from underrepresented sectors. Achieve 85% attendance rate across CYPSC main committee and subgroup meetings. Conduct and analyze at least 1 annual stakeholder satisfaction survey, with 75% reporting satisfaction.	Review and map current CYPSC membership to identify the gaps in stakeholder representation. Engage with underrepresented stakeholders to invite and support their active participation on the main committee and subgroups. Establish and implement clear terms of reference and participation guidelines to support consistent and meaningful engagement across all members.	January 2025 – December 2027.	Kilkenny CYPSC.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	All outcomes and transformational goals.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Promotion of CYPSC.	Increase visibility, engagement and awareness of CYPSC in Kilkenny.	Completion of comprehensive digital strategy. Number of interactive campaigns launched. Number of visitors to digital platforms. Stakeholder & community feedback on visibility and awareness of CYPSC work.	Implement a digital strategy with at least 1 post per week across key platforms. Host 1 annual showcase event.	Develop a digital communication and promotion strategy. Create and share regular multimedia content online. Host an annual showcase event to present key initiatives and celebrate achievements.	January 2025 – December 2027.	Kilkenny CYPSC.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	All outcomes and transformational goals.

Action Plan for Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcomes(s) and or transformational goal(s)
Interagency Collaboration.	Enhance cross-sector collaboration by creating structured opportunities to build relationships, share knowledge, and develop deeper understanding of each other's roles and contributions.	<p>Number of networking events.</p> <p>Number of workshops organised.</p> <p>Number of participant attended networking events and workshops.</p> <p>Participant feedback on increased understanding and collaboration.</p>	<p>Host a minimum of 1 interagency networking event.</p> <p>Host 1 cross-sector workshop annually.</p>	<p>Host interagency networking events to encourage informal relationship building and strengthening professional connections.</p> <p>Deliver cross sector workshops or learning sessions focused on understanding roles, responsibilities, and collaboration opportunities across different services.</p>	January 2025 – December 2027.	Kilkenny CYPSC.	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028.	All outcomes and transformational goals.

SECTION 7: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Local Level

Kilkenny CYPSC is committed to ongoing review and monitoring of the implementation of the CYPP. An annual work plan will be developed and agreed upon for each of the three years of the plan. Each of the outcome subgroups and working groups will be responsible for the implementation of the actions agreed in the annual work plan. Outcome subgroup and working group Chairs will report on progress on actions on a regular basis to Kilkenny CYPSC. In this way emerging issues/challenges will be identified and addressed by the committee.

A formal annual review of the work plan will be undertaken and completed within the first quarter of the following year. This ensures accountability, tracks progress and provides an opportunity to reflect on what is working well and where improvements may be needed. A comprehensive overall review of the three-year plan will be conducted as part of the planning and development process for the next three-year strategic cycle. This review will inform future planning and ensure continuity of service development.

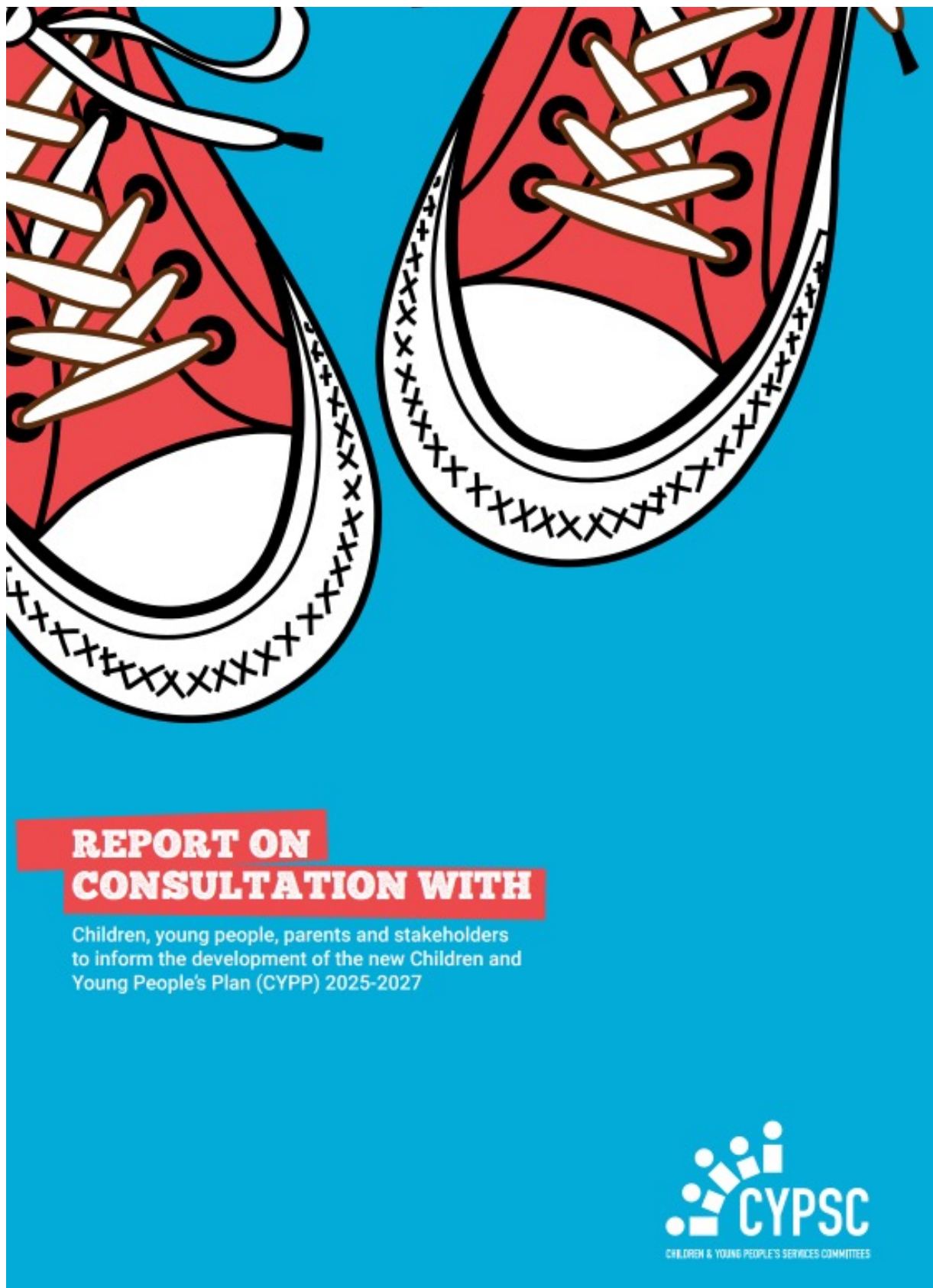
National Level

Kilkenny CYPSC will adhere to the CYPSC planning and reporting framework which sets out the parameters within which CYPSC planning and reporting will be conducted.

On a national scale, submissions including the annual programme of work, midyear progress and annual progress report are made to the National CYPSC Co-ordinator and the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality by the Co-ordinators Network. These reports provide updates and progress across the five national outcomes for children and young people. Submissions include input and data from Kilkenny CYPSC as well as other Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) nationwide, ensuring a collaborative, whole system approach to monitoring evaluation.

SECTION 8: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Consultation Report



Please follow the link

https://www.cypsc.ie/_fileupload/Documents/Resources/Kilkenny/cypsc-consult-report-24.pdf

Appendix 2: Socio Economic Profile for Kilkenny



KILKENNY CYPSC: Socio-Economic Profile 2024



Please follow the link

<https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Documents/Resources/Kilkenny/docs-for-cypp/cypsc-killkenny-socio-demographic-plan-1-kk3.pdf>



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Kilkenny

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