



Meath Children's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2012 - 2015

**This document is a template prepared by the Centre for
Effective Services on behalf of the OMCYA and the NCSIG
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“The Meath Children’s Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People’s Plan.

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Foreword

Meath Children's Services Committee

Foreword

Children's Services Committees are a local county based structure for bringing together agencies who work with children to engage in joint planning of services for children. Meath Children's Services Committee has been in existence for the past year.

Through the membership of our Committee, we are committed to arriving at a joint understanding with services and service users of the issues, which impact on the well being of children and families in Meath. In our working together, our focus is to ensure that statutory agencies, and community and voluntary services secure better developmental outcomes for children in Meath through more effective integrations of existing services and interventions at local level.

To achieve this, we have worked together to develop the Meath Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015 in line with local needs and the 5 National outcome areas for children. All members of the committee have contributed to the development of the plan and we are committed to delivering on the objectives, indicators, targets and activities under each of the priority areas identified.

As joint chairs of the Meath Children's Services Committee we warmly welcome the plan and thank our Committee and working group members for their contributions to date. We are committed to the growth and development of our Committee over the next 3 years. We will work to ensure that our achievements will have long term positive impacts on children and families in Meath, so that our children can grow up in families and inclusive local communities where they are healthy, happy and secure. The bonds and relationships between people in Meath are strong and have served us well in the past. Let us now, at a time when our county is suffering from economic downturn and services are facing funding challenges, commit to working together to ensure that our children will celebrate and remember our efforts on their behalf.

Sean Boylan
Mary Hargaden

Joint Chairs, Meath Children's Services Committee

October, 2012

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the Children's Services Committees is to secure better developmental outcomes for children through more effective integration of existing services and interventions at local level.

The Five National Outcomes for Children in Ireland envision that all children should be:

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

Background to the CSC initiative and policy context

Children's Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) established the Children's Services Committees in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. CSCs do this through interagency collaboration and joint planning and coordination of services.

A major Government policy which influenced and informed the development of the Children's Services Committees is the *Agenda for Children's Services: A policy handbook* (2007). The Agenda sets out the strategic direction and key goals of public policy in relation to children's health and social services. At the core of the Agenda is the promotion of good outcomes for children. In this Children and Young People's Plan the *national* outcomes for children in Ireland are linked with *local* priority areas, objectives, indicators and activities.

Children's Services Committee in County Meath

Meath Children's Services Committee was established in June, 2011, with members representing the HSE, Meath County Council, An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service, Meath VEC, the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN), the National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals (NAPDP), the North East-Regional Drugs Task Force, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and the Voluntary Sector. The Meath CSC will oversee and direct the delivery of initiatives that will improve outcomes for children, and which require collaboration between services.

Children's Services Committees are about improving outcomes for all children, with the aim of pooling and directing resources to children and families most requiring of same. The delivery of better services to children in Meath includes the need for quality support and interventions, coordination of service delivery, assessment and evaluation in order to inform best practice and policy development.

Who we are

The Meath Children's Services Committee (CSC) is comprised of representatives from Community, Voluntary and Statutory agencies that deliver services to children in County Meath. In order that the CSC can address issues relating to the National Outcomes for Children, senior managers and key decision makers from all the major statutory and voluntary services for children and families are represented on the CSC. Membership of the Meath CSC includes representatives from the agencies listed below.

Leadership on the CSC initiative, at a national level, has been provided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The DCYA designated the HSE to lead this new initiative under the auspices of the County Development Board (Governance Framework for the Working Together for Children Initiative, 2011). This decision was driven by the fact that the HSE is responsible for child welfare and protection and family support services, and has trained professionals to support the delivery of these services

Membership of Meath Children's Services Committee

Name	Title	Organisation
Mr. Seán Boylan	Community (<i>Chairperson</i>)	Community Representative
Ms. Mary Hargaden (From 1 st January, 2012 – to present)	Area Manager (<i>Co-Chairperson</i>)	HSE Children & Family Services Louth/Meath
Mr. Boyd Dodds (From 22 nd June, 2011 – 28 th February, 2012)	Regional Lead, Children First & Child Protection	HSE Children & Family Services Dublin NE
Mr. Tom Dowling (from 22 nd June, 2011 - Sept 2012)	County Manager	Meath County Council
Mr. Des Foley	Director of Housing & Community (<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>)	Meath County Council
Ms. Mary Gormley	Superintendent	An Garda Síochána Meath Division
Ms. Kerry Quinn	Senior Probation Officer	Probation
Ms. Eileen Gilsenan	Assistant Director of PHN	HSE
Dr. Peter Nolan (from 22 nd June, 2011 – 25 th June, 2012)	Chief Medical Officer	HSE Dublin North East
Dr. Ros Quinlan (from 24 th July, 2012 – present)	Medical Officer	HSE Meath
Dr. Emma Clare	Senior Research & Development Officer	HSE Dublin North East
Ms. Catherine McGlone (From 12 th October, 2011 – 27 th March, 2012)	Family Support & Child Welfare Services Manager	HSE
Ms. Fiona Kearney (From 15 th May, 2012 - present)	Family Support & Child Welfare Services Manager	HSE
Mr. Sé Fulham	Manager	Navan Springboard (representing the voluntary sector)
Dr. Padraic O'Dowd	Deputy Principal	National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals
Mr. Seamus Ryan	Retired Education Officer	Meath VEC
Mr. Alan Doran	Principal Psychologist	HSE
Ms. Marie Daly	CEO	Crann Support Group
Ms. Elizabeth Sheridan	Primary School Principal	Irish Primary Principals Network
Mr. Andy Ogle	HSE Regional Drug Coordinator	North East Regional Drugs Task Force
Mr. Leonard Callaghan	Co-ordinator Meath CSC)	HSE Children's Services

Achievements to date

1. Priority Areas identified
2. Six Working Groups formed
3. Socio-demographic profile completed
4. Four Focus Group Consultations with Teenage Young People in County Meath, namely, Meath Comhairle na nÓg and JIGSAW Meath. Some of the recurring themes emerging from the consultations include:
 - Concerns around security and threat of assault (young people are afraid to walk in certain areas of Navan at certain times);
 - Lack of safe spaces to hang out (more parks, youth areas, teenage playgrounds and outdoor gyms are needed);
 - Importance of private retail spaces such as the shopping centre, cinema, fast food outlets as a space to hang out;
 - Drugs (young people witness drug use everyday), and
 - Concerns around the price and availability of rural transport (See Appendix V)
5. Meath Children & Young People's Plan 2012-2015 completed and signed off

How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

The Meath CSC's "Meath Children and Young People's Plan 2012–2015" was developed by the partner agencies and is founded on information collated from a data gathering project conducted in 2009. The development of this first workplan was driven by a desire by all the partner agencies to improve interagency work, the sharing of information and resources in order to improve outcomes for children and families in county Meath.

The Meath Children's Services Committee has developed the first strategic interagency plan for Meath based on the priority action areas and objectives identified by the Meath CSC working groups. It is the intention of the Meath Children's Services Committee to engage with children, young people and their families in the roll out of the workplan. Meath CSC will develop a consultation process to ensure the voice of children and young people is reflected in all aspects of our work. All future action plans will be developed in partnership with children, young people and their families.

The initial stages of developing the Meath CSC's Workplan were completed by facilitated planning sessions, with reference to the 5 National Outcomes for Children, in order to identify the priority areas (local issues) which would benefit from a more collaborative inter-agency working approach.

National Outcomes for Children:

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

Working groups were then established for each priority area identified comprised of Meath CSC

members and the relevant agencies and stakeholders from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors.

Draft workplans were developed by the CSC, based on a template provided by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, each working group detailed the following components:

- Objectives identifying desired achievements for each priority area
- Indicators to measure degree of success achieved
- Targets to identify the desired change in service provision
- Activities which will be undertaken to support achievement of objectives
- Timeframes for completion of individual objectives

Working groups will report back to the CSC on progress achieved towards fulfilment of objectives ensuring the Meath CSC Workplan remains a live and relevant document focused on improvement in inter-agency working in its mission to improve services for children and young people in County Meath.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of County Meath

This section presents an outline of the socio-demographic profile of Meath based on CSO census, labour force and vital statistics data and makes reference to a number of key reports including:

- Meath County Council (2012) Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019
- Meath Citizens Information Service and Meath County Development Board (2008) 'Engaging Difference: The Opportunity of Diversity in a Changing County Meath'
- Meath County Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010
- Meath Education and Training Forum (2005) Meath Education and Training Audit
- Meath County Council (2008) Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012
- Health Service Executive (2012) Review of Adequacy for HSE Children and Families Services, 2010
- Staines, A (2010) Towards the development of a resource allocation model for primary, continuing and community care in the health services

The full 2011 Census figures, including the small area population statistics, had not been released at the time this plan was prepared. Where possible 2011 figures are cited in the profile, however, in many cases 2006 Census figures have had to be used. Given the substantial changes that have occurred in Irish society, particularly economically, since 2006 any conclusions drawn from 2006 figures need to be treated with a degree of caution.

A range of factors have been identified as social determinants of health and well-being and generally include inequality; poverty; social exclusion; income; public policy; health services; employment; education; housing; transport; the built environment; health behaviours and lifestyles; social and community networks; and stress (Farrell et al, 2008). Research has shown that 'marginalised' or 'socially excluded' groups suffer more ill-health and poor social well-being than those not in these groups (DHSS, UK, 1999). There is evidence that Travellers, lone parents, and asylum seekers, for example, experience stress, depression, or mental health difficulties linked to discrimination, stigmatisation, and poor living conditions (Combat Poverty Agency, 2007). A study of disability and social inclusion found that people with disabilities were twice as likely to be in poverty as others in society (Gannon and Nolan, 2006).

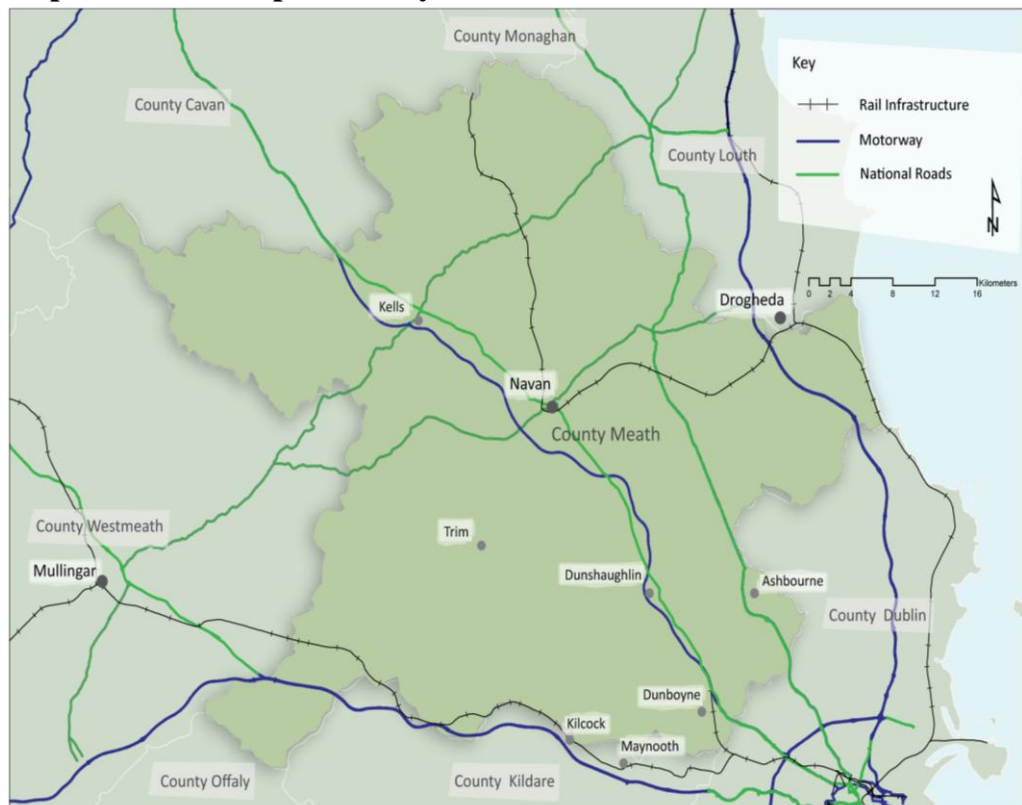
Certain factors have also been identified as impacting on a parent's capacity to meet the needs of their children (Buckley et al, 2005). These factors include alcohol and drug misuse, mental health difficulties, parental disability, parenting alone, being an adolescent parent/carer, parenting a child with a disability or complex health needs, being a member of an ethnic minority group and socio-economic factors. According to Gaudin et al (1996) child maltreatment is far more likely to be recorded among low-income families while Tomison (1995, p 5) claims that the following factors are predictors of neglect: 'low income, larger, multi-problem families, families receiving government benefits, poor housing and living conditions'.

The data outlined below reports on some of these key social determinants that impact on the health and well-being of children and families.

Background

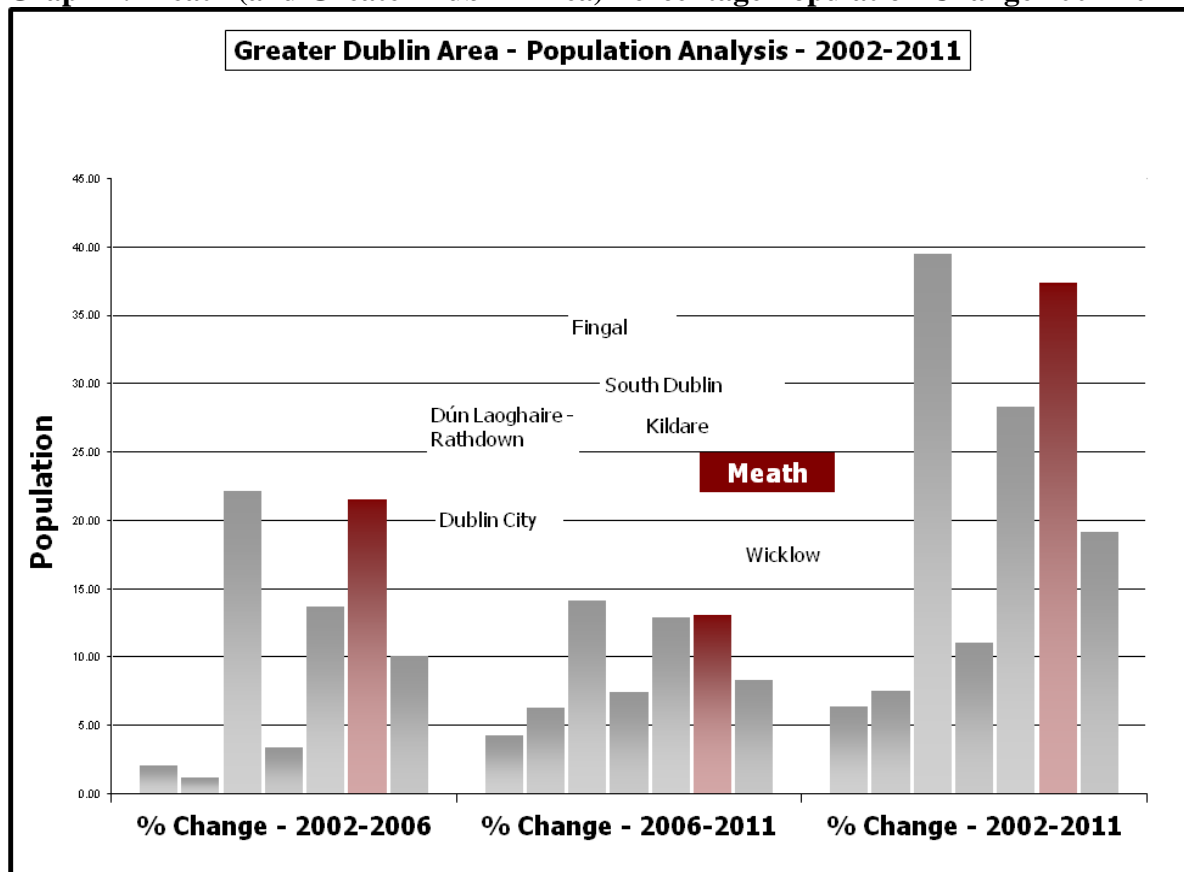
Meath is situated on the northern and northern western border of County Dublin and borders counties Kildare, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. County Meath comprises part of the Greater Dublin area, along with Kildare, Wicklow, Dublin City, Fingal South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 aim to direct the future growth of these areas over the medium to long term and implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy. This sets out a detailed strategy in respect of economic development, settlement patterns, population projections and housing, rural development, infrastructure, heritage and social development.

Map 1: Context Map of County Meath



Source: Meath County Council Draft Development Plan 2013-2019 (2012)

Meath County experienced significant population increase over the last fifteen years, growing from 109,732 in 1996 to 184,135 in 2011, which equates to an increase of 68%. This growth is primarily attributable to the growth of the county's population between 1996 and 2002 (in excess of 22%) and between 2002 and 2006 (a 22% growth), while the period between 2006 and 2011 saw a 13% growth.

Graph 1: Meath (and Greater Dublin Area) Percentage Population Change 2002-2011

Source: Meath County Council Draft Development Plan 2013-2019 (2012)

A brief comparison of Meath's rate of population growth with the other counties in the Greater Dublin Area (see Graph 1 above) demonstrates the significance of Meath's population increase, which is second only to Fingal in terms of percentage population change 2002 to 2011: 39.5% compared with 37.4% (Meath County Council, 2012).

The population of Meath now accounts for 10.2% of the total population within the Greater Dublin Area, having previously accounted for 8.7% in 2002 and 9.8% in 2006.

Meath's population differs from the national average. Meath records a high percentage of children in the 0-4 age cohort, and a high percentage of adults in the 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 cohorts. Furthermore, Meath has a relatively low percentage of adults in the 70+ age cohorts. This indicates that Meath has a high proportion of young families (Meath County Council, 2012).

Navan is the ninth largest town in the Republic of Ireland and the largest town in Meath and is situated in the centre of the county where most of the activities in the county radiate from. Most unusual in the growth of Navan is the fact that new housing developments account for over half of the houses in Navan, which were built between 1996 and 2002 (Meath Education and Training Audit, 2005).

Meath has experienced population explosions in certain areas. Certain population growths can be attributed to Meath's proximity to Dublin. The main areas that experienced population

explosions were Drogheda, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Navan Rural, Kentstown, Athboy, Castlerickard, Enfield, Kells Rural, Duleek, Julianstown, Stamullen and Slane.

There are two Gaeltacht Areas in Co Meath, one in Rath Cairn and the other in Baile Gibb. Rath Cairn is situated adjacent to Navan, Kells, Trim and Athboy and Baile Gibbs is situated southeast of Kells. In terms of childcare facilities, both areas are serviced by Naionra (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006).

General Health of Meath Population, 2011

In the 2011 Census a question was added that allowed people to rate their own general health. In terms of their general health, 64% of Meath's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 27% rated it as good. Less than one per cent (0.20%) rated their general health as very bad or bad (0.92%) while six per cent of Meath's population rated their general health as fair.

Table 2: General Health of Meath and the State

	Total	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad	Very Bad	Not stated
Meath	184135	117657	49209	11817	1693	371	3388
%	100	64	27	6	0.9	0.2	2
State	4588252	2767681	1282956	368131	57243	12418	99823
%	100	60	28	8	1	0.3	2

Source: CSO, 2012

Compared to the figures for the State, Meath recorded a higher percentage of people rating their health as very good, the percentage for the State was 60%. The percentage who rated their health in Meath as very bad was slightly lower than that of the State (0.27%). The State percentage for fair health was higher than that of Meath (eight per cent compared to six).

Relative Affluence and Deprivation

The Deprivation Index developed by Haase Pratsche provides a single measurement of the overall deprivation of an area. This index takes the underlying dimensions of social disadvantage (social class, demographic decline and labour market deprivation) into consideration.

Overall, the Mid East Region is the most affluent region of Ireland. Based on 2006 Census figures, Meath was the second most affluent local authority area within the region and the sixth most affluent county in Ireland as whole (TrutzHasse, 2008). The relative affluence of Meath reached a temporary high of 7.4 in 2002 but had dropped to 6.5 in 2006. As with every county, there exists a degree of variation within Meath, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.

At a local level, the most disadvantaged EDs are Killeagh (-9.0), Cloghbrack (-7.8) and Kells Urban (-6.9) but not a single ED falls into the 'disadvantaged' category. All EDs are at the most marginally below the national average.

The Deprivation Index indicates the following:

- Towns such as Navan, Kells and Trim are deemed marginally below average
- Areas of deprivation and decline within Meath are predominantly located to the north and southwest of the county, for example Oldcastle, Ballinlough, Ardagh, Kilmainham, Drumcontrath, Slane and Donore electoral divisions.

- The most affluent electoral divides and district electoral divides in the county are located in close proximity or within commuting distances from Dublin along the N2 and N3 routes, towns such as Dunshaughlin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, and Dunboyne.
(Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006)

There are particular areas highlighted in the county as needing additional support and funding opportunities to break down the barriers facing these communities. These are the RAPID and CLAR areas of Meath (See detailed Socio-demographic profile, Appendix X).

Key Demographics of County Meath

Population

The population of Meath was recorded as 184,034 in the April 2011 Census. This represents a 13% (21,203) increase from the 2006 Census figure of 162,831. The projected population of Meath is 195,898 persons in 2016, rising to 210,260 persons by 2022 (Meath County Council, 2012).

Meath had the highest proportion of residents born outside the county with 62.8 per cent of residents born outside the county (47.6% born in another county and 15.3% born abroad).

The change in population since the previous census was 21,304. During that period there were a total of 17,469 births and 4,025 deaths. There was a natural increase of 13,444 and an estimated net migration of 7,860 individuals.

The average annual birth rate for Meath during this period was 20.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 16.6 for the State and the average annual death rate was 4.6 per 1,000 of population compared to 6.4 for the State. The average annual natural increase was 15.5 per 1,000 of population while it was 10.2 for the State and the average annual estimated net migration rate was 9.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 5.5 for the State.

Meath County is made up of 92 Electoral Divisions¹ (ED). Electoral divisions are the smallest legally defined administrative areas in the State for which Small Area Population Statistics are published from the Census.

In 2006, Navan Rural ED recorded the highest concentration of people with 23,683 people recorded as residing there, representing 14.5% of Meath's population. Possecktown ED recorded the lowest number of people living in an ED with 172 people or less than one per cent of Meath's population. (See detailed Socio-demographic profile, Appendix X for Meath's 10 EDs with the highest population in 2006).

¹ One of Meath's ED, St Mary's straddles the Louth-Meath border and is separated into two equal divisions in the small area population statistics tables produced by the CSO.

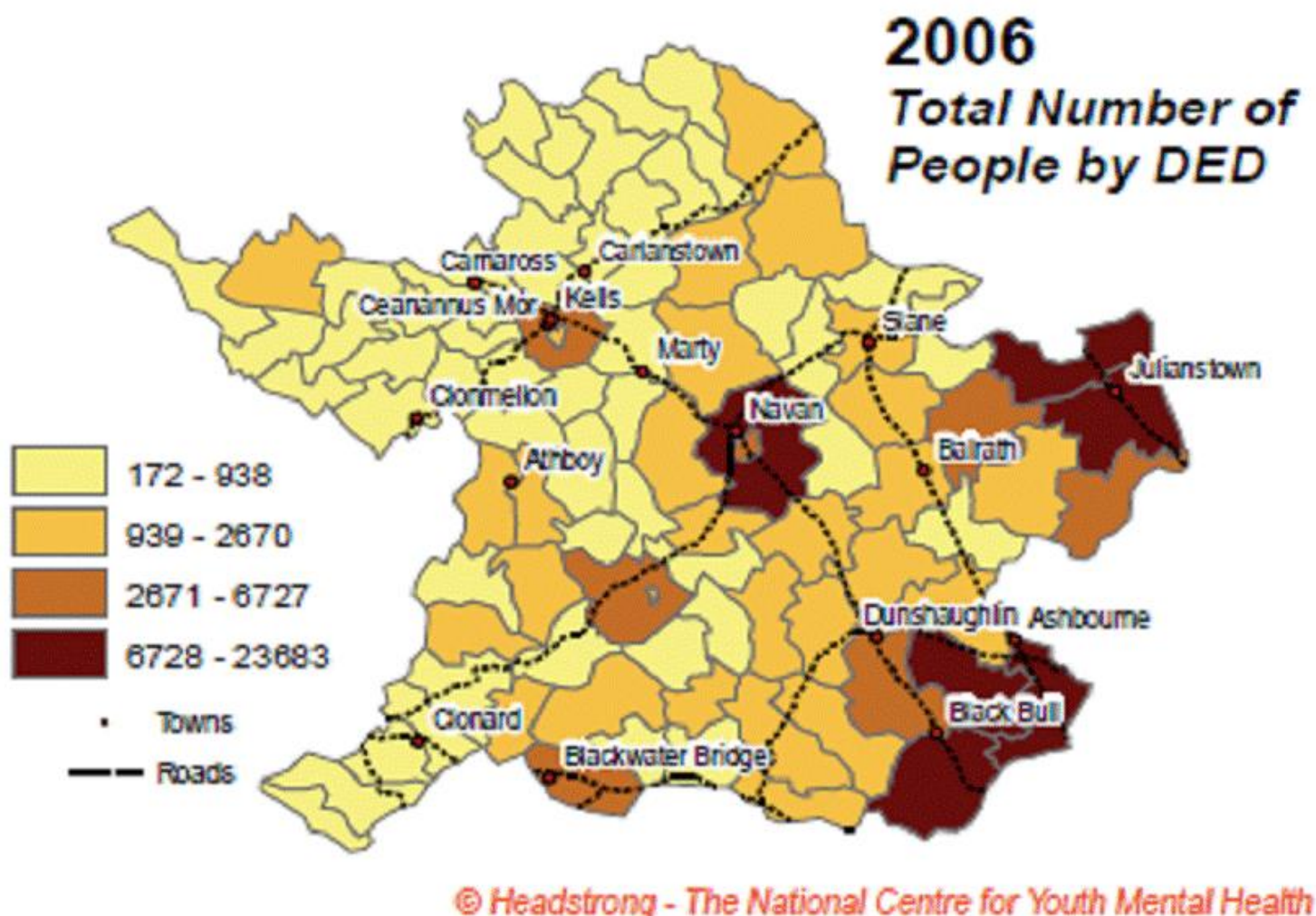


Table 3: Meath 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 age groups by number and percentage of total population, 2011 and 2006

Age group	Number, 2011	% of total population, 2011	Number, 2006	% of total population, 2011
All ages	184135	100	162831	100
0-4 years	17502	9.5	14228	8.7
5-9 years	15495	8.4	12800	7.9
10-14 years	13469	7.3	11122	6.8

Source: CSO, 2012

In terms of Meath's total population in 2011, 0-4 years make up 9.5% of Meath's population compared to 8.7% in 2006; while those aged 5 to 9 years comprise 8.4% of the total population compared to 7.9% in 2006. Young people aged 10-14 years made up 7.3% of Meath's total population in 2011 compared to 6.8% in 2006 (see Tables 4 and 5 below).

46,466 children and young people aged between 0 and 14 years resided in Meath in April 2011 representing 25.2% of Meath's total population. In 2006, the total number of young people aged 0-17 residing in Meath was 44,621 which gives some indication of the increase in the 0-17 year population in the county in the last five years.

Table 4: Changes in number of 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years between 2006 and 2011

Age group	2011	2006	Change in number
0-4 years	17502	14228	+3274
5-9 years	15495	12800	+2695
10-14 years	13469	11122	+2347

Source: CSO, 2012

In 2006, the ED in Meath which recorded the highest number and highest percentage of children was Navan Rural where 6,852 or 15% of all children in Meath resided. Killallon ED recorded the lowest number and percentage of children in Meath (47: 0.10%).

Table 5, below, outlines the total population and the population of 0-14 and 15-24 year olds of towns in Meath with populations of 1,500 and over in April 2011. As can be seen Dunshaughlin records the highest percentage of 0-14 year olds of these Meath towns with 35.3% of Dunshaughlin's total population recorded as being aged 14 or below in April 2011. Ratoath records the second highest percentage of 0-14 years with 33.3% of its total population being recorded in this age group. In all but three of these eleven towns (Trim, Kells and Ashbourne) record over a quarter of their total population as being aged between 0 and 14 years of age.

Table 5: Persons in each town with 1,500 population and over, classified by age group, 2011

Town	Total	0-14 years	0-14 as % of total town pop	15-24 years	15-24 as % of total town pop
Navan	28559	7610	26.6	3162	11.1
Ashbourne	11355	2671	23.5	1393	12.2
Laytown-Bettystown-Mornington	10889	3039	27.9	1010	9.3
Ratoath	9043	3017	33.3	894	9.9
Trim	8268	1959	23.6	1009	12.2
Kells	5888	1396	23.7	661	11.2
Kilcock	5533	1552	28.0	549	9.9
Duleek	3988	1136	28.5	412	10.3
Dunshaughlin	3903	1034	35.3	509	13.0
Enfield	2929	873	29.8	309	10.5
Athboy	2397	618	25.8	295	12.3

Source: CSO, 2012

The population of secondary school children (aged 13-18) remained almost static between 2006 and April 2011, increasing by less than one per cent to stand at 344,931 nationally. Meath, however, recorded the second highest increase in this age group (9.5%) after Laois and Kildare who both recorded a 10.3% increase (CSO, 2012).

Age Dependency

Age dependency shows the ratio of the old and young population to the population of working age. The young dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0-14 as a percentage of the population of working age. In April 2011 this rate stood at 31.9% for the State overall. Meath recorded the highest young dependency ratio (38.3%) and along with Laois and Cavan recorded young and fast growing populations.

Meath also recorded the youngest urban population with an average age of 31.4 years (CSO, 2012).

Childcare Facilities

In June 2012 there were 223 childcare services notified to the Meath HSE Pre-school Inspectorate. Of this 223, 23 (10%) were community based with 200 operating privately at this time. There were no child minders notified. Between these 223 childcare services they offer 5,797 childcare places.

Of these 5,797 childcare places, 1,360 of them are full-time places offered and 952 are part time offered in full day care services. A total of 3,455 sessional places are offered in 171 sessional services. The number of sessional services and places continue to increase for the first time in 10 years a decrease in the number of full-time and part time places has been seen (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2012).

Of the total number of services, 216 (97%) offer the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme², representing 5.7% of the national figure. A total of 2,650 children are enrolled on ECCE in Meath. Of the 216 services offering ECCE, 11% receive the higher capitation grant with 2.7% of these being full day care facilities.

Of the 23 community services in the county, 15 (65%) offer the childcare subvention (CCS). This is a capitation for parents who are in receipt of a social welfare payment and this type of subvention is only available through community services.

A total of 45 childcare services in Meath offer the Childcare Training and Education Scheme (CETS) which provides subsidised childcare for those on certain FAS and VEC training/education programmes. There are approximately 80 places available with a maximum capacity of 143 children at any one time (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2012).

There are 39 known Parent and Toddler groups operating in the Meath area.

Navan ED has the greatest percentage of childcare facilities at 29% or 64 services, followed by Dunshaughlin ED with 26% or 57 services. Kells is the most poorly serviced ED with only 9% (21 Services) of all places. Slane ED is at 20% or 44 services and Trim ED at 16% or 35 services. There has been a change in the demographic for childcare facilities since Meath County Council's last study in 2004 where Dunshaughlin ED had the greatest proportion of facilities at 36% (Meath County Council, 2012).

Childcare is an issue for children up to 3 year old in the Mosney resettlement community. The Daughters of Charity Pre-School facility, which receives funding from the HSE is located in Mosney. They are also supported by the Reception and Integration Agency under the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006).

Births and Birth Rates

Births in Meath represented 7.4% of all births in Leinster and 4.7% of all births in the State.

² The universal free pre-school place

The birth rate for Meath in 2009 was 20.5 per 1,000 population which was substantially higher than the national rate of 16.9 and the rate for Leinster which was 17.7. Only Fingal had a higher birth rate than Meath in 2009, while Kildare recorded the same rate as Meath.

Table 6: Number of births by area of residence of mother

Area of residence of mother	2009
Kells Town	267
Navan Town	824
Trim Town	165
Rest of Co. Meath	2261
Total for county	3517

Source: Vital Statistics Annual Reports, CSO, (2012)

Of the 3,517 births in 2009, 80 were to mothers under the age of 20 years (2.3%). This was slightly below the national average of 2.9%.

In 2008, Meath recorded a rate of 18 per 1,000 live births of mothers aged 13-19 years (HSE, www.outcomesforchildren.org).

Deaths and Mortality Rates

A total of 808 people residing in county Meath died in 2009. Of these 808, 10 were aged 0-4 years, one was aged 5-14 years and 13 were aged 15-24 years. The majority of deaths of residents of Meath were people aged 65 and over, accounting for 75% (606) of all deaths. A total of 56 of deaths of residents in Meath had external causes of death in 2009. In 21 cases the external cause of death was intentional self-harm and in two cases assault was the external cause of death.

Table 7: Stillbirths and infant mortality per 1,000 live births for Meath and State

	Infant mortality		Neonatal mortality		Stillbirths		Perinatal mortality	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Meath 2009	8	2.3	6	1.7	17	4.8	22	6.2
State 2009	247	3.3	168	2.2	294	3.9	433	5.7

Source: Vital Statistics Annual Report, CSO, (2012)

The stillbirth and infant mortality rates in some areas based on small numbers are subject to considerable fluctuation and caution should be exercised in their interpretation. In 2009, Meath recorded lower rates of infant mortality and neonatal mortality than the State and higher rates of stillbirth and perinatal mortality.

Ethnicity, Nationality and Migrant Population

The total population of Meath in 2006 was 162,831; with 9% (14,448) of this population being non-Irish nationals.

Table 8: Persons usually resident and present in the State on Census Night, classified by nationality, 2006

Nationality	Irish	UK	Polish	Lithuanian	Other EU25 ³	Rest of World	Not Stated	Total
Meath County	145577	3811	1902	2173	2144	4418	1326	161351
Leinster	1986133	49163	35688	15245	47063	98734	27888	2259914
State	3706683	112548	63276	24628	75323	143958	45597	4172013

CSO: 2006

In 2006, 90% of the population of Meath were recorded as being Irish, 2.4% were of UK nationality, 1.3% of Lithuanian nationality and 1.2% were Polish. A total of 2.7% of Meath's population in 2006 was recorded as being from the Rest of the World (African, Asian, US), 1.3% were from Other EU25 countries and less than one per cent (0.82% did not state their nationality).

Table 9: Persons usually resident and present in the State on Census Night, classified by ethnic or cultural background

Ethnic Group	White Irish	White Irish Traveller	Any other White background	Black or Black Irish	Asian or Asian Irish	Other	Not stated	Total
Meath County	143379	724	10422	1952	1138	1600	2136	161351
Leinster	1943622	11367	161884	31668	38660	27817	44896	2259914
State	3645199	22369	289041	44318	52345	46438	72303	4172013

Source: CSO, 2006

In 2006, 89% of the population of Meath were recorded as being White Irish, less than one per cent were White Irish Traveller (0.45%) and 6.5% were recorded as any other White background. A total of 1.2% were recorded as Black or Black Irish and less than one per cent were recorded as Asian or Asian Irish. Less than one per cent were recorded as 'Other' and 1.3% did not state their ethnic or cultural background.

For all non-Irish nationalities and non-Irish ethnic or cultural backgrounds, the largest proportion resided in the Navan Rural Electoral Division (see Appendix 4).

According to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website, the total number of work permits issued nationally in 2011 to non-EU migrants was 5,200 with 98 of those being issued in Co. Meath (1.9%). The number of work permits issued to non-EU migrants, both nationally and in the county, has been decreasing in recent years; for example in 2008 a total of 13,567 permits were issued nationally with 427 (3.1%) of those permits being issued in Co Meath.

³ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and The Netherlands

Meath currently has a direct provision reception centre in Mosney which is located in the east of the county. It provides a settlement community for asylum seekers and refugees. Upon arrival in Ireland asylum seekers must apply for asylum and while their applications are being considered they are accommodated in a settlement community. Asylum seekers must remain there until their application is fully processed.

Mosney has a capacity of 600. For Mosney residents the asylum seeking period takes an average of 18 months and in some cases up to three years (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006). There are limited supports and resources directed to the Mosney residents from the community, voluntary or statutory agencies in the county.

As of July 2012, Mosney recorded 535 residents. Of this 535, 315 were children (59%). There were 124 families with children residing in Mosney in July 2012, 69 lone parents with children, five couples, seven single males and 10 single females. There were 37 different nationalities residing in Mosney at this time comprised of African, Middle East, Eastern European and others. The largest single nationality was Nigerian (183, 34%).

As can be seen in Table 10 below, 53% of the children residing in Mosney were aged between 5 and 12 years while 36% (113) were aged between 0 and 4 years.

Table 10: Age breakdown of children residing in Mosney

Age range	Number of children
0-2	42
3-4	71
5-12	166
13-18	36
Total	315

Source: Mosney Centre, 2012

See more detailed socio-demographic profile in Appendix IV for information on issues raised by migrants themselves, statutory agencies and NGOs and voluntary agencies in research on migration and integration issues in county Meath.

Meath has a specific group working with migrants. Cultúr has been in existence for six years and has developed experience and expertise over this period. The lack of an overall investment from a social inclusion perspective in the county of Meath, however, has impacted on the work of Cultúr and work with migrants.

Socio-Economic Status including Highest Level of Education Completed, Labour Force Participation, Unemployment Rates and Principal Economic Status

Table 11: Persons aged 15 years and over classified by highest level of education completed, 2011

	Meath	%	State	%
Total	137669	100	3608662	100
Total whose full-time education has ceased	116661	84.7	3003490	83.2
Primary (incl no formal education/training)	15073	12.9	456896	12.7
Lower secondary	20246	17.4	499489	13.8
Upper secondary	44195	37.9	1032120	28.6
Third Level: Non-degree	5736	4.9	135122	3.7
Third Level: Degree or higher	26610	22.8	739992	20.5
Not stated	4801	4.12	139871	3.9
Total whose full-time education has not ceased	21008	15.3	605172	16.8
Total at school, university etc	13775	65.6	408838	67.6
Other	7233	34.4	196334	32.4

Source: CSO, 2012

Of the 137,669 persons aged over 15 years residing in Meath in 2011, 85% had ceased full-time education. Of those who had ceased full time education, 13% completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary and 38% at upper secondary level. A total of five per cent ceased education at non-degree third level and 23% ceased at degree or higher third level.

In terms of the State in 2011, 15% who had completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary; and 34% at upper secondary level. A total of 4.5% ceased education at non-degree third level and 25% ceased at degree or higher third level.

Meath had a smaller percentage of persons aged 15 years and over who only had completed primary level education than the State. It had a similar percentage of person who had completed lower secondary level education as the State and a higher level of persons who had completed upper secondary level education than the State. Meath had a similar percentage cease education at non-degree level and a lower percentage who completed their education at degree level or higher third level than the State.

Labour Force Participation

The percentage of people aged 15 and over who participate in the labour force, as opposed to having another status such as student, retired or homemaker, is known as the labour force participation rate. It is measured as the number in the labour force (at work or unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the total aged 15 and over. The age structure of each county has a significant effect on the labour force participation rate.

The labour force participation rate for the State was 61.9% in 2011, down from 62.5% recorded in 2006, the first fall in the rate since 1986.

Meath recorded the second highest labour force participation in the State (65.8%) with participation rates being higher for males (74.4%).

Unemployment Rates

The number of people unemployed nationally (that is unemployed having lost or given up a previous job or looking for their first regular job) based on their declared Principal Economic Status in April 2011 was 424,843, an increase of 136.7% compared with April 2006 and amounting to an additional 245,387 people unemployed. Men accounted for 167,694 (68.3%) of the increase.

Meath saw an increase of over 10% in its unemployment rate between 2006 and 2011. Meath was identified as having one unemployment blackspot (Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Urban: 37.8%). An unemployment blackspot is defined as an ED whose labour force exceeded 200 persons and where the unemployment rate on a Principal Economic Status basis exceeded 35%. There were 81 such EDs in the State in 2011 with an average unemployment rate of 39.2% compared with 19% nationally (CSO, 2012).

The unemployment rate for Meath was 18.0 in April 2011 which was below the State rate of 19.0.

Principal Economic Status

Table 12: Persons aged 15 years and over in Meath classified by principal economic status

Principal economic Status	Meath
Total	137669
At work	74342
Looking for first regular job	1137
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	15155
Student	13775
Looking after home/family	14108
Retired	13959
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	4839
Other	354

Source: Census, 2012

Of the 137,669 people recorded as aged over 15, 74,342 (54%) were recorded as being at work, 11% (15,155) were recorded as being unemployed, and less than one per cent (1137: 0.83%) were recorded as looking for their first regular job. A total of 10% were identified as looking after the home or family, 10% were identified as students and a further 10% were identified as being retired. A total of 3.5% of person aged 15 years and over in Meath were identified as being unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability.

Socio-Economic Grouping

Table 13: Persons in Meath by socio-economic group

Socio-economic group	Meath	% of total	State	% of total
Total	184135	-	4588252	-
A: Employers and managers	34911	19.0	705132	15.4
B: Higher professionals	10764	5.8	295586	6.4
C: Lower professionals	22438	12.2	556587	12.1
D: Non-manual	38441	20.9	931068	20.3
E: Manual skilled	18079	9.8	386742	8.4
F: Semi-skilled	13680	7.4	359725	7.8
G: Unskilled	5406	2.9	151949	3.3
H: Own account workers	9508	5.2	196774	4.3
I: Farmers	5696	3.1	166231	3.6
J: Agricultural workers	1382	0.75	23504	0.51
Z: All others gainfully occupied and unknown	23830	12.9	814954	17.8

Source: CSO, 2012

Socio-economic grouping classifies the entire population into one of 10 categories based on the level of skill and educational attainment of their occupation (those at work, unemployed or retired) while all other people are classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they are deemed to be dependent.

The eastern counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (39.7%), Fingal (27.5%), Wicklow (26.5%) Kildare (25.6%) and Meath had the highest proportion of persons classified to socio-economic groups A and B combined with Limerick City (15.4%) (CSO, 2012). In April 2011, Meath recorded 24.8% of its population classified to socio-economic groups A (employers and managers) and B (higher professional).

Car Ownership

County Meath recorded the highest proportion of households with at least one car (90%) in April 2011. Meath also recorded the largest proportion of households with two cars.

Personal Computer Ownership and Internet Access

Table 14: Number of private households in permanent housing units classified by personal computer ownership and access to the internet

	Total	Yes	No	Not stated	Broadband connection	Other connection	No connection	Not Stated
Meath	61922	48280	12510	1132	41626	5805	13263	1228
State	1649408	1199298	414597	35513	1051942	132973	426096	38397

Source: CSO, 2012

Of 61,922 private households in permanent housing units in Meath in 2011, 78% reported owning a personal computer. This was higher than the number of private households in permanent housing units in the State (73%). A total of 67% of the 61,922 of these households had broadband connection while nine per cent reported an 'other' connection to the internet. This means that 76% of these households in Meath have access to the internet with 21% reporting no internet connection. A total of 64% of these households across the State reported

broadband connection to the internet with eight per cent reporting a 'other' connection to the internet with 26% having no connection.

Housing

As noted previously, county Meath experienced an exceptionally high level of growth over the last decade. This level of growth has not been equal across the county, with quite significant variations in terms of population change.

The Census 2011 results infer a population to household ratio equating to 2.90 persons per household in the County.

In 2006, within Meath, local authority housing in Kells urban district (8.8%), Trim urban district (8.2%), Oldcastle (7.7%) and Navan urban district (7.5%) were slightly higher than in any of the rural areas, but still low by comparison to other urban areas throughout the country.

**Table 15: Meath Local Authority by Age of Applicant and County Council total
March 2011**

	Under 25	26- 30	31-40	41- 50	51- 60	61- 70	71 and over	Total
Meath	592	479	844	462	239	105	43	2764
County Council Total	9260	9602	15298	8804	4357	1809	874	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Meath recorded a total of 2,764 housing applicants as of the 31st March 2011. Of this 2,764, 31% (844) were aged between 31 and 40 years, 21% (592) were aged under 25 years and 17% (479) were aged between 26 and 30 years. Meath recorded a higher percentage of under 25 years old applicants than the total county council percentage (19%), a similar percentage of 31-40 year old applicants and a lower percentage of applicants aged 26 to 30 years than the county council total (19%).

The majority of Meath local authority housing applicants were Irish citizens (73%: 2,016) while 19% (524) were EU citizens and eight per cent (224) were non EU citizens. Meath recorded a slightly higher proportion of Irish citizens than the County Council total (69%). Of the 224 non-EU citizens, the majority had permission to remain in the State (92%: 206), less than 5 had subsidiary protection status and 16 (7%) were refugees.

Of the 2,764 applicants, 10% (270) were in receipt of lone parent support only and 50% (1,394) were unemployed and in receipt of social/community welfare benefit with a further two per cent (43) employed in a back to work/FAS scheme.

Table 16: Meath Local Authority and County Council total by household structure, March 2011

	Single with children					Total single with children	Couple with children					Total couple with children
No. of children	1	2	3	4	5+		1	2	3	4	5+	
Meath	564	226	79	29	7	905	223	160	76	44	24	750
County Council total	9937	4264	1496	524	233	16454	3490	2534	1213	535	325	11192

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Of the 2,764 applicants, 40% (1,109) were one person households and eight per cent (223) were couples without children. A third of applicants (905) were single with children while 27% (750) were couples with children. The majority of single applicants with children had one child (62%: 564) while a quarter had two children. Less than one per cent of applicants were single with five children or more (see Table 19, below). Of couple applicants with children, 30% (223) had one child while 21% had two children. A total of three per cent of couple applicants had five or more children.

Table 17: Meath Local Authority and total County Councils by Category of Need, March, 2011

Category of Need	Meath	Total of County Councils
Disability	33	1001
Elderly	34	971
Homeless	43	567
Involuntary sharing	345	3532
Leaving Institutional Care	5	250
Medical or compassion reasons	236	4484
Not reasonably able to meet the cost of accommodation	1431	34592
Overcrowded accommodation	255	2493
Traveller	112	981
Unfit accommodation	270	1133
Total	2764	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Meath recorded a slightly different pattern in relation to category of need than the pattern recorded for all county councils combined. As with the county councils combined, the main reason applicants needed housing in Meath was due to being not reasonably able to meet the cost of accommodation. In Meath, however, this figure accounted for a smaller proportion than nationally, with 52% of applicant requiring housing for this reason compared to 69% of all county council applicants combined. Nationally the second highest proportion of applicants required housing as a result of medical or compassion reasons (10%) with involuntary sharing accounting for the third highest category of need (seven per cent). In Meath involuntary sharing (12%) accounted for the second highest proportion of applicants followed by unfit accommodation (10%). Medical or compassion reasons accounted for the

fifth highest number of applicants in Meath (eight per cent) after overcrowded accommodation (nine per cent).

Table 18: Meath Local Authority and County Council total by Length of Time on Waiting List, March 2011

Time on waiting list	Meath	County Council Total
Up to 3 months	217	2640
3-6 months	192	2790
6-12 months	393	5964
1-2 years	618	10395
2-3 years	553	10250
3-4 years	397	6979
4-5 years	174	4086
5-7 years	163	4679
More than 7 years	57	2221
Total	2764	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

The largest proportion of applicants in Meath had been on a housing waiting list for between 1-2 years (22%: 618); this is one per cent above that of the county council figures combined. A total of 20% (553) had been waiting for between 2-3 years while 14% (397) had been waiting for between 3-4 years. A further 12% (337) had been waiting over four years and up to seven years while two per cent (57) had been on a waiting list for more than seven years. A total of eight per cent had been on a waiting list for up to three months, seven per cent (192) had been waiting between 3-6 months while 14% (393) had been waiting between 6 and 12 months.

Meath had fewer applicants waiting over four years and up to seven years than the county council total (17%) and who had been on the waiting list for over seven years. Meath recorded more applicants waiting for up to three months and between 6 and 12 months than the county council total which were six per cent and 12% respectively.

Housing Needs of Persons with Special Requirements

The Assessment of Housing Need outlines the different categories of households seeking accommodation from Meath County Council which include:

Travellers

‘Travellers’ and the ‘Traveller community’ refers to the people, and community of people, commonly called travellers and who are identified, both by themselves and by others, as people with a shared history, culture and tradition including, historically, a nomadic way of life throughout Ireland.

Meath County Council adopted the Meath Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 to 2013 in March 2009, in accordance with the requirements of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. The 2009 to 2013 Programme highlights that:

“Meath County Council will operate a comprehensive accommodation Programme for Travellers, involving a range of integrated measures to meet their accommodation needs. The Council will include in the plan employment opportunities for young Travellers to break the cycle of long-term unemployment and to improve their life chances.

The annual survey of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position (2011), conducted on the 25th November 2011, found that there were a total of 343 Traveller families in the local authority area (on that date).

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities may require specially adapted units, and Meath County Council is aware and proactive in this regard. Furthermore, the Council, where resources permit, adapts existing social houses to the necessary specification of tenants with disabilities. The Assessment of Housing Need (2011) includes 42 households falling within the ‘disability’ category of need.

In October 2011, a National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2011-2016) was published. This strategy was introduced to establish a framework for the delivery of housing for people with a disability through mainstream housing policy which aimed:

“To facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living”

The strategy, referring to census (2006) data, details the number of people with disabilities in each local authority area, with 7.4% (or 12,076 persons) of Meath’s population having a disability.

Household sizes are continuing to fall, with the Regional Planning Guidelines projecting Meath occupancy rates to equate to 2.62 persons per household (PPH) by 2016, and falling further to 2.35 PPH by 2022. This is placed in context with the CSO Census 2011 occupancy rate in Meath equating to 2.90 PPH. Lower occupancy rates could lead to more housing being required to cater for a similar population. However, factors such as the ongoing economic difficulties and difficulties in securing mortgage approval could see many delaying the purchase of a dwelling.

Family Units and One Parent Family Payments

Meath recorded a total of 25,149 family units in the 2006 Census. This represented 4.48% of all family units in the State (560,386). Of the 25,419 family units, over half (53.7%, 13,526) were family units where all children were under 15 years while 30.4% (7670) were family units with all children 15 years and over.

Navan Rural Electoral Division recorded the highest proportion of family units where all children were under 15 years of age (2,222: 16.4%) followed by Ratoath (1,035: 7.7%).

Navan Rural Electoral Division also recorded the highest proportion of family units where all children were 15 years and over (846: 11%) followed by Donaghmore (465: 6%).

Children in one parent families have much lower expectations about their future careers than their peers. They are more likely than other youngsters to want jobs that required few qualifications and little training. Children in one parent families are less likely to aspire to attaining professional qualifications or occupations (Southern Area Children and Young People’s Committee, 2009).

Table 19: Number of lone mother and family units by county and State

	Total no of family units father	Total number of family units mother	Lone mothers and lone fathers family units
Meath	930	4883	5813
State	26689	162551	189240

Source: CSO, 2006

In 2006 a total of 5,813 lone mother and lone father family units were recorded in Meath, the majority being lone mother family units (84%). This was slightly lower than that of the State which recorded 86% of one parent families as headed by mothers. Meath accounted for 3.1% of all lone family units in the State in 2006.

Table 20: Number of children living in lone family units by gender of parent, Meath

	All children aged under 15 years	All children aged 15 years and over	Other	Total number of children
Children with lone mothers	3274	3269	1453	7996
Children with lone fathers	330	909	255	1494
Total children with lone parents	3604	4178	1708	9490

Source: CSO, 2006

A total of 9,490 children lived in one parent families in Meath in 2006, with 16% (1,494) of these children living with their fathers only.

The largest proportion of one parent families headed by fathers resided in Navan Rural ED (14.5%: 216). Similarly the largest proportion of one parent families headed by mothers resided in Navan Rural ED (17.9%: 1,439).

In 2010, a total of 92,326 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments in Ireland. Over two per cent (2.6%) of those recipients were recorded as being based in County Meath. A total of 2,469 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments in County Meath in 2010. Meath recorded the 13th highest number of recipients of these payments in the country.

Table 21: Number of Recipients of One-Parent Family Payments by County, 2010

County	Number of One Parent Family Payments
Meath	2469
Total	92326

Source: Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010

Live Register

The Live Register is a monthly statistical count compiled by the CSO of certain categories of persons registered with the Department of Social Protection for Jobseeker's Benefit, Jobseeker's allowance and credited Social Insurance contributions. The Live Register comprises of all claimants of Jobseeker's benefit under the age of 65 excluding systematic short-term workers; applicants for Jobseekers Allowance under the age of 65 excluding smallholders and self-employed people; other registrants under the age of 65 including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute. This means that not all persons who are in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance are on the Live Register. Some persons who are included in the Live

Register, applicants for credited contributions, are not in receipt of a Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance Payment.

Between 2001 and 2010 the Live Register for Meath recorded a 320.9% change in the number recorded on it. This was the second highest increase recorded after Kildare (387.3%) and well above the change recorded for the total number recorded on the live register for that period (see Appendix X for details on all counties).

Table 22: Number on the Live Register for Meath and Country 2001 to 2010

County	Meath	Total for Country
2001	2855	152406
2002	2844	166142
2003	3218	170604
2004	3137	158816
2005	3001	155833
2006	3038	155389
2007	3557	170376
2008	6977	291363
2009	11071	423595
2010	12016	437079
Change%	320.9	186.8

Source: Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010

Vulnerable Children and Young People

As outlined above, certain factors increase the vulnerability of children while some groups of children are identified as being vulnerable due to factors such as a disability or being in care. These vulnerable children need additional supports.

Education

Education has been shown to have a significant impact on children's current and future lives and not only through the gaining of academic qualifications (Breen, 1991). It is recognised that school experiences play a central role in a child's social, emotional and intellectual development.

Table 23: Number of National School Pupils and Classes in 2010/2011

	Pupils in mainstream classes in mainstream schools		Pupils with special needs in mainstream schools		Pupils in special schools		Total	
	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes
Meath	22925	883	291	30	206	26	23422	939
Total	492742	20604	9732	1264	7178	1080	509652	22948

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

There were a total of 23,422 national school pupils recorded in Meath for the school year 2010/2011. The majority were attending mainstream classes in mainstream schools (98%). A total of 291 (one per cent) were pupils with special needs in mainstream schools and 206 (0.9%) were pupils in special schools.

Meath national school pupils comprises 5% of all national school pupils in the country.

Table 24: Number of Second Level Students including Post-Leaving Certificate Courses in 2010/2011

	Secondary	Vocational	Community	Comprehensive	Total
Meath	3836	5075	2833	0	11744
Total	186622	114761	47058	7666	356107

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

There were a total of 11,744 second level students recorded in Meath for the school year 2010/2011. Of these 11,744, 43% (5,075) were in VEC schools⁴, 33% were voluntary secondary schools⁵ and 24% were in community schools.

Meath second level students comprises 3% of all second level pupils in the country.

Youthreach

Youthreach is an integral part of the national programme of second-chance education and training in Ireland. The programme is directed at unemployed young early school leavers aged 15-20. It offers participants the opportunity to identify and pursue viable options within adult life, and provides them with opportunities to acquire certification. It operates on a full-time, year-round basis. There are a total of six Youthreach centres throughout the county. Of this six, two are located in Navan, and one each in Ashbourne, Kells, Laytown and Trim. During the school year of 2010-2011 there were a total of 185 Youthreach students under the age of 18 years in Meath.

Home Tuition

Home Tuition is where a child/parents are provided with a tutor funded by the DES (confirm) to provide teaching in the home or another alternative place. There are two main circumstances where home tuition is provided:

- i. Where a child has no school place or has been excluded from school, up to a maximum of 9 hours is sanctioned by the post primary administration section of the Department of Education and Skills and is co-signed by the Education Welfare Officer. It is up to the parents to source a tutor⁶. Tutors are required to be registered with the National Teaching Council and have Garda clearance.
- ii. Where a child has a recognised medical/psychological condition which prevents them from attending school regularly. Parents must have medical proof. The maximum number of hours sanctioned by Special Education DES is 7 hours; this may be greater for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Tutors are now required to be registered with the National Teaching council and have Garda clearance.

Table 25: Number of Children receiving Home Tuition, April 2012

No of Children receiving Home Tuition	Number of Children
Total receiving home tuition Meath	17

Source: Meath EWO, April 2012

Non-Attendance at school

⁴ Referred to as vocational in Table 24

⁵ Referred to as secondary in Table 24

⁶ Given that this can pose great difficulties for parents a list of qualified, registered and Garda cleared tutors has been compiled by the Meath EWO as a resource for parents.

Nationally, there has been a steady year-on-year increase in the number of pupils in the primary school sector since 2005/06, an increase of almost 50,000 pupils. In post-primary schools the number of students has increased by 9,000 over the period. The response of schools to the National Education and Welfare Board's Annual Attendance Report rose to their highest levels for both primary and post-primary in 2009/10, with the response rate in the mid to high 90s for primary (97.1%) and post-primary (95.8%) (Millar, 2012).

It should be noted that not all schools provide information for the NEWB's Attendance Report and therefore where data refers to all schools it refers to all schools that provided returns.

Nationally, a total of 6.2% of pupil days were lost due to absence in primary schools in 2009/10 and that 7.9% of student days were lost in post-primary schools. Suspensions are rare in primary schools compared to post-primary schools (0.2% in primary schools and 4.7% in post-primary).

Non-attendance is defined as the percentage of all student/days lost through absence.

Table 26: Non-attendance by Meath, Leinster and State for Primary Schools 2009/10⁷

	Abs	Abs20	Exp	Sus
Meath	5.2	8.4	0.000	0.1
Leinster	6.4	12.4	0.004	0.4
State	5.9	10.9	0.002	0.3

Source: Millar (2012)

For the school year 2009/10, Meath had the lowest figures for non-attendance, for the number of students absent 20 days or more, for expulsions and for suspensions in primary school in the province of Leinster. Meath also recorded figures lower than the State figures for primary schools.

Table 27: Non-attendance by Meath, Leinster and State for Post-Primary Schools 2009/10⁸

	Abs	Abs20	Exp	Sus
Meath	6.8	15.4	.044	5.9
Leinster	8.4	19.7	.067	6.9
State	8.5	19.4	.062	5.5

Source: Millar (2012)

For the school year 2009/10, Meath had lower figures for non-attendance, for the number of students absent 20 days or more, for expulsions and for suspensions in post primary schools than the figures for the province of Leinster and that of the State.

As noted previously, as 100% returns are not recorded for primary and post primary schools, the non attendance figures reported need to be treated with caution

Retention Rates for Junior and Leaving Certificates

⁷ The data are calculated at school level and then the average non-attendance is reported for all schools in a particular province or county.

⁸ The data are calculated at the school level and then the average non-attendance is reported for all schools in a particular category.

Table 28: Junior Certificate (JC) and Leaving Certificate (LC) Retention Rates for Meath and Country for 2002, 2003 and 2004 cohorts

			2002 cohort		2003 cohort		2004 cohort	
	No. of schools ⁹	No. of pupils	% JC Retention	% LC Retention	% JC Retention	% LC Retention	% JC Retention	% LC Retention
Meath	17	1890	97.0	84.3	94.7	84.1	94.3	87.0
Total for Country	695	56948	95.7	81.3	95.1	82.2	94.5	84.5

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

As can be seen from Table 28 above, Meath records a higher retention rates for Junior and Leaving Certificate retention for the 2002 cohort than the country. The Junior Certificate retention rate was just below that of the country for the 2003 cohort while that for the Leaving Certification was above that of the country. For 2004 cohort, the Junior Certificate retention rate for Meath and the country were almost equal while the Leaving Certificate retention rate for Meath was higher than that for the country.

Overall, Meath records relatively good retention rates. However, it is worth noting that the retention rate for the Junior Certificate has been decreasing over the cohort periods, down from 97% for the 2002 cohort to 94.3% for the 2004 cohort. Based on the figures provided, this indicates that in the 2002 cohort 57 young people did not complete their Junior Certificate while 108 young people in the 2004 cohort did not complete their Junior Certificate.

In contrast, the Leaving Certificate retention rates have increased over the cohort periods, up from 84.3% for the 2002 cohort to 87% for the 2004 cohort period. Based on the figures provided, this would seem to indicate that 297 young people of the 2002 cohort did not complete the Leaving Certificate while 245 young people of the 2004 cohort did not complete the Leaving Certificate.

Children with a Disability

In 2006, a total of 1,718 children were recorded with a disability in Meath. This represented four per cent of all children with a disability in Ireland (42,021) and four per cent of the child population of Meath.

A national database is maintained that records the number of children with disabilities. This is a voluntary database and therefore not all children in a county with a disability may be recorded on the database. As of March 2012, a total of 392 children aged 0-18 years in Meath were recorded on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database and a total of 411 children were recorded on the National Intellectual Disability Database.

In March 2012 there were a total of 466 open cases within the Early Intervention Service in Meath provided by Enable Ireland. This provides a service for children aged 0-6 years who exhibit developmental delay or potential development delay.

⁹ The number of schools and pupils refer to the number as per 2004 cohort calculations

A total of 765 open cases were recorded by Meath's HSE Disability Service for Children in March 2012 for children aged 6-18 years. This service would encompass physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities, autism, dyspraxia, speech and language etc.

A total of 19 services and groups for people with disabilities are recorded as providing services in the county. The majority of these services are located within Navan (10).

There is a local Coordination Group that is chaired by the Manager of the HSE Children's Disability Team.

Mental Health

Admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals among Children

In 2008, there were 406 admissions to psychiatric hospital among children in the country; a rate of 37.4 children per 100,000. Of this total of 406, 20 or 4.9% were from Meath (State of the Nation, 2010)¹⁰. Meath recorded the seventh highest number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals among children in 2008.

Suicide

Table 29: Average suicide rates for Meath by age and gender 2004-2008

Age Group	Persons	Males	Females
0-4	0	0	0
5-9	.1	.1	0
10-14	1.3	2	.6
15-19	12.6	18.8	6.2
20-24	17.9	30.7	4.8

Source: National Office of Suicide Prevention Annual Report, 2010

In terms of suicide rates, that national average was 11.3 suicides per 100,000 of population. County Meath recorded below the national average, with a rate of 10.2. Dublin recorded the lowest suicide rate at 8.9 while Cavan recorded the highest suicide rate at 18.1.

The number of suicides for those aged 0-18 for Meath are low and so for confidentiality reasons are not released by the Central Statistic Office.

Child Protection and Children in Care

Table 30: Reports to social work departments by report type, Meath and nationally, 2010

	Number of welfare reports	Number of protection reports	Total	% Welfare
Meath	497	575	1072	46.4
National	16452	12825	29277	56.2

Source: HSE, 2012

In 2010, Meath social work departments recorded a total of 1,072 reports. A total of 46% of these reports were identified as welfare reports. In relation to the remaining 54% of reports, 12% related to physical abuse, 12% to sexual abuse, 14% to emotional abuse and 15% to

¹⁰ The age, gender and diagnosis are not available at the county level

neglect (HSE, 2012). Reports to Social Work departments in Meath represented four per cent of all referrals made to HSE Social Work departments.

In 2011, a total of 1,562 reports to Meath Social Work departments were recorded, an increase of 490 reports on 2010 or 46%. Of this 1,562 reports 622 were welfare reports (40%) and 940 were abuse reports (60%). In terms of the abuse reports 18% were physical abuse reports, 19% were sexual abuse reports, 29% were emotional abuse reports and 34% were neglect reports (Meath LHO, 2012).

In a critique of the HSE Social Work and Family Support Survey (2008) commissioned by the HSE and carried out by Buckley (2009) it was noted that the reality is that abuse cases and welfare cases often need and receive precisely the same type of intervention and that it is important that cases are responded to according to identified needs and risks rather than classification as welfare or abuse¹¹.

In 2010, Meath recorded a total of 146 children as being in the care of the HSE. Of these 146 children in care, 71% were in general foster care, 21% were in relative foster care, four per cent were in residential care and 4.8% were in 'Other' care (HSE, 2012). Meath's children in care made up two per cent of all children in care in the State in 2010 (5,965). In 2011, Meath recorded a total of 49 admissions to care. The majority of these admissions (34: 76%) were to general foster care. The total number of children in care at the end of 2011 was 138, with 79% being in foster care general and 17.4% being in relative foster care.

Criminal Justice Involvement

In 2010, a total of 27,257 incidents were referred to An Garda Síochána Juvenile Diversion Programme. The total number of children referred during this time was 17,986. Of these 17,896 children, 72% (12,899) were admitted to the Diversion Programme. Of those admitted to the Diversion Programme, 52% (9,332) had their case dealt with by way of an informal caution, while 20% (3,567) had their case dealt with by way of formal caution. There were 1,165 children where a decision was still pending and 856 (5%) required no further Garda action to be taken. In terms of gender, 22% (2,838) of children referred were female and 78% were male.

Meath County comes under the Eastern Region of An Garda Síochána which is also made up of Kildare, Laois/Offaly, Westmeath and Wicklow. A total of 15 Juvenile Liaison Officers are allocated to the Eastern Region with Meath allocated three officers.

Table 31: Total number of referrals to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Total	Formal	Informal	NFA	Pending	Unsuitable
Kildare	901	139	436	18	57	251
Laois/Offaly	754	159	303	9	66	227
Meath	612	153	262	24	34	139
Westmeath	509	125	232	16	35	101
Wicklow	634	152	265	28	59	130
Eastern Region Total	3410	728	1498	95	241	848
Overall Total	27257	5695	10917	922	1836	7887

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

¹¹ Health Service Executive (2012) Review of Adequacy for HSE Children and Families Services, 2010

In 2010, Meath referrals made up 18% (612) of all referrals made to the Diversion Programme in the Eastern Region and two per cent of all referrals made to the Programme nationally. Meath had the second lowest number of total referrals in the Eastern Region after Westmeath.

In terms of Meath's total referrals, 43% were dealt with by way of an informal caution, four per cent needed no further action, while a quarter of referrals were being dealt by way of a formal caution. A total of 23% of the referrals received in Meath were deemed unsuitable for the Diversion Programme and six per cent were still pending a decision at the end of 2010.

Table 32: Number of Children referred to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Total	Formal	Informal	NFA	Pending	Unsuitable
Kildare	610	97	363	16	46	88
Laois/Offaly	492	106	247	12	35	92
Meath	439	104	232	16	28	59
Westmeath	342	58	207	18	19	40
Wicklow	433	84	234	31	41	43
Eastern Region Total	2316	449	1283	93	169	322
Overall Total	17986	3567	9332	856	1165	3066

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

In 2010, a total of 439 children were referred to Meath's Garda Diversion Programme. This represented 19% of all children referred in the Eastern Region, with Meath recording the third lowest number of children being referred for the region. Meath recorded a lower percentage of children being referred to the Diversion Programme than Louth, with Louth making up 27% of all children referred in the Northern Region. Meath children made up two per cent of all children referred to Diversion Programmes in 2010.

Table 33: Gender of Children referred to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Formal		Informal		NFA		Pending		Unsuitable	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Kildare	16	81	92	271	3	13	8	38	8	80
Laois/Offaly	14	92	62	185	1	11	3	32	8	84
Meath	21	83	59	173	3	13	8	20	6	53
Westmeath	14	44	63	144	1	17	2	19	2	38
Wicklow	12	72	63	171	2	29	5	32	5	38
Eastern Region Total	77	372	339	944	10	83	28	141	29	293
Overall Total	548	3019	2665	6667	215	641	212	953	312	2754

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

Of the 439 children referred in Meath, 97 were female (22%) and 342 were male. Of the 2,316 children referred to the Eastern region, 21% were female so Meath records one per cent higher referrals from females than the region. The percentage of females recorded in Meath reflects the national percentage (see above).

Eligibility for Medical Cards and GP visit cards

As of the 1st of April 2012, a total of 65,123 persons were eligible for medical cards in County Meath, while a total of 5,038 persons were eligible for GP visit cards (HSE, Primary Care Reimbursement Service, 2012).

HSE and County Council Expenditure

Resource allocation in health care is a method for distributing resources between competing claims in ways that are consistent with health policy priorities (Birch et al, 1993). While health-care resources have been distributed traditionally on the basis of historical allocations to existing providers and facilities, most industrialised countries now subscribe to the principle of a population health approach to resource allocation (whereby resources are distributed on the basis of relative needs for care). The Department of Health and Children report on Resource Allocation, Financing and Sustainability in Health Care (2010) emphasises that the main factor influencing the allocation of resources to any area for almost all services will be the population to be served by that service.

In 2007, Meath Local Health Office (LHO) recorded the fourth lowest HSE expenditure of the 32 LHOs in Primary, Continuing and Community Care (PCCC) (see Table 34, below). In 2007, the HSE in Meath LHO¹² spent €93,230,189 in PCCC. During that year, Dublin South West LHO¹³ spent €331,236,865, the largest amount spent by any LHO in PCCC and Roscommon LHO¹⁴ spent the lowest amount, €70,008,398.

For 2007, Meath LHO recorded the second lowest expenditure per capita of the 32 LHO areas (see Table 35, below). Meath spent €573 per capita with only Dublin West recording less (€537). In comparison West Cork¹⁵ spent €4,515 per capita in PCCC in 2007, the highest spent by any HSE Local Health Office (Staines, 2010).

In terms of the percentage of expenditure spent on children, adolescents and families in 2007, Meath recorded the joint third highest percentage of expenditure at 3.80%; the same as Dublin West (see Table 36, below). Dublin North West spent the highest percentage at 6.10% while Waterford spent the lowest, recording (0.10%). Waterford was one of 10 LHOs that spent less than one percent of their expenditure in 2007 on children, adolescents and families (Staines, 2010).

The 2012 Local Government Audit Service Activity Report recorded that Meath County Council reported a deficit of €8.3 million for 2010 (Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012).

Table 34: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita for PCCC – 2007 outcome expenditure data ranked by total expenditure

¹² Population 162,831 in 2006

¹³ Population 147,422 in 2006

¹⁴ Population 58,768 in 2006

¹⁵ Population 53,565 in 2006

LHO	Total population (2006 Census)	2007 expenditure	2007 expenditure per capita
Dublin South West	147,422	€331,236,865	€2,247
Dublin North Central	126,572	€328,805,348	€2,598
West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
Galway	231,670	€239,120,886	€1,032
Dublin North	222,049	€214,556,464	€966
Donegal	147,264	€201,749,302	€1,370
Dublin North West	185,900	€197,863,406	€1,064
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91,053	€189,731,513	€2,084
Dublin South East	110,487	€189,575,595	€1,716
Laois/Offaly	137,927	€181,086,677	€1,313
Longford/Westmeath	113,737	€168,390,263	€1,481
South Lee - Cork	179,260	€157,115,096	€876
Kerry	139,835	€156,915,225	€1,122
Limerick	151,290	€154,013,155	€1,018
Mayo	123,839	€145,713,978	€1,177
North Lee - Cork	167,701	€142,288,163	€848
Carlow/Kilkenny	120,631	€136,860,581	€1,135
Dublin South	126,382	€131,398,630	€1,040
Kildare/West Wicklow	203,327	€121,767,735	€599
Waterford	120,017	€120,634,326	€1,005
Cavan/Monaghan	118,791	€115,354,045	€971
Wicklow	109,202	€112,998,820	€1,035
Wexford	131,749	€109,834,306	€834
Dublin South City	134,344	€109,407,745	€814
Clare	110,950	€106,282,411	€958
North Cork	80,769	€103,186,584	€1,278
Louth	111,267	€102,088,888	€918
South Tipperary	88,441	€101,021,591	€1,142
Meath	162,831	€93,230,189	€573
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98,788	€85,647,976	€867
Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Roscommon	58,768	€70,088,398	€1,193
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

Table 35: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita for PCCC – 2007 outcome expenditure data ranked by expenditure per capita

LHO	Total population (2006 Census)	2007 expenditure	2007 expenditure per capita
West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
Dublin North Central	126,572	€328,805,348	€2,598
Dublin South West	147,422	€331,236,865	€2,247
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91,053	€189,731,513	€2,084
Dublin South East	110,487	€189,575,595	€1,716
Longford/Westmeath	113,737	€168,390,263	€1,481
Donegal	147,264	€201,749,302	€1,370
Laois/Offaly	137,927	€181,086,677	€1,313
North Cork	80,769	€103,186,584	€1,278
Roscommon	58,768	€70,088,398	€1,193
Mayo	123,839	€145,713,978	€1,177
South Tipperary	88,441	€101,021,591	€1,142
Carlow/Kilkenny	120,631	€136,860,581	€1,135
Kerry	139,835	€156,915,225	€1,122
Dublin North West	185,900	€197,863,406	€1,064
Dublin South	126,382	€131,398,630	€1,040
Wicklow	109,202	€112,998,820	€1,035
Galway	231,670	€239,120,886	€1,032
Limerick	151,290	€154,013,155	€1,018
Waterford	120,017	€120,634,326	€1,005
Cavan/Monaghan	118,791	€115,354,045	€971
Dublin North	222,049	€214,556,464	€966
Clare	110,950	€106,282,411	€958
Louth	111,267	€102,088,888	€918
South Lee - Cork	179,260	€157,115,096	€876
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98,788	€85,647,976	€867
North Lee - Cork	167,701	€142,288,163	€848
Wexford	131,749	€109,834,306	€834
Dublin South City	134,344	€109,407,745	€814
Kildare/West Wicklow	203,327	€121,767,735	€599
Meath	162,831	€93,230,189	€573
Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

Table 36: The range of budgets, using only weights adjusted for LHO-level deprivation, as a percentage of the median budget per capita for service groups, supplied to young people, the whole population, and people aged over 65 years

LHO	Children, adolescents and families	All other services	Older people
Dublin North West	6.10%	6.30%	1.00%
Dublin South	5.80%	7.90%	1.30%
Dublin West	3.80%	9.60%	0.60%
Meath	3.80%	7.50%	0.90%
West Cork	3.70%	9.50%	0.40%
Kildare/West Wicklow	3.10%	10.20%	1.50%
Mayo	3.00%	7.90%	1.00%
Kerry	2.90%	5.40%	0.20%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2.70%	6.50%	1.00%
Dublin North Central	2.70%	5.20%	2.40%
South Tipperary	2.20%	4.10%	0.10%
Roscommon	2.10%	9.10%	1.10%
Cavan/Monaghan	2.10%	4.00%	1.00%
Limerick	1.90%	1.10%	0.20%
North Tipperary/East Limerick	1.70%	1.20%	0.10%
Donegal	1.50%	4.00%	0.50%
Dublin North	1.40%	5.40%	3.80%
South Lee – Cork	1.40%	0.50%	0.20%
Dublin South East	1.20%	5.70%	2.90%
Dublin South City	1.20%	5.50%	2.90%
North Lee – Cork	1.20%	3.40%	1.10%
Louth	1.20%	1.90%	0.60%
Clare	0.80%	1.30%	0.30%
Wicklow	0.70%	3.10%	0.80%
Laois/Offaly	0.70%	2.20%	0.70%
Wexford	0.60%	1.10%	2.00%
Carlow/Kilkenny	0.60%	0.40%	0.20%
Longford/Westmeath	0.50%	1.50%	0.70%
Dublin South West	0.40%	3.90%	1.50%
Galway	0.40%	0.20%	0.10%
North Cork	0.30%	4.90%	1.30%
Waterford	0.10%	1.90%	0.80%
Median	1.5%	4.0%	0.8%

Source: Staines (2010)

See Appendix IV for information on services and facilities available in Meath.

Summary of Socio-Demographic Findings for Meath

Population

- Meath County experienced significant population increase over the last fifteen years, growing from 109,732 in 1996 to 184,135 in 2011, which equates to an increase of 68%.
- The population of Meath now accounts for 10.2% of the total population within the Greater Dublin Area, having previously accounted for 8.7% in 2002 and 9.8% in 2006.
- Meath's population differs from the national average.
- Meath records a high percentage of children in the 0-4 age cohort, and a high percentage of adults in the 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 cohorts. Furthermore, Meath has a relatively low percentage of adults in the 70+ age cohorts. This indicates that Meath has a high proportion of young families.
- New housing developments account for over half of the houses in Navan, which were built between 1996 and 2002.
- The main areas that have experienced population explosions in Meath are Drogheda, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Navan Rural, Kentstown, Athboy, Castlerickard, Enfield, Kells Rural, Duleek, Julianstown, Stamullen and Slane.
- Meath's population was recorded as 184,034 in the April 2011 Census which represents a 13% (21,203) increase from the 2006 Census figure of 162,831.
- The average annual average birth rate for Meath between 2006 and 2011 was 20.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 16.6 for the State.
- In 2006, Navan Rural ED recorded the highest concentration of people with 23,683 people recorded as residing there, representing 14.5% of Meath's population.
- The young dependency ratio stood at 31.9% for the State in April 2011. Meath recorded the highest young dependency ratio (38.3%) in the country.
- Meath also recorded the youngest urban population with an average age of 31.4 years
- The birth rate for Meath in 2009 was 20.5 per 1,000 population which was substantially higher than the national rate of 16.9. Only Fingal had a higher birth rate than Meath in 2009.
- In 2009, Meath recorded lower rates of infant mortality and neonatal mortality than the State and higher rates of stillbirth and perinatal mortality.
- The Census 2011 results infer a population to household ratio equating to 2.90 persons per household in the County.
- In 2006, 7.4% or 12,076 persons of Meath's population were recorded as having a disability.

Population of Children and Young People

- The percentage of 0-4 years olds increased from 8.7% in 2006 to 9.5% of Meath's total population in 2011; the percentage of 5-9 year olds increased from 7.9% to 8.4%; and the percentage of 10-14 year olds increased from 6.8% in 2006 to 7.3% of Meath's total population in 2011.
- 46,466 children and young people aged between 0 and 14 years resided in Meath in April 2011 representing 25.2% of Meath's total population.
- In 2006, the ED in Meath which recorded the highest number and highest percentage of children was Navan Rural where 6,852 or 15% of all children in Meath resided.
- In April 2011, Dunshaughlin recorded the highest percentage of 0-14 year olds in Meath towns with populations of 1,500 and over with 35.3% of its population being between these ages.

- In 2006, a total of 1,718 children were recorded with a disability in Meath. This represented four per cent of all children with a disability in Ireland (42,021) and four per cent of the child population of Meath.
- As of March 2012, a total of 392 children aged 0-18 years in Meath were recorded on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database and a total of 411 children were recorded on the National Intellectual Disability Database.

Childcare Facilities

- In 2012 there were 223 childcare services notified to the Meath HSE Pre-school Inspectorate. Of this 223, 23 (10%) were community based with 200 operating privately at this time. There were no child minders notified. Between these 223 childcare services they offer 5,797 childcare places.
- In 2012, Navan ED has the greatest percentage of childcare facilities at 29% or 64 services, followed by Dunshaughlin ED with 26% or 57 services.
- Childcare is an issue for 0 to 3 year olds in the Mosney resettlement community.

Ethnicity and Cultural Background

- In 2006, 89% of the population of Meath were recorded as being White Irish
- For all non-Irish nationalities and non-Irish ethnic or cultural backgrounds, the largest proportion resided in the Navan Rural Electoral Division.
- Meath currently has a direct provision reception centre in Mosney which is located in the east of the county. It provides a settlement community for asylum seekers and refugees and has a capacity of 600.
- In 2012, there were 535 people residing at Mosney. Of this 535, 315 were children (59%).
- 53% (166) of the children residing in Mosney were aged between 5 and 12 years while 36% (113) were aged between 0 and 4 years.
- There were 124 families with children residing in Mosney, 69 lone parents with children, five couples, seven single males and 10 single females.
- There were 37 different nationalities residing in Mosney in 2012 comprised of African, Middle East, Eastern European and others. The largest single nationality was Nigerian (183, 34%).
- On the 25th November 2011, there were a total of 343 Traveller families residing in the local authority area.

Family Units and One Parent Families

- Meath recorded a total of 25,149 family units in the 2006 Census. This represented 4.48% of all family units in the State (560,386).
- Of the 25,419 family units, over half (53.7%, 13,526) were family units where all children were under 15 years
- 30.4% (7670) were family units with all children 15 years and over.
- In 2006 a total of 5,813 lone mother and lone father family units were recorded in Meath. Meath accounted for 3.1% of all lone family units in the State in 2006.
- A total of 9,490 children lived in one parent families in Meath in 2006, with 16% (1,494) of these children living with their fathers only.
- A total of 2,469 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments in County Meath in 2010. Meath recorded the 13th highest number of recipients of these payments in the country.

Relative Affluence and Deprivation, Socio-economic Status and Employment

- Based on 2006 Census figures, Meath was the second most affluent local authority area within the Mid East Region and the sixth most affluent county in Ireland as whole.
- There exists a degree of variation within Meath, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.
- The most disadvantaged EDs are Killeagh (-9.0), Cloghbrack (-7.8) and Kells Urban (-6.9) but not a single ED falls into the 'disadvantaged' category.
- Areas of deprivation and decline within Meath are predominantly located to the north and southwest of the county, for example Oldcastle, Ballinlough, Ardagh, Kilmainham, Drumcondra, Slane and Donore electoral divisions.
- In 2011, of those who had ceased full time education, 13% had completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary and 38% at upper secondary level.
- Meath had a smaller percentage of persons aged 15 years and over who only had completed primary level education than the State. It had a similar percentage of person who had completed lower secondary level education as the State and a higher level of persons who had completed upper secondary level education than the State.
- The labour force participation rate for the State was 61.9% in 2011. Meath recorded the second highest labour force participation in the State (65.8%).
- Meath saw an increase of over 10% in its unemployment rate between 2006 and 2011.
- Meath was identified as having one unemployment blackspot (Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Urban: 37.8%). There were 81 such EDs in the State in 2011 with an average unemployment rate of 39.2% compared with 19% nationally (CSO, 2012).
- The unemployment rate for Meath was 18.0 in April 2011 which was below the State rate of 19.0.
- Between 2001 and 2010 the Live Register for Meath recorded a 320.9% change in the number recorded on it. This was the second highest increase recorded after Kildare (387.3%) and well above the change recorded for the country for that period.
- As of the 1st of April 2012, a total of 65,123 persons were eligible for medical cards in County Meath, while a total of 5,038 persons were eligible for GP visit cards.
- In April 2011, Meath recorded 24.8% of its population classified to socio-economic groups A (employers and managers) and B (higher professional). The eastern counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (39.7%), Fingal (27.5%), Wicklow (26.5%) Kildare (25.6%) and Meath had the highest proportion of persons classified to socio-economic groups A and B combined with Limerick City (15.4%).
- County Meath recorded the highest proportion of households with at least one car (90%) in April 2011. Meath also recorded the largest proportion of households with two cars.
- Of 61,922 private households in permanent housing units in Meath in 2011, 78% reported owning a personal computer. This was higher than the number in the State (73%).

Housing

- Meath recorded a total of 2,764 local authority housing applicants as of the 31st March 2011.
- Meath recorded a higher percentage of under 25 years old applicants than the total county council percentage: 21% compared to 19%.
- The majority of Meath local authority housing applicants were Irish citizens (73%: 2,016).

- Of the 2,764 applicants, 10% (270) were in receipt of lone parent support only and 50% (1,394) were unemployed and in receipt of social/community welfare benefit with a further two per cent (43) employed in a back to work/FAS scheme.
- Of the 2,764 applicants, a third (905) were single with children while 27% (750) were couples with children.
- The largest proportion of applicants in Meath had been on a housing waiting list for between 1-2 years (22%: 618); this is one per cent above that of the county council figures combined.
- Meath County Council's Assessment of Housing Need (2011) included 42 households falling within the 'disability' category of need.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

- Meath recorded the seventh highest number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals among children in 2008.
- In 2011, a total of 1,562 reports to Meath social work departments were recorded, an increase of 490 reports on 2010 or 46%.
- The total number of children in care at the end of 2011 was 138, with 79% being in foster care general and 17.4% being in relative foster care.
- In 2010, Meath referrals made up 18% (612) of all referrals made to the Diversion Programme in the Eastern Region and two per cent of all referrals made to the Programme nationally. Meath had the second lowest number of total referrals in the Eastern Region after Westmeath.
- A total of 439 children were referred to Meath's Garda Diversion Programme. This represented 19% of all children referred in the Eastern Region, with Meath recording the third lowest number of children being referred for the region.

Expenditure on Services

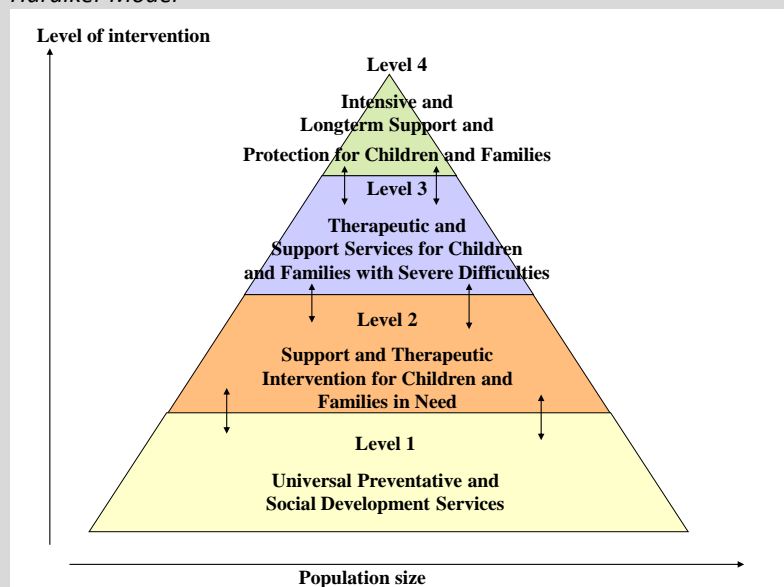
- In 2007, Meath LHO recorded the fourth lowest HSE expenditure of the 32 Local Health Offices in Primary, Continuing and Community Care.
- In 2007, Meath LHO recorded the second lowest expenditure per capita of the 32 LHO, spending €573 per capita.
- In terms of the percentage of expenditure spent on children, adolescents and families in 2007, Meath recorded the joint third highest percentage of expenditure at 3.80%.
- The 2012 Local Government Audit Service Activity Report recorded that Meath County Council reported a deficit of €8.3 million.

General

- In terms of their general health, 64% of Meath's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 27% rated it as good. Meath recorded a higher percentage of people rating their health as very good than the State (60%).

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in County Meath

Hardiker Model



The Overview should summarise services provided by statutory agencies and by community and voluntary organisations, covering:

- Health and social services
- Education
- Policing and youth justice
- Local authority services
- Social welfare
- Other services

Overview

In this section the Meath Children's Services Committee has identified and briefly outlined below many of the main services available to children, young people and their families within the priority action area categories in county Meath. A more detailed audit of services will need to be undertaken to provide a more complete and up-to-date picture of services provided to children and families in the local area, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations.

The Meath CSC have identified the Audit of Services and subsequent Needs Analysis as requiring external assistance. At present, we are in the process of requesting financial assistance from the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, with a view to undertaking the audit of services and needs analysis in 2013. In the absence of such funding, the completion of the audit and needs analysis will be very challenging.

Many of the main services available within the main priority action areas are outlined briefly in this section of the plan. Appendix IV contains a more detailed description of services and facilities available in county Meath.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - Meath HSE Area

There are a number of services for children and adolescents presenting with mental health difficulties. These can be broadly divided into primary care and secondary care.

A child psychology service operates within primary care. This service spans five network primary care teams including Trim, Kells, Navan, Dunshaughlin and East Meath. Psychologists accept referrals of children presenting with mild to moderate psychological problems. In addition, they work closely with child protection social work services and they prioritise children who are at risk and children under the care of the State. Referrals are accepted from General Practitioners and other disciplines. Families can also self-refer.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is a consultant led Mental Health service. There are two teams within Co. Meath. The first team is based in Navan and covers North Meath. The second team is based in Trim and covers South Meath. Team membership includes psychiatry, clinical psychology, social work and psychotherapy. CAMHS accept referrals of children with moderate to severe mental health difficulties. Referrals are accepted from General Practitioners.

In addition, the HSE in partnership with Headstrong developed a 'Jigsaw' site in Meath. This has resulted in the creation of a Youth Hub in Navan, where counselling services are available for young people. The service is for young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

Vulnerable Children and Families

Vulnerable Children and the families they live in, are often the most marginalised and at risk members of society. Within Co. Meath the main statutory services of the Health Services, (Public Health Nurses, Child Protection Social Work and Family Support Departments etc), the County Council (Housing & Environment), Education (Primary & Secondary Schooling), and An Garda Síochána (Policing & Public Order) to name some, all come in contact with this target group. As a county, we have an absence in depth of the "professional NGO sector" to work alongside the vulnerable, marginalised children and their families in our community.

The state of the country's economic circumstances mean Co. Meath can expect to continue to be one of the lowest funded local authority and local health service provision in the Republic of Ireland. Against this backdrop the Vulnerable Children and Families Sub-group will work to increase service co-ordination and efficiencies, improve parents/guardian's access to information with regard to services, highlight issues impacting on our target group and support the full implementation of the National Guidelines on Children First.

Education

The services provided by statutory agencies and by community and voluntary organisations covering education in the Meath CSC include Meath VEC, NEWB (National Education Welfare Board) with responsibility for school attendance, NAPD (National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals), IPPN (Irish Primary Principals Network), DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) with regard to educational disadvantage and alternative school models such as Youthreach.

In improving educational outcomes for all our children in county Meath, the Education Working Group will work to retain more children in the Education System, promote alternative schooling methods/models to meet children's needs, and support continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy.

Drugs & Alcohol

The addiction-related services in county Meath that are open to young people are few, comprising the HSE drug team, HSE alcohol services (who prefer a referral to CAMHS), and the task force funded services in ISPCC Teenfocus. Counselling supports are also available through MCDAR (Meath Community Drug and Alcohol Response). In addition, family support groups offer a good contact for parents of young people caught up in addiction. Further service details can be found on www.drugs.ie.

Healthy Lifestyle

Morbidity and mortality levels are determined to a major extent by our lifestyles and interlinked unhealthy behaviours. Health Promotion is the process of enabling young people to increase control over, and to improve, their health and lifestyle. Its aim is to build the capacity of individuals, communities and society in general to counteract the causes and reduce the incidences and prevalence levels of the major illnesses targeted in the HSE Service Plan i.e. cardiovascular disease, cancers, injuries, stress, depression etc.

Youth Health Promotion, at an individual level, involves educational processes enabling people to acquire information and skills that will help them in making positive decisions in relation to their health. At a community, regional and national level, it involves the development of appropriate policies, structures and support systems so that the healthier choice becomes the easier choice.

Consequently, the range of topics, settings and population groups addressed across the Health Promotion service includes: mental health promotion, suicide prevention, women's health, men's health, youth health, sexual health, smoking cessation, nutrition, alcohol/substance misuse, physical activity, accident prevention, oral health, schools, workplace, community development, building capacity, facilitation, competencies, self-esteem, self-efficacy, etc.

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in County Meath

In December, 2011, members of the Meath Children's Services Committee participated in an action planning workshop, facilitated by Mr. Willie Edmonds, CPD Ireland, which led to the formulation of six Working Groups, namely, Healthy Lifestyle, Mental Health, Improving Educational Outcomes, Drugs and Alcohol, Vulnerable Children and Families, and Information. All of the Working Groups were linked to the Five National Outcomes for Children where relevant, and assigned a person from the committee to lead with respect to membership and objectives/priorities. In the absence of an audit of services and local needs analysis, the objectives/priorities identified were based on the local knowledge and expertise of the Meath CSC and members of the aforementioned Working Groups, as well as the socio-demographic profile of the county. These objectives/priorities were incorporated into the overall Work Plan of the Meath CSC, after each Working Group engaged in a process of data gathering and joint consultation.

The initial data gathering and joint consultation project has highlighted the need for a more focussed research project to underpin the Meath Children's Services Committee initiative. Further analysis of how services are being delivered and responding to local needs, will be required in 2013, to consolidate the work already undertaken by the Meath Children Services Committee. It has been identified that the Audit of Services and Needs Analysis require external assistance, and we are in the process of requesting financial assistance from the Department of Children & Youth Affairs in this regard.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People's Plan for Co. Meath

<i>National Outcomes</i>	<i>Local Priority Areas *</i> <i>(to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services)</i>
Healthy, both physically and mentally	<i>Healthy Lifestyle</i> <i>Mental Health</i>
Supported in active learning	<i>Improving Educational Outcomes</i>
Safe from accidental and intentional harm / Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment	<i>Drugs & Alcohol</i> <i>Vulnerable Children & Families</i>
Economically secure	<i>Individual priority areas have been identified by Meath CSC. However, other priority areas identified such as young people's mental health issues and early school leaving have the potential to indirectly impact on the economic security of children and young people in the county.</i>
Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community / Included and participating in society	<i>Vulnerable Children & Families</i>

<i>Change Management</i>	<i>Local Priority Areas</i>
<i>Change management - CSCs may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of information sharing protocols, interagency training</i>	<i>Information</i>

Section 6: Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

Reflective Questions: When identifying the objectives, indicators and activities for each priority area, the CSC should reflect on the following questions:

- 1. What do we know about 'what works' in relation to each priority area? If there are gaps in our knowledge about 'what works', have we thought about how to fill the gaps?*
- 2. What evidence informed practices could inform our work in relation to the priority areas?*
- 3. What evidence informed programmes could inform our work in relation to the priority areas?*
- 4. How does this plan build on what is already being done in the area?*
- 5. Are we doing anything for which we do not have convincing evidence of its effectiveness?*
- 6. Are we making the best use of the resources we have at our disposal?*
- 7. How could we improve interagency working in our county?*
- 8. Will this plan address the identified needs of children and young people?*

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcome: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Healthy Lifestyle (Lead: Mr. Seán Boylan)	To run a pilot programme (for example, The Tara Young Warriors), that aims to strengthen young people for modern living. In essence, it would comprise of a practical and informative programme that will promote health and recognise achievement in young people.	Assess indicators following completion of pilot programme	A pilot programme of the 12-18 year old population in County Meath (both boys and girls). Following completion of the pilot programme, if appropriate, the programme will be extended to the younger age groups (0-4 and 5-11 year olds).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form the group 2. Examine how the group would structure the pilot programme in terms of frequency, location, timeframe etc. 3. Identify the target population. 4. Identify the number of boys and girls to be involved in the initial pilot programme based on the target population (Have a POW WOW!). 5. Recruit the key stakeholders to structure the pilot programme 6. Develop a plan for running the pilot with regard to participants, location, timeframe etc. 	July/August, 2013	Sean Boylan Dr. Niall Moyna Leonard Callaghan	

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcome: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Mental Health (Lead: Mr. Alan Doran)	Support development of Mental Health programmes in other youth cafes/centres	-Delivery of Jigsaw type Mental Health Education Programmes -Feedback Questionnaires from Young people	2-3 additional Youth Centres in County	-Form a liaison between JIGSAW Meath Project Manager and other youth centres resulting in a needs analysis to inform a tailor made intervention	2014 Q4	Lorcan Fingleton Andy Ogle	-JIGSAW Meath Business Plan -DCYA Youth Café Toolkit 2010 -HSE Vision for Change -HSE Shared Care Model
	To support the roll out of the mental health YCP Training Programme for front line staff working with young people	-Attendance record of attendees -Feedback Questionnaire	Voluntary, HSE and Community groups' staff	-Roll out of Youth Centred Programme (YCP) -Designing of questionnaire -Recruitment of intern assistant psychologist	2013 Q2	Lorcan Fingleton	-JIGSAW Meath Business Plan -HSE Vision for Change -HSE Shared Care Model
	To support the ongoing development of the post-primary schools based mental health intervention programme in Co. Meath	-Delivery of whole school mental health promotion programme in additional post-primary schools in Meath	1-2 additional post-primary schools	-NEPS and HSE Psychology service develop application process for additional schools to sign up -Implement intervention model	2015 Q2 (ie 3 year school programme)	Michael Cullinane Alan Doran Seamus Ryan	-JIGSAW Meath Business Plan -HSE Vision for Change -HSE Shared Care Model
	To develop an agreed referral pathway protocol for mental health services	-Production of agreed Referral pathway Protocol -Circulation of protocol to relevant stakeholders	-Protocol produced & made available	-Consult with relevant stakeholders, service providers and service users -Create editorial subgroup	2013 Q3	Alan Doran Michael Cullinane	-JIGSAW Meath Business Plan -HSE Vision for Change -HSE Shared Care Model

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcome: Healthy, both physically and mentally							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Mental Health continued...	To develop an agreed management system for the treatment of 16-17 year olds in the HSE with mental health difficulties	-Completion of management protocol for 16-17 year olds -Implementation of protocol to relevant stakeholders	-HSE Adult and Child Mental Health teams -HSE Mental Health Management Team	-Describe current arrangements. -Consult with relevant stakeholders -Produce draft protocol -Seek agreement on final version of protocol	2013 Q4	Alan Doran	-JIGSAW Meath Business Plan -HSE Vision for Change -HSE Shared Care Model -Louth CSC's Children and Young People's Plan

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcome: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Improving Educational Outcomes (Lead: Mr. Seamus Ryan)	Retain more children in the Education System	Baseline data for the cohort of 2004 shows us that 5.5% or 107 students did not complete a Junior Certificate in Co Meath	To Reduce the number of students leaving the education system altogether 20% in the coming year	1. To complete the analysis of the data for the 2004 cohort in Meath to establish the true dropout rate for that year.	October 2012	CSC Ed Group	
				2. Improve School compliance with NEWB (National Education and Welfare Board) reporting systems through an information campaign (Notice to the schools) and a special event for schools to be held in early October 2012	September 2012	NEWB	
				3. To hold a Seminar for Post Primary School Management Boards and Principals to highlight their crucial role in reducing the dropout rate and get initiatives from them which could help more children stay	October 2012	CSC Ed Group	

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcome: Supported in Active Learning							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Improving Educational Outcomes continued...				in school.			
	Promote alternative schooling methods/models to meet children's needs	More students who drop out of formal school seeking alternative education services.	To promote a more planned approach to the transfer of students from Post Primary schools to other education services. A specific initiative in this regard initiated by the schools would be a target for 2012-13.	Provide more information on alternative education services to all stakeholders including Post Primary Management and staff at a special seminar organised for this purpose.	October 2012	YouthReach Coordinator	

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcome: Supported in Active Learning							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Improving Educational Outcomes continued...	To support continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy	Number of infants who have attended pre school before starting school	To establish the number of infants from school year 2012-13 who have attended pre-school	Establish a base line for Co Meath	September 2012	CSC Ed group	

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Drugs & Alcohol (Lead: Superintendent Mary Gormley)	1) To raise awareness of the services available for children, parents and families (0-18 years) in relation to Drugs and Alcohol in Co. Meath	Number of hits from children, young people, schools and parents Web page for Meath CSC Hyper link between the Garda website, Drugs.ie and Meath CSC Web page	Target 100% of Primary and Secondary Schools with information over 3 years of the plan.	Promote Drugs.ie as a source of information for children and young people to access services for drugs and alcohol addiction. Develop a web page for Meath Children's Services committee that links to Drugs and Alcohol services. Seek to create a hyper link between the Garda website and the North East Regional Drugs Task Force website. To plan, organise and implement a Marketing Strategy to promote and give information on the services that are available for children and young people.	2015	HSE/Children and Family Support Agency	Recommendation 1 P & E, National Substance Misuse Strategy Report 2012 National Drugs Strategy Action 27 Dept of Children and Youth Affairs

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Drugs & Alcohol continued...	2) The provision of a service for children and young people under 18 in relation to drugs and alcohol.	A dedicated drug and alcohol team will be in place to deliver a service to under 18s in Co. Meath. That the service is compatible with the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 Interim The provision of a dedicated drug treatment service for Co. Meath.	To ensure that a young person under 18 years presenting with addiction (drugs or alcohol) is seen and assessed within a 2 week period. Appropriate actions are taken to address the needs of the young person	To ensure that there is a dedicated drugs and alcohol under 18s service in co. Meath. That this services fits into the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 Interim To have dedicated drug treatment service similar to Trinity Court in Co. Meath. Ensure that there is adequate/consistent funding for the delivery of services.	2015	Dept of Children and Youth Affairs HSE Drug Addiction Services	Action 34 NDS 2009-2016 Action 37 NDS 2009-2016 Recommendation 2 P & E NSMS Report 2012 This objective links to the Meath CSC Mental Health working Group
		To have a service that is fully accessible and integrated with other service providers that operate to policy and protocols devised by	Provision of an integrated service with appropriate policies.	Have all services sign to policy and protocols.	2015		
					2012-2015	D/Ed & Science HSE Drug Addiction Services	Action 23 NDS 2009-2016 Action 33 NDS 2009-2016 Action 34 NDS 2009-2016

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Drugs & Alcohol continued...		the HSE.					Action 36 NDS 2009-2016 Action 45 NDS 2009-2016
	3)To promote preventative strategies to combat drug and alcohol abuse in young people. Please note that this objective is dependent on obtaining State Funding.	Increase in the number of people accessing the services because of better information, marketing and communication. Increase the ability of service to be proactive in dealing with children and young people rather than providing a service that is perceived to be 'firefighting'. Audit of services. Matching the correct service/agency to the needs of clients	Promote evidence based preventative strategies	To continue to support agencies that promotes and provides strategies that focus on the 'whole child' approach with the aim of building psychological resilience in the child against addictions. Ensure that there is a recognised and transparent pathway to the services and between the services for all children and young people (i.e. <i>not dependent on who the child knows or the level of the parents' income</i>)	2015	HSE Addiction Services HSE Health Promotion D/Ed & Science Skills Programme Youth Sector	Action 30 NDS 2009-2016 Action 31 NDS 2009-2016 Recommendation 1 P & E NSMS Report Recommendation 5 P & E NSMS Report Recommendation 15 P & E NSMS Report

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Drugs & Alcohol continued...	4) Reducing the risks and harmful behaviour of young people that may be involved in drug and alcohol misuse	Adopt the recommendations that are relevant to Co. Meath. Include the recommendations in the CSC action plan. Annual funding at a consistent level.	Establish an assessment and care plan for young people coming into the addiction services. Every young person is assessed and an appropriate care plan put in place.	Ensure financial support for the Strengthening Families initiative.	2015	HSE Addiction Services	National Drugs Strategy Jigsaw Plan
		Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer for Co Meath Funded Diversion Projects in Co. Meath Continued involvement of the Garda Síochána in the Garda Schools Programme at local level.	Integrated agency approach to complex cases and evidence based strategies to deal with the person	To continue to utilise the services of the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme and Diversion Projects to reduce the risks and harmful behaviour of young people.	2012-2015	Garda Síochána through the Juvenile Liaison Officer and the Garda Youth Diversion Projects	Garda Policing Plan
		The management of young people involved in crime through the		The care and case planning for young people involved in drug		Garda Síochána	Recommendation 7 T & R NSMS Report

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
National Outcomes: Safe from accidental and intentional harm/ Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Drugs & Alcohol continued...		Case Management of Juveniles The introduction of care planning similar to the Homeless Agency initiative		and alcohol addiction to reduce the risks and harmful behaviour.			Recommendation 9 T & R NSMS Report
	5) Explore the impact of family addictions on young people	Results of interviews	Youth Sector	Utilise the voice of children and young people to explore the impact of family addictions. Utilise existing research in this area to develop responses that will meet the needs of the child.	2013	HSE Addiction Services Meath Children's Services Committee Information Working Group Meath JIGSAW	Recommendation 13 T & R NSMS Report Recommendation 14 T & R NSMS Report

NDS 2009-2016 (The National Drugs Strategy (Interim) 2009 - 2016, 2009)
 NSMS Report (Steering Group Report on a National Substance Misuse Strategy 2012, 2012)

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ Included and participating in society

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Vulnerable Children and Families (Lead: Mr. Sé Fulham)	Interagency co-operation for the most at risk and vulnerable families - to encourage cross sharing of information and co-ordination of interventions for the best possible outcomes	<p>Services working co-operatively in response to specific families</p> <p>Services using the interagency response model</p> <p>Families experiencing co-ordinated multi-agency response and improved outcomes</p>	<p>Vulnerable families requiring multi-agency intervention</p> <p>Statutory, voluntary and community organisations</p>	<p>Develop an interagency response model and agree information sharing protocols</p> <p>Achieve buy in from all levels including senior level from key agencies</p> <p>Raising awareness of the interagency response model</p> <p>Monitoring and review of the implementation</p>	<p>Phase 1 (6 months) Development of the interagency model</p> <p>Phase 2 (6-18 months) Implementation</p> <p>Phase 3 (12-24 months) Monitoring and review</p>	Sé Fulham	Development of the Child & Family Support Agency
	To provide an accessible and user friendly information point on all relevant services for children and their families in the county	<p>Website up and running</p> <p>Number of website hits</p> <p>Level of referrals</p>	The whole community	<p>Investigate alternative methods to set up website</p> <p>Develop a needs led website</p> <p>Website to be reviewed by traveller primary health care group and</p>	Pending access to resources 12 months to completion	Leonard Callaghan	This website will be part of the overall CSC website

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ Included and participating in society

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Vulnerable Children and Families continued...				cultúr throughout the development			
	To highlight issues of concern that impact on the welfare of children and/or families, as they arise in communities across the county, to the wider Children's Services Committee	Update report from the group to the regular CSC meetings	Any group that wish to highlight trends of concern which impact upon the well being of children and families in their community	Make groups aware of the option to raise issues of concern with the Vulnerable Children and Families Working Group	Ongoing	All members of the group	
	Support the implementation of Children First across the community and voluntary sector	Increased awareness and practice of the implementation of Children First across the community and voluntary sector	All community and voluntary groups working with children and families	Promoting best practice in Children First Highlighting challenges to the implementation of Children First Linking the Children First document to the Meath CSC website Work in conjunction with	Ongoing	All members of the group in their own area Children First Information Officer	The National Implementation Guidelines for the rollout of Children First

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee

National Outcomes: Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community/ Included and participating in society

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Vulnerable Children and Families continued...				the Children First Officer			

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Information (Lead: Mr. Des Foley)	To identify the key areas of information required for socio-demographic profile and action plan in consultation with the other working groups	Accurate and current socio-demographic profile for county Meath completed	Socio-demographic profile of county completed	Working groups to identify information required to support and monitor priority areas and objectives of action plan and report to information Working Group	July, 2012	Information Working Group Chairs of working groups	
	To identify a process for gathering the information required	All information required to support Meath CSC action plan is available and regularly updated	Annual report reviewing the well-being of children in County Meath	Formation of information Working Group Identification of all relevant information providers Creation and agreement of information sharing protocols.	Ongoing	Information Working Group Member organisations of Children's Services Committee	
	To explore the technology available to support the gathering, analysis and presentation of data	Information will be available to Meath CSC in the most appropriate format and in clear, concise and simple language e.g. mapping, graphs, text	Identification of the main resources available to Meath CSC for the production and	3 Examine the resources used by other CSC's to present data e.g. NUI Maynooth	Ongoing	Information Working Group	

Action Plan for Meath Children's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans
Information continued...			presentation of up-to-date accurate information and data				
	To consult with children and young people to ensure their voices are heard in the work plan of the Meath Children's Services Committee	Effective consultation process completed which will inform Action Plan	Completion of 4 consultations with young people prior to completion of action plan	4 (a) Identify target groups that are broadly representative of children 4 (b) Arrange method of consultation e.g. online forum, questionnaire, focus groups	End of September 2012	Leonard Callaghan Lorcan Fingleton	
	To conduct an Audit of Services and Local Needs Analysis. Please note that this objective is subject to external funding being obtained.	Services for children in Co. Meath mapped Needs analysis completed	Completed Audit of Services and Local Needs Analysis	Obtain funding Tender for Audit of Services and Local Needs Analysis Overseeing work of consultant	Dependent on funding	Information Working Group	

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

Meath Children's Services Committee will work with all partner agencies, children, young people and families to implement its workplan. Meath CSC has made contact with the Meath Comhairle na nÓg with a view to establishing an appropriate consultation process in order to ensure their participation in the work of the committee going forward. It is envisaged that the Meath CSC will feedback to and consult with Comhairle na nÓg on a six-monthly basis.

This workplan is considered by the Meath Children's Services Committee to be a 'live document' which will be reviewed and updated as required. The Meath CSC intends to commission a consultant with regard to the audit of services and needs analysis, in order to provide and collate accurate information for the Meath CSC, and to inform the Meath CSC Workplan. The audit and needs analysis will develop an appropriate data collection framework to ensure information remains accurate and current, while also providing the Meath Children's Services Committee with up-to-date and accurate baseline information to inform its work going forward. This work will be carried out in 2013 (subject to funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs) and will then be presented to the committee. This workplan will be reviewed and amended in light of the findings and ongoing consultation with children, young people and their families.

Each working group is responsible for the objectives outlined in the workplan and ensuring that they are implemented. Support will be provided by the Meath CSC where required. The working groups will report back to the Meath CSC. The data collection framework commissioned as part of the audit and needs analysis will enable the Meath Children's Services Committee together with the working groups to track and monitor progress and the impact on children's lives.

Meath CSC will provide regular reports to the national CSC Steering Group and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Section 8: Appendices

(I) Memorandum/Terms of Reference

Meath Children's Services Committee Memorandum of Understanding

The Five National Outcomes for Children:

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

Agenda for Children's Services: A Policy Handbook (2007)

Our Vision

In recognition of the rights of the child, all children in Meath are to:

- Be safe and well nourished
- Be respected as young citizens
- Be encouraged and valued for their contribution
- Have their voice heard
- Be cherished and supported by family and community
- Have a fulfilling childhood
- Reach their full potential

Our Mission Statement

“Working together to ensure the very best outcomes for our children”.

Principles

- Respect – for our children and families, for our colleagues and ourselves.
- Integrity – we will be honest. We will promise only what we can deliver and deliver what we can promise.
- Fairness – we will treat people fairly whatever their background and needs.
- Accountability – we will take responsibility for what we do and say.
- Hope – we will expect the best and work to achieve it.
- Courage – we will have the courage to put into practice all our values.
- Equality – we will champion the rights of all citizens, regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religious belief, to be treated equally.

Values

Our values are based on our principles:

- The family as the rightful place for children to grow and be nurtured.
- Children’s best interests to be at the fore of our thinking and planning.
- Community involvement at the core of our approach.
- Constant improvement of our service approach.
- Joined up planning, shared priorities and shared goals for children and young people.
- Evidence informed and best value approach to service delivery.
- Being accountable, consistent and transparent.
- Open to change

Terms of Reference

The Meath Children's Services Committee will meet the expectations of our vision, principles and values by working to support and strengthen families through collaboration in policy development and strategic planning. This will achieve better coordination and improved outcomes for children. To achieve this, each CSC member commits to the following:

- 1) To facilitate, coordinate and maximise collaboration between services.
- 2) To support the joint implementation of policies and initiatives, which require joint agency co-operation.
- 3) Assisting in the implementation of the National Children's Strategy in Meath.
- 4) To work collaboratively to deliver the expectations of Children First National Guidance 2011.
- 5) To encourage and foster high quality cross agency communication.
- 6) To evaluate and monitor the impact and support of interagency working
- 7) To utilise learning to constantly improve service outcomes for children.

Goals

To achieve our vision, we will work together towards the following long-term goals for children in Ireland in line with Towards 2016, and An Garda Síochána Youth and Children Strategy 2009-2011:

- Every child should grow up in a family with access to sufficient resources, supports and services to nurture and care for the child, and foster the child's development and full and equal participation in society;
- Every family should be able to access childcare services which are appropriate to the circumstances and needs of their children;
- Every child should leave primary school literate and numerate;
- Every student should complete a senior cycle or equivalent programme, (including ICT) appropriate to their capacity and interests; and have the opportunity to access the path for progression into future education;
- Every child should have access to world-class health, personal social services and suitable accommodation;
- Every child should have access to quality play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood;
- Every child and young person will have access to appropriate participation in local and national decision-making, and;

- Every child should live in a safe community, have an understanding of the expectations for good citizenship, and where in conflict with the law, be dealt with in a manner that is appropriate and responsive to their age and understanding.

(II) Membership of CSC Working Groups

Healthy Lifestyle Working Group

Seán Boyan, GAA

Dr. Niall Moyna, School of Health and Human Performance, DCU

Majella Ryan, Former Superintendent

David McSweeney, Health Promotion, HSE

Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

Mental Health Working Group

Alan Doran, Principal Psychologist Meath HSE

Seamus Ryan, Meath VEC

Bernadette Flood, Family Support Coordinator, Child & Family Support Agency

Michael Cullinane, NEPS Regional Director

Marie Daly, CEO, Crann Support Group

Lorcan Fingleton, Jigsaw Meath Project Manager

Louise Carroll, Headstrong

Andy Ogle, Drugs Task Force

Kathryn Morris, HSE Information Officer for Children First

Neil Conaty Young Person

Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

Improving Educational Outcomes Working Group

Seamus Ryan, Meath VEC

Sonja Croke, NEWB

Máire Ní Bhroithe, Principal, Ratoath College (Post Primary School)

Elizabeth Lavery, Alternative School Models

Colm Devlin, Principal, Scoil Mhuire National School (Primary School)

Dr Pádraic O'Dowd, National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals

Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

Drugs & Alcohol Working Group

Superintendent Mary Gormley, Trim Garda Division

Marie Fogarty, HSE Addiction Services

Tracey Monson, ISPC

Lisa Gavillet, NERDTF

Kerry Quinn, Probation

Catherine Cronin, JLO, Navan Garda

Cathy Whelan, Meath Community Drugs Alcohol Response

Andy Ogle, HSE/NERDTF

Collette O'Connor, HSE Outreach

Cindy Conolty, HSE Addiction

Alan Duff, ISPC

Sandra Stafford, HSE Family Support

Alan Larkin, Ashbourne Youthreach

Tom Clogher, Empowerment Plus

John Columb, HSE Drug & Addiction Counsellor

Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

Vulnerable Children & Families Working Group

Sé Fulham, Navan Springboard

Johnny Meehan, Manager, Youth Advocate Program

Catherine McGlone, Manager, HSE Family Support & Child Welfare Services (From 11th May, 2012, Margaret

Timmons, Co-ordinator, HSE Family Support & Child Welfare Services)

Ray Parkinson, Social Work Team Leader, HSE Primary Care

Marie Daly, CEO, Crann Support Group
Sinead Lynch, Aftercare Worker, HSE
Eileen Gilsenan, Public Health Nurse and HSE Traveller Health Project Co-ordinator
Inspector Martina Noonan, Navan Garda
Louise Clinton, Senior Social Worker, Housing Department, Meath County Council
Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

Information Working Group

Des Foley, Director of Housing & Community, Meath County Council
Assumpta Kelly, Administrative Officer, Community Department, Meath County Council
Olivia Carpenter, Administrative Support, Meath County Council
Inspector Martina Noonan, Navan Garda
Dr. Emma Clare, Senior Research & Development Officer
Dr. Peter Nolan, Chief Medical Officer, HSE Dublin North East
Mary Rose Smith, HSE Primary Care
Noel Hand, Department of Social Protection (From 1st May, 2012, John Kealy, Department of Social Protection)
Peter Kierans, Meath VEC (From 18th April, 2012, Lorraine Peyton, Meath VEC)
Lorcan Fingleton, Meath JIGSAW
Fiona Healy, Meath County Childcare Committee
Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath CSC

(III) Meath Childrens' Services Committee Mental Health Working Group Terms of Reference (Approved by Meath CSC on 15th May, 2012)

The above working group was created by the Meath Children's Services Committee. The working group reports directly to the Services Committee.

In parallel to this development there is a Jigsaw Meath interagency project, aimed at enhancing the mental health needs of young people in the County. Its composition includes three members of the children's service committee, including the chair of the Jigsaw Management group.

In order to avoid duplication and to maximise resources, the membership of the mental health subgroup will be mainly drawn from the Jigsaw Meath management group. While there are additional members, it is important that the governance structures for the Mental Health Working Group have clear lines of accountability.

Meath Children's Services Committee Mental Health Working Group has a focus on the needs of all children aged 0-18 years. This committee will hold regular meetings which will be recorded. The Children's Services Committee Co-ordinator will attend these meetings and copies of the minutes will be provided to him. The chair of the Mental Health Working Group will report back to the Children's Services Committee and will be accountable to the committee for guidance and direction. The working group agenda will aim to fulfil the objectives set out in the national guidance document for Children's Services Committees.

Membership of the Mental Health Working Group

- Seamus Ryan, Meath VEC
- Bernadette Flood, Family Support Coordinator, Child & Family Support Agency
- Michael Cullinane, NEPS Regional Director
- Marie Daly, CEO Crann Pre-school Services
- Lorcan Fingleton, Jigsaw Meath Project Manager
- Alan Doran, Principal Psychologist, Meath HSE
- Leonard Callaghan, Co-ordinator, Meath Children's Services Committee
- Louise Carroll, Headstrong
- Andy Ogle, Drugs Task Force
- Kathryn Morris, HSE
- Neil Conaty Young Person

Objectives Of the Working Group

Objective 1

1. To support and advise Jigsaw Meath in the development of the mental health programme of activities in the Youth Hub and across the County

Objective 2

2. To support the roll out of a mental health YCP Training Programme for front line staff working with young people.

Objective 3

To support the ongoing development of the post-primary schools/centres based mental health intervention programme in Co. Meath

Objective 4

Develop an agreed referral pathway protocol for mental health services

Objective 5

To develop an agreed management system for the treatment of 16-18 year olds in the HSE with mental health difficulties

(IV) County Meath Socio-Demographic Profile

This section presents an outline of the socio-demographic profile of Meath based on CSO census, labour force and vital statistics data and makes reference to a number of key reports including:

:

- Meath County Council (2012) Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019
- Meath Citizens Information Service and Meath County Development Board (2008) 'Engaging Difference: The Opportunity of Diversity in a Changing County Meath'
- Meath County Childcare Committee (2006) Strategic Plan 2007-2010
- Meath Education and Training Forum (2005) Meath Education and Training Audit
- Meath County Council (2008) Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012
- Health Service Executive (2012) Review of Adequacy for HSE Children and Families Services, 2010
- Staines, A (2010) Towards the development of a resource allocation model for primary, continuing and community care in the health services

The full 2011 Census figures, including the small area population statistics, had not been released at the time this plan was prepared. Where possible 2011 figures are cited in the profile, however, in many cases 2006 Census figures have had to be used. Given the substantial changes that have occurred in Irish society, particularly economically, since 2006 any conclusions drawn from 2006 figures need to be treated with a degree of caution.

A range of factors have been identified as social determinants of health and well-being and generally include inequality; poverty; social exclusion; income; public policy; health services; employment; education; housing; transport; the built environment; health behaviours and lifestyles; social and community networks; and stress (Farrell et al, 2008). Research has shown that 'marginalised' or 'socially excluded' groups suffer more ill-health and poor social well-being than those not in these groups (DHSS, UK, 1999). There is evidence that Travellers, lone parents, and asylum seekers, for example, experience stress, depression, or mental health difficulties linked to discrimination, stigmatisation, and poor living conditions (Combat Poverty Agency, 2007). A study of disability and social inclusion found that people with disabilities were twice as likely to be in poverty as others in society (Gannon and Nolan, 2006).

Certain factors have also been identified as impacting on a parent's capacity to meet the needs of their children (Buckley et al, 2005). These factors include alcohol and drug misuse, mental health difficulties, parental disability, parenting alone, being an adolescent parent/carer, parenting a child with a disability or complex health needs, being a member of an ethnic minority group and socio-economic factors. According to Gaudin et al (1996) child maltreatment is far more likely to be recorded among low-income families while Tomison (1995, p 5) claims that the following factors are predictors of neglect: 'low income, larger, multi-problem families, families receiving government benefits, poor housing and living conditions'.

The data outlined below reports on some of these key social determinants that impact on the health and well-being of children and families.

Background

Meath is situated on the northern and northern western border of County Dublin and borders counties Kildare, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. County Meath comprises part of the Greater Dublin area, along with Kildare, Wicklow, Dublin City, Fingal South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 aim to direct the future growth of these areas over the medium to long term and implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy. This sets out a detailed strategy in respect of economic development, settlement patterns, population projections and housing, rural development, infrastructure, heritage and social development.

Map 1: Context Map of County Meath

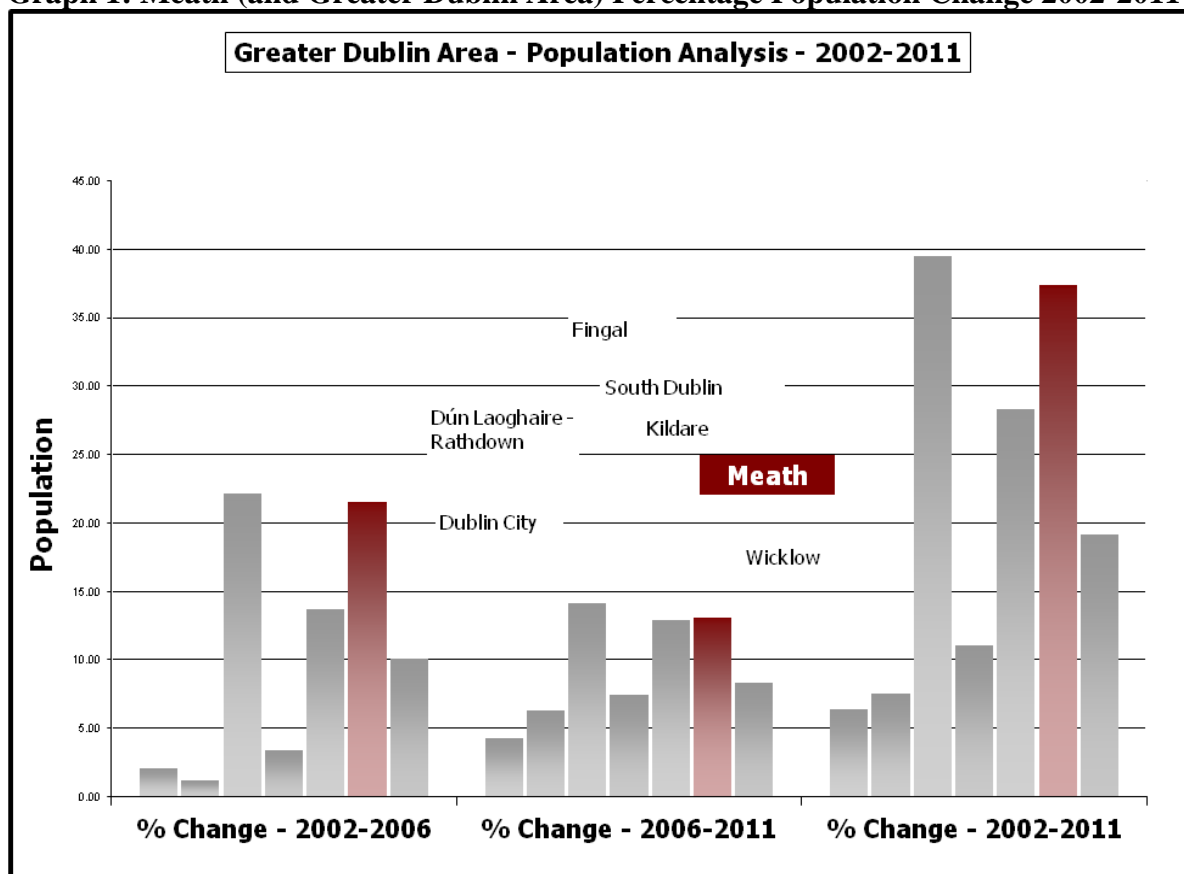


Source: Meath County Council Draft Development Plan 2013-2019 (2012)

Density levels vary greatly from the rural areas of the northwest and west of the county (25 persons per sq. kilometre) to the main urban areas of Navan, Trim, Kells, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Ashbourne, Ratoath and Duleek/Laytown (149 persons per sq. kilometre) (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006)

Meath County experienced significant population increase over the last fifteen years, growing from 109,732 in 1996 to 184,135 in 2011, which equates to an increase of 68%. This growth is primarily attributable to the growth of the county's population between 1996 and 2002 (in excess of 22%) and between 2002 and 2006 (a 22% growth), while the period between 2006 and 2011 saw a 13% growth.

Graph 1: Meath (and Greater Dublin Area) Percentage Population Change 2002-2011

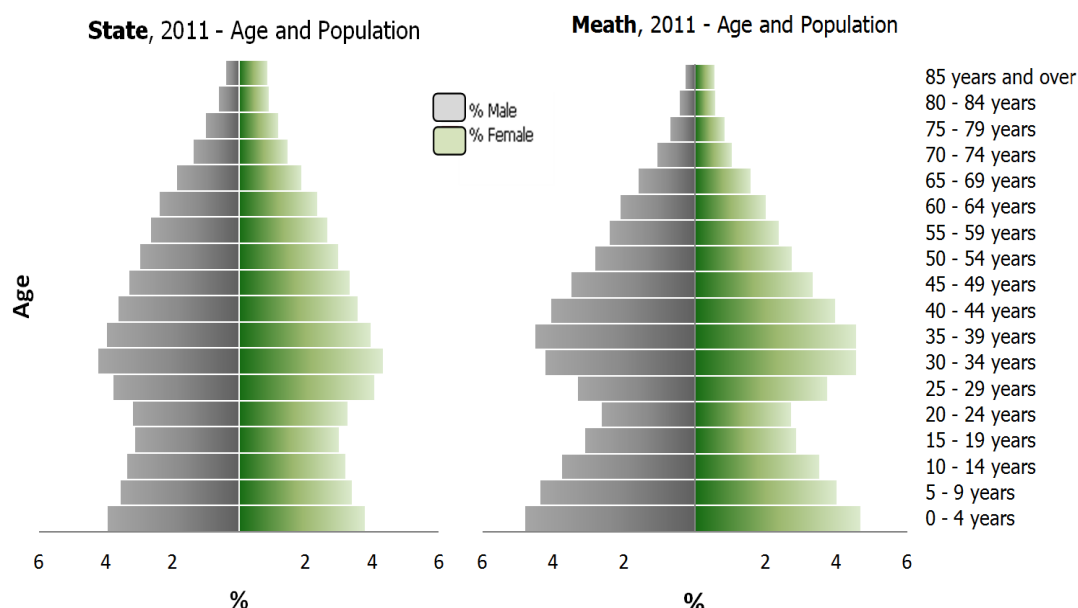


Source: Meath County Council Draft Development Plan 2013-2019 (2012)

A brief comparison of Meath's rate of population growth with the other counties in the Greater Dublin Area demonstrates the significance of Meath's population increase, which is second only to Fingal in terms of percentage population change 2002 to 2011 (39.5% compared with 37.4%). Other counties in the Greater Dublin Area which experienced less significant growth include Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown (7.5%) while Wicklow recorded a 19.2% rate of growth over the same period (Meath County Council, 2012).

The population of Meath now accounts for 10.2% of the total population within the Greater Dublin Area, having previously accounted for 8.7% in 2002 and 9.8% in 2006.

Graph 2: Population Pyramids for State and Meath 2011



Source: Meath County Council Draft Development Plan 2013-2019 (2012)

Meath's population differs from the national average. Meath records a high percentage of children in the 0-4 age cohort, and a high percentage of adults in the 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 cohorts. Furthermore, Meath has a relatively low percentage of adults in the 70+ age cohorts. This indicates that Meath has a high proportion of young families (Meath County Council, 2012).

The major settlements of county Meath, namely those identified within the settlement hierarchy of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022, all experienced significant population growth between 1996 and 2011. Growth rates for these towns included a c. 28% increase in the population of Navan between 2002 and 2006, a c. 34% increase in population in Ashbourne during the same period, while Kells experienced growth of c. 19% in its population. Indications from the first tranche of Census 2011 results on population suggest further growth occurred in the main towns of Meath between 2006 and 2011.

Table 1: Settlement Types identified within County Meath

Settlement Type	Centres in Meath
Large Growth Town I	Navan, Drogheda Environs
Large Growth Town II	Dunboyne
Moderate Sustainable Growth Town	Ashbourne, Kells, Trim,
Small Towns	To be defined in development plan
Villages	

Source: Meath County Council, 2012

Dunshaughlin will become a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town following the granting of permission for a railway order for the Navan Rail Line Phase II, including a station at the town

Navan is the ninth largest town in the Republic of Ireland and the largest town in Meath and is situated in the centre of the county where most of the activities in the county radiate from. Most unusual in the growth of Navan is the fact that new housing developments account for over half of the houses in Navan, which were built between 1996 and 2002 (Meath Education and Training Audit, 2005).

Ashbourne is the second largest town in Meath and this reflects its location on the eastern edge of Meath and within commuting distance of Dublin. Trim is the third largest while Laytown/Bettystown is the fourth largest town in Meath reflecting its location in the commuter belt area of Meath.

Meath has experienced population explosions in certain areas. Certain population growths can be attributed to Meath's proximity to Dublin. The main areas that experienced population explosions were Drogheda, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Navan Rural, Kentstown, Athboy, Castlerickard, Enfield, Kells Rural, Duleek, Julianstown, Stamullen and Slane.

There are two Gaeltacht Areas in Co Meath, one in Rath Cairn and the other in Baile Gibb. Rath Cairn is situated adjacent to Navan, Kells, Trim and Athboy and Baile Gibbs is situated southeast of Kells. In terms of childcare facilities, both areas are serviced by Naionra (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006).

Planned Developments within County Meath

Health Care

Under HSE reorganization plans for hospitals in the north-east (Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan), which will result in the closure of acute services in smaller hospitals, a new regional hospital for the north-east was proposed. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area indicate that a HSE study found Navan to be the most suitable location for a new Regional Hospital. Accordingly, a site is reserved in Navan for the development of a Regional Hospital in the Navan Development Plan 2009 – 2015. Whilst plans to build this major new regional hospital in Navan have been deferred in view of current economic circumstances, the official HSE policy is that it remains their long-term plan to centralise all major hospital care into the new regional hospital. It is considered that the development of this regional facility would become a key driver with significant multiplier effects within the Primary Economic Area of Navan.

Transport

Transport 21, which ran until 2010 and was supported by the National Development Plan (2007-2013), sought to deliver a radically upgraded public transport system in line with the timetable in Transport 21 especially in the Greater Dublin Area, but with significant impacts in other areas. The main projects included in T21 of relevance to Meath included:

- Navan Rail Line
- M3 Clonee to North of Kells

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform published a revised capital programme 'Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012 – 2016 Medium Term Exchequer Framework' in November 2011. The Capital Investment Programme seeks to address the changed fiscal and budgetary situation in the country. It has deferred certain rail projects from the planning and design stages including the Navan Rail project.

General Health of Meath Population, 2011

In the 2011 Census a question was added that allowed people to rate their own general health. In terms of their general health, 64% of Meath's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 27% rated it as good. Less than one per cent (0.20%) rated their general health as very bad or bad (0.92%) while six per cent of Meath's population rated their general health as fair.

Table 2: General Health of Meath and the State

	Total	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad	Very Bad	Not stated
Meath	184135	117657	49209	11817	1693	371	3388
%	100	64	27	6	0.9	0.2	2
State	4588252	2767681	1282956	368131	57243	12418	99823
%	100	60	28	8	1	0.3	2

Source: CSO, 2012

Compared to the figures for the State, Meath recorded a higher percentage of people rating their health as very good, the percentage for the State was 60%. The percentage who rated their health in Meath as very bad was slightly lower than that of the State (0.27%). The State percentage for fair health was higher than that of Meath (eight per cent compared to six).

Relative Affluence and Deprivation

The Deprivation Index developed by Haase Pratsche provides a single measurement of the overall deprivation of an area. This index takes the underlying dimensions of social disadvantage (social class, demographic decline and labour market deprivation) into consideration.

Overall, the Mid East Region is the most affluent region of Ireland. Based on 2006 Census figures, Meath was the second most affluent local authority area within the region and the sixth most affluent county in Ireland as whole (TrutzHasse, 2008). The relative affluence of Meath reached a temporary high of 7.4 in 2002 but had dropped to 6.5 in 2006. As with every county, there exists a degree of variation within Meath, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.

At a local level, the most disadvantaged EDs are Killeagh (-9.0), Cloghbrack (-7.8) and Kells Urban (-6.9) but not a single ED falls into the 'disadvantaged' category. All EDs are at the most marginally below the national average.

The Deprivation Index indicates the following:

- Towns such as Navan, Kells and Trim are deemed marginally below average
- Areas of deprivation and decline within Meath are predominantly located to the north and southwest of the county, for example Oldcastle, Ballinlough, Ardagh, Kilmainham, Drumcontrath, Slane and Donore electoral divisions.
- The most affluent electoral divides and district electoral divides in the county are located in close proximity or within commuting distances from Dublin along the N2 and N3 routes, towns such as Dunshaughlin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, and Dunboyne.

(Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006)

There are particular areas highlighted in the county as needing additional support and funding opportunities to break down the barriers facing these communities. These are the RAPID and CLAR areas of Meath.

Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)

The RAPID Programme is aimed at improving the quality of life and the opportunity available to residents of the most disadvantaged communities in Irish cities and towns. The programme aims to reduce the deprivations faced by residents of disadvantaged communities through targeting specific state resources at the needs of disadvantaged areas. The programme is led by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Regionally, the programme is overseen by the relevant City of County Development Board. At local level, planning and implementation is overseen by the Area Implementation Team. Each area is also supported by the RAPID Co-ordinator, and nationally the programme is supported by Pobal.

In each local RAPID area, a straightforward local plan is developed which defines a series of issues, objectives and actions that are key to the RAPID programme locally. These plans provide a way of defining actions which take place under a number of themes which are part of the RAPID programmes:

- Community safety and anti-social behaviour – launched January 2008
- Health – launched January 2008
- Family Support – launched January 2008
- Education – launched September 2008
- Training and Employment – launched 2009
- Physical Environment – launched 2008
- Youth – yet to be launched

(www.pobal.ie, June 2012)

In 2012, there were 51 RAPID areas located in cities and towns around Ireland. Strand 2 was launched in February 2002. Navan was included in Strand 2 of the RAPID programme and by September 2007 there were fourteen estates across the Trim Road, Kells Road and Commons Road within the RAPID programme (Mahoney, 2007). The following developments have been seen in these areas in the last four years:

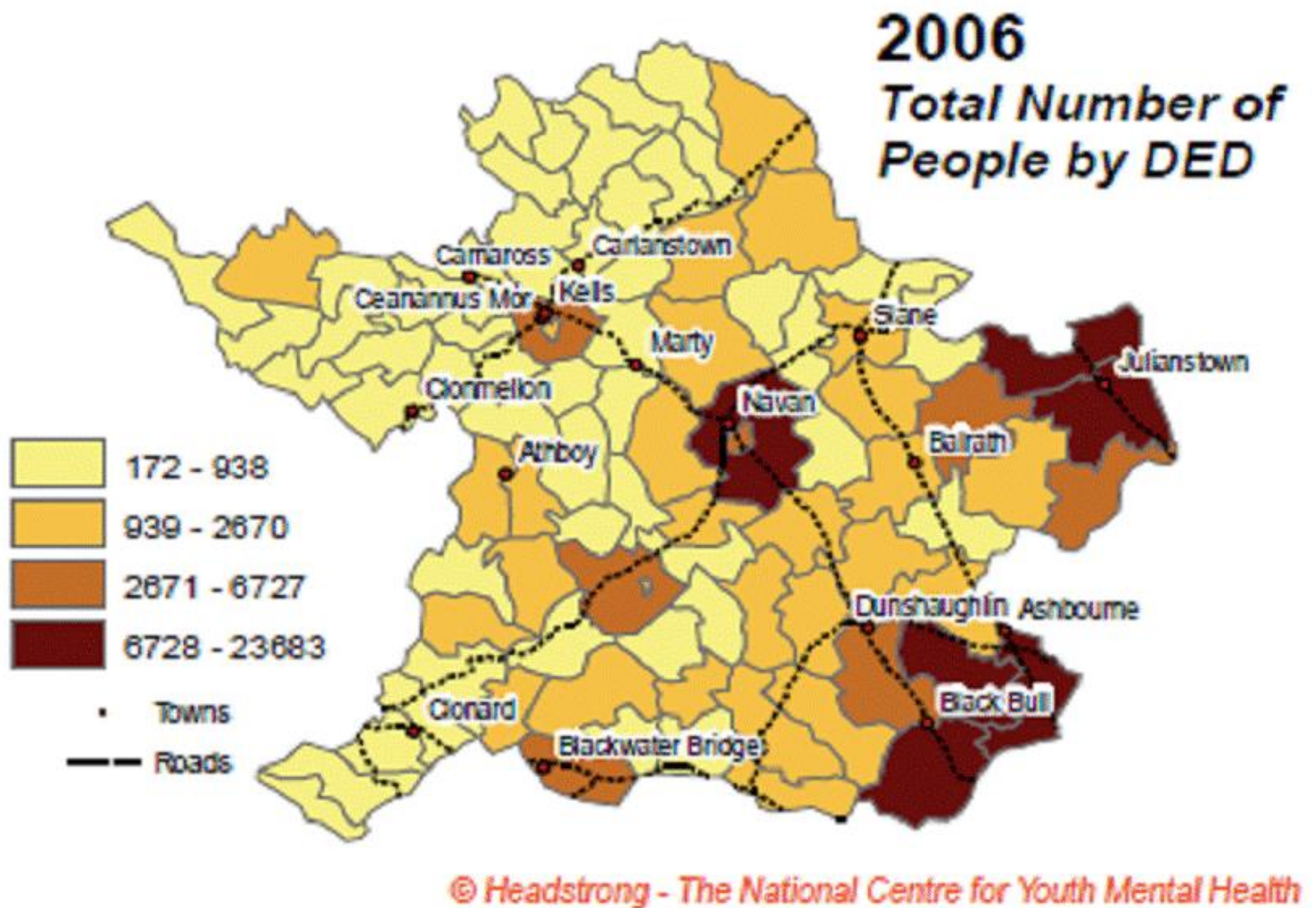
- Three new playgrounds costing more than €250,000
- New investments by FAS in IT training worth more than €300,000
- Estate enhancements worth €100,000
- Road improvements in several estates worth €100,000
- New and innovative training programmes in areas such as digital film making
- Summer camps and after school groups for children

(www.rapidnavan.ie, June, 2012)

Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais (CLAR)

The CLAR programme launched in 2001, is led by the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, and is a targeted investment programme in rural areas. CLAR compliments both the RAPID programme for disadvantaged areas and RAPID II, the programme for provincial towns. The 16 regions selected for inclusion in the CLAR programme were those which suffered the greatest population decline from 1926 to 1996. Each area would have to have a minimum population of 4,000 people and a maximum

population of less than 30,000 people. CLAR programmes in Meath are located in the rural northwestern electoral divisions (see Map 1 Appendix 1). CLAR provides funding and co-funding to Government departments, state agencies and local authorities in accelerating investment in selected priority developments. These investments support physical, economic and social infrastructure across a variety of measures. The measures introduced under the programme reflect the priorities identified by the communities in the selected areas whom the Minister consulted at the outset (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006).



Key Demographics of County Meath

Population

The population of Meath was recorded as 184,034 in the April 2011 Census. This represents a 13% (21,203) increase from the 2006 Census figure of 162,831. The projected population of Meath is 195,898 persons in 2016, rising to 210,260 persons by 2022 (Meath County Council, 2012).

Meath had the highest proportion of residents born outside the county with 62.8 per cent of residents born outside the county (47.6% born in another county and 15.3% born abroad).

The change in population since the previous census was 21,304. During that period there were a total of 17,469 births and 4,025 deaths. There was a natural increase of 13,444 and an estimated net migration of 7,860 individuals.

The average annual average birth rate for Meath during this period was 20.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 16.6 for the State and the average annual death rate was 4.6 per 1,000 of population compared to 6.4 for the State. The average annual natural increase was 15.5 per 1,000 of population while it was 10.2 for the State and the average annual estimated net migration rate was 9.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 5.5 for the State.

Meath County is made up of 92 Electoral Divisions¹⁶ (ED). Electoral divisions are the smallest legally defined administrative areas in the State for which Small Area Population Statistics are published from the Census.

In 2006, Navan Rural ED recorded the highest concentration of people with 23,683 people recorded as residing there, representing 14.5% of Meath's population. Possecktown ED recorded the lowest number of people living in an ED with 172 people or less than one per cent of Meath's population. Table 3 below outlines the 10 EDs in Meath with the highest populations in 2006.

Table 3: Meath's top 10 electoral divisions for population, 2006

Electoral Division	Total population	% of Meath's total population
Navan Rural	23,683	14.5
St Mary's (part)	9,044	5.5
Ratoath	8,805	5.4
Dunboyne	8,702	5.3
Donaghmore	8,408	5.1
Julianstown	8,289	5.0
Trim Rural (part)	6,727	4.1
Dunshaughlin	5,245	3.2
Duleek	4,366	2.6
Kells Rural	3,876	2.3

Source: CSO, 2006

Of Meath's 92 electoral divisions in 2006:

- 30 recorded between 170 and less than 500 people
- 21 recorded over 500 and less than 1,000 people
- 24 recorded over 1,000 and less than 2,000 people
- 8 recorded over 2,000 and below 4,000 people
- 8 recorded over 4,000 and below 10,000 people
- 1 recorded over 20,000 people

¹⁶ One of Meath's ED, St Mary's straddles the Louth-Meath border and is separated into two equal divisions in the small area population statistics tables produced by the CSO.

Table 4, below, provides a breakdown by age groups of Meath's total population in April 2011.

Table 4: Meath population by age group, April 2011

Age group	Number	% of total population
All ages	184135	100
0-4 years	17502	9.5
5-9 years	15495	8.4
10-14 years	13469	7.3
15-19 years	11064	6.0
20-24 years	9908	5.4
25-29 years	13041	7.1
30-34 years	16235	8.8
35-39 years	16791	9.1
40-44 years	14856	8.1
45-49 years	12641	6.9
50-54 years	10320	5.6
55-59 years	8879	4.8
60-64 years	7612	4.1
65-69 years	5914	3.2
70-74 years	3962	2.2
75-79 years	2915	1.6
80-84 years	1931	1.0
85 years and over	1600	0.87

Source: CSO, 2012

Table 5: Meath 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 age groups by number and percentage of total population, 2011 and 2006

Age group	Number, 2011	% of total population, 2011	Number, 2006	% of total population, 2011
All ages	184135	100	162831	100
0-4 years	17502	9.5	14228	8.7
5-9 years	15495	8.4	12800	7.9
10-14 years	13469	7.3	11122	6.8

Source: CSO, 2012

In terms of Meath's total population in 2011, 0-4 years make up 9.5% of Meath's population compared to 8.7% in 2006; while those aged 5 to 9 years comprise 8.4% of the total population compared to 7.9% in 2006. Young people aged 10-14 years made up 7.3% of Meath's total population in 2011 compared to 6.8% in 2006 (see Tables 6 and 7 below).

46,466 children and young people aged between 0 and 14 years resided in Meath in April 2011 representing 25.2% of Meath's total population. In 2006, the total number of young people aged 0-17 residing in Meath was 44,621 which gives some indication of the increase in the 0-17 year population in the county in the last five years.

Table 6: Changes in number of 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years between 2006 and 2011

Age group	2011	2006	Change in number
0-4 years	17502	14228	+3274
5-9 years	15495	12800	+2695
10-14 years	13469	11122	+2347

Source: CSO, 2012

In 2006, the ED in Meath which recorded the highest number and highest percentage of children was Navan Rural where 6,852 or 15% of all children in Meath resided. Killallon ED recorded the lowest number and percentage of children in Meath (47: 0.10%).

Table 7, below, outlines the total population and the population of 0-14 and 15-24 year olds of towns in Meath with populations of 1,500 and over in April 2011. As can be seen Dunshaughlin records the highest percentage of 0-14 year olds of these Meath towns with 35.3% of Dunshaughlin's total population recorded as being aged 14 or below in April 2011. Rathoth records the second highest percentage of 0-14 years with 33.3% of its total population being recorded in this age group. In all but three of these eleven towns (Trim, Kells and Ashbourne) record over a quarter of their total population as being aged between 0 and 14 years of age.

Table 7: Persons in each town with 1,500 population and over, classified by age group, 2011

Town	Total	0-14 years	0-14 as % of total town pop	15-24 years	15-24 as % of total town pop
Navan	28559	7610	26.6	3162	11.1
Ashbourne	11355	2671	23.5	1393	12.2
Laytown-Bettystown-Mornington	10889	3039	27.9	1010	9.3
Ratoath	9043	3017	33.3	894	9.9
Trim	8268	1959	23.6	1009	12.2
Kells	5888	1396	23.7	661	11.2
Kilcock	5533	1552	28.0	549	9.9
Duleek	3988	1136	28.5	412	10.3
Dunshaughlin	3903	1034	35.3	509	13.0
Enfield	2929	873	29.8	309	10.5
Athboy	2397	618	25.8	295	12.3

Source: CSO, 2012

The population of secondary school children (aged 13-18) remained almost static between 2006 and April 2011, increasing by less than one per cent to stand at 344,931 nationally. Meath, however, recorded the second highest increase in this age group (9.5%) after Laois and Kildare who both recorded a 10.3% increase (CSO, 2012).

Age Dependency

Age dependency shows the ratio of the old and young population to the population of working age. The young dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0-14 as a percentage of the population of working age. In April 2011 this rate stood at 31.9% for the State overall. Meath recorded the highest young dependency ratio (38.3%) and along with Laois and Cavan recorded young and fast growing populations.

Meath also recorded the youngest urban population with an average age of 31.4 years (CSO, 2012).

Births and Birth Rates

A total of 3,517 births were recorded for mothers who resided in County Meath in 2009. The total number of births for the State that year was 75,554 and for Leinster it was 42,634. Births in Meath represented 7.4% of all births in Leinster and 4.7% of all births in the State. The birth rate for Meath in 2009 was 20.5 per 1,000 population which was substantially higher than the national rate of 16.9 and the rate for Leinster which was 17.7. Only Fingal had a higher birth rate than Meath in 2009, while Kildare recorded the same rate as Meath.

Table 8: Number of births by area of residence of mother

Area of residence of mother	2009
Kells Town	267
Navan Town	824
Trim Town	165
Rest of Co. Meath	2261
Total for county	3517

Source: Vital Statistics Annual Reports, CSO, (2012)

Of the 3,517 births in 2009, 80 were to mothers under the age of 20 years (2.3%). This was slightly below the national average of 2.9%.

In 2008, Meath recorded a rate of 18 per 1,000 live births of mothers aged 13-19 years (HSE, www.outcomesforchildren.org).

Deaths and Mortality Rates

A total of 808 people residing in county Meath died in 2009. Of these 808, 10 were aged 0-4 years, one was aged 5-14 years and 13 were aged 15-24 years. The majority of deaths of residents of Meath were people aged 65 and over, accounting for 75% (606) of all deaths. A total of 56 of deaths of residents in Meath had external causes of death in 2009. In 21 cases the external cause of death was intentional self-harm and in two cases assault was the external cause of death.

Ireland, together with Cyprus, had the eight lowest mortality rate of the EU-27 (3.3 per 1,000 live births). Nationally, 39% of all infant deaths occurred within the first day of birth and just over 56% occurred during the first week. Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities accounted for 45.7% of infant deaths in 2009. Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period accounted for a further 40.9%, sudden infant death syndrome accounted for 6% and diseases of the nervous system and sense organs 3.2%, and all other causes each accounted for 4%.

Table 9: Stillbirths and infant mortality per 1,000 live births for Meath and State

	Infant mortality		Neonatal mortality		Stillbirths		Perinatal mortality	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Meath 2009	8	2.3	6	1.7	17	4.8	22	6.2
State 2009	247	3.3	168	2.2	294	3.9	433	5.7
2010								

Source: Vital Statistics Annual Report, CSO, (2012)

As can be seen from Table 9, Meath recorded lower infant and neonatal mortality rates than the State in 2009. In the same year, Meath recorded higher stillbirth and perinatal mortality rates than the State.

The stillbirth and infant mortality rates in some areas based on small numbers are subject to considerable fluctuation and caution should be exercised in their interpretation.

Ethnicity, Nationality and Migrant Population

The total population of Meath in 2006 was 162,831; with 9% (14,448) of this population being non-Irish nationals.

Table 10: Persons usually resident and present in the State on Census Night, classified by nationality, 2006

Nationality	Irish	UK	Polish	Lithuanian	Other EU25 ¹⁷	Rest of World	Not Stated	Total
Meath County	145577	3811	1902	2173	2144	4418	1326	161351
Leinster	1986133	49163	35688	15245	47063	98734	27888	2259914
State	3706683	112548	63276	24628	75323	143958	45597	4172013

CSO: 2006

In 2006, 90% of the population of Meath were recorded as being Irish, 2.4% were of UK nationality, 1.3% of Lithuanian nationality and 1.2% were Polish. A total of 2.7% of Meath's population in 2006 was recorded as being from the Rest of the World (African, Asian, US), 1.3% were from Other EU25 countries and less than one per cent (0.82% did not state their nationality).

¹⁷ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and The Netherlands

Table 11: Persons usually resident and present in the State on Census Night, classified by ethnic or cultural background

Ethnic Group	White Irish	White Irish Traveller	Any other White background	Black or Black Irish	Asian or Asian Irish	Other	Not stated	Total
Meath County	143379	724	10422	1952	1138	1600	2136	161351
Leinster	1943622	11367	161884	31668	38660	27817	44896	2259914
State	3645199	22369	289041	44318	52345	46438	72303	4172013

Source: CSO, 2006

In 2006, 89% of the population of Meath were recorded as being White Irish, less than one per cent were White Irish Traveller (0.45%) and 6.5% were recorded as any other White background. A total of 1.2% were recorded as Black or Black Irish and less than one per cent were recorded as Asian or Asian Irish. Less than one per cent were recorded as 'Other' and 1.3% did not state their ethnic or cultural background.

For all non-Irish nationalities and non-Irish ethnic or cultural backgrounds, the largest proportion resided in the Navan Rural Electoral Division (see Appendix 2, for the top 10 electoral divisions in terms of non-Irish nationalities and ethnic or cultural backgrounds residing within).

According to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website, the total number of work permits issued nationally in 2011 to non-EU migrants was 5,200 with 98 of those being issued in Co. Meath (1.9%). The number of work permits issued to non-EU migrants, both nationally and in the county, has been decreasing in recent years; for example in 2008 a total of 13,567 permits were issued nationally with 427 (3.1%) of those permits being issued in Co Meath.

Meath currently has a direct provision reception centre in Mosney which is located in the east of the county. It provides a settlement community for asylum seekers and refugees. Upon arrival in Ireland asylum seekers must apply for asylum and while their applications are being considered they are accommodated in a settlement community. Asylum seekers must remain there until their application is fully processed.

Mosney has a capacity of 600. For Mosney residents the asylum seeking period takes an average of 18 months and in some cases up to three years (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006). There are limited supports and resources directed to the Mosney residents from the community, voluntary or statutory agencies in the county.

As of July 2012, Mosney recorded 535 residents. Of this 535, 315 were children (59%). There were 124 families with children residing in Mosney in July 2012, 69 lone parents with children, five couples, seven single males and 10 single females. There were 37 different nationalities residing in Mosney at this time comprised of African, Middle East, Eastern European and others. The largest single nationality was Nigerian (183, 34%).

As can be seen in Table 12 below, 53% of the children residing in Mosney were aged between 5 and 12 years while 36% (113) were aged between 0 and 4 years.

Table 12: Age breakdown of children residing in Mosney

Age range	Number of children
0-2	42
3-4	71
5-12	166
13-18	36
Total	315

Source: Mosney Centre, 2012

Issues raised by migrants themselves, statutory agencies and NGOs and voluntary agencies in research on migration and integration issues in county Meath are outlined in Table 13 below:

Table 13: Topics identified in relation to migration and integration issues, 2008

Issues identified by Migrants	English language training; Securing and maintaining employment; Supporting families; Lack of public transport; Learning more and integrating with Irish culture; Building resources for eventual return to country of origin; Recognition of existing qualifications.
Issues identified by Statutory Agencies	More English language training needed Delivering quality services that meet identified needs Specialist resources and expertise required Training for staff in cultural diversity Policy planning and service co-ordination Improved awareness of rights Entitlements and services Substandard or exploitative employment conditions need to be addressed
Issues identified by NGOs and voluntary organisations	A co-ordinated institutional and agency approach Language competence Social and cultural engagement Proactive welcome strategies and support initiatives for migrants Social support and contact The creation of a forum for learning and exchange between NGOs Promotion of integration where desired Resources as required to achieve targets Proactive responses to meet needs so that problems do not emerge in the medium or long term Advocacy and network needs of NGOs

Source: Bruce (2008) 'Engaging Difference: The Opportunity of Diversity in a Changing County Meath'

Meath has a specific group working with migrants. Cultúr has been in existence for six years and has developed experience and expertise over this period. The lack of an overall investment from a social inclusion perspective in the county of Meath, however, has impacted on the work of Cultúr and work with migrants.

Cultúr has recently established (2010) the Meath Intercultural Network as a structure which it is hoped can contribute to the lack of a policy framework or integration strategy for the county. It is hoped this network will ensure that planned policies are implemented which can have a very real impact on services, policies, supports and community work with migrants.

Meath County Development Board identified Social Inclusion Measures as one of its four priority areas for 2009-2012. The Board highlighted the need for county-wide strategies on inclusion of foreign national communities and noted the inadequacy of social inclusion funding and the fact that Meath is one of the few counties that does not have a Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP).

Socio-Economic Status including Highest Level of Education Completed, Labour Force Participation, Unemployment Rates and Principal Economic Status

Table 14: Persons aged 15 years and over classified by highest level of education completed, 2011

	Meath	%	State	%
Total	137669	100	3608662	100
Total whose full-time education has ceased	116661	84.7	3003490	83.2
Primary (incl no formal education/training)	15073	12.9	456896	12.7
Lower secondary	20246	17.4	499489	13.8
Upper secondary	44195	37.9	1032120	28.6
Third Level: Non-degree	5736	4.9	135122	3.7
Third Level: Degree or higher	26610	22.8	739992	20.5
Not stated	4801	4.12	139871	3.9
Total whose full-time education has not ceased	21008	15.3	605172	16.8
Total at school, university etc	13775	65.6	408838	67.6
Other	7233	34.4	196334	32.4

Source: CSO, 2012

Of the 137,669 persons aged over 15 years residing in Meath in 2011, 85% had ceased full-time education. Of those who had ceased full time education, 13% completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary and 38% at upper secondary level. A total of five per cent ceased education at non-degree third level and 23% ceased at degree or higher third level.

In terms of the State in 2011, 15% who had completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary; and 34% at upper secondary level. A total of 4.5% ceased education at non-degree third level and 25% ceased at degree or higher third level.

Meath had a smaller percentage of persons aged 15 years and over who only had completed primary level education than the State. It had a similar percentage of person who had completed lower secondary level education as the State and a higher level of persons who had completed upper secondary level education than the State. Meath had a similar percentage cease education at non-degree level and a lower percentage who completed their education at degree level or higher third level than the State.

Labour Force Participation

The percentage of people aged 15 and over who participate in the labour force, as opposed to having another status such as student, retired or homemaker, is known as the labour force participation rate. It is measured as the number in the labour force (at work or unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the total aged 15 and over. The age structure of each county has a significant effect on the labour force participation rate.

The labour force participation rate for the State was 61.9% in 2011, down from 62.5% recorded in 2006, the first fall in the rate since 1986.

Meath recorded the second highest labour force participation in the State (65.8%) with participation rates being higher for males (74.4%).

Unemployment Rates

The number of people unemployed nationally (that is unemployed having lost or given up a previous job or looking for their first regular job) based on their declared Principal Economic Status in April 2011 was 424,843, an increase of 136.7% compared with April 2006 and amounting to an additional 245,387 people unemployed. Men accounted for 167,694 (68.3%) of the increase.

Meath saw an increase of over 10% in its unemployment rate between 2006 and 2011. Meath was identified as having one unemployment blackspot (Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Urban: 37.8%). An unemployment blackspot is defined as an ED whose labour force exceeded 200 persons and where the unemployment rate on a Principal Economic Status basis exceeded 35%. There were 81 such EDs in the State in 2011 with an average unemployment rate of 39.2% compared with 19% nationally (CSO, 2012).

Table 15: Persons aged 15 and over classified by labour force, employment status, labour force participation rate¹⁸ and unemployment rate¹⁹

Labour force	Meath
Total	137669
Total in labour force	90634
Employer or own account worker	12981
Employee	61124
Assisting relative (at work)	237
Looking for first regular job	1137
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	15155
Total not in labour force	47035
Labour force participation rate	65.8
Unemployment rate	18.0

Source: Census, 2012

As can be seen in Table 15 above, the labour force participation rate for Meath is 65.8, which is above the State rate of 61.9. The majority of the total in the labour force are employees (67%) with 14% being an employer or their own account worker.

¹⁸ The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force (i.e. those at work, looking for first regular job and unemployed) as a percentage of the total

¹⁹ The unemployment rate is calculated by expressing the number of unemployed (including those looking for first regular job) as a percentage of the total labour force

The unemployment rate for Meath was 18.0 in April 2011 which was below the State rate of 19.0.

Principal Economic Status

Table 16: Persons aged 15 years and over in Meath classified by principal economic status

Principal economic Status	Meath
Total	137669
At work	74342
Looking for first regular job	1137
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	15155
Student	13775
Looking after home/family	14108
Retired	13959
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	4839
Other	354

Source: Census, 2012

Of the 137,669 people recorded as aged over 15, 74,342 (54%) were recorded as being at work, 11% (15,155) were recorded as being unemployed, and less than one per cent (1137: 0.83%) were recorded as looking for their first regular job. A total of 10% were identified as looking after the home or family, 10% were identified as students and a further 10% were identified as being retired. A total of 3.5% of person aged 15 years and over in Meath were identified as being unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability.

Socio-Economic Grouping

Table 17: Persons in Meath by socio-economic group

Socio-economic group	Meath	% of total	State	% of total
Total	184135	-	4588252	-
A: Employers and managers	34911	19.0	705132	15.4
B: Higher professionals	10764	5.8	295586	6.4
C: Lower professionals	22438	12.2	556587	12.1
D: Non-manual	38441	20.9	931068	20.3
E: Manual skilled	18079	9.8	386742	8.4
F: Semi-skilled	13680	7.4	359725	7.8
G: Unskilled	5406	2.9	151949	3.3
H: Own account workers	9508	5.2	196774	4.3
I: Farmers	5696	3.1	166231	3.6
J: Agricultural workers	1382	0.75	23504	0.51
Z: All others gainfully occupied and unknown	23830	12.9	814954	17.8

Source: CSO, 2012

Socio-economic grouping classifies the entire population into one of 10 categories based on the level of skill and educational attainment of their occupation (those at work, unemployed or retired) while all other people are classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they are deemed to be dependent.

The eastern counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (39.7%), Fingal (27.5%), Wicklow (26.5%) Kildare (25.6%) and Meath had the highest proportion of persons classified to socio-economic groups A and B combined with Limerick City (15.4%) (CSO, 2012). In April 2011, Meath recorded 24.8% of its population classified to socio-economic groups A (employers and managers) and B (higher professional).

Car Ownership

County Meath recorded the highest proportion of households with at least one car (90%) in April 2011. Meath also recorded the largest proportion of households with two cars.

Personal Computer Ownership and Internet Access

Table 18: Number of private households in permanent housing units classified by personal computer ownership and access to the internet

	Total	Yes	No	Not stated	Broadband connection	Other connection	No connection	Not Stated
Meath	61922	48280	12510	1132	41626	5805	13263	1228
State	1649408	1199298	414597	35513	1051942	132973	426096	38397

Source: CSO, 2012

Of 61,922 private households in permanent housing units in Meath in 2011, 78% reported owning a personal computer. This was higher than the number of private households in permanent housing units in the State (73%). A total of 67% of the 61,922 of these households had broadband connection while nine per cent reported an 'other' connection to the internet. This means that 76% of these households in Meath have access to the internet with 21% reporting no internet connection. A total of 64% of these households across the State reported broadband connection to the internet with eight per cent reporting a 'other' connection to the internet with 26% having no connection.

Housing

As noted previously, county Meath experienced an exceptionally high level of growth over the last decade. This level of growth has not been equal across the county, with quite significant variations in terms of population change.

The Census 2011 results infer a population to household ratio equating to 2.90 persons per household in the County.

In 2006, within Meath local authority housing in Kells urban district (8.8%), Trim urban district (8.2%), Oldcastle (7.7%) and Navan urban district (7.5%) were slightly higher than in any of the rural areas, but still low by comparison to other urban areas throughout the country.

Every three years, in accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, housing authorities are required to undertake an assessment of housing need in their administrative area. The Assessment of Housing Need was completed by Meath County Council in March 2011, to determine the number of households in need of housing support. This includes the following categories:

- Homeless;
- Young Persons leaving institutional care;
- Traveller;

- Medical or compassion reasons;
- Existing accommodation unfit;
- Older persons;
- Existing accommodation overcrowded;
- People with a disability;
- Involuntary sharing;
- Not able to meet the cost of accommodation.

In February 2011 housing authorities were directed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government²⁰ to carry out an assessment of need existing at 31st March, 2011. The figures are based on a data extract from the housing system in respect of each household that has been approved for social housing support at 31st March 2011. The figures are based on net need; that is the number of households in need of housing support who are not currently receiving social housing support. Those already in local authority, voluntary cooperative or RAS accommodation are excluded. It is a measure of the number of households that cannot be accommodated through the existing stock available to housing authorities.

As of the 31st March 2011, Meath Local Authority recorded a 124.2% change between net need in 2008 and 2011 which was well above the total county council percentage of 71.3%²¹. Meath recorded the fourth highest percentage increase in net need between 2008 and 2011 after Kilkenny (165%); Fingal (159.1%) and Galway (145.5%).

**Table 19: Meath Local Authority by Age of Applicant and County Council total
March 2011**

	Under 25	26- 30	31-40	41- 50	51- 60	61- 70	71 and over	Total
Meath	592	479	844	462	239	105	43	2764
County Council Total	9260	9602	15298	8804	4357	1809	874	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Meath recorded a total of 2,764 housing applicants as of the 31st March 2011. Of this 2,764, 31% (844) were aged between 31 and 40 years, 21% (592) were aged under 25 years and 17% (479) were aged between 26 and 30 years. Meath recorded a higher percentage of under 25 years old applicants than the total county council percentage (19%), a similar percentage of 31-40 year old applicants and a lower percentage of applicants aged 26 to 30 years than the county council total (19%).

The majority of Meath local authority housing applicants were Irish citizens (73%: 2,016) while 19% (524) were EU citizens and eight per cent (224) were non EU citizens. Meath

²⁰ Now the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government from May 2nd 2011.

²¹ The methodologies used to collect the 2008 and 2011 data differ, which limits any comparison between the two years. In preparing the 2008 assessment, authorities investigated their lists prior to the 31 March deadline to confirm that those on the list were still seeking and in need of social rented housing. Authorities also contacted voluntary group regarding local housing needs. The 2011 assessment was based on a data extract of those approved for social housing support on 31 March 2011. This might explain some of the increase in need witnessed between 2008 and 2011, because the figures would include households that may no longer be in housing need but have not been taken off the list. Further research would be required, however, to test this theory.

recorded a slightly higher proportion of Irish citizens than the County Council total (69%). Of the 224 non-EU citizens, the majority had permission to remain in the State (92%: 206), less than 5 had subsidiary protection status and 16 (7%) were refugees.

Of the 2,764 applicants, 10% (270) were in receipt of lone parent support only and 50% (1,394) were unemployed and in receipt of social/community welfare benefit with a further two per cent (43) employed in a back to work/FAS scheme.

Table 20: Meath Local Authority and County Council total by household structure, March 2011

	Single with children					Total single with children	Couple with children					Total couple with children
No. of children	1	2	3	4	5+		1	2	3	4	5+	
Meath	564	226	79	29	7	905	223	160	76	44	24	750
County Council total	9937	4264	1496	524	233	16454	3490	2534	1213	535	325	11192

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Of the 2,764 applicants, 40% (1,109) were one person households and eight per cent (223) were couples without children. A third of applicants (905) were single with children while 27% (750) were couples with children. The majority of single applicants with children had one child (62%: 564) while a quarter had two children. Less than one per cent of applicants were single with five children or more (see Table 21, below). Of couple applicants with children, 30% (223) had one child while 21% had two children. A total of three per cent of couple applicants had five or more children.

Table 21: Meath Local Authority and total County Councils by Category of Need, March, 2011

Category of Need	Meath	Total of County Councils
Disability	33	1001
Elderly	34	971
Homeless	43	567
Involuntary sharing	345	3532
Leaving Institutional Care	5	250
Medical or compassion reasons	236	4484
Not reasonably able to meet the cost of accommodation	1431	34592
Overcrowded accommodation	255	2493
Traveller	112	981
Unfit accommodation	270	1133
Total	2764	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

Meath recorded a slightly different pattern in relation to category of need than the pattern recorded for all county councils combined. As with the county councils combined, the main

reason applicants needed housing in Meath was due to being not reasonably able to meet the cost of accommodation. In Meath, however, this figure accounted for a smaller proportion than nationally, with 52% of applicant requiring housing for this reason compared to 69% of all county council applicants combined. Nationally the second highest proportion of applicants required housing as a result of medical or compassion reasons (10%) with involuntary sharing accounting for the third highest category of need (seven per cent). In Meath involuntary sharing (12%) accounted for the second highest proportion of applicants followed by unfit accommodation (10%). Medical or compassion reasons accounted for the fifth highest number of applicants in Meath (eight per cent) after overcrowded accommodation (nine per cent).

Table 22: Meath Local Authority and County Council total by Length of Time on Waiting List, March 2011

Time on waiting list	Meath	County Council Total
Up to 3 months	217	2640
3-6 months	192	2790
6-12 months	393	5964
1-2 years	618	10395
2-3 years	553	10250
3-4 years	397	6979
4-5 years	174	4086
5-7 years	163	4679
More than 7 years	57	2221
Total	2764	50004

Source: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011

The largest proportion of applicants in Meath had been on a housing waiting list for between 1-2 years (22%: 618); this is one per cent above that of the county council figures combined. A total of 20% (553) had been waiting for between 2-3 years while 14% (397) had been waiting for between 3-4 years. A further 12% (337) had been waiting over four years and up to seven years while two per cent (57) had been on a waiting list for more than seven years. A total of eight per cent had been on a waiting list for up to three months, seven per cent (192) had been waiting between 3-6 months while 14% (393) had been waiting between 6 and 12 months.

Meath had fewer applicants waiting over four years and up to seven years than the county council total (17%) and who had been on the waiting list for over seven years. Meath recorded more applicants waiting for up to three months and between 6 and 12 months than the county council total which were six per cent and 12% respectively.

Housing Needs of Persons with Special Requirements

The Assessment of Housing Need outlines the different categories of households seeking accommodation from Meath County Council.

Travellers

‘Travellers’ and the ‘Traveller community’ refers to the people, and community of people, commonly called travellers and who are identified, both by themselves and by others, as people with a shared history, culture and tradition including, historically, a nomadic way of life throughout Ireland.

Meath County Council adopted the Meath Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 to 2013 in March 2009, in accordance with the requirements of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. The 2009 to 2013 Programme highlights that:

“Meath County Council will operate a comprehensive accommodation Programme for Travellers involving a range of integrated measures to meet their accommodation needs. The Council will include in the plan employment opportunities for young Travellers to break the cycle of long-term unemployment and to improve their life chances.

The annual survey of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position (2011), conducted on the 25th November 2011, found that there were a total of 343 Traveller families in the local authority area (on that date). The following tables provide a breakdown of these families with regard to tenancy/ownership type:

Table 23: Breakdown of Traveller Families by Local Authority tenancy/ownership type

Type of accommodation	Number of families <i>living as</i> Tenant/Owners
Standard Lettings (i.e. local authority estates/social housing)	111
Local Authority Traveller Group Houses	22
Houses Acquired or Improved with Assistance of Local Authority	0
House Acquired by Travellers without Local Authority Assistance (Estimate)	0
Private Rented Accommodation (Estimate)	144
• (Rental Accommodation Scheme	2
• Rent Supplement	131
• Own Resource	11)
Voluntary Housing	15
• (Standard Housing	11 (capital assistance) 4
	(loan/subsidy scheme)
• Group Housing	0
• Halting Site Bays	0
Other	0
Total	292

Source: Meath County Council, 2012

Table 24 Breakdown of Traveller families sharing with tenants/owners

Type of accommodation	Number of families <i>sharing with Tenant/Owners</i>
Standard Lettings (i.e. local authority estates/social housing)	4
Local Authority Traveller Group Houses	3
Houses Acquired or Improved with Assistance of Local Authority	0
House Acquired by Travellers without Local Authority Assistance (Estimate)	0
Private Rented Accommodation (Estimate)	8
Voluntary Housing	0
Other	0
Total	15

Source: Meath County Council, 2012

Table 25: Breakdown of Traveller families living as tenants on serviced halting sites

Type of serviced halting site	Number of families
Permanent (provided by Local Authority)	22
Permanent (provided by Voluntary Organisation)	0
Basic Service Bays	0
• Pending provision of permanent accommodation	0
• During construction periods	0
• In other circumstances	0
In occupation of Basic Service Bays	22
• For over 2 years	19
• For under 2 years	3

Source: Meath County Council, 2012

Homeless Persons

In July 2010, Meath County Council adopted the Mid-East Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum - Homelessness Action Plan, May 2010 to May 2013, alongside Kildare and Wicklow County Councils. The vision of the Forum is of a region without long-term homelessness and with effective preventative policies and services. The needs of people who are homeless will be met in a co-ordinated and planned manner and will offer a range of appropriate, cost effective and supportive services aimed at the prevention and reduction of homelessness.

The strategic aims of the Forum mirror the aims as outlined in 'The Way Home' and as further developed in the National Implementation Plan, in particular:

- To reduce the number of households who become homeless through the further development and enhancement of preventative measures – preventing homelessness.
- To eliminate the need for people to sleep rough.
- To eliminate long term homelessness and to reduce the length of time people spend homeless.
- To meet the long term housing needs through an increase in housing options.
- To ensure effective services for homeless people.

- To ensure better co-ordinated funding arrangements and re-orientate spending on homeless services, away from emergency responses to the provision of long term housing and support services.
- To develop and maintain good quality data on homelessness including an evidence base for all homeless services.
- Effective arrangements for monitoring and implementation.

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities may require specially adapted units, and Meath County Council is aware and proactive in this regard. Furthermore, the Council, where resources permit, adapts existing social houses to the necessary specification of tenants with disabilities. The Assessment of Housing Need (2011) includes 42 households falling within the ‘disability’ category of need.

In October 2011, a National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2011-2016) was published. This strategy was introduced to establish a framework for the delivery of housing for people with a disability through mainstream housing policy which aimed:

“To facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living”

The strategy, referring to census (2006) data, details the number of people with disabilities in each local authority area, with 7.4% (or 12,076 persons) of Meath’s population having a disability.

Household sizes are continuing to fall, with the Regional Planning Guidelines projecting Meath occupancy rates to equate to 2.62 persons per household (PPH) by 2016, and falling further to 2.35 PPH by 2022. This is placed in context with the CSO Census 2011 occupancy rate in Meath equating to 2.90 PPH. Lower occupancy rates could lead to more housing being required to cater for a similar population. However, factors such as the ongoing economic difficulties and difficulties in securing mortgage approval could see many delaying the purchase of a dwelling.

Family Units and One Parent Family Payments

Meath recorded a total of 25,149 family units in the 2006 Census. This represented 4.48% of all family units in the State (560,386). Of the 25,419 family units, over half (53.7%, 13,526) were family units where all children were under 15 years while 30.4% (7670) were family units with all children 15 years and over.

Navan Rural Electoral Division recorded the highest proportion of family units where all children were under 15 years of age (2,222: 16.4%) followed by Ratoath (1,035: 7.7%).

Navan Rural Electoral Division also recorded the highest proportion of family units where all children were 15 years and over (846: 11%) followed by Donaghmore (465: 6%).

Children in one parent families have much lower expectations about their future careers than their peers. They are more likely than other youngsters to want jobs that required few qualifications and little training. Children in one parent families are less likely to aspire to

attaining professional qualifications or occupations (Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, 2009).

Table 26: Number of lone mother and family units by county and State

	Total no of family units father	Total number of family units mother	Lone mothers and lone fathers family units
Meath	930	4883	5813
State	26689	162551	189240

Source: CSO, 2006

In 2006 a total of 5,813 lone mother and lone father family units were recorded in Meath, the majority being lone mother family units (84%). This was slightly lower than that of the State which recorded 86% of one parent families as headed by mothers. Meath accounted for 3.1% of all lone family units in the State in 2006.

Table 27: Number of children living in lone family units by gender of parent

	All children aged under 15 years	All children aged 15 years and over	Other	Total number of children
Children with lone mothers	3274	3269	1453	7996
Children with lone fathers	330	909	255	1494
Total children with lone parents	3604	4178	1708	9490

Source: CSO, 2006

A total of 9,490 children lived in one parent families in Meath in 2006, with 16% (1,494) of these children living with their fathers only.

Table 28: Top 10 Electoral Divisions with one parent families headed by fathers, 2006

Electoral Division	Number of children
Navan Rural	216
Donaghmore	85
Julianstown	69
Dunboyne	69
St. Mary's (part)	66
Trim Rural (part)	61
Navan Urban	53
Duleek	43
Ratoath	40
Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Urban	37

Source: CSO, 2006

The largest proportion of one parent families headed by fathers resided in Navan Rural ED (14.5%: 216). Similarly the largest proportion of one parent families headed by mothers resided in Navan Rural ED (17.9%: 1,439).

Table 29: Top 10 Electoral Divisions with one parent families headed by mothers, 2006

Electoral Division	Number of children
Navan Rural	1439
Julianstown	544
Trim Rural (part)	438
Dunboyne	388
Donaghmore	387
St. Mary's (part)	361
Ratoath	330
Duleek	250
Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Urban	213
Navan Urban	194

Source: CSO, 2006

In 2010, a total of 92,326 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments. Over two per cent (2.6%) of those recipients were recorded as being based in County Meath. A total of 2,469 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments in County Meath in 2010. Meath records the 13th highest number of recipients of these payments in the country.

Table 30: Number of Recipients of One-Parent Family Payments by County, 2010

County	Number of One Parent Family Payments
Dublin	30491
Cork	9413
Limerick	3848
Donegal	3792
Kildare	3773
Wexford	3624
Galway	3604
Tipperary	3185
Louth	3151
Wicklow	2997
Waterford	2944
Kerry	2634
Meath	2469
Mayo	2004
Clare	1835
Westmeath	1640
Offaly	1420
Kilkenny	1417
Cavan	1401
Laois	1209
Carlow	1143
Sligo	1117
Monaghan	1033
Longford	942
Roscommon	819
Leitrim	410
Others	11
Total	92326

Source: Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010

Live Register

The Live Register is a monthly statistical count compiled by the CSO of certain categories of persons registered with the Department of Social Protection for Jobseeker's Benefit, Jobseeker's allowance and credited Social Insurance contributions. The Live Register comprises of all claimants of Jobseeker's benefit under the age of 65 excluding systematic short-term workers; applicants for Jobseekers Allowance under the age of 65 excluding smallholders and self-employed people; other registrants under the age of 65 including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute. This means that not all persons who are in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance are on the Live Register. Some persons who are included in the Live Register, applicants for credited contributions, are not in receipt of a Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance Payment.

Between 2001 and 2010 the Live Register for Meath recorded a 320.9% change in the number recorded on the live register. This was the second highest increase recorded after Kildare (387.3%) and well above the change recorded for the total number recorded on the live register for that period (see Appendix 3 for details on all counties).

Table 31: Number on the Live Register for Meath and Country 2001 to 2010

County	Meath	Total for Country
2001	2855	152406
2002	2844	166142
2003	3218	170604
2004	3137	158816
2005	3001	155833
2006	3038	155389
2007	3557	170376
2008	6977	291363
2009	11071	423595
2010	12016	437079
Change%	320.9	186.8

Source: Statistical Information on Social Welfare Service, Dept of Social Protection, 2010

Table 32: Number of individuals on the live register by Department of Social Protection Offices on the 9th March 2012

Dept of Social Protection Office	Number on Live Register
Navan	6080
Trim	3726
Kells	2213
Total	12019

Source: Dept of Social Protection, Meath Offices, 2012

As of the 9th of March 2012, a total of 12,019 people were recorded on the live register on the basis of figures of the Department of Social Protection offices for Navan, Trim and Kells. As is the case with the One Parent Family Payments, these figures represent the number of individuals signing on the live register from the catchment areas covered by these offices, and not just the towns themselves. It is also possible that residents of county Meath may sign on the live register in offices outside the county, for example Drogheda and Finglas.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

As outlined above, certain factors increase the vulnerability of children while some groups of children are identified as being vulnerable due to factors such as a disability or being in care. These vulnerable children need additional supports.

Education

Education has been shown to have a significant impact on children's current and future lives and not only through the gaining of academic qualifications (Breen, 1991). It is recognised that school experiences play a central role in a child's social, emotional and intellectual development.

Table 33: Number of National School Pupils and Classes in 2010/2011

	Pupils in mainstream classes in mainstream schools		Pupils with special needs in mainstream schools		Pupils in special schools		Total	
	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes
Meath	22925	883	291	30	206	26	23422	939
Total	492742	20604	9732	1264	7178	1080	509652	22948

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

There were a total of 23,422 national school pupils recorded in Meath for the school year 2010/2011. The majority were attending mainstream classes in mainstream schools (98%). A total of 291 (one per cent) were pupils with special needs in mainstream schools and 206 (0.9%) were pupils in special schools.

Meath national school pupils comprises 5% of all national school pupils in the country.

Table 34: Number of Second Level Students including Post-Leaving Certificate courses in 2010/2011

	Secondary	Vocational	Community	Comprehensive	Total
Meath	3836	5075	2833	0	11744
Total	186622	114761	47058	7666	356107

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

There were a total of 11,744 second level students recorded in Meath for the school year 2010/2011. Of these 11,744, 43% (5,075) were in VEC schools²², 33% were voluntary secondary schools²³ and 24% were in community schools.

Meath second level students comprises 3% of all second level pupils in the country.

Youthreach is an integral part of the national programme of second-chance education and training in Ireland. The programme is directed at unemployed young early school leavers aged 15-20. It offers participants the opportunity to identify and pursue viable options within adult life, and provides them with opportunities to acquire certification. It operates on a full-time, year-round basis. There are a total of six Youthreach centres throughout the county. Of

²² Referred to as vocational in Table 34

²³ Referred to as secondary in Table 34

this six, two are located in Navan, and one each in Ashbourne, Kells, Laytown and Trim. During the school year of 2010-2011 there were a total of 185 Youthreach students under the age of 18 years in Meath.

Home Tuition

Home Tuition is where a child /parents are provided with a tutor funded by the DES (confirm) to provide teaching in the home or another alternative place. There are two main circumstances where home tuition is provided:

- iii. Where a child has no school place or has been excluded from school, up to a maximum of 9 hours is sanctioned by the post primary administration section of the Department of Education and Skills and is co-signed by the Education Welfare Officer. It is up to the parents to source a tutor²⁴. Tutors are required to be registered with the National Teaching Council and have Garda clearance.
- iv. Where a child has a recognised medical/psychological condition which prevents them from attending school regularly. Parents must have medical proof. The maximum number of hours sanctioned by Special Education DES is 7 hours; this may be greater for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Tutors are now required to be registered with the National Teaching council and have Garda clearance.

Table 35: Number of Children receiving Home Tuition, April 2012

No of Children receiving Home Tuition	Number of Children
Total receiving home tuition Meath	17

Source: Meath EWO, April 2012

Non-attendance at School

Nationally, there has been a steady year-on-year increase in the number of pupils in the primary school sector since 2005/06, an increase of almost 50,000 pupils. In post-primary schools the number of students has increased by 9,000 over the period. The response of schools to the National Education and Welfare Board's Annual Attendance Report rose to their highest levels for both primary and post-primary in 2009/10, with the response rate in the mid to high 90s for primary (97.1%) and post-primary (95.8%) (Millar, 2012).

It should be noted that not all schools provide information for the NEWB's Attendance Report and therefore where data refers to all schools it refers to all schools that provided returns.

Nationally, a total of 6.2% of pupil days were lost due to absence in primary schools in 2009/10 and that 7.9% of student days were lost in post-primary schools. Suspensions are rare in primary schools compared to post-primary schools (0.2% in primary schools and 4.7% in post-primary).

Non-attendance is defined as the percentage of all student/days lost through absence.

²⁴ Given that this can pose great difficulties for parents a list of qualified, registered and Garda cleared tutors has been compiled by the Meath EWO as a resource for parents.

Table 36: Non-attendance by Meath, Leinster and State for Primary Schools 2009/10²⁵

	Abs	Abs20	Exp	Sus
Meath	5.2	8.4	0.000	0.1
Leinster	6.4	12.4	0.004	0.4
State	5.9	10.9	0.002	0.3

Source: Millar (2012)

For the school year 2009/10, Meath had the lowest figures for non-attendance, for the number of students absent 20 days or more, for expulsions and for suspensions in primary school in the province of Leinster. Meath also recorded figures lower than the State figures for primary schools.

Table 37: Non-attendance by Meath, Leinster and State for Post-Primary Schools 2009/10²⁶

	Abs	Abs20	Exp	Sus
Meath	6.8	15.4	.044	5.9
Leinster	8.4	19.7	.067	6.9
State	8.5	19.4	.062	5.5

Source: Millar (2012)

For the school year 2009/10, Meath had lower figures for non-attendance, for the number of students absent 20 days or more, for expulsions and for suspensions in post primary schools than the figures for the province of Leinster and that of the State.

As noted previously, as a 100% returns are not recorded for primary and post primary schools, the non attendance figures reported need to be treated with caution.

Retention Rates for Junior and Leaving Certificates

Table 38: Junior Certificate (JC) and Leaving Certificate (LC) Retention Rates for Meath and Country for 2002, 2003 and 2004 cohorts

			2002 cohort		2003 cohort		2004 cohort	
	No. of schools²⁷	No. of pupils	% JC Retention	% LC Retention	% JC Retention	% LC Retention	% JC Retention	% LC Retention
Meath	17	1890	97.0	84.3	94.7	84.1	94.3	87.0
Total for Country	695	56948	95.7	81.3	95.1	82.2	94.5	84.5

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, 2011

As can be seen from Table 38 above, Meath records a higher retention rates for junior and leaving certificate retention for the 2002 cohort than the country. The Junior Certificate retention rate was just below that of the country for the 2003 cohort while that for the

²⁵ The data are calculated at school level and then the average non-attendance is reported for all schools in a particular province or county.

²⁶ The data are calculated at the school level and then the average non-attendance is reported for all schools in a particular category.

²⁷ The number of schools and pupils refer to the number as per 2004 cohort calculations

Leaving Certification was above that of the country. For 2004 cohort, the Junior Certificate retention rate for Meath and the country were almost equal while the Leaving Certificate retention rate for Meath was higher than that for the country.

Overall, Meath records relatively good retention rates. However, it is worth noting that the retention rate for the Junior Certificate has been decreasing over the cohort periods, down from 97% for the 2002 cohort to 94.3% for the 2004 cohort. Based on the figures provided, this means that in the 2002 cohort 57 young people did not complete their junior certificate while 108 young people in the 2004 cohort did not complete their junior certificate.

In contrast, the Leaving Certificate retention rates have increased over the cohort periods, up from 84.3% for the 2002 cohort to 87% for the 2004 cohort period. Based on the figures provided, this means that 297 young people of the 2002 cohort did not complete the Leaving Certificate while 245 young people of the 2004 cohort did not complete the Leaving Certificate.

Children with a Disability

In 2006, a total of 1,718 children were recorded with a disability in Meath. This represented four per cent of all children with a disability in Ireland (42,021) and four per cent of the child population of Meath.

A national database is maintained that records the number of children with disabilities. This is a voluntary database and therefore not all children in a county with a disability may be recorded on the database. As of March 2012, a total of 392 children aged 0-18 years in Meath were recorded on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database and a total of 411 children were recorded on the National Intellectual Disability Database.

In March 2012 there were a total of 466 open cases within the Early Intervention Service in Meath provided by Enable Ireland. This provides a service for children aged 0-6 years who exhibit developmental delay or potential development delay.

A total of 765 open cases were recorded by Meath's HSE Disability Service for Children in March 2012 for children aged 6-18 years. This service would encompass physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities, autism, dyspraxia, speech and language etc.

A total of 19 services and groups for people with disabilities are recorded as providing services in the county. The majority of these services are located within Navan (10).

There is a local Coordination Group that is chaired by the Manager of the HSE Children's Disability Team.

Mental Health

Admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals among Children

In 2008, there were 406 admissions to psychiatric hospital among children in the country; a rate of 37.4 children per 100,000. Of this total of 406, 20 or 4.9% were from Meath (State of the Nation, 2010)²⁸. Meath recorded the seventh highest number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals among children in 2008.

²⁸ The age, gender and diagnosis are not available at the county level

Suicide

Table 39: Average suicide rates for Meath by age and gender 2004-2008

Age Group	Persons	Males	Females
0-4	0	0	0
5-9	.1	.1	0
10-14	1.3	2	.6
15-19	12.6	18.8	6.2
20-24	17.9	30.7	4.8

Source: National Office of Suicide Prevention Annual Report, 2010

In terms of suicide rates, that national average was 11.3 suicides per 100,000 of population. County Meath recorded below the national average, with a rate of 10.2. Dublin recorded the lowest suicide rate at 8.9 while Cavan recorded the highest suicide rate at 18.1.

The number of suicides for those aged 0-18 for Meath are low and so for confidentiality reasons are not released by the Central Statistic Office.

Child Protection and Children in Care

Table 40: Reports to social work departments by report type, Meath and nationally, 2010

	Number of welfare reports	Number of protection reports	Total	% Welfare
Meath	497	575	1072	46.4
National	16452	12825	29277	56.2

Source: HSE, 2012

In 2010, Meath social work departments recorded a total of 1,072 reports. A total of 46% of these reports were identified as welfare reports. In relation to the remaining 54% of reports, 12% related to physical abuse, 12% to sexual abuse, 14% to emotional abuse and 15% to neglect (HSE, 2012). Reports to social work departments in Meath represented four per cent of all referrals made to HSE social work departments.

In 2011, a total of 1,562 reports to Meath social work departments were recorded, an increase of 490 reports on 2010 or 46%. Of this 1,562 reports 622 were welfare reports (40%) and 940 were abuse reports (60%). In terms of the abuse reports 18% were physical abuse reports, 19% were sexual abuse reports, 29% were emotional abuse reports and 34% were neglect reports (Meath LHO, 2012).

In a critique of the HSE Social Work and Family Support Survey (2008) commissioned by the HSE and carried out by Buckley (2009) it was noted that the reality is that abuse cases and welfare cases often need and receive precisely the same type of intervention and that it is important that cases are responded to according to identified needs and risks rather than classification as welfare or abuse²⁹.

²⁹ Health Service Executive (2012) Review of Adequacy for HSE Children and Families Services, 2010

In 2010, Meath recorded a total of 146 children as being in the care of the HSE. Of these 146 children in care, 71% were in general foster care, 21% were in relative foster care, four per cent were in residential care and 4.8% were in 'Other' care (HSE, 2012). Meath's children in care made up two per cent of all children in care in the State in 2010 (5,965). In 2011, Meath recorded a total of 49 admissions to care. The majority of these admissions (34: 76%) were to general foster care. The total number of children in care at the end of 2011 was 138, with 79% being in foster care general and 17.4% being in relative foster care.

Criminal Justice Involvement

In 2010, a total of 27,257 incidents were referred to An Garda Síochána Juvenile Diversion Programme. The total number of children referred during this time was 17,986. Of these 17,896 children, 72% (12,899) were admitted to the Diversion Programme. Of those admitted to the Diversion Programme, 52% (9,332) had their case dealt with by way of an informal caution, while 20% (3,567) had their case dealt with by way of formal caution. There were 1,165 children where a decision was still pending and 856 (5%) required no further Garda action to be taken. In terms of gender, 22% (2,838) of children referred were female and 78% were male.

Meath County comes under the Eastern Region of An Garda Síochána which is also made up of Kildare, Laois/Offaly, Westmeath and Wicklow. A total of 15 Juvenile Liaison Officers are allocated to the Eastern Region with Meath allocated three officers.

Table 41: Total number of referrals to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Total	Formal	Informal	NFA	Pending	Unsuitable
Kildare	901	139	436	18	57	251
Laois/Offaly	754	159	303	9	66	227
Meath	612	153	262	24	34	139
Westmeath	509	125	232	16	35	101
Wicklow	634	152	265	28	59	130
Eastern Region Total	3410	728	1498	95	241	848
Overall Total	27257	5695	10917	922	1836	7887

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

In 2010, Meath referrals made up 18% (612) of all referrals made to the Diversion Programme in the Eastern Region and two per cent of all referrals made to the Programme. Meath had the second lowest number of total referrals in the Eastern Region after Westmeath and was slighter lower than Louth³⁰ which recorded a total of 659 referrals in 2010.

In terms of Meath's total referrals, 43% were dealt with by way of an informal caution, four per cent needed no further action, while a quarter of referrals were being dealt by way of a formal caution. A total of 23% of the referrals received in Meath were deemed unsuitable for the Diversion Programme and six per cent were still pending a decision at the end of 2010.

³⁰ Louth makes up part of the Northern Region of An Garda Síochána, as does Cavan/Monaghan

Table 42: Number of Children referred to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Total	Formal	Informal	NFA	Pending	Unsuitable
Kildare	610	97	363	16	46	88
Laois/Offaly	492	106	247	12	35	92
Meath	439	104	232	16	28	59
Westmeath	342	58	207	18	19	40
Wicklow	433	84	234	31	41	43
Eastern Region Total	2316	449	1283	93	169	322
Overall Total	17986	3567	9332	856	1165	3066

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

In 2010, a total of 439 children were referred to Meath's Garda Diversion Programme. This represented 19% of all children referred in the Eastern Region, with Meath recording the third lowest number of children being referred for the region. Meath recorded a lower percentage of children being referred to the Diversion Programme than Louth, with Louth making up 27% of all children referred in the Northern Region. Meath children made up two per cent of all children referred to Diversion Programmes in 2010.

Table 43: Gender of Children referred to Garda Diversion Programme by Eastern Region 2010

	Formal		Informal		NFA		Pending		Unsuitable	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Kildare	16	81	92	271	3	13	8	38	8	80
Laois/Offaly	14	92	62	185	1	11	3	32	8	84
Meath	21	83	59	173	3	13	8	20	6	53
Westmeath	14	44	63	144	1	17	2	19	2	38
Wicklow	12	72	63	171	2	29	5	32	5	38
Eastern Region Total	77	372	339	944	10	83	28	141	29	293
Overall Total	548	3019	2665	6667	215	641	212	953	312	2754

Source: Diversion Programme Annual Report, 2010

Of the 439 children referred in Meath, 97 were female (22%) and 342 were male. Of the 2,316 children referred to the Eastern region, 21% were female so Meath records one per cent higher referrals from females than the region. The percentage of females recorded in Meath reflects the national percentage (see above).

Nationally public order (31%), theft and related offences (22%) and damage to property and to the environment (11%) constituted the three main categories of offences for which children were referred. No information was available for Meath in relation to the most common category of offences recorded.

Eligibility for Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards

As of the 1st of April 2012, a total of 65,123 persons were eligible for medical cards in County Meath, while a total of 5,038 persons were eligible for GP visit cards (HSE, Primary Care Reimbursement Service, 2012).

HSE and County Council Expenditure

Resource allocation in health care is a method for distributing resources between competing claims in ways that are consistent with health policy priorities (Birch et al, 1993). While health-care resources have been distributed traditionally on the basis of historical allocations to existing providers and facilities, most industrialised countries now subscribe to the principle of a population health approach to resource allocation (whereby resources are distributed on the basis of relative needs for care). The Department of Health and Children report on Resource Allocation, Financing and Sustainability in Health Care (2010) emphasises that the main factor influencing the allocation of resources to any area for almost all services will be the population to be served by that service.

In 2007, Meath Local Health Office (LHO) recorded the fourth lowest HSE expenditure of the 32 LHOs in Primary, Continuing and Community Care (PCCC) (see Table 1, Appendix 4). In 2007, the HSE in Meath LHO³¹ spent €93,230,189 in PCCC. During that year, Dublin South West LHO³² spent €331,236,865, the largest amount spent by any LHO in PCCC and Roscommon LHO³³ spent the lowest amount, €70,008,398.

For 2007, Meath LHO recorded the second lowest expenditure per capita of the 32 LHO areas (see Table 2, Appendix 4). Meath spent €573 per capita with only Dublin West recording less (€537). In comparison West Cork³⁴ spent €4,515 per capita in PCCC in 2007, the highest spent by any HSE Local Health Office (Staines, 2010).

In terms of the percentage of expenditure spent on children, adolescents and families in 2007, Meath recorded the joint third highest percentage of expenditure at 3.80%; the same as Dublin West (see Table 3, Appendix 4). Dublin North West spent the highest percentage at 6.10% while Waterford spent the lowest, recording (0.10%). Waterford was one of 10 LHOs that spent less than one percent of their expenditure in 2007 on children, adolescents and families (Staines, 2010).

The 2012 Local Government Audit Service Activity Report recorded that Meath County Council reported a deficit of €8.3 million for 2010 (Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012).

Services and Facilities

Health Care

County Meath is serviced by five Primary Care Networks – Navan; Kells; Dunshaughlin; Trim; and East Meath – and 17 Primary Care Teams.

HSE Community Health Centres

There are a total of 20 HSE Community Health Centres in the county of Meath, with two centres being located in Navan, one attached to our Lady's Hospital and one in Johnstown (See Appendix 5 for full listing of Health Centre locations).

³¹ Population 162,831 in 2006

³² Population 147,422 in 2006

³³ Population 58,768 in 2006

³⁴ Population 53,565 in 2006

Hospitals

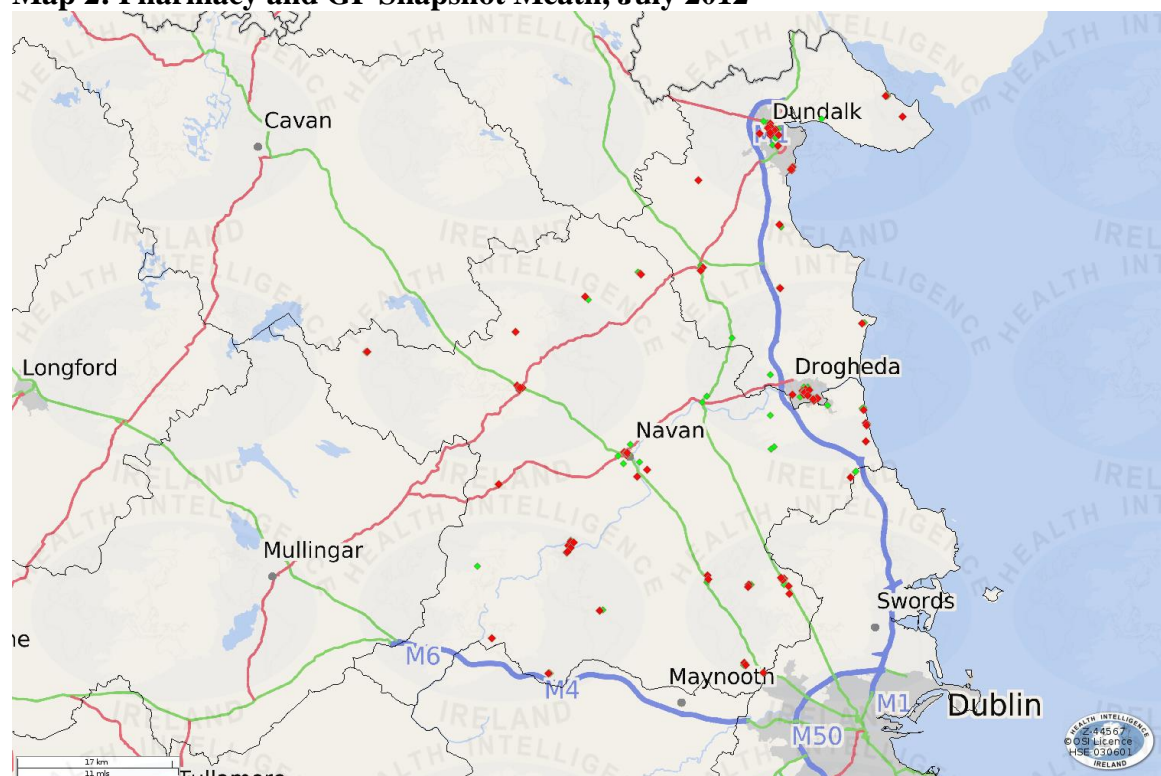
One hospital is located within the county of Meath, Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. This hospital is part of the Louth/Meath Hospital Group and provides a general acute hospital service to the catchment area of Meath and an orthopaedic service to the region as a whole. The range of acute services provided at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan are:

- General Medicine;
- General Surgery;
- Orthopaedics;
- Paediatrics (Out-patient Services);
- Gynaecology (Out-patient);
- Acute Psychiatry; Day Services;
- Out-patient Services;
- Pathology Services;
- Radiology Services;
- Physical Medicine Services;
- Occupational Therapy;
- HDU/CCU;
- Orthodontic Unit.

The Irish Hospice Foundation established a national programme to mainstream hospice principles in hospital practice; focusing on four key themes generated from a pilot project: integrated care; communication; dignity and design; and patient autonomy. Our Lady's Hospital, Navan is participating in this programme.

In addition to Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, another nine centres provided mental health services throughout the county.

Map 2: Pharmacy and GP Snapshot Meath, July 2012



Source: HSE, Health Atlas, 2012

In July 2012, there were a total of 46 GP practices recorded within the County of Meath

Table 44: Number of General Practitioner practices by location

Location	Number of GP practices
Navan	10
Kells	6
Trim	6
Dunboyne	2
Dunshaughlin	2
Laytown	2
Oldcastle	2
Ratoath	2
Athboy	1
Bettystown	1
Clonee	1
Enfield	1
Longwood	1
Mosney	1
Stamullen	1
Summerhill	1
Total	46

Source: HSE Health Atlas, 2012

The 46 GP practices are located across 16 areas across County Meath. As can be seen in the Table above, the largest number of GP practices are located in Navan (22%) with Kells and Trim recording the next highest number of GP practices (13% each).

In July 2012, a total of 58 pharmacies were recorded across 23 areas within County Meath.

Table 45: Number of pharmacies by location

Location	Number of pharmacies
Navan	12
Ashbourne	5
Kells	4
Ratoath	4
Trim	4
Enfield	3
Athboy	2
Bettystown	2
Drogheda	2
Duleek	2
Dunboyne	2
Dunshaughlin	2
Oldcastle	2
Slane	2
Stamullen	2
Ballivor	1
Clonee	1
Donore	1
Drumconrath	1
Laytown	1
Longwood	1
Nobber	1
Summerhill	1
Total	58

Source: HSE Health Atlas, 2012

Navan recorded the highest number of pharmacies (21%) with Ashbourne recording the next highest number (9%).

Education Facilities

Primary schools

Of the 112 primary schools recorded in the county between 2009/2010:

- 22% of these schools are located in the Navan Electoral Area facilitating 24% of primary level students in Meath;
- 15% of these schools are located in Trim Electoral Area facilitating 14% of primary level students;
- 21% of these schools are located in Dunshaughlin Electoral Area facilitating 27% of primary level students
- 19% of these schools are located in the Slane Electoral Area facilitating 20% of primary level students, and;

- 23% of these schools are located in Kells Electoral Area facilitating 15% of primary level students.

(Meath County Council, 2012)

Post Primary Schools

Of the 20 post primary schools in Meath, catering for 10,890 pupils³⁵:

- 31% of students attend schools in the Dunshaughlin Electoral Area;
- 23% of students attend schools in the Navan Electoral Area;
- 8% of students attend schools in the Slane Electoral Area;
- 26% of students attend schools in the Kells Electoral Area;
- 12% of students attend schools in the Trim Electoral Area.

(Meath County Council, 2012)

School Building Projects for County Meath

The Department of Education and Skills has a five year programme in relation to major school building projects. In Meath projects that are on site in 2012 are three new schools (Oldcastle, Dunshaughlin and Beaufort) and one extension/refurbishment. A total of two new schools and one extension/refurbishment are due to go to construction in 2012. A total of four new schools in Meath are identified as projects to go to construction in 2013 with a further four new schools to go to construction in 2014/2015. A total of six extension projects are also identified as to go to construction during this same period while a further two new schools are identified as projects to go to construction in 2015/2016 (See Appendix 6 for details of location, school type, brief and date to go to construction).

Childcare Facilities

In June 2012 there were 223 childcare services notified to the Meath HSE Pre-school Inspectorate. Of this 223, 23 (10%) are community based with 200 operating privately at this time. There were no child minders notified. Between these 223 childcare services they offer 5,797 childcare places.

Of these 5,797 childcare places, 1,360 of them are full-time places offered and 952 are part time offered in full day care services. A total of 3,455 sessional places are offered in 171 sessional services. The number of sessional services and places continue to increase for the first time in 10 years a decrease in the number of full-time and part time places has been seen (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2012).

Of the total number of services, 216 (97%) offer the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme³⁶, representing 5.7% of the national figure. A total of 2,650 children are enrolled on ECCE in Meath. Of the 216 services offering ECCE, 11% receive the higher capitation grant with 2.7% of these being full day care facilities.

Of the 23 community services in the county, 15 (65%) offer the childcare subvention (CCS). This is a capitation for parents who are in receipt of a social welfare payment and this type of subvention is only available through community services.

³⁵ This figure includes students from Drogheda Grammar School and Gormanstown College

³⁶ The universal free pre-school place

A total of 45 childcare services in Meath offer the Childcare Training and Education Scheme (CETS) which provides subsidised childcare for those on certain FAS and VEC training/education programmes. There are approximately 80 places available with a maximum capacity of 143 children at any one time (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2012).

There are 39 known Parent and Toddler groups operating in the Meath area.

Navan ED has the greatest percentage of childcare facilities at 29% or 64 services, followed by Dunshaughlin ED with 26% or 57 services. Kells is the most poorly serviced ED with only 9% (21 Services) of all places. Slane ED is at 20% or 44 services and Trim ED at 16% or 35 services. There has been a change in the demographic for childcare facilities since Meath County Council's last study in 2004 where Dunshaughlin ED had the greatest proportion of facilities at 36% (Meath County Council, 2012).

Childcare is an issue for 0 to 3 year olds in the Mosney resettlement community. The Daughters of Charity Pre-School facility, which receives funding from the HSE is located in Mosney. They are also supported by the Reception and Integration Agency under the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (Meath County Childcare Committee, 2006).

Facilities for Children and Young People

Play provides children with opportunities to enjoy freedom and exercise choice and control over their actions, to test boundaries and explore/assess risk, to foster independence and self-esteem and to share, negotiate and learn to respect the rights of others (Meath County Council, 2008). Social changes have left many children with less access to play and dependent on adults to transport them to play facilities.

Young people who participate in youth service groups report higher levels of participation in further education, training and employment; social gains include more responsible attitudes and increased citizenship skills; increased confidence skills, team working, communication and leadership skills as well as taking up new interests and meeting people from diverse backgrounds (Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, 2009).

In 2008, Ballivor Community Childcare Services received funding to purchase a playbus that would offer a countywide service, especially in rural areas and to groups that have difficulty accessing play and childcare opportunities (Meath County Council, 2008).

Playgrounds

There are 23 public playgrounds within the County of Meath. With a population of 184,034 that gives one playground for every 8,000 people in the county (see Appendix 7 for map of public playgrounds)

In addition to playgrounds, Meath Local Authorities provides a number of other services and amenities that facilitate children's play and some structured activities. These include parks, libraries and the county arts service.

Libraries

Meath County Council Library Services (MCCLS) has 13 branches and a dedicated primary schools library service which delivers a service to all 119 primary schools in the county. Staff

organise and deliver a range of children's events and activities to complement their core activities. The annual Children's Book Festival organised by library staff involves upwards of 70 events and visits by national and international children's authors and is attended by over 3,000 children. The annual Reading Mission run as part of the Summer Programme with the Arts Office reaches a further 2,000 children. Book clubs are run in each library and the school library service runs the Dads and Lads programme (Meath County Council, 2008).

Recent initiatives of Meath County Council's Art Office include the development of a Youth Theatre model for the county and the Annual Summer ArtsFest which has operated at multiple venues countywide, catering for over 500 young people per year.

Sporting and Community Facilities

Meath Local Sports Partnership provides opportunities for children's play through a number of initiatives including:

- Buntas (a physical activity programme) in 113 primary schools involving 1056 teachers and 20,000 children
- Buntus Start in 40 childcare and pre-school centres as of 2008
- Support for holiday and multi-activity camps
- Girls in Action Programme
- Active Leadership programmes in youth environments

In 2008, there were 298 indoor and outdoor sporting community facilities in the county. These include 24 community centres, 72 GAA facilities, 36 soccer grounds, 10 multi-activity centres and other sporting venues (Meath County Council, 2008).

Youth clubs and Youth Service Projects

In September 2008, there were over 70 youth clubs or youth service projects registered with County Meath VEC. These included:

- Meath Youth Federation
- Foirge
- Oige na Gaeltacht
- Scouting Ireland units
- Irish Girl Guides, Ladybirds and Brownie units
- Federation of ARCH clubs (for people with special needs, their siblings and friends)

(See Appendix 8 for full listing).

Summary of Socio-Demographic Findings for Meath

Population

- Meath County experienced significant population increase over the last fifteen years, growing from 109,732 in 1996 to 184,135 in 2011, which equates to an increase of 68%.
- The population of Meath now accounts for 10.2% of the total population within the Greater Dublin Area, having previously accounted for 8.7% in 2002 and 9.8% in 2006.
- Meath's population differs from the national average.
- Meath records a high percentage of children in the 0-4 age cohort, and a high percentage of adults in the 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 cohorts. Furthermore, Meath has a relatively low percentage of adults in the 70+ age cohorts. This indicates that Meath has a high proportion of young families.
- New housing developments account for over half of the houses in Navan, which were built between 1996 and 2002.
- The main areas that have experienced population explosions in Meath are Drogheda, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Navan Rural, Kentstown, Athboy, Castlerickard, Enfield, Kells Rural, Duleek, Julianstown, Stamullen and Slane.
- Meath's population was recorded as 184,034 in the April 2011 Census which represents a 13% (21,203) increase from the 2006 Census figure of 162,831.
- The average annual average birth rate for Meath between 2006 and 2011 was 20.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 16.6 for the State.
- In 2006, Navan Rural ED recorded the highest concentration of people with 23,683 people recorded as residing there, representing 14.5% of Meath's population.
- The young dependency ratio stood at 31.9% for the State in April 2011. Meath recorded the highest young dependency ratio (38.3%) in the country.
- Meath also recorded the youngest urban population with an average age of 31.4 years
- The birth rate for Meath in 2009 was 20.5 per 1,000 population which was substantially higher than the national rate of 16.9. Only Fingal had a higher birth rate than Meath in 2009.
- In 2009, Meath recorded lower rates of infant mortality and neonatal mortality than the State and higher rates of stillbirth and perinatal mortality.
- The Census 2011 results infer a population to household ratio equating to 2.90 persons per household in the County.
- In 2006, 7.4% or 12,076 persons of Meath's population were recorded as having a disability.

Population of Children and Young People

- The percentage of 0-4 years olds increased from 8.7% in 2006 to 9.5% of Meath's total population in 2011; the percentage of 5-9 year olds increased from 7.9% to 8.4%; and the percentage of 10-14 year olds increased from 6.8% in 2006 to 7.3% of Meath's total population in 2011.
- 46,466 children and young people aged between 0 and 14 years resided in Meath in April 2011 representing 25.2% of Meath's total population.
- In 2006, the ED in Meath which recorded the highest number and highest percentage of children was Navan Rural where 6,852 or 15% of all children in Meath resided.

- In April 2011, Dunshaughlin recorded the highest percentage of 0-14 year olds in Meath towns with populations of 1,500 and over with 35.3% of its population being between these ages.
- In 2006, a total of 1,718 children were recorded with a disability in Meath. This represented four per cent of all children with a disability in Ireland (42,021) and four per cent of the child population of Meath.
- As of March 2012, a total of 392 children aged 0-18 years in Meath were recorded on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database and a total of 411 children were recorded on the National Intellectual Disability Database.

Childcare Facilities

- In 2012 there were 223 childcare services notified to the Meath HSE Pre-school Inspectorate. Of this 223, 23 (10%) were community based with 200 operating privately at this time. There were no child minders notified. Between these 223 childcare services they offer 5,797 childcare places.
- In 2012, Navan ED has the greatest percentage of childcare facilities at 29% or 64 services, followed by Dunshaughlin ED with 26% or 57 services.
- Childcare is an issue for 0 to 3 year olds in the Mosney resettlement community.

Ethnicity and Cultural Background

- In 2006, 89% of the population of Meath were recorded as being White Irish
- For all non-Irish nationalities and non-Irish ethnic or cultural backgrounds, the largest proportion resided in the Navan Rural Electoral Division.
- Meath currently has a direct provision reception centre in Mosney which is located in the east of the county. It provides a settlement community for asylum seekers and refugees and has a capacity of 600.
- In 2012, there were 535 people residing at Mosney. Of this 535, 315 were children (59%).
- 53% (166) of the children residing in Mosney were aged between 5 and 12 years while 36% (113) were aged between 0 and 4 years.
- There were 124 families with children residing in Mosney, 69 lone parents with children, five couples, seven single males and 10 single females.
- There were 37 different nationalities residing in Mosney in 2012 comprised of African, Middle East, Eastern European and others. The largest single nationality was Nigerian (183, 34%).
- On the 25th November 2011, there were a total of 343 Traveller families residing in the local authority area.

Family Units and One Parent Families

- Meath recorded a total of 25,149 family units in the 2006 Census. This represented 4.48% of all family units in the State (560,386).
- Of the 25,419 family units, over half (53.7%, 13,526) were family units where all children were under 15 years
- 30.4% (7670) were family units with all children 15 years and over.
- In 2006 a total of 5,813 lone mother and lone father family units were recorded in Meath. Meath accounted for 3.1% of all lone family units in the State in 2006.
- A total of 9,490 children lived in one parent families in Meath in 2006, with 16% (1,494) of these children living with their fathers only.

- A total of 2,469 recipients received One-Parent Family Payments in County Meath in 2010. Meath recorded the 13th highest number of recipients of these payments in the country.

Relative Affluence and Deprivation, Socio-Economic Status and Employment

- Based on 2006 Census figures, Meath was the second most affluent local authority area within the Mid East Region and the sixth most affluent county in Ireland as whole.
- There exists a degree of variation within Meath, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes either with regard to affluence or deprivation.
- The most disadvantaged EDs are Killeagh (-9.0), Cloghbrack (-7.8) and Kells Urban (-6.9) but not a single ED falls into the 'disadvantaged' category.
- Areas of deprivation and decline within Meath are predominantly located to the north and southwest of the county, for example Oldcastle, Ballinlough, Ardagh, Kilmainham, Drumcondrath, Slane and Donore electoral divisions.
- In 2011, of those who had ceased full time education, 13% had completed their education at primary level; 17% at lower secondary and 38% at upper secondary level.
- Meath had a smaller percentage of persons aged 15 years and over who only had completed primary level education than the State. It had a similar percentage of person who had completed lower secondary level education as the State and a higher level of persons who had completed upper secondary level education than the State.
- The labour force participation rate for the State was 61.9% in 2011. Meath recorded the second highest labour force participation in the State (65.8%).
- Meath saw an increase of over 10% in its unemployment rate between 2006 and 2011.
- Meath was identified as having one unemployment blackspot (Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Urban: 37.8%). There were 81 such EDs in the State in 2011 with an average unemployment rate of 39.2% compared with 19% nationally (CSO, 2012).
- The unemployment rate for Meath was 18.0 in April 2011 which was below the State rate of 19.0.
- Between 2001 and 2010 the Live Register for Meath recorded a 320.9% change in the number recorded on it. This was the second highest increase recorded after Kildare (387.3%) and well above the change recorded for the country for that period.
- As of the 1st of April 2012, a total of 65,123 persons were eligible for medical cards in County Meath, while a total of 5,038 persons were eligible for GP visit cards.
- In April 2011, Meath recorded 24.8% of its population classified to socio-economic groups A (employers and managers) and B (higher professional). The eastern counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (39.7%), Fingal (27.5%), Wicklow (26.5%) Kildare (25.6%) and Meath had the highest proportion of persons classified to socio-economic groups A and B combined with Limerick City (15.4%).
- County Meath recorded the highest proportion of households with at least one car (90%) in April 2011. Meath also recorded the largest proportion of households with two cars.
- Of 61,922 private households in permanent housing units in Meath in 2011, 78% reported owning a personal computer. This was higher than the number in the State (73%).

Housing

- Meath recorded a total of 2,764 local authority housing applicants as of the 31st March 2011.
- Meath recorded a higher percentage of under 25 years old applicants than the total county council percentage: 21% compared to 19%.
- The majority of Meath local authority housing applicants were Irish citizens (73%: 2,016).
- Of the 2,764 applicants, 10% (270) were in receipt of lone parent support only and 50% (1,394) were unemployed and in receipt of social/community welfare benefit with a further two per cent (43) employed in a back to work/FAS scheme.
- Of the 2,764 applicants, a third (905) were single with children while 27% (750) were couples with children.
- The largest proportion of applicants in Meath had been on a housing waiting list for between 1-2 years (22%: 618); this is one per cent above that of the county council figures combined.
- Meath County Council's Assessment of Housing Need (2011) included 42 households falling within the 'disability' category of need.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

- Meath recorded the seventh highest number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals among children in 2008.
- In 2011, a total of 1,562 reports to Meath social work departments were recorded, an increase of 490 reports on 2010 or 46%.
- The total number of children in care at the end of 2011 was 138, with 79% being in foster care general and 17.4% being in relative foster care.
- In 2010, Meath referrals made up 18% (612) of all referrals made to the Diversion Programme in the Eastern Region and two per cent of all referrals made to the Programme nationally. Meath had the second lowest number of total referrals in the Eastern Region after Westmeath.
- A total of 439 children were referred to Meath's Garda Diversion Programme. This represented 19% of all children referred in the Eastern Region, with Meath recording the third lowest number of children being referred for the region.

Expenditure on Services

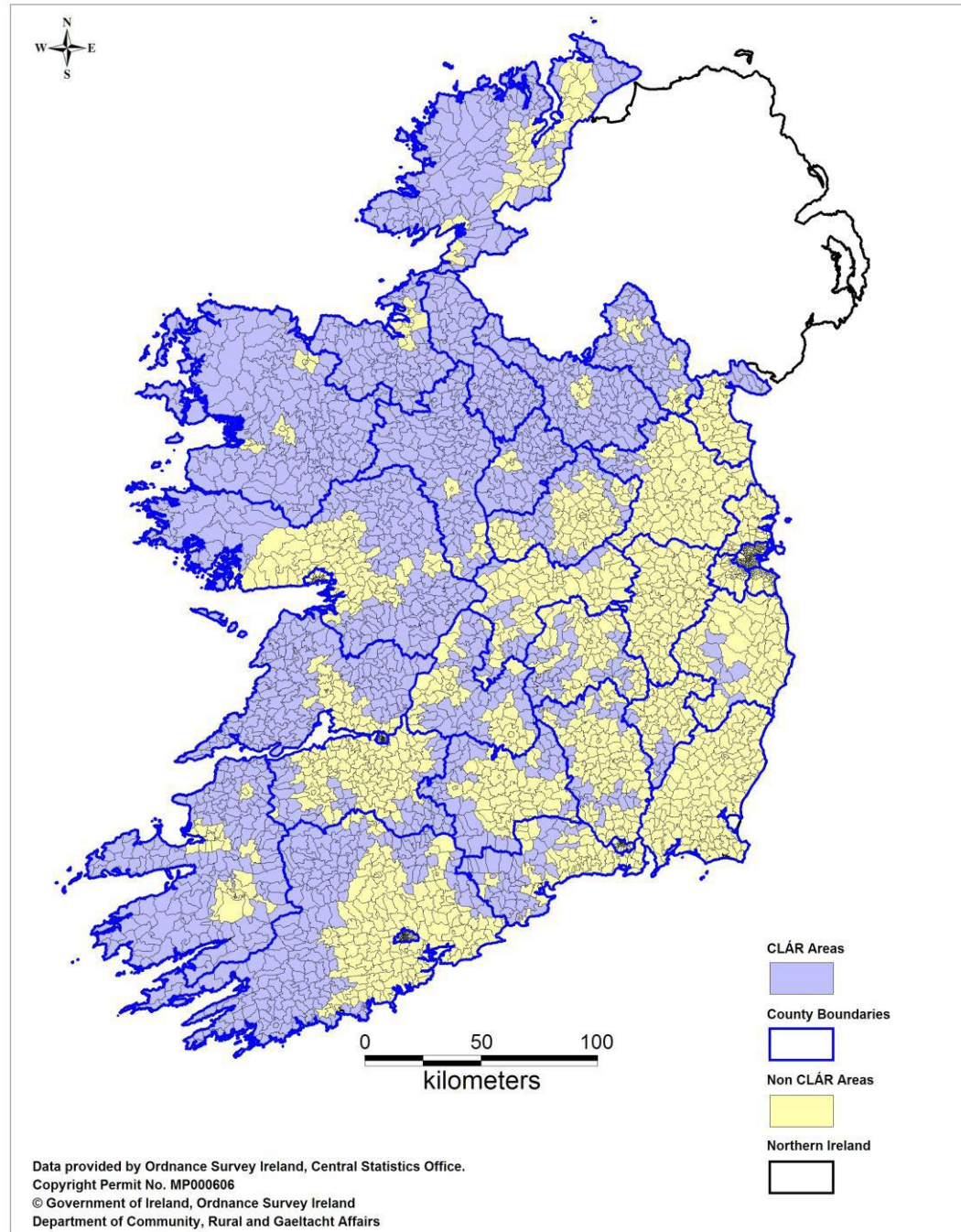
- In 2007, Meath LHO recorded the fourth lowest HSE expenditure of the 32 Local Health Offices in Primary, Continuing and Community Care.
- In 2007, Meath LHO recorded the second lowest expenditure per capita of the 32 LHO, spending €573 per capita.
- In terms of the percentage of expenditure spent on children, adolescents and families in 2007, Meath recorded the joint third highest percentage of expenditure at 3.80%.
- The 2012 Local Government Audit Service Activity Report recorded that Meath County Council reported a deficit of €8.3 million.

General

- In terms of their general health, 64% of Meath's population rated their health as very good in April 2011 while 27% rated it as good. Meath recorded a higher percentage of people rating their health as very good than the State (60%).

Appendix 1 CLAR areas, 2008

Republic of Ireland CLÁR Areas, 2008



An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe
agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs

NIRSA
National Institute for Research and Statistical Analysis
An Institiúit Náisiúnta do Rannsóidhe agus Statistice

NOG

Source: Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs Annual Report, 2010

Appendix 2

Top 10 Meath Electoral Divisions by Nationality and Ethnicity

Top 10 Meath Electoral Divisions by Ethnicity , 2006

Electoral Division	Any other White background	Electoral Division	Black or Black Irish	Electoral Division	Asian or Asian Irish	Electoral Division	Other
Navan Rural	1984	Navan Rural	731	Navan Rural	248	Navan Rural	326
Donaghmore	759	Julianstown	417	St. Mary's (part)	118	Julianstown	171
St. Mary's (part)	680	St. Mary's (part)	185	Ratoath	114	St. Mary's (part)	140
Navan Urban	592	Dunboyne	88	Navan Urban	108	Donaghmore	102
Dunboyne	564	Navan Urban	80	Julianstown	94	Dunboyne	94
Julianstown	510	Ratoath	70	Donaghmore	72	Ratoath	93
Ratoath	451	Stamullin	60	Dunboyne	49	Dunshaughlin	51
Kilbrew	368	Donaghmore	48	Stamullin	37	Trim Rural (part)	45
Oldcastle	337	Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Rural	39	Innfield	36	Navan Urban	41
Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Rural	335	Dunshaughlin	31	Trim Rural (part)	30	Innfield	39

Source: CSO, 2006

Top 10 Meath Electoral Divisions by nationality, 2006

Electoral division	UK	Electoral Division	Polish	Electoral Division	Lithuanian	Electoral Division	Other EU25
Navan Rural	603	Navan Rural	433	Navan Rural	514	Navan Rural	429
St. Mary's (part)	288	Navan Urban	196	Oldcastle	252	Donaghmore	191
Julianstown	259	Dunboyne	167	Donaghmore	241	St. Mary's (part)	184
Ratoath	205	Donaghmore	152	Navan Urban	175	Dunboyne	145
Trim Rural (part)	190	Trim Rural (part)	127	Trim Rural (part)	140	Navan Urban	117
Donaghmore	161	Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Rural	107	St. Mary's (part)	139	Trim Rural (part)	111
Dunboyne	146	Dunshaughlin	73	Kilbrew	99	Kilbrew	99
Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Rural	110	Innfield	66	Ceannanus Mór (Kells) Rural	77	Ratoath	94
Stamullin	100	Julianstown	61	Dunboyne	59	Julianstown	87
Duleek	100	Ceannanus Mor (Kells) Urban	52	Julianstown	55	Duleek	73

Source: CSO, 2006

Appendix 3 Live Register Figures for all Counties

Number on the Live Register by County 2001 to 2010

County	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change%
Carlow	2026	2079	2227	2223	2065	1965	2448	4395	6578	6794	235.3
Cavan	1834	2002	2128	2072	2211	2287	2628	5073	7198	7498	308.8
Clare	3473	4058	4219	3851	3945	4073	4696	7503	10404	10619	205.8
Cork	16698	17456	17200	15920	15533	15208	16696	28064	43637	44651	167.4
Donegal	9896	9897	10149	9440	8637	8774	9107	15264	20748	21712	119.4
Dublin	35596	41455	43562	39361	39933	38505	40832	67505	101172	101962	186.4
Galway	8625	9403	9348	8797	8645	9046	9755	16479	22722	23099	167.8
Kerry	6162	6704	7086	6732	6650	6793	7288	12364	15923	16594	169.3
Kildare	3697	4362	4752	4350	4662	5187	6061	11533	17229	18015	387.3
Kilkenny	2182	2467	2716	2489	2484	2557	2692	4973	7069	7506	244.0
Laois	1850	2049	2196	2014	1980	2034	2787	5378	7679	8560	362.7
Leitrim	1108	1247	1231	1028	1109	1185	1442	2501	3600	3630	227.6
Limerick	6954	8281	8123	7245	7106	7314	8236	14030	21375	20970	201.6
Longford	1674	1810	1820	1736	1800	1941	2378	3840	5157	5254	213.9
Louth	7189	7559	7508	6743	6480	6536	6892	11457	16614	17418	142.3
Mayo	6094	6342	6106	5420	5141	4710	5089	8792	12736	13251	117.4
Meath	2855	2844	3218	3137	3001	3038	3557	6977	11071	12016	320.9
Monaghan	2752	2521	2486	2335	2038	2009	2257	4298	6334	6372	131.5
Offaly	2341	2640	2840	2563	2771	2768	3282	5617	8191	9162	291.4
Roscommon	1502	1513	1389	1266	1190	1285	1512	2694	3820	4002	166.4
Sligo	2343	2388	2236	2043	1938	1859	2136	3530	4992	5404	130.6
Tipperary	5466	6286	6548	5902	5623	5315	5756	10261	15087	16711	205.7
Waterford	7043	6074	6098	7164	6248	6266	6625	10491	14345	13989	98.6
Westmeath	2960	3305	3628	3658	3599	3800	4102	7284	9996	10154	243.0
Wexford	6257	7058	7141	6773	6615	6710	7511	12978	18156	19278	208.1
Wicklow	3829	4342	4649	4554	4429	4224	4611	8082	11771	12458	225.4
Total	152406	166142	170604	158816	155833	155389	170376	291363	423595	437079	186.8

Source: Department of Social Protection, 2010

Appendix 4

HSE Expenditure in PCCC, 2007

Table 1: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita for PCCC – 2007 outcome expenditure data ranked by total expenditure

LHO	Total population (2006 Census)	2007 expenditure	2007 expenditure per capita
Dublin South West	147,422	€331,236,865	€2,247
Dublin North Central	126,572	€328,805,348	€2,598
West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
Galway	231,670	€239,120,886	€1,032
Dublin North	222,049	€214,556,464	€966
Donegal	147,264	€201,749,302	€1,370
Dublin North West	185,900	€197,863,406	€1,064
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91,053	€189,731,513	€2,084
Dublin South East	110,487	€189,575,595	€1,716
Laois/Offaly	137,927	€181,086,677	€1,313
Longford/Westmeath	113,737	€168,390,263	€1,481
South Lee - Cork	179,260	€157,115,096	€876
Kerry	139,835	€156,915,225	€1,122
Limerick	151,290	€154,013,155	€1,018
Mayo	123,839	€145,713,978	€1,177
North Lee - Cork	167,701	€142,288,163	€848
Carlow/Kilkenny	120,631	€136,860,581	€1,135
Dublin South	126,382	€131,398,630	€1,040
Kildare/West Wicklow	203,327	€121,767,735	€599
Waterford	120,017	€120,634,326	€1,005
Cavan/Monaghan	118,791	€115,354,045	€971
Wicklow	109,202	€112,998,820	€1,035
Wexford	131,749	€109,834,306	€834
Dublin South City	134,344	€109,407,745	€814
Clare	110,950	€106,282,411	€958
North Cork	80,769	€103,186,584	€1,278
Louth	111,267	€102,088,888	€918
South Tipperary	88,441	€101,021,591	€1,142
Meath	162,831	€93,230,189	€573
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98,788	€85,647,976	€867
Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Roscommon	58,768	€70,088,398	€1,193
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

Table 2: LHO level expenditure, total and per capita for PCCC – 2007 outcome expenditure data ranked by expenditure per capita

LHO	Total population (2006 Census)	2007 expenditure	2007 expenditure per capita
West Cork	53,565	€241,839,711	€4,515
Dublin North Central	126,572	€328,805,348	€2,598
Dublin South West	147,422	€331,236,865	€2,247
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91,053	€189,731,513	€2,084
Dublin South East	110,487	€189,575,595	€1,716
Longford/Westmeath	113,737	€168,390,263	€1,481
Donegal	147,264	€201,749,302	€1,370
Laois/Offaly	137,927	€181,086,677	€1,313
North Cork	80,769	€103,186,584	€1,278
Roscommon	58,768	€70,088,398	€1,193
Mayo	123,839	€145,713,978	€1,177
South Tipperary	88,441	€101,021,591	€1,142
Carlow/Kilkenny	120,631	€136,860,581	€1,135
Kerry	139,835	€156,915,225	€1,122
Dublin North West	185,900	€197,863,406	€1,064
Dublin South	126,382	€131,398,630	€1,040
Wicklow	109,202	€112,998,820	€1,035
Galway	231,670	€239,120,886	€1,032
Limerick	151,290	€154,013,155	€1,018
Waterford	120,017	€120,634,326	€1,005
Cavan/Monaghan	118,791	€115,354,045	€971
Dublin North	222,049	€214,556,464	€966
Clare	110,950	€106,282,411	€958
Louth	111,267	€102,088,888	€918
South Lee - Cork	179,260	€157,115,096	€876
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98,788	€85,647,976	€867
North Lee - Cork	167,701	€142,288,163	€848
Wexford	131,749	€109,834,306	€834
Dublin South City	134,344	€109,407,745	€814
Kildare/West Wicklow	203,327	€121,767,735	€599
Meath	162,831	€93,230,189	€573
Dublin West	134,020	€72,025,392	€537
Total	4,239,848	€4,931,829,262	€1,163

Source: Staines (2010)

Table 3: The range of budgets, using only weights adjusted for LHO-level deprivation, as a percentage of the median budget per capita for service groups, supplied to young people, the whole population, and people aged over 65 years

LHO	Children, adolescents and families	All other services	Older people
Dublin North West	6.10%	6.30%	1.00%
Dublin South	5.80%	7.90%	1.30%
Dublin West	3.80%	9.60%	0.60%
Meath	3.80%	7.50%	0.90%
West Cork	3.70%	9.50%	0.40%
Kildare/West Wicklow	3.10%	10.20%	1.50%
Mayo	3.00%	7.90%	1.00%
Kerry	2.90%	5.40%	0.20%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2.70%	6.50%	1.00%
Dublin North Central	2.70%	5.20%	2.40%
South Tipperary	2.20%	4.10%	0.10%
Roscommon	2.10%	9.10%	1.10%
Cavan/Monaghan	2.10%	4.00%	1.00%
Limerick	1.90%	1.10%	0.20%
North Tipperary/East Limerick	1.70%	1.20%	0.10%
Donegal	1.50%	4.00%	0.50%
Dublin North	1.40%	5.40%	3.80%
South Lee – Cork	1.40%	0.50%	0.20%
Dublin South East	1.20%	5.70%	2.90%
Dublin South City	1.20%	5.50%	2.90%
North Lee – Cork	1.20%	3.40%	1.10%
Louth	1.20%	1.90%	0.60%
Clare	0.80%	1.30%	0.30%
Wicklow	0.70%	3.10%	0.80%
Laois/Offaly	0.70%	2.20%	0.70%
Wexford	0.60%	1.10%	2.00%
Carlow/Kilkenny	0.60%	0.40%	0.20%
Longford/Westmeath	0.50%	1.50%	0.70%
Dublin South West	0.40%	3.90%	1.50%
Galway	0.40%	0.20%	0.10%
North Cork	0.30%	4.90%	1.30%
Waterford	0.10%	1.90%	0.80%
Median	1.5%	4.0%	0.8%

Source: Staines (2010)

Appendix 5

Health Centre Locations Co Meath

There are total of 20 health centres across County Meath in the following locations:

- Ashbourne
- Athboy
- Ballivor
- Ballyboggan
- Castletown/Wilkinstown
- Drumcondrath
- Duleek
- Dunboyne
- Dunshaughlin/Ratoath
- Enfield
- Johnstown
- Kells
- Laytown/Stamullen
- Mosney
- Navan
- Nobber
- Oldcastle
- Slane
- Summerhill
- Trim

Appendix 6

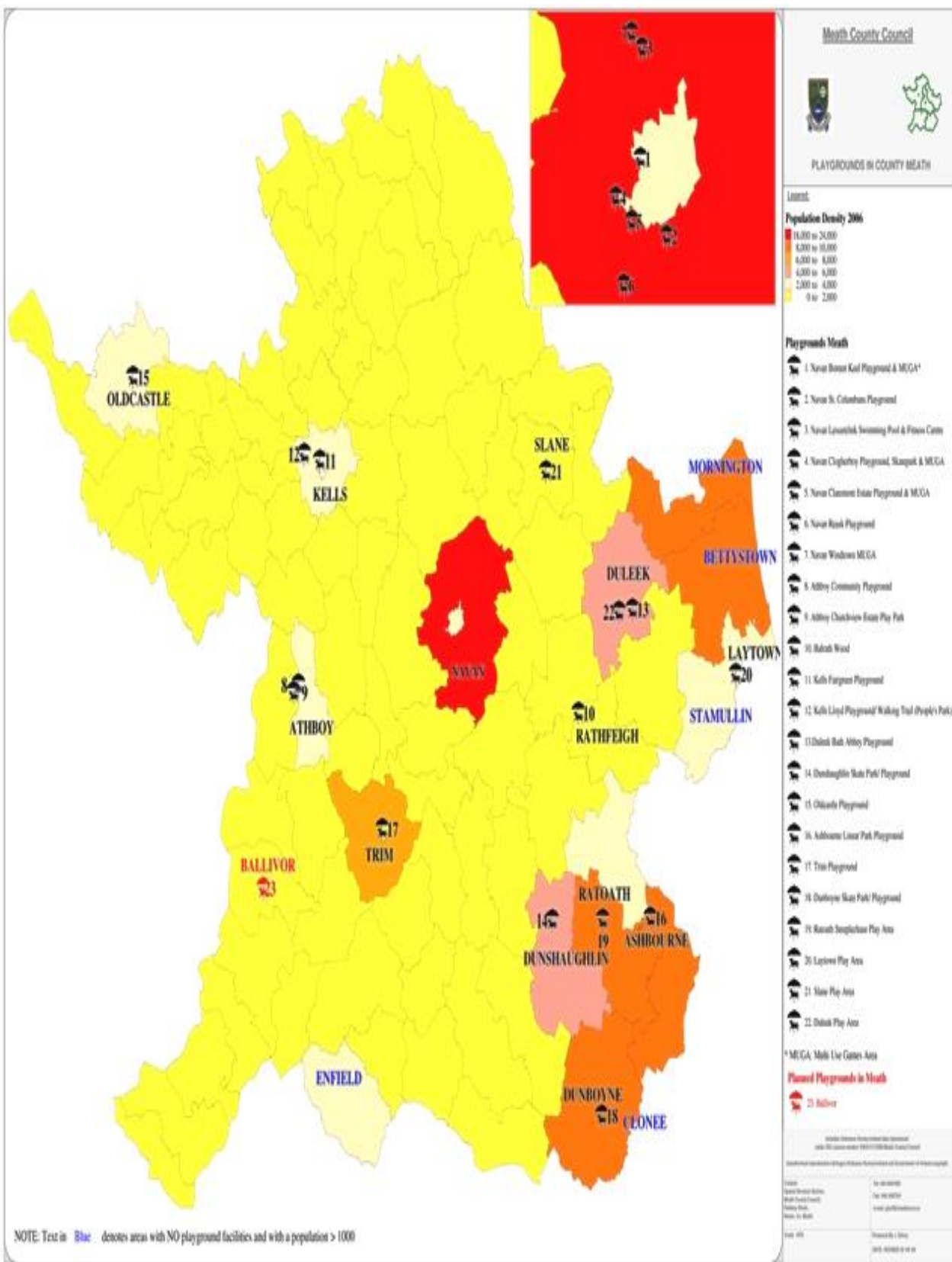
Table 1: Location of Major School Building Projects: Department of Education and Skills Five Year Programme

Project No.	School Name and Address	School Type	Brief	Date to go to construction
37	SN Mhuire, N Nealta, Ceannanus Mor	Primary	New School	On site 2012
38	Scoil Nais Mhuire, Naofa, Enfield, Co Meath	Primary	New School	On site 2012
39	Drogheda Grammar School	Post-primary	Extension/Refurbishment	On site 2012
40	Colaiste Na hInse, Laytown	Post-primary	New School	On site 2012
39	SN Realt na Mara (Boys) Mornington	Primary	New School	2012
40	SN Realt na Mara (Girls) Mornington	Primary	New School	2012
41	Dunshaughlin Community College	Post-primary	Extension/refurbishment	2012
30	New 1,000 pupil PP Navan	Post-primary	New School	2013
31	St Stephen's NS, c/o St Martha's College, Johnstown	Primary	New School	2013
32	New 1,000 pupil School, Ashbourne	Post-primary	New School	2013
33	Gaelscoil Na Mi, c/o Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA, Ashbourne	Primary	New School	2013
92	Navan Educate Together NS, Commons Rd Navan	Primary	New School	2014/15
93	SN Cros Ban, Whitecross, Julianstown	Primary	Extension	2014/15
94	St Paul's NS, Abbeylands, Navan, Co Meath	Primary	Extension	2014/15
95	Scoil Naisiunta Ui Gramhna, O'Growney St, Athboy	Primary	Extension	2014/15
96	St Peter's College, Dunboyne	Post-primary	Extension	2014/15
97	St Fintina's PP School, Longwood, Enfield	Post-primary	New School	2014/15
98	Ratoath Community College, Jamestown, Ratoath	Post-primary	Extension	2014/15
99	SN Bheinn Naofa (B) Duleek	Primary	New School	2014/15
100	SN Bheinn Naofa (G), Duleek	Primary	Extension	2014/15
101	Scoil An Spioraid, Naoimh, Laytown	Primary	New School	2014/15
49	New ET School Ashbourne, Ashbourne	Primary	New School	2015/16
50	St Mary's Special School, Johnstown	Special School	New School	2015/16

Source: Dept of Education and Skills, as cited in Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

Appendix 7

Meath Public Playgrounds



Appendix 8

Youth Clubs and Youth Service Projects Registered with Meath VEC, September 2008

- Meath Youth Federation
 - Ashbourne Youth Together
 - Kells Youth Project
 - Navan Youth Together
 - Athboy Summer Camp
 - Meath Autism Network
 - Athboy Youth Club
 - St Catherine's Youth Club Junior and Senior (Gibbstown, Navan)
 - Summerhill Youth Club
 - Teenage Kicks Oldcastle
 - Clonmellon Youth Club
 - Trim Clubba Lubba Youth Club
 - Enfield Youth Club
 - Cula Bula Trim
 - YAMO
- Forige
 - Bellewstown
 - Carnaross
 - Cormeen
 - Curragha
 - Dunboyne
 - Dunshaughlin
 - East Meath
 - Kilcloon
 - Kildalkey
 - Meath Hill
 - Mosney
 - Ratoath
 - Syddan (Lobinstown)
 - Zion (Navan)
- Oige na Gaeltacht
 - Deagoiri Bhaile Ghib
 - Ionad Buaileadh isteach Rath Chairn
 - Oige Rathchairn
 - Oige Bhaile Ghib
- Scouting Ireland units
 - Skreen
 - Kilbride
 - Kildalkey
 - Longwood
 - Dunboyne
 - Cois Farraige
 - Ashbourne

- Navan
- Trim
- Ballivor
- Kells
- Dunshaughlin
- Athboy
- Ratoath
- Irish Girl Guides, Ladybirds and Brownies units
 - Kells Ladybirds
 - Macella Guides Trim
 - Navan Brownies
 - Plum Trees Brownies
 - Round Tower Kells
 - St John's Girl Guides
 - St Seachnall's Girl Guides
 - Trim Guides
 - Trim Rangers
 - CGI Moynalty
 - Oldcastle
 - Ashbourne
- Federation of ARCH clubs (for people with special needs, their siblings and friends)
 - Trim Arch Club
 - Navan Arch Club
- Others
 - Julianstown Girls Friendly Society
 - Boinn Youth Club
 - Many resident associations also run youth programmes, summer camps etc

Source: Meath County Council (2008) Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012
September 29th 2008

(V) Consultations with Young People



Growing Up in Meath

The following is a summary of the main findings that emerged from a focus group conducted in Jigsaw Meath on the 17th July during the Jigsaw Summer Programme.

Participants : 13 young people (9 male, 4 female). Mean age 13 years. Age range 12-16 years.

Main Priorities

- Hang out space.
- Parks in Estates.
- Pedestrian crossings.
- Big car park.
- Affordable events in the Solstice centre.
- Make the Ramparts safe (Security guards/cameras).
- More astro pitches.

What Do You Like About Growing Up in Meath?

- Johnstown (there is a swing over the river.)
- The shops.
- The Solstice Centre (art gallery).
- The library.
- The playground in Ashbourne.
- The discos (Walterstown, The junior palace, Funshaughlin).
- The Zone .
- The Peoples Park.
- Jigsaw (*They saw their own space as being important, as well as unstructured free time compared to other Youth Centres*).
- Tayto Park.
- GAA – Good facility.

What Do You Dislike About Growing Up In Meath?

- There is nothing to do.
- There are no 3D movies in Navan . (There is a better cinema in Ashbourne)
- There is only one disco in Navan (Walterstown)
- There is nowhere to hang out for free.
- The size of the medical waiting list.
- There is not enough skate parks

- There is an issue with **drugs**. (*Young people witness drug use every day*).
- **Safety** is an issue. (*People are afraid to walk in certain areas at certain times*).
- Alcohol is an issue.
- The influence of friends. (*Peer pressure*).

What Could Be Done to make Meath Better?

- Have a better cinema that shows 3D movies.
- Have better fast-food restaurant such as Subway, sushi bars (Fast food seems to be important).
- Have more optional classes in school.
- Have better facilities in schools (tennis courts, astro pitches, gyms).
- Have more summer programmes.
- More youth clubs (with free tea).
- Have a skate park/BMX park.
- A graffiti wall that is cleaned every month.
- Have concerts (Mini Oxygen for over 12's).
- Have a bike rental scheme (like the ones in Dublin).
- Better activities (Boxing, Rugby Horse riding).

Themes

Somewhere to hang out, without being told what to do.

Drugs. (*Young people witness drug use every day*).

Safety is an issue. (*People are afraid to walk in certain areas at certain times*).



Growing Up in Meath

The following is a summary of the main findings that emerged from a focus group conducted in Jigsaw Meath on the 20th September during the Jigsaw over 16s youth club.

Participants : 13 young people (7 male, 6 female). Mean age 16 years. Age range 15-17 years.

Main Priorities

- Security
- Safe places to hang out
- Sports facilities are very valuable
- Fast food outlets / shopping centres are important resources

What Do You Like About Growing Up in Meath?

- The shopping centre
- Peace and quiet in rural spaces
- Plenty of fields, fresh air
- Boxing, football and other sports facilities
- Kayak on the Boyne

What Do You Dislike About Growing Up In Meath?

- Can feel isolated in rural areas
- Getting evicted from Shopping centre and similar premises by security
- Warning noise outside shopping centre to deter loitering
- Lack of security – the threat of assault
- Can't walk around after dark

What Could Be Done to make Meath Better?

- Need more free services where you could hang out safely
- More security in public places
- Safe place to hang out
- Better funded schools
- More swimming pools.
- Swimming facility on the Boyne
- Would like a public art studio
- More youth friendly services and organisations

Themes

Somewhere to hang out, without being told what to do.

Drugs. (*Young people witness drug use every day*).

Safety is an issue. (*People are afraid to walk in certain areas at certain times*).



Growing Up in Meath

The following is a summary of the main findings that emerged from a focus group conducted in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan on 21st September during a Comhairle na nÓg meeting.

Participants : 20 young people. Mean age 16 years. Age range 13-18 years.

Main Priorities

- Security
- Safe places to hang out
- Sports facilities are very valuable
- Fast food outlets / shopping centres are important resources
- Price of bus tickets
- Lack of rural transport
- Prices change to adult pricing below the age of 18

What Do You Like About Growing Up in Meath?

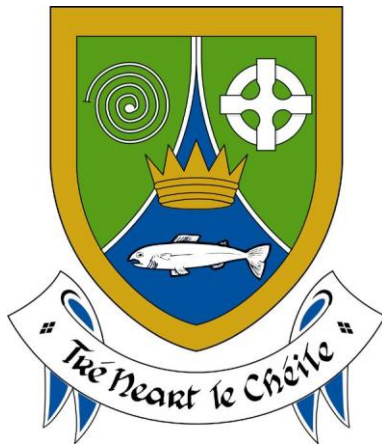
- Cinema
- Eddie Rockets
- Swimming pools
- Schools
- Sports Clubs – GAA, tennis
- Comhairle na nÓg

What Do You Dislike About Growing Up In Meath?

- Alot of places to hang out are expensive
 - Not enough transport into Navan. Buses only go to Dublin. Particularly difficult from Athboy to Navan – which costs €10.70 as a student
- Price of bus tickets
- Age at which one is considered an adult on bus (16)
- Lack of youth spaces
- Being evicted from shopping centre
- Noise outside cinema and shopping centre
- No student card for secondary school students – so sometimes cannot avail of student discounts
- Price for a number of things changes to adult pricing at 16 rather than 18

What Could Be Done to make Meath Better?

- Teenage or activity playground
- Free place for young people to hang out
- More fast food outlets with seating
- More parks, youth areas, teenage playgrounds, outdoor gyms
- Bike rental scheme



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



North Eastern Regional
Drugs Task Force

Louth - Meath - Cavan - Monaghan



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service



Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae na Mí

Fiúntas agus Nuálíocht in Oideachas

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