



County Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2012 - 2015

Contact

“The Co. Wicklow Children’s Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People’s Plan.

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

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Foreword

We are pleased to present the Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan which covers the three years from 2012 to 2014. This plan reflects the hard work of the members of the Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee [CSC] and its Subgroups.

Wicklow has a very high population of children and young people as evidenced from the latest statistics from the CSO. Similar to the entire country families in Wicklow are experiencing increasing levels of disadvantage due to the current economic situation. Statutory, Voluntary and Community organisations and agencies working with children and families across the county are working hard to meet increasing demands with limited resources. In so doing a number of interagency initiatives are already in evidence in the county.

This plan presents a coordinated interagency approach to the delivery of services to children and young people in Wicklow for 2012 to 2014 by all agencies working with children and young people in Wicklow.

We are committed to reviewing and updating this plan as required particularly in light of new evidence of more effective models of practice.

As Chairperson of the Co. Wicklow CSC I wish to extend sincere thanks to all those involved in bringing this plan to fruition. I would like to recognise the contribution of those involved in the early days of the CSC who have retired or moved to new positions.

Adrienne Byrne
Acting Chairperson
Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee
26th 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 Outcome areas 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, and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment;**
- **Economically secure;**
- **Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community, and included and participating in society**

Note: In Section 6, Action Plan for Children's Services Committees, some outcomes are amalgamated.

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). It 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 Wicklow

Wicklow Children's Services Pre-Implementation Committee met in November 2010 with members representing the statutory sector initially. Following a successful application to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in February 2011 the Co. Wicklow CSC was formalised in April 2011 with members representing statutory, voluntary and community organisations providing services for children, young people and their families in Co. Wicklow.

The Committee continued to meet in 2011 to agree the role, membership, guiding principles and to prepare to employ a Coordinator. In February 2012 a part-time Coordinator was appointed to assist the committee in delivering on a three year plan by the end of October 2012.

The following **principles** underpin the work of the Co. Wicklow CSC:

Children, young people and families

- Co. Wicklow CSC is children and young people centred, not agency driven
- All of our work and decisions are based on supporting children's development
- We commit to making a difference to the lives of children and young people through our work

Collaboration and Operation of Co. Wicklow CSC

- We will learn from other CSCs, taking on board their experiences to inform our work
- All involved will have a clear understanding of the role of CSCs and the particular role of Co. Wicklow CSC
- We will build the understanding of each other's roles, open doors, and work flexibly to implement the work agreed

- We are committed to and open in the process
- We are open to change and realise that change is often necessary to ensure better outcomes
- We will openly communicate and cascade the work of the CSC into our organisations
- Co. Wicklow CSC will act as an inclusive body and will work with the wider community to input into plans and implementation
- We will agree on how decisions will be reached, ideally through consensus
- We will maximise and share resources, funding and other resources to reach shared goals

Our plans and delivery

- Our work and plans will be based on data, fact and evidence
- They will be realistic and set goals and targeted outcomes
- We are committed to delivery, implementing plans and ensuring that action happens
- We will share and transfer good practice across our work together and into our organisations at large
- Our plans will be reviewed and evaluated which will inform future plans and working

Who we are

- Current Membership of the Co. Wicklow CSC is as follows:

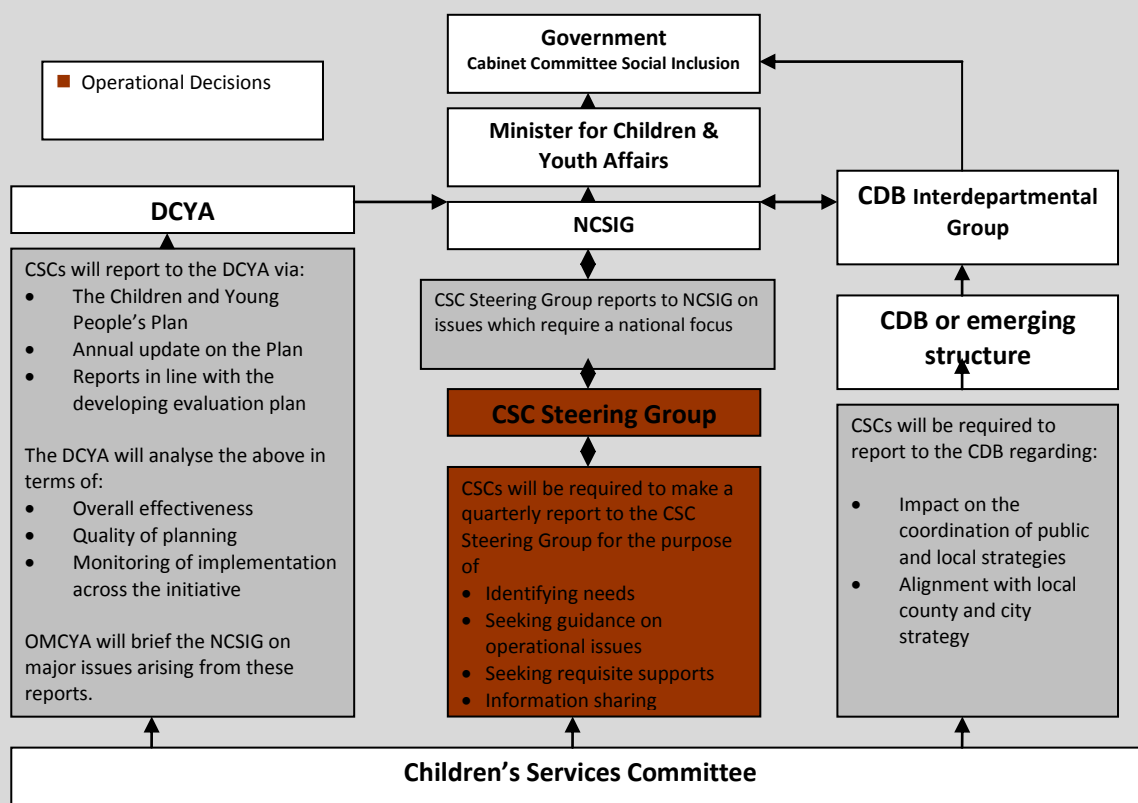
*Adrienne Byrne, Acting Chair	Principal Social Worker, HSE
Joe Lane, Deputy Chair	Head of Services, Social, Cultural & Community, Wicklow County Council
Peter Brennan	Bray Area Partnership
Tom Conway	Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána
Frank d'Arcy	Co. Wicklow Partnership
Alison Fox	Youth Officer, Co. Wicklow VEC
Dr. Davina Healy	Principal Medical Officer, HSE
**Kevin Lewis	Acting CEO, Co. Wicklow VEC
Declan McCarthy	Superintendent, Bray Garda Station, An Garda Síochána
Dr. Sophia Morgan	Lucena Clinic
Catherine O'Grady (Community & Voluntary Group Representative)	Marian Centre, Bray
Eddie Sheehy	County Manager, Wicklow County Council
Emma Skinner	Juvenile Liaison Officer, An Garda Síochána
***Eugene Waters	Coordinator, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
Deirdre Whitfield	Administrative Officer, Wicklow County Council
Rosemary Yeates (Community & Voluntary Group Representative)	Bray & East Wicklow Youth Services
Fionnuala Curry	Coordinator, Co. Wicklow CSC

* The HSE was previously represented by Marion Meaney, Grace Fraher and John Quin

** Fiona Hartley previously represented Co. Wicklow VEC

*** Jeremy Kynaston previously represented Wicklow County Childcare Committee

Overview of how the CSC fits with other structures:



How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

The Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan [WCYPP] has been developed by the agencies involved in the Co. Wicklow CSC and its subgroup members. It is informed by the socio-demographic profile for the county detailed in Section 2 and by the overview of services to children and families in Wicklow Section 3. It also takes into consideration the national policy perspective and evidence arising from local, national and international research.

A Data Subgroup was established at the initial meeting of the Co. Wicklow CSC in November 2010 and its members were charged with the task of producing a socio-demographic profile for the County and to lead the audit of services.

In June 2011 a facilitated session was held with identified Community and Voluntary Groups which resulted in the election of two Community & Voluntary Group representatives onto the CSC.

In February 2012 a part-time Coordinator was appointed.

In March 2012 at a Facilitated Day the role of the Data Subgroup was expanded to include Planning. The Subgroup was asked to provide a plan/timetable for the delivery of the CYPP for the next CSC meeting.

In April 2012 the most up to date Socio-demographic profile for the county was presented to the Committee and a plan/timetable for delivery of the CYPP was agreed. A revised format for the audit of services was also agreed.

In May 2012 the Audit of Services information collected to date was presented to the Committee and together with the socio-demographic profile this enabled the Committee to establish five subgroups to focus on some of the priority areas identified during this process. The following subgroups were appointed:

Data/Planning Subgroup – this subgroup had been in existence and was asked to continue with the work involved in bringing the CYPP to fruition

Physical Health Subgroup – this subgroup was formed to explore priorities such as obesity, physical activity

Mental Health Subgroup – this subgroup was formed to explore priorities highlighted in relation to youth mental health in the county

Supported in Active Learning Subgroup – to focus on concerns in relation to literacy and numeracy

Change Management Subgroup – a high level 'decision makers' group to focus on change during the implementation of the CYPP

Whilst each Subgroup is Chaired by a CSC member external membership from relevant agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors was actively encouraged.

Terms of Reference for Subgroups were finalised at the June 2012 CSC meeting.

During July and August most subgroups met to agree membership and to explore the priority areas identified by the CSC and to identify any other priorities which were arising. At the August CSC meeting a sixth subgroup was agreed the **Family Support Subgroup**.

All Subgroups were required to submit to the Coordinator draft templates of their proposed

activities together with objectives, indicators, targets and timeframes by the 7th September 2012. This presented a huge challenge for subgroups with such a short timeframe for turnaround. All agreed that the document would be 'live' and open to change as discussions on the priority areas developed.

The Coordinator collated the information received and circulated completed sections of the plan to the Committee in advance of its September meeting. The first draft of the plan was presented to the Committee at its September meeting and any changes agreed.

A consultation with young people around the draft plan was carried out through Comhairle na n'Óg and a range of youth services in the County in October 2012 and further amendments were agreed.

The final plan was presented to the CSC on the 19th October 2012 and submitted to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs thereafter.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Co. Wicklow

The purpose of this audit is to present an outline of some statistics on Children and on issues that affect them in County Wicklow. This is an organic document, which will be subject to change as more details are filled in and more data becomes available.

Landscape of the County:

The typical topography in Wicklow is one of mountains, rolling foothills, forests, coastline, and lakes with attractive views and prospects. The county is dominated by the Wicklow Mountains. With the exception of a narrow coastal strip and some low ground in the south, most of county Wicklow lies above the 200 metre contour line and over one third of the County lies above the 300 metre contour line.

County Wicklow is divided geographically by a spine of mountains. The majority of the population live on the East Coast. The majority of services and administration centres are also located on the East Coast. East/West movement is restricted by the mountains. The principal towns are located along the East Coast with a second linear arrangement of smaller centres in the west. The principal transport routes are the N11 in the east and the N81 in the west. East-west movement is severely restricted by the mountains so that most traffic has to take either the R756 or the R759.

As well as providing a natural geographical divide in the county, the mountains have influenced the way services are provided and contributed to a psychological divide in the county.

Demography:

County Wicklow's population has experienced rapid growth over the last ten years and according to the 2011 Census of Population the population in the county now stands at 136,640 an increase of 8.3 percent or an actual increase of 10,446 on the 2006 figures. At a provincial level it is worth noting that Leinster grew faster than the State overall, increasing by 9.1 per cent over the period 2006 - 2011. This strong growth has resulted in Leinster increasing its share of the population with over half of all persons, 54.6 per cent, enumerated there in April 2011.

It is interesting to note that according to the 2011 Census of Population 65.1 percent of the population in County Wicklow now live in the aggregate town areas. In the State approximately 62 percent of the population, now live in aggregate town areas. In 1961 46.1 percent of the population lived in urban areas and 53.6 percent in rural areas. In 1961 Dublin City accounted for 50.9 percent of all the people living in urban areas in 2011 this figure stood at 39 percent. There are now 197 designated urban areas in the country with 24.2 percent of the population of the country living in Dublin City and suburbs.

Therefore over the last 50 years there has been a significant movement in the urban rural population mix. Also it is worth noting that the drivers of population change are births, deaths, immigration and emigration. The CSO points out that during the inter-censal period 2006 to 2011 very high birth rates combined with falling deaths have been the main drivers of population change in Ireland¹. Total births for the five year period were 365,000 and deaths were 140,000 giving a natural increase of 225,000 the highest ever recorded for an inter-censal period. Net migration over the five years into the country was 125,000.

¹ This is Ireland, Highlights from the Census 2011, Part 1, March 2012, pg. 10

Age Composition:

The national age dependency rate in 2011 was 49.3, this compares to 45.8 in 2006.

Table 1: Persons by Age Category

Age Category	Wicklow	Leinster	State
0 – 4 Years	11,474	198,742	356,329
5 – 9 Years	10,179	175,466	320,770
10 – 14 Years	9,519	161,678	302,491
15 – 19 Years	8,582	151,886	283,019
20 Years and Older	96,886	1,817,042	3,325,643

As can be seen from the above table 39,754 of the people in County Wicklow at the time of the 2011 Census were aged 19 years or younger this equates to approximately 29 percent of the counties population. The Young Dependency rate is the number of young people aged 0 – 15 as a percentage of the total population of working age, at a national level the rate was 31.9 percent, the rate in Wicklow is 34.5 percent. As well as examining the age profile in age categories it is worthwhile to look at the numbers by year 0 – 19 in the county. It is worth noting that Ireland had the highest proportion of people aged under 15 years in the EU at 31.9%, the rate for the EU 27 was 23.3 and Ireland had the second lowest proportion of persons aged 65 and over 17.3 percent, EU 27 rate was 26.2.

Table 2: Age Profile by Year 0 – 19 in County Wicklow.

Age	Male	Female	Total
0	1133	1207	2340
1	1164	1137	2301
2	1231	1125	2356
3	1146	1147	2293
4	1128	1056	2184
5	1052	1008	2060
6	1135	1026	2161
7	977	1026	2003
8	1026	999	2025
9	999	931	1930
10	1025	918	1943
11	1025	953	1978
12	989	912	1901
13	952	853	1805
14	991	901	1892
15	918	882	1800
16	908	816	1724
17	879	869	1748
18	898	833	1731
19	802	777	1579
Total	20,378	19,376	39,754

Source: Census of Population 2011

Census 2011 shows a national population of pre-school children aged 0-4 of 356,329, an increase of 17.9 per cent since 2006 compared to the 8.2 per cent in the population of the State as a whole, bringing the numbers back to just above the levels in the early 1980s². As can be seen in Table 2 in County Wicklow there is a pre-school population of 11,474, consisting of 5,802 Males and 5,677

² CSO, Profile 2, Older and Younger, May 2012, pg. 20

Females. This represents a 19.8 percent or an actual increase of 1,893 in the number in this age category since 2006.

The Census also shows that nationally 83.1 per cent of this age group lived in family units with both parents, with 15.4 per cent in lone parent families. While there was an increase of pre-school children living with a lone parent of 7.5 per cent since 2006, this type of family unit has decreased as a proportion of all household types from 16.9 to 15.4 per cent in 2011.

Census 2011 shows the population of the primary school age group (5-12) at 504,267, an increase of 12 per cent since 2006 compared to an 8.2 per cent increase in the population of the State as a whole. While for County Wicklow the number of primary school aged children was 16,001 an increase of 50.3 percent or an actual increase of 5,352. This is a very significant increase when one takes into account that the national increase for this age category was 12 percent and the overall population growth in the county was 8.3 percent.

Table 3: Age Categories 0 to 24 in Main Urban Settlements 2011

Town	Total	0 – 4 Years	5 – 12 Years	13 – 18 Years	19 – 24 Years
Bray and Environs	31,872	2,228	3,347	2,444	2,613
Greystones and Environs	17,468	1,749	1,996	1,228	1,207
Arklow and Environs	13,009	1,210	1,507	968	909
Wicklow and Environs	10,356	784	1,333	902	731
Blessington	5,010	616	656	366	287
Kilcoole	4,049	443	503	339	292
Rathnew	2,964	390	380	187	185
Newtownmountkennedy	2,410	240	301	114	173
Baltinglass	2,061	176	292	156	139
Enniskerry	1,811	95	248	211	150
Rathdrum	1,586	151	175	114	100

Households:

As well as looking at the age structure of the population it is worthwhile in examining the various household structures in the county. In 2011 there were a total of 47,798 private households in County Wicklow with a total of 135,259 persons in private households³. The average number of persons per private households is 2.8. The following Table highlights the number of private households and number of persons in private households in County Wicklow over the period 2002 to 2011.

Table 4: Analysis of Private Household Size in County Wicklow 2002 – 2011

County Wicklow	Number of Private Households	Persons in Private Households	Average number of Persons in Private Households
2002	36,572	112,006	2.94
2006	42,870	123,870	2.89
2011	47,798	135,259	2.83

³ A private household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements - that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room. In order to be included in the household, a person must be a usual resident at the time of the census. Therefore, visitors to the household on census night are excluded, while usual residents temporarily absent (for less than 12 months) are included.

Table 5: Composition of Households

Composition of Household	Wicklow	% Wicklow	State	% State
One person	9,659	20.21	392,000	23.70
Husband and wife	7,232	15.13	240,146	14.52
Cohabiting couple	2,119	4.43	73,111	4.42
Husband and wife with children (of any age)	16,652	34.84	522,959	31.61
Cohabiting couple with children (of any age)	1,979	4.14	54,911	3.32
Lone mother with children (of any age)	4,893	10.24	155,264	9.39
Lone father with children (of any age)	773	1.62	24,497	1.48
Husband and wife with other persons	404	0.85	13,095	0.79
Cohabiting couple with other persons	224	0.47	8,602	0.52
Husband and wife with children (of any age) and other persons	812	1.70	26,226	1.59
Cohabiting couple with children (of any age) and other persons	141	0.29	4,233	0.26
Lone mother with children (of any age) and other persons	451	0.94	15,190	0.92
Lone father with children (of any age) and other persons	88	0.18	2,986	0.18
Two family units with or without other persons	3,109	6.50	18,317	1.11
Three or more family units with or without other persons	111	0.23	452	0.03
Non-family households containing related persons	2,029	4.24	39,611	2.39
Non-family households containing no related persons	897	1.88	62,608	3.78
Total private households	47,798	100.00	1,654,208	100.00

As can be seen in the above table there are a wide range of household compositions. While in County Wicklow approximately 20.21 percent of all private households are one person households, compared to 23.70 percent of all the private households in Ireland. The highest percentage of all private households in County Wicklow is households comprising of a husband and wife with children of any age at 34.84 percent.

Lone Parent Households:

Nationally the number of lone parent families where the youngest child was less than twenty years increased by approximately 30 percent over the period 2002 to 2011. Throughout the period over 90 percent of the lone parent families whose child was aged less than twenty years were headed by a female.

Lone parent households accounted for 6,205 or 12.98 percent of all private households in County Wicklow in 2011. It is worth noting that 17,240 persons live in households headed by a lone parent, this is 12.61 percent of the population of the county. Lone mothers account for 86.12 percent of the lone parent households. However it is also worth noting that the number of lone parent family units in the county in 2011 was 6,740

Department of Social Protection figures for 2010 show that in Wicklow 2,997 were in receipt of the one parent family payment, 305 were in receipt of the deserted wife's benefit and 20 the deserted wife's allowance. It is also worth noting that in 2010 in Wicklow there were 19,531 recipients of child

benefit, 36,508 child benefit children. 27 people received guardian payments and 814 maternity benefit, while 707 received domiciliary care allowance.

While the Department of Social Protection statistic report for 2011 shows that 3,351 were in receipt of the one parent family parent, 14 in receipt of the deserted wife's allowance, 296 in receipt of deserted wife's benefit and 745 people were receiving maternity benefit. It is also worth noting that in Wicklow in 2011 there were 19,638 recipients of child benefit, 36,851 child benefit children, and 29 people received guardian payments, 665 received family income support and 5,823 received back to school clothing and footwear allowance.

Families:

It is interesting to note that the Census of Population 2011 shows a growth in the number of families nationally but a decline in the number of children. There were 1,179,210 families in the state an increase of 12 percent on the 2006 figure and an increase of 55.6 percent since 1991. According to the CSO the annual rate of increase in the number of families in the State was 2.3 percent per annum over the period 2006 to 2011. However in contrast family size has declined in 1991 it was 2 children on average per family, in 1996 it was 1.8, in 2002 it was 1.6 and in 2006 was 1.4 and in 2011 it was approximately 1.4. The average number of children in rural families was 1.5 and in urban areas was 1.3 in 2011. The average number of children for co-habiting couples with children was 1.74 and for married couples was 2.09.

Parental Education Level Attained:

The number of children under 18 whose parents have attained: a) primary b) lower secondary c) upper secondary d) third level education as expressed as a proportion of all children. Unfortunately the data from the 2011 Census was not available at the time of writing.

Table 6: Percentage of children under 18 by age and educational attainment of mother (2006)

	Primary (including no formal education)	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third level (degree or higher)	Not available	Total
Wicklow	1,695	6,297	9,813	10,839	3,054	31,698
State	63,463	209,775	322,356	308,501	103,769	1,007,864

The Department of Education and Skills and County Wicklow VEC are the main education providers in Wicklow. In terms of education facilities for children in the county there are 83 Primary Schools with 15,535 pupils in the County and 22 post Primary schools with 10,757 pupils, 6 of which are DEIS schools. There are also four special needs schools in the county which cater for around 282 pupils.

It would be wrong to regard the children living in Wicklow as a homogenous group. There are children of different ethnic backgrounds living in the county as approximately five percent (1,634 children) of all the children in County Wicklow are non Irish nationals. According to the 2006 Census of Population there were 10,929 Traveller children living in the country at the time of the census, this is made up of 5,543 boys and 5,386 girls and it is important that the needs of the 223 Traveller children living in County Wicklow are taken into account in the delivery of services in the County.

School Attendance:

The key statistics from the Department of Education and Skills for the academic year 2010/2011 shows that there were 509,652 enrolled at primary level, 356,107 at second level and 161,647 at third level.

The pupil teacher ratio at primary level was 15.7 (in 2009/2010 it was 16.0) and at second level it was 13.6 which was the same as the previous year. The average class size in national schools including integrated pupils was 24.5 in 2009/2010 and 24.3 in 2010/2011.

Table 7: Number of Second Level Pupils Classified by Local Authority Area 2010/2011 including Post – Leaving Certificate Courses

County	Secondary		Vocational		Comprehensive		Total	
	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes	Pupils	Classes
Wicklow	15,316	605	219	23	213	35	15,748	663
Wexford	16,984	694	549	54	218	31	17,751	779
Kildare	26,584	1,022	376	56	198	37	27,158	1,115
Meath	22,925	883	291	30	206	26	23,422	939

Table 8: Number of National School Pupils and Classes by Local Authority Area 2010/2011

County	Secondary	Vocational	Community	Comprehensive	Total
Wicklow	4,399	5,467	493	398	10,757
Wexford	6,892	2,799	1,970	0	11,661
Kildare	8,347	4,616	2,233	0	15,196
Meath	3,836	5,075	2,833	0	11,744

In the academic year 2009/2010 in Wicklow of the children enrolled in primary school 9.4 percent missed twenty days or more, this is less than the State rate of 10.9 and for all Leinster schools of 12.4. Also in Wicklow the average number of days lost due to absence in primary schools is 5.7.

Table 9: Non Attendance in primary schools in Wicklow

	2006/2007	2008/2009	2009/2010
Absent	9.9	11.6	9.4
Absent 20 days or more	6.1	6.5	5.7

While when looks at post primary schools the rate of absence for twenty or more days was 18.3 percent in Wicklow schools, 19.4 for the State and 19.7 for Leinster as a whole. The number of average days lost to absence was 8.2 in Wicklow, 8.5 in the State and 8.4 for Leinster.

Table 10: Non Attendance in post -primary schools in Wicklow

	2006/2007	2008/2009	2009/2010
Absent	7.8	7.7	8.2
Absent 20 days or more	16.1	17.8	18.3

As well as looking at the attendance level it is also worth looking at the retention rates, the 2011 report published by the Department of Education and Skills provides data for the 2002 – 2004 cohorts.

Table 11: Retention rates 2002 – 2004 Cohorts.

County	No. of Schools	2002 Cohort		2003 Cohort		2004 Cohort	
		Junior Cert Retention	Leaving Cert Retention	Junior Cert Retention	Leaving Cert Retention	Junior Cert Retention	Leaving Cert Retention
Wicklow	21	95.7	77.9	95.3	79.6	94.2	83.1
State	695	95.7	81.3	95.1	82.2	94.5	84.5

Table 12: National School Pupils by County, Year, School Programme and Statistic

	Pupils in National Schools (Number)	Classes in National Schools (Number)
Wicklow		
1995	14,076	489
1996	13,817	487
1997	13,585	495
1998	13,645	491
1999	13,483	495
2000	13,399	510
2001	13,346	514
2002	13,366	522
2003	13,288	526
2004	13,437	533
2005	13,520	542
2006	13,734	541
2007	14,143	565
2008	14,539	584
2009	14,745	599
2010	15,111	598
2011	15,316	605

Births and Deaths:

According to CSO Vital Statistics report in 2011 there were 74,650 registered births giving an annual birth rate of 16.3 per 1,000. The average age of mothers in 2011 was 31.8 years 0.3 years more than 2010 and 0.8 years more than 2006 and 1.4 more than 2004. Births outside of marriage accounted for 34 percent of all births and were the same as the 2010 figure.

Nationally a total of 1,720 teenagers had babies in 2011, 40 of them were aged under 16 years of age. 40 of the mothers were aged 15 and under, 100 aged 16, 259 aged 17, 476 aged 18 and 843 aged 19.

There were 258 infant deaths registered in 2011 giving an infant mortality rate of 3.5 per 1,000 live births. While there were 190 neonatal deaths registered in 2011.

Table 13: 2011 Births Registered by area of residence of mother 2011

Area	Total	Male	Female	Rate
State	74,650	38,223	36,427	16.3
Leinster	42,961	22,118	20,843	17.2
Wicklow	2,341	1,167	1,174	17.1
Wexford	2,328	1,249	1,079	16.0
Meath	3,561	1,844	1,717	19.3
Kildare	3,948	2,015	1,933	18.8

Source: Central Statistics Office, Vital Statistics, Fourth Quarter and Yearly Summary 2011, July 2012

In 2011 2,341 births were registered to mothers living in County Wicklow, 46 of them were aged 20 years and the average age of mother at maternity was 32.0 while average age when it was a first child was 29.8. Domiciliary births in Wicklow accounted for 4 percent of all births.

Table 14: Percentage and number of births registered within and outside marriage classified by area of residence of mother. (%)

Area	Total	Married Parents	Unmarried Parents	
			Total	Same Address
State	74,650	49,460 (66)	25,190 (34)	13,822 (19)
Leinster	42,961	27,538 (64)	15,423 (36)	8,227 (19)
Wicklow	2,341	1,526 (65)	815 (35)	478 (20)
Wexford	2,328	1,344 (58)	984 (42)	548 (21)
Meath	3,561	2,554 (72)	1,007 (28)	658 (18)
Kildare	3,948	2,747 (70)	1,201 (30)	706 (18)

Source: Central Statistics Office, Vital Statistics, Fourth Quarter and Yearly Summary 2011, July 2012

Table 15: Infant and Neonatal mortality by area of residence of deceased

	Infant Mortality		Neonatal Mortality	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
State	258	3.5	190	2.5
Leinster	130	3.0	98	2.3
Wicklow	14	6.0	14	6.0
Wexford	7	3.0	6	2.6
Meath	10	2.8	8	2.2
Kildare	11	2.8	7	1.8

Source: Central Statistics Office, Vital Statistics, Fourth Quarter and Yearly Summary 2011, July 2012

According to the National Perinatal Statistics report 2010⁴ there were 177 domiciliary birth in 2010 representing 0.2 percent of all births, while in Wicklow there were 7 domiciliary approximately four percent of the total.

The CSO note that the increase in birth rates is due to more mothers rather than higher fertility rates. The average number of children born per woman has increased slightly from 0.98 to 1. The number of women in the state aged 15 to 44 years increased by 5 percent in the inter-censal period. The number of women aged between 30 and 34 increased by 15.9 percent in the same period.

Health indicators:

Table 16: Birth weight Groups Nationally and County Wicklow

Birth weight (grams)	Number Nationally	National Percent	Number Wicklow	Wicklow Percent
Less than 1,500 grams	647	0.8	32	1.3%
1,500-2,499 grams	3,364	4.5%	114	4.5%
2,500-4,499 grams	69,149	91.9	2290	91.1%
4,500 and over	2,067	2.7%	77	3.1%
Not stated	2	0.0	0	0.00
Total	75,229	100	2513	100

⁴ Perinatal Statistics Report 2010, Health Research Board and ESRI, Dublin, June 2012

Table 17: Mother's County of Residence, by infant's type of Feeding 2010

Area	Artificial		Breast		Combined		Not Stated		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Wicklow	1,106	43.7	1,175	46.4	251	9.9	0	0	2,532
State	34,559	46.0	34,443	45.9	6,080	8.1	2	0	75,084

Source: National Perinatal Statistics Report 2010, ESRI and Health Research and Information Division, June 2012

Table 18: Number of Children Registered as having an intellectual disability, Intellectual Disability Database, Health Research Board

	2004	2005	2006	2007	
				No	%
Wicklow	286	272	329	321	4.1
State	7504	7385	7658	7802	100

Table 19: Number of Children Registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, National Intellectual Disability Database, Health Research Board

Area	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Wicklow	23	0.4	26	0.4	243	3.1	304	3.6
State	6,412	100	7,039	100	7,811	100	8,373	100
Area	2009							
	No	%						
Wicklow	265	3.3						
State	8,043	100						

4,104 of the hospital discharges in 2009 were for children whose usual residence is county Wicklow. This is 2.8 percent of the hospital discharges for children recorded in 2009. It is worth noting that 473 of the discharges for Wicklow Children or 11.5 percent were discharged with a diagnosis of external causes of injury or poisoning.

Abuse and Maltreatment

Table 20: Child Welfare and Protection reports that went to initial assessment by type of concern 2008.

Area	Welfare	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Neglect	Total
Wicklow	159	44	40	14	62	319
HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster	2,170	750	624	475	1,238	5,797
State	7,518	1,704	1,657	1,270	3,215	15,364

As well as looking after the general health of children the HSE look after children that are taken into care. Unfortunately overall county figures are not available but the figures for the Local Health Offices show that of the children in HSE care in 2008 209 (3.9%) were from Kildare/West Wicklow and 148 (2.8%) were from the rest of Wicklow. The highest number of children in the care of the HSE was in the Dublin North West Local Health Office Area.

Table 21: Number and % of confirmed child abuse cases by type of abuse.

	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Neglect	Total No	Total %
Wicklow	4	5	2	6	17	0.8%

Access to basic health care is very important for children and young people. In April 2010, 2591 children were known to be on a hospital waiting list awaiting treatment; 47.8% were 3-6 months waiting, 43.5% were 6-12 months waiting while 8.7% a year or more waiting.

According to the National Immunisation Office the rate of uptake of the primary childhood immunisation programme was 96 percent in 2011 and for the MMR at twenty four months the uptake was 93 percent. While for the school immunisation programme the uptake rate was 81.9 percent for HPV vaccine. Both the primary and secondary school immunisation programmes show an increase on the 2005 rates and are in line with WHO targets.

As well as physical health it is important to look at mental health and promote positive mental health. Figures on mental health well being among children at a county level is very limited. In 2008 19 children from Wicklow were admitted to psychiatric hospitals representing 4.7 percent of all the children admitted⁵. There were 435 admissions for under 18s in 2010. This is an increase in admissions for under 18s from 2009 (367). Seventy-nine per cent of these were first admissions. There were 272 admissions to dedicated child and adolescent units in 2010. Eighty-three percent of these admissions were first admissions. It was not possible to get figures for county Wicklow however it is worth noting that in 2010 there were 19 people under 20 years (5.3 percent of all admissions from the area) admitted to psychiatric hospital from East Wicklow and 12 of these were first time admissions⁶.

While in 2008 there were 424 referrals to the Lucena Clinic in Wicklow and 325 were accepted, in 2009 there were 423 referrals and 305 were accepted.

In 2011 there were 525 suicides, 17 of these were in Wicklow. Among young adults aged 15 to 44, external causes of death including accidents, suicide and other ranked first. According to the CSO Vital Statistics reports for 2011 there were 96 deaths in the age group 5 to 24 as a result of suicide (In one of these cases the person was aged 5 – 14 in 95 cases the person was aged 15 – 24).

In the 2011 Census of Population respondents were asked to classify their health in general. The Table below shows the results for Wicklow in the age categories 0 – 19 years.

Table 22: General Health Census of Population 2011

	0 – 4 Years	5 – 9 Years	10 – 14 Years	15 – 19 Years
Very Good	9,605	8,813	8,212	7,087
Good	1,259	1,053	1,045	1,238
Fair	92	97	85	116
Bad	10	14	8	20
Very Bad	3	3	2	5
Not Stated	505	199	167	116
All	11,474	10,179	9,519	8,582

As can be seen across all the age groups the majority's health is classified as very good or good.

⁵ Source: State of the Nations Children Ireland 2010 pg. 197

⁶ Antoinette Daly and Dermot Walsh, HRB Statistics Series 15, Activities of the Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2010

Disability:

In the development of any policy for children the needs of children and young people with a disability needs to be taken into account.

Table 23: Persons with a Disability as a Percentage of Population by Age 2011

Age Category		2011
0 - 4 years	Disabled Population (Number)	10084
	Disabled population as a percentage of relevant age group (%)	2.8
5 - 9 years	Disabled Population (Number)	19562
	Disabled population as a percentage of relevant age group (%)	6.1
10 - 14 years	Disabled Population (Number)	23412
	Disabled population as a percentage of relevant age group (%)	7.7
15 - 19 years	Disabled Population (Number)	22712
	Disabled population as a percentage of relevant age group (%)	8

According to the 2011 Census of Population there were 75,770 children in Ireland with a disability. While in Wicklow 1,847 children aged 0 – 14 years had a disability and 1,453 aged 15 – 24 years.

Table 24: Children with a disability

Area	No. of Children with a Disability 0 - 14	No. of Children 0 - 14	Children with a disability as a % of all children
Wicklow	1,847	31,172	5.9

Disability support services for children in the County are provided by a number of different groups including the following;

- HSE
- St. Catherine's Association Ltd.
- Enable Ireland
- Festina Lente

Poverty and Deprivation:

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), Thematic report on Children 2004 – 2010 by the CSO presents an excellent picture of the risk of poverty and deprivation at a national level over the period. Unfortunately it is not possible to examine this data at a county level.

- In 2010, the average income (i.e. equivalised gross weekly disposable income) of individuals living in households with children was €482.83, down 8.8% on the 2009 figure of €529.20. This compares with an income for those living in households without children of €575.15 in 2010, down 2.1% on the 2009 figure of €587.32.
- In 2010 the at risk of poverty rate for those living in households with children was 18.7% compared with the rate of 11.8% for those in households without children. A similar pattern is evident between these two household types across all years.
- Excluding family allowances from the analysis for 2010 would increase the at risk of poverty rate for persons living in households with children from 18.7% to 38.6%. This shows the effect that such family related social transfers had in shielding individuals from poverty in households with children.
- Among children, the highest at risk of poverty rate in all years occurred in the 12-17 age band. This rate was 26.1% in 2010 compared with a rate of 19.2% for 6-11 year olds and a rate of 12.0% for children in the 0-5 year old band.
- The level of enforced deprivation (lacking two or more basic items) for individuals living in households with children was 28.2% in 2010 compared with a level of 14.6% for those living in households without children.

- In all years the rate of consistent poverty was higher for individuals living in households with children than for those living in households without children (8.0% compared with 3.8% respectively in 2010).

Children aged between 0 and 17 remain the most at risk of poverty group reporting higher levels of poverty and deprivation than other groups. The at risk of poverty is 18.6% and the consistent rate of poverty is 8.7% for this age category.

From an age perspective children (aged 0-17) remained the most vulnerable age group in 2009 with an “at risk of poverty” rate of 18.6%, no statistically significant change on one year earlier.

The percentage of people in “consistent poverty” in 2009 was 5.5%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points on the 4.2% recorded in 2008. Children (aged 0-17) remained the most exposed age group with a consistent poverty rate of 8.7% in 2009, up from the 6.3% recorded in 2008.

Policing and Juvenile Justice:

Juvenile justice and policing in the county is looked after by the Garda Síochána, who provide a number of Garda Diversion Programmes as well as a Garda Schools programme which runs in all the Wicklow Districts. Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers are stationed in Bray, Wicklow Town, Arklow and Baltinglass. The various programmes run by the Gardaí aim to tackle the issue of juvenile offenders as well as offering support to young people who are the victims of crime.

Table 25: Children aged 0 – 17 referred /referrals to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme 2009

Area	Total Number of Children referred		Total number of referrals	
	No	%	No	%
Wicklow	557	3.0	681	2.8
Eastern Region	2,488	13.4	3,163	13.2
State	18,519	100	23,952	100

Homelessness is a major issue and one which children are unfortunately not immune from. Homeless supports in the County are provided by the County Council, the HSE and the Simon Community. As well as bed and breakfast supports for families that are experiencing homelessness, hostel accommodation is provided in Rathdrum. Due to the nature of homelessness it is difficult to collect definitive statistics on the number of children experiencing homelessness in the county. There is no appropriate statutory accommodation for homeless children in the county.

Bray Women’s Refuge provides crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence. Bray Women’s Refuge provides support and relevant information to women accessing its service as well as delivering external outreach programmes.

The triennial assessment of housing needs from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government shows the types of households with children in need of social housing.

Table 26: Households in need of Social Housing, Department Environment.

Area	Single with Child/Children	Couple with Child/Children	All Households with Children	
			No	%
Wicklow	909	262	1,171	4.2
State	20,059	7,645	27,704	100

4.2 percent of all the households with children identified in 2008 as being in need of social housing

were located in County Wicklow.

The Central Statistics Office as part of the release of the 2011 Census of Population results released a special volume on homelessness and the report makes for stark reading. It shows that on the night of the Census there were 3,808 people who were counted either in accommodation providing shelter for homeless persons or were sleeping rough. These results are based on a targeted approach aimed at measuring the extent of homeless persons in Ireland – the first time such a comprehensive approach to measuring homelessness. Of the persons counted as being homeless 64 were sleeping rough and 3,744 were in accommodation for homeless persons. 32 persons were enumerated as homeless in the Mid East region and 2,375 in Dublin. It is worth looking at the age categories of persons who were enumerated as homeless.

Table 27: Homeless Persons by age group and sex.

Age Category	Male	Female	Total
0 – 4	100	99	199
5 – 9	87	67	154
10 – 14	56	48	104
15 – 19	91	93	184
20 – 24	185	154	339
25 – 29	206	157	363
30 – 34	257	155	412
35 – 39	269	121	390
40 - 44	264	107	371
45 – 49	302	72	374
50 – 54	245	65	310
55 – 59	172	50	222
60 – 64	152	26	178
65 – 69	72	17	89
70- 74	38	11	49
75+	43	27	70
All	2,539	1,269	3,808

As can be seen from the Table above there were 457 children aged between 0 and 14 years who were homeless.

Unemployment:

Since 2007 there has been a significant change in the labour force in County Wicklow with a large increase in the number of people unemployed. The Live Register report for March 2012 showed that the standardised unemployment rate nationally was 14.3.

Table 28: Live Register September 2011 -August 2012

Area	September 2011	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011
State	437,441	430,432	429,567	434,784
<u>County Wicklow</u>	12,684	12,469	12,374	12,480
Arklow	3,306	3,347	3,352	3,449
Baltinglass	1,523	1,450	1,449	1,509
Bray	5,694	5,534	5,400	5,342
Wicklow	2,161	2,138	2,173	2,180

Area	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	April 2012
State	439,589	439,422	434,054	430,001
County				12228
Wicklow	12,541	12,547	12,319	
Arklow	3,454	3,471	3,439	3,357
Baltinglass	1,526	1,528	1,512	1,488
Bray	5,326	5,311	5,162	5,186
Wicklow	2,235	2,237	2,206	2,197

Area	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012
State	432907	451974	460,323	456,256
County				
Wicklow	12,485	13016	13,124	12,909
Arklow	3,374	3,365	3,388	3,348
Baltinglass	1,527	1,605	1,635	1,579
Bray	5,331	5,695	5,736	5,684
Wicklow	2,253	2,351	2,365	2,298

While not a measure of unemployment in the county the Live Register figures do give an indication of the state of the labour force in the county and as can be seen while there has been slight variation in the figures there is still 12,909 people on the live register in the county. Of those on the live register in County Wicklow in August 2,244 were aged under 25 years or 17.4 percent.

Early Childhood Care:

In June 2010 there were a total of 3,787 ECCE services under contract to deliver the free Pre-School Year Scheme, nationally 82 percent met the criteria for basic capitation and 11 percent met the higher capitation criteria.

Table 29: ECCE Services.

Area	Total ECCE Services	Meeting Basic Capitation Criteria		Meeting Higher Capitation Criteria	
	No	No	%	No	%
Wicklow	132	104	78.8	16	12.1
State	3,787	3,105	82.0	415	11.0

In County Wicklow in 2012 there are the following;

- There are 176 childcare providers in the county and over 200 registered childminders.
- Approx. 95% of childcare providers in the county offer pre-school education.
- 98% of childcare providers are registered to provide the ECCE Scheme. The take-up (nationally) for the ECCE scheme is 96%. We are awaiting info on the exact take-up in Wicklow but believe it will be similar to the national average.
- There are 15 CCS providers in the county.
- The take-up for CETS places in Co. Wicklow has not been released yet for 2012 but the figure for 2011 was 108 CETS places.
- There are 55 services (mixture of private, community, schools and childminders) presently offering 596 spaces for school age childcare, of which 260 have been taken up.

Trutz Haase Report Summary:

Two research reports were conducted by Trutz Haase and Associates entitled: *'Individuals, Households & Neighbourhoods in Rural County Wicklow: A Study for County Wicklow Partnership' (2008)* and *'Children, Families and Neighbourhoods in the Bray Area' (2008)*. The main aim of the studies was to determine local need, well being and to identify the extent of special needs as they occur between different groups and localities. The studies also aimed to identify the factors that contributed to the exceptional level of needs experienced in different areas, and make recommendations with regard to how these may possibly be responded to. Different dimensions of need were measured.

The rural Wicklow study showed that that 11% of children in Rural Co. Wicklow area have serious difficulties and a further 4% have some difficulties. This is similar to the levels found in Bray (8% serious difficulties and 8% some difficulties) but marginally lower than the levels identified in the other two Irish comparative studies (Limerick 9%+8%, and Respond! 14%+9%). A study of 10,000 children in Britain reports 10% of children having serious difficulties. A marginally higher proportion of boys present with serious difficulties than girls and a substantially higher proportion of boys present some difficulties. The main difficulties experienced by children involve conduct, hyperactivity and emotional problems. Girls are marginally more likely to present conduct problems, while boys are more likely to present hyperactivity problems. Emotional problems are roughly equal between boys and girls. These results differ from the more common situation, where boys present more conduct and hyperactivity problems and girls more emotional problems. The proportion of children with serious difficulties is higher in one-parent households (21%) compared to two-parent households (7%), and in households with a medical card (17%) versus households without a medical card (8%). Extrapolating these results to the total number of children aged 0-18 in Wicklow Rural, the researchers estimate that up to 2,760 children may have serious difficulties and a further 1,000 may have some difficulties; taken together, this is equivalent to nearly 15% of children in Rural Co. Wicklow.

Parents also assessed whether their child had any form of long-term limiting illness (LLI) or disability, using a question from the 2006 Census of Population. The survey shows that 6% of children are perceived to have at least one of the LLI/disabilities mentioned. This is considerably lower than the prevalence of disabilities (18%) estimated by the National Council for Special Education in 2006 from a range of sources, but higher than the rate estimated in the 2002 Census of Population (2%) which is generally regarded as an underestimate. There is a considerably higher prevalence of disabilities among households with a medical card (11%) than those without (4%). Reading ability among children in Rural Co. Wicklow appears to be below that for any of the other studies, with 16% indicating difficulties. Children's reading difficulties based on the combined surveyed households in Bray and Wicklow Rural are higher among boys (15%) than girls (11%), which support findings of almost every other study on this subject. A significant finding to emerge from the study is that children in need, particularly those with needs in the area of mental health, disability and reading difficulties, are consistently more likely to be found in one-parent households, in socially disadvantaged households as indicated by the respondent being eligible for a medical card and, based on the Bray survey, particularly among Traveller households. Analysing the factors which influence the mental health of children, the researchers found that the main risk factor for children's mental health is parental depression, while the protective factors are a good parenting relationship and trust within the wider community. It should be noted that the analysis of the factors that influence children's well-being is limited even in the combined Bray and Wicklow Rural studies due to the relatively small number of families with children in the overall sample. The Limerick and Respond studies, both of which focused exclusively on the study of families with children and thus comprised larger sample sizes, were both able to identify a larger spectrum of influences.

The Bray Study showed that 8% of children in the Bray area have serious difficulties and a further 8%

have some difficulties. This is similar to the levels reported in Rural Wicklow, but lower than in the other two Irish comparative studies (Limerick 9%+8%, and Respond! 14%+9%) and also two percentage points lower than indicated in a study of 10,000 children in Britain. A marginally higher proportion of boys (10%) present with serious difficulties than girls (9%) and a substantially higher proportion of boys present some difficulties. The main difficulties involve conduct, hyperactivity and emotional problems. Girls are marginally more likely to present conduct problems, while boys are more likely to present hyperactivity problems. Emotional problems are roughly equal between boys and girls. These results differ from the more common situation, where boys present more conduct and hyperactivity problems and girls more emotional problems.

One parent families showed a higher level of children with at 21 percent compared to 7 percent for two – parent families. Traveller children present particularly high difficulties (25%). Extrapolating these results to the total number of children aged 0-18 in Bray, according to the researchers there could be up to 540 children with serious difficulties and a further 560 with some difficulties. These estimates could be somewhat on the high side, as it is likely that neighbourhoods affect children's difficulties; i.e. children growing up in certain (generally more disadvantaged) estates have a greater tendency to develop difficulties mainly due to peer behaviour. If the latter is the case, than the over-sampling of disadvantaged neighbourhoods would result in slightly exaggerated estimates for the Bray area as a whole. But even on the bases of the current estimates, it is interesting to note that nine estates alone account for about 600 children with difficulties, more than half of the total estimates for Bray.

Questions were also asked in relation to children's health and the results show that 4% of parents rate their children's health as fair or poor, which is a lower proportion than indicated in the Limerick (6%) or Respond! (5%) studies. There are, however, significant differences between households with a medical card (10%) and those without (1%), and Travellers (6%). There are also particularly high results in three of the estates: Cois Cairn (16%), Oldcourt (15%) and Killarney Park (11%). Parents assessed whether their child had any form of long-term limiting illness (LLI) or disability, using a question from the 2006 Census of Population. The survey shows that 6% of children are perceived to have at least one of the LLI/disabilities mentioned. This is considerably lower than the prevalence of disabilities (18%) estimated by the National Council for Special Education in 2006 from a range of sources, but higher than the rate estimated in the 2002 Census of Population (2%) which is generally regarded as an underestimate. There is a considerably higher prevalence of disabilities among households with a medical card (14%) than those without (3%), and in households with a lone parent (10%) as against two-parent households (5%) and Traveller's children (14%). With regard to specific estates, Guiltspur Heights indicate 44% of children having an illness or disability, and Hazelwood and Cois Cairn are both over 20%. In the case of Guiltspur Heights, this may have been a selection criterion for the allocation of local authority housing.

In relation to reading ability the results from the study show that overall reading ability among Bray children is slightly above that for Ireland as a whole. Children's reading difficulties based on the surveyed households in Wicklow as a whole are slightly higher among boys (15%) as girls (11%), which is in line with the findings of almost every other study on this subject. Children's reading difficulties are higher among households with a medical card (16%) as against those without (13%) and are also higher in one-parent households (24%) compared to 11% in two-parent households. Perhaps surprisingly, none of the Travellers interviewed indicate that their child experiences reading difficulties, which probably reflects the better literacy standards of the children compared to their parents.

Households in Bray tend to have a higher-than-average number of books compared to households in Ireland. There is also a higher level of computer ownership in Bray (71%) compared to Limerick (60%)

and Respond! estates (55%) and particularly usage of the internet (61%) compared to Ireland (46%) or Dublin (55%, ComReg Eurobarometer, 2006). Computer ownership is highly differentiated according to whether households have a medical card (42%) or not (87%), or one-parent households (51%) as against two-parent households (90%). Only one quarter of Travellers (26%) have access to a computer and one-fifth of homeless people (18%). There are also marked differences between localities, with less than one-third of households owning a computer in Ard na Greine (26%), Connolly Square (31%) and Greenpark Road (32%).

The school attendance rate among children in Bray estates, based on the responses of parents, is slightly higher than among children in Ireland, where the data are based on returns from schools rather than the responses of parents. The results are, however, similar to those indicated from the Limerick and Respond! studies. At primary school, the national school attendance rate is 94% compared to 96% in Bray while at post-primary school, the national school attendance rate is 92% compared to 96% in Bray. Similarly, the proportion of children who are absent from school for 20 days or more is considerably lower among children in Bray compared to Ireland, and also considerably lower than those reported in the Limerick and Respond! studies. Absenteeism rates among post-primary children are higher among girls, which contrasts with findings of most other studies, and in households with a medical card, and with one parent. School attendance rates at estate level have to be treated with care due to the small numbers upon which the estimates are based. About half of all households participating in this survey have children and these are evenly split between primary and secondary schools. Thus there are, on average, about five students in each type of school per neighbourhood, making estimates at this level unstable. This said, there nevertheless seem to be particularly low attendance rates in Dargle Heights, Hazelwood, Cois Cairne and Killarney Park. This seems to be in alignment with anecdotal evidence that other disadvantaged neighbourhoods in South Bray (e.g. Oldcourt and Ard na Greine) benefit from the proximity of good schools which draw their children from a broad social spectrum.

Expectations regarding when child will leave school are considerably higher in Bray than in Ireland as a whole, with seven out of ten parents in Bray (69%) expecting their child to go to college compared to less than half in Ireland (45%). Expectations tend to diminish with the age of the child and are higher for girls than boys. Households with a medical card have distinctly lower expectations as have households with only one parent. There are huge variations at estate level with markedly lower expectations prevailing amongst parents living in Dargle Heights, Hazelwood, Guiltspur Heights and Oldcourt.

Analysing the factors which influence the mental health of children, the researchers the findings were similar to the rural Wicklow study the main risk factor for children's mental health is parental depression, while the protective factors are a good parenting relationship and trust within the wider community. It should be noted that the analysis of the factors that influence children's well-being is limited even in the combined Bray and Wicklow Rural studies due to the relatively small number of families with children in the overall sample.

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Co. Wicklow

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Health			
HSE Wicklow	Psychological services to people experiencing mild to moderate difficulties. Referral from Primary Health Care, Health Centre or Health Professional	Statutory	Universal
HSE Kildare/West Wicklow	Psychological services to people experiencing mild to moderate difficulties. Referral from Primary Health Care, Health Centre or Health Professional	Statutory	Universal
HSE County Wide	Community Speech and Language Therapy service provided through individual or group work, parent training and training of other professionals. Liaison with schools.	Statutory	Universal
HSE Wicklow	Social Work, Family Support – Provides Services in the area of child protection and welfare (Child Care Act 1991), social work services to children in care, fostering service, family support work service and primary care social work.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
HSE Kildare/West Wicklow	Social Work, Family Support – Provides Services in the area of child protection and welfare (Child Care Act 1991), social work services to children in care, fostering service, family support work service and primary care social work.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
HSE Countywide	Child and Adolescent Physical Health – Preschool Immunisation Programme	Statutory	Universal
HSE Countywide	Child and Adolescent Physical Health – School Immunisation Programme	Statutory	Universal
HSE Countywide	Child Health Developmental Screening. Children aged 0 – 6 years	Statutory	Universal
Lucena Clinic	Child and Adolescent Mental Health – Provides Provide multidisciplinary assessment and/or treatment for children and adolescents referred with concerns around mental health including - behavioural disorders, emotional and mood disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, ADHD, Psychosis, assessment only for ASD	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Local Drugs Task	School based service working with	Statutory	Targeted

Force - Headlamps	primary school children in 5 schools in Bray to address the developmental needs of children affected or at risk because of substance misuse in the family or wider community		
Bray Local Drugs Task Force	BLDTF provides funding to a range of services in Bray as well as providing direct treatment and rehabilitation services through the Bray Community Addiction Team, Living Life Counselling and the Integration Support Service.	Statutory	Targeted
Disability Services			
Enable Ireland Wicklow	Ireland Wicklow Services provides for children who reside within the HSE, Local Health Office Wicklow catchment area, with a base in Bray and in Arklow providing centre, home and school based assessment and interventions. The child must have a primary physical disability as a result of a diagnosed neurological deficit or muscular disease such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy. The child must fall within the age range of 0-18 years. The child must require a team based service intervention, with a minimum of two disciplines	Voluntary	Universal
HSE Countywide	Community Speech and Language Therapy service provided through individual or group work, parent training, training of other professionals involved with our clients and liaison with schools focusing on children with a disability	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
St. Catherine's Early Services, The Activity Clinic, Four Winds,	Services for Children with intellectual /developmental delay. Children aged 0 – 4 years	Voluntary	Universal
St. Catherine's Association Ltd.	[ECCE] Early Childhood Care & Education, disability, early intervention, pre-school, respite, residential, parent support and training. Children 0–18 years	Voluntary	Universal
HSE Occupational Therapist Service	Therapeutic interventions and provision of equipment/advice. Focus on children 0 – 5 years	Statutory	Universal
HSE Community Child Occupational Therapists	Community Child Occupational Therapy. Children aged 6 years and older	Statutory	Universal
HSE Primary Health Care Centres	Primary Care and Occupational Therapist Service	Statutory	Universal

HSE Early Intervention Team	Therapeutic Support and early intervention for children with a disability.	Statutory	Universal
Marino Centre, Enable Ireland, Bray – North Wicklow	Therapeutic Support, Early Services for children aged 0 – 5 and Support Services for children aged 5 – 18.	Voluntary	Universal
South Wicklow – Enable Ireland, Arklow Centre, Scoil Eoin Boy's National School	Therapeutic Support - A range of therapy, social and educational services are provided to children and teenagers who have physical disabilities and to their families. Service supports are based on the identified needs and wishes of service users and are provided in active partnership with them	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Lakers	Bray Lakers Social & Recreational Club is a community-based sports, social and recreation club for children and adults with an intellectual disability. The club provides a wide range of sporting and educational services to members across Leinster from its centre in Bray, Co. Wicklow	Voluntary	Universal
Education/Training			
Wicklow – National Educational Psychological Service, Blackrock	Educational psychological service to schools. Access through schools in line with NEPS model of service. Focus on school-age children with particular emphasis on those with special educational needs (approx 4-18)	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
Kildare/West Wicklow – National Educational Psychological Service, Naas	Educational psychological service to schools. Access through schools in line with NEPS model of service. Focus on school-age children with particular emphasis on those with special educational needs (approx 4-18)	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
Bray Area Partnership – Greater Bray Area	Provision of inclusion focused education supports to named target groups.	Local Dev. sector	Universal
Department of Education and Skills	Primary and Secondary school provision and support in County Wicklow there are 83 Primary Schools and 21 Secondary Schools, there are 4 special schools.	Statutory	Universal
County Wicklow VEC	County Wicklow VEC is the Statutory Body responsible for providing educational services to the community in the County through its Second Level Schools, Further Education Colleges,	Statutory	Universal

	Adult Education Centres and through its Adult and Community Education Programmes. Other services include Third level Grants /Scholarships for students on existing grants and Youth Services. County Wicklow VEC has responsibility for eleven Second Level Schools, four VTOS Centres, three Youthreach Centres, an Outdoor Education Centre, a Music Centre and a Prison Education Unit.		
National Educational Welfare Board	The NEWB employs Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) who are located in the most disadvantaged areas and who prioritise children who are out of school/ who are experiencing school attendance difficulties/ who have no school place.	Statutory	Universal
County Wicklow VEC			
Co. Wicklow VEC Youthreach: Wicklow Bray and North Wicklow Arklow West Wicklow	YOUTHREACH is an integral part of the national programme of second-chance education and training in Ireland and is a central part of the Government's contribution to the achievement of a lifelong learning society. The programme is managed and delivered by Co. Wicklow VEC and is directed at unemployed young early school leavers aged 16-20. 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.	Statutory	Universal
Co. Wicklow VEC: Sports Promotion Units Bray and Arklow	The Sports Promotion Units are responsible for devising, implementing and coordinating various sports and physical activity programmes for 'At Risk' children and youth in the Bray and Arklow areas. The programmes are aimed at youth aged between 10 to 21 years.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
Co. Wicklow VEC School Completion Programme	There are four SCP programmes in Co. Wicklow, two in Bray, one in Wicklow Town and environs and one covering Arklow across to Dunlavin.	Statutory	Targeted
Childcare			
Bray Area Partnership	Management and operation of a childcare service catering for pre-compulsory education age children	Local Dev. Sector	Universal
Wicklow County Childcare Committee	WCCC is the first point of contact for people in Wicklow when applying for	Statutory	Universal

	the various streams of grant assistance under the National Childcare Investment Programme. Offering a wide variety of services locally including; advice on setting up a childcare business; childcare information sessions; training courses for those considering a career in childcare; and advice and support on applying for grants (ECCE,). WCCC also offers services to parents, such as providing information on local childcare facilities and information on parent networks		
Co. Wicklow VEC Creches: Arklow Bray Wicklow	Co. Wicklow VEC managed three crèches offering services to young people and parents participating in the VTOS, Youthreach, PLC and BTEI programmes	Statutory	Targeted
Juvenile Justice			
Gardaí- Juvenile Liaison Officers	Juvenile Justice – focus on youths who have committed offences aged 12 – 18 years	Statutory	Universal
Gardaí	Garda Diversion Programme Garda Youth Diversion Projects are local community activities which work with children. The projects aim to help children move away from behaving in a way that might get them or their friends into trouble with the law. They can help young people develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities.	Statutory	Universal
Foroige – The Way Project	The WAY Project is a Garda Youth Diversion Project. These Projects are community based, multi-agency crime prevention initiatives which seek to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Youth Service: Bray New Directions Project	Garda Youth Diversion Project: The project aims to help young people make better life choices by working with them around issues such as offending, substance use and or anti-social behaviour. Bray New Directions Project also hopes to increase young people's employability by assisting them to find	Voluntary	Universal

	suitable education and training opportunities.		
Family Support			
Bray Women's Refuge	Childcare and Family Support Bray Women's Refuge provides short term crisis accommodation for women and children who have fled from their family home due to domestic abuse. Included in the services offered is a childcare service for those women and children residing in the Refuge.	Voluntary	Universal
Greystones Peoples Project	Greystones People's Project is a Family Resource Centre, targeting areas of Greystones facing social exclusion through child, youth, adult and senior community development programmes through a family centred perspective.	Voluntary	Universal
Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre	Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre offers a wide variety of services including Childcare Service, Youth Development Programmes, One to One and group support for individuals and families, Adult Education programmes.	Voluntary	Universal
Wicklow Child and Family Project – Wicklow Family Learning Project	The Wicklow Family Learning Programme (WFLP) is a preschool facility for children aged 3-5 years and is located in the parent's room of the Holy Rosary National School. The WFLP is managed by Wicklow Child & Family Project. The WFLP is committed to promoting the development of children and their families to realise their full potential in a safe and caring environment. We aim to provide the highest possible standard of childcare for the families using our service, by helping the children to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically, at their own pace, through positive encouragement and caring support.	Voluntary	Targeted
Wicklow Child and Family Project	Childcare and Family Support The Wicklow Child & Family Project, which is managed by County Wicklow Partnership, provides an intensive family support service to those who are most vulnerable. The Projects aim is to identify needs of children & parents giving specific attention to families where child protection, welfare and health problems exist, reduce the risk	Voluntary	Universal

	to children by enhancing their family life and develop existing strengths of parents. The work undertaken comprises a diverse range of interventions from one to one work, family work, group work, therapeutic services, Family Learning preschool programme and drop in facilities for information and support. The nature of the work with the families is dependent on identified needs and addresses issues such as parenting, parent/child relationships, separation issues, behavioural difficulties and personal development.		
Arklow Springboard Family Support Service	Childcare and Family Support -Arklow Springboard Family Support Service provides intensive family support and is managed by County Wicklow partnership through a Service Level Agreement with the HSE. The service provides support to families who are vulnerable and at risk. The Service aims to meet the needs of children and parents, giving specific attention to families where child protection, welfare problems exist. The work undertaken includes a range of services: Individual work with children and parents, family work, parenting programmes, child focused groups. The service works closely with other agencies in meeting the needs of the target group	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted
Marian Centre	Childcare and Family Support in Bray RAPID areas - Provision of preschool, homework clubs, breakfast clubs and afterschool care. Provision of ECCE and Community Childcare Subvention. Linking of families with appropriate community and statutory services. Services open to local community/ RAPID area residents. Specific targeting of children and families based on needs and referrals from PHN, HSE, Schools, Community Groups	Voluntary	Universal
Education and Welfare Officers	Education Support ensuring that all children 6-16 are in receipt of a basic minimum standard of education	Statutory	Universal
Local Authority			
Arklow Town Council, Bray Town Council Wicklow Town Council	Land for zonings for community and recreation, promotion of child friendly environment, playground	Statutory	Universal

	development.		
Housing Section, Wicklow County Council	Homelessness, Emergency Accommodation, Social Housing. Children and families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness	Statutory	Targeted and Universal
Planning Section, Wicklow County Council	Land zoning for community and recreational facilities, development conditions on developments. Promoting the development of safe and secure mobility routes in housing estates, neighbourhoods. Ensuring land is designated for community facilities	Statutory	Universal
Community Cultural and Social Development Section, Wicklow County Council	Promoting and facilitating development of community and recreational facilities, playgrounds, Music Generation Programme. Promotion of Social Inclusion policies and practice – RAPID, Social Inclusion Unit. Provision of data and support to community groups. Provision of Playgrounds – Baltinglass, Enniskerry, Greystones, Kilmacanogue, Rathdrum, Tinahely, etc.	Statutory	Universal
Wicklow Library Service	Library Service - caters for all age groups and engages with all social inclusion measure groups including people with disabilities, the Traveller Interagency Group, the School Completion Programme and the migrant population. The library service has adapted premises/services to facilitate people with physical and sensory disabilities. The service ring fences places to include traveller children in summer camps and in general runs focused events and also try to mainstream people at risk of social exclusion into all events /programmes/services.	Statutory	Universal
Water and Environmental Services Directorate	Environmental promotion and awareness raising, Green Schools programme, Secondary Schools Environment debating competition.	Statutory	Universal
Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate	Footpaths, transport planning, road safety,	Statutory	Universal
Employment/ Training			
Bray Area Partnership (BAP)	BAP Local Employment Service Network – provision of welfare to work mediation supports to key target groups	Local Dev. Sector	Universal

Department of Social Protection	The Mission Statement of the Department is to promote active participation in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services.	Statutory	Universal
Co. Wicklow VEC Advocate	The Advocate provides education and employment guidance and training to young people aged between 15 and 21 who are out of school.	Statutory	Universal
General Youth Activities			
County Wicklow Playbus Project	Mobile play area for children in communities supporting the development of children, youth groups and parent and toddler groups.	Voluntary	Universal
Foróige	General Youth Activities Foróige Regional Youth Officer enable communities to set up volunteer led clubs/groups in their area to provide a safe place for young people to meet weekly . Provide training and support to such clubs and promote community and personal development programmes.	Voluntary	Universal
County Wicklow Partnership	Youth Groups, Kids Club, Homework Classes, Summer Projects, Parent & Toddler, collaboration on events such as Youth Mental Health. Work collaboratively with other organisations.	Voluntary	Universal
Croí Rath Naoí	Community garden, general youth activities, youth club, soccer club, boys after school club.	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Travellers	General youth activities, small group work, summer projects.	Voluntary	Universal
Wicklow Travellers	General youth activities, small group work, summer projects, homework club.	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Youth and Information Services	General Youth Activities Youth Services - range of projects with a focus on disadvantaged youth, SPY(Special Projects for Youth),, Drugs Education, Youth Information, Adventure Sports, the Seomra Youth Café, Youth Counselling, Garda Vetting, Child Protection Training, Youth Leader Training, Insurance and support for voluntary youth groups, New Directions, FARE Week - Anti Racism	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Youth and	Youth Services with a range of projects	Voluntary	Universal

Information Service(Bray to Newtown/Newcastle)	with a focus on disadvantaged youth – SPY(Special Projects for Youth), Drugs Education, The Seomra Youth Café, Child Protection Training, Leadership training, Youth Counselling, Insurance and Support for a range of Youth Voluntary Groups.		
Bray Youth and Information Service (Bray)	Drugs Education – Drugs Education workers. Run a drugs education programme in primary schools and programmes in youth clubs/groups. Support Bray Drugs Awareness Forum and organise training and events. Community Outreach.	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Youth and Information Service – Adventure Sports	Outdoor Education – Kayaking, Rock Climbing, team games, camp craft, survival skills, etc.	Voluntary	Universal
Bray Youth and Information Service – YouthSpin	Education – Youth Information through technology Skye(Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment) links, Text service, Satellite points	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal
The Seomra Youth Café	Drop-in, gigs, small group work, anti bullying programmes, Mindout programmes,	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal
The Vault, Arklow	Youth Centre offering general youth activities drop-in, gigs, small group work, anti bullying programmes, youth advocacy and support	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal
Dcaf – Blessington	Youth café and youth club, range of youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal
Teen Scene – Dunlavin	Youth café and youth club, general youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal
Valleymount Youth Café	Youth café and youth club, general youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal
BBH Group – Wicklow (Ballyguile, Broadlough and Hillview)	General youth activities, drop in, small group work, homework club, Kids Club in conjunction with County Wicklow Partnership, Parent and Toddler group, Knit and Stitch group for 7 years and older, East Wicklow Youth service. Wild Cats,	Voluntary	Universal
East Wicklow Youth Service	SPY, Child protection awareness training, Garda vetting, support to youth groups, home work club Arklow, small group work, Moms and Tots Arklow, drugs awareness, Camp Inver Arklow. Support for a variety of Youth Clubs along the East Coast of County Wicklow	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal
Variety of Youth Clubs and Projects	There are a variety of Youth Clubs in the County including the following; Ballywaltrim Youth Project, Celtic Youth	Voluntary	Universal

	Bray, Kilcoole Youth Club, Little Bray After Schools, Little Bray Youth Project, Queen of Peace – Bray, St. Fergals, RC. – Bray, Wolfe Tone and District Youth Club – Bray, Wicklow Youth Club, Hi Rez Youth Centre – Bray, Arklow Youth Marching Band.		
Scouting Ireland	Currently 13 Scouting groups across the county, run by volunteers, follow scouting programmes for various ages	Voluntary	Universal
Other Uniform Youth Groups	There are approx. 13 other youth uniform groups in Co. Wicklow including Girl Guides, Girls Friendly Society, Boys and Girls Brigade.	Voluntary	Universal
Macra Na Feirme	There are 5 Macra groups in the county committed to personal development and places emphasis on social interaction and participation.	Voluntary	Universal
Other Youth Groups	Approx. 25 other youth groups ranging from music/arts based, faith based, drop-in youth club across county.	Voluntary	Universal
Sports Group	There are a vast range of sporting clubs/groups providing recreational facilities and training for young people e.g. GAA clubs, athletics, community games, boxing clubs, martial arts, etc	Voluntary	Universal

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Co. Wicklow

The Process:

- Analysis of Socio-Demographic Profile
- Analysis of Audit of Services
- Stakeholder consultation regarding priority issues including youth consultation
- Research regarding local and national issues

Outcome 1: Healthy both physically and mentally

Having completed the analysis the following priority issues were identified. Some of the issues are based on national concerns as well as local concerns and there are links with national policies and strategies. Some issues refer to the way that organisations work and the most pressing issue with all involved was the issue of interagency working and the need to strengthen links between agencies

There was also a lot of concern around the level of service delivery in the light of the current economic situation. Therefore the other most pressing priority was to maintain the level of services at the least.

Priority Issues Identified:

• **Play and Recreation**

There was an increasing awareness of the change in patterns in the way that children play and spend their free time, for a number of reasons. There is a lot of research to suggest that these changes have a detrimental effect on children's development, both physically and mentally. There are a number of measures that can be taken to promote and facilitate children's free play, involving a number of agencies.

Gaps identified:

- Deficit in play infrastructure in the county
- Diminishing accessible open space
- Play Policy needs updating to reflect new partnership models in playground provision and in providing opportunities for play

• **Physical activity**

There is general concern nationwide on the amount of physical activity and the level of physical fitness of children. As with most issues, the reasons for this are complex and cannot all be addressed in this plan.

In Wicklow, DCU carried out a study on the physical mobility levels of the students at four secondary schools in the county. This provides us with valuable information regarding appropriate specific interventions.

Gaps identified:

- Deficit in accessible open space and sporting infrastructure
- Need for increased awareness and best practice guidelines on the sporting and recreational needs of young people
- The Comhairle na nÓg repeatedly cite a lack of facilities for young people as a priority issue for the Comhairle
- There is a vacancy for the Co-ordinator of the Local Sports Partnership in the county

- **Food & Nutrition**

Related to the topic of play and recreation and physical activity, there is a national and local concern regarding the increase in the levels of obesity among young people. The causes for this are complex but service providers in the county have seen the positive impact of healthy eating courses.

Gaps identified:

- Deficit in resources needed to widen the programme of healthy eating courses
- Deficit in interagency co-operation and integrated actions to widen the programme of healthy eating courses

- **Disability**

A structure exists in Wicklow referred to as the Local Implementation Group which takes an interagency approach to working in the disability sector therefore it was agreed that in order to address issues in this area it was important for the CSC to link in with this structure to explore how we might work together during the lifetime of the plan.

The number one health issue for young people is their mental health. Mental health has been defined as a state of well-being in which the individual recognises their own abilities and is able to cope with normal daily stresses in life (World Health Organisation, 2005). Good mental health in adolescence is a requirement for optimal psychological development, the development and maintenance of productive social relationships, effective learning, an ability to care for oneself, good physical health, and effective economic participation as adults.

About 70% of health problems and most mortality among the young arise as a result of mental health difficulties and substance-use disorders (McGorry, 2005). Almost 75% of all serious mental health difficulties first emerge between the ages of 15 and 25 (Hickie, 2004; Kessler et al, 2005; Kim-Cohen et al, 2003). (My World Survey, National Study of Youth Mental health in Ireland, 2012)

Key to all discussions was the need to retain the services that currently exist and use as platform for development.

Based on discussion on youth mental health relating to local difficulties and nationally researched concerns the following priority issues were identified for Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee and Action Plan:

Priority Issues Identified:

1. Promotion of Positive Mental Health

Following various research and national publicity the group was very aware of the need to play a preventative role through the promotion of positive mental health and the availability of supports to young people. A number of small initiatives have been taking place in some towns in the county and the group recognised the need to build on this and also develop initiatives so accessible and available to young people across the county. There was also a recognition and need to have young people themselves involved in these initiatives as recognised that peer support can often be the first point of call for a young person in distress or need.

Gaps identified:

- County wide mental health promotion activities
- Documenting current activities and services

- Young people involvement

2. Youth Participation

A key concern, which has also been identified nationally, is that for effective intervention young people themselves need to be part of the solution. This is not just relevant for the Youth Mental Health aspect of the plan but for the whole Children's Services Plan. There is a need to firstly garner interest with young people and work together to develop a plan of increased participation in responding to the issues outlined in the plan.

There is recognition that this can be a big initiative but we must begin with small steps and work with young people to develop, thus the actions identified should be seen as a start to the process.

Gaps identified:

- Youth involvement in organising and running positive mental health activities/initiatives
- Overall youth participation in development and roll-out of plans impacting on them
- Young people having a say in how and where services are delivered

3. Accessibility

Through discussion within the sub-committee there was a lack of awareness of what services do and who they cater for, it was felt then that this would be more so for those seeking to access services, whether young people/parents or guardians. It was also identified that there are not specific brief intervention mental health services dedicated to young people. Alongside this it was also identified that often physically venues of services are not youth friendly and often uncomfortable for young people. Service users (and ex-user) should play a role in the development of these services.

Gaps identified:

- Lack of services
- Need for support of meaningful youth participation
- Young people to play role in development of services

4. Inter-agency

On-going concerns were expressed about inter-agency working and the need for protocols from a senior level of how better relationships may be developed and mechanisms of working better together to improve outcomes for children and young people. Specifically concerning youth mental health it was felt that if beneficial care pathways for young people were to be developed they needed to be on an inter-agency basis with appropriate structures and systems in place that would best protect and support a young person.

Gaps identified:

- Deficit in interagency co-operation and integrated responses to issues arising for young people
- Agreed protocols from senior level in agencies.
- Need to engage drug and alcohol services

5. Education

It was recognised that the education system could play an important role in supporting young people's mental health as it is a key arena that young people spend time in. Whilst

some schools have engaged and supported initiatives in relation to youth mental health, again this needs to be on a countywide basis and with a systematic approach. The My World Survey identified the 'One meaningful Adult' is often all that is needed to prevent mental health issues arising for the majority of young people, teachers and schools could play a key role in supporting this objective.

Gaps identified:

- Peer support programmes in all schools

Underlying Principles that were prioritised:

- Integrated Services and interagency co-operation
- Youth participation
- Funding and maintaining current level of services

Outcome 2: Supported in Active Learning

The promotion of Literacy and Numeracy was key focus for all of the agencies involved. It was felt that this area was key to the future success and quality of life of children in the county and whilst all of the agencies involved in the sub-group were involved in the delivery or promotion of Literacy and Numeracy, it was agreed that any future collaborative work needed to focus on the promotion of Family Literacy. According to the last international survey, one in four or 25% of Irish adults have literacy difficulties. This compares with 3% in Sweden and 5% in Germany. The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) results for the Rep. of Ireland revealed that over half a million Irish adults were found to be at or below Level 1 (the lowest of a five point scale) whilst almost 1 in 3 (30%) of Irish adults were found to be at Level 2, which is still a rudimentary level of literacy. (Source: NALA)

A wide range of academic research (such as Desforges & Abouchar, 2003, Morrison *et al*, 2003, McBride *et al*, 2005) shows the direct correlation between the levels of interest and involvement of parents in their children's schoolwork and the outcomes of those children and therefore the current state of adult literacy and numeracy in Ireland can be said to be having a direct negative impact on the potential outcomes of children. Many parents in Ireland had a negative experience of school (*Family Literacy in Ireland*, NALA, 2011) and this was a real barrier to becoming involved in their child's education. As one of the agencies of the sub-group noted: *"Some parent's will not even set foot on the grounds of their child's school."*

Therefore the key priority identified was:

- The need for a coordinated, collaborative approach to family literacy in the county

Other gaps identified included:

- The need to tackle the issue of children who do not make the transition from primary to secondary education
- The need to address the issue of school exclusion/suspension and the support structures to support the child and their family when this issue arises.

With regards to the issue of family literacy, a three pronged approach has been agreed:

- i. Raising **awareness** of the issue and **promotion** of existing resources (such as current NALA campaign)
- ii. Building the **capacity** of those working with families and parents to promote best practice within Literacy and Numeracy (through training facilitated by Co. Wicklow VEC/ Wicklow County Childcare Committee)
- iii. **Engagement** of parents, particularly those with young families (through targeted inter-

agency work (by local voluntary and community sector) with funding from Co. Wicklow VEC and Wicklow County Childcare Committee

By working on these issues, Co. Wicklow CSC will be meeting the objectives set out in the following government initiatives:

- *Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young people 2011-2020*, DES, 2011
- *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016*,
- *Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools: An Action Plan for Educational Inclusion*, Department of Education and Science (DES), 2005.
- *Working Together: Approaches to Family Literacy*, NALA, 2004

Outcome 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment.

The 'Children and Youth Strategy 2012 – 2014' published by An Garda Síochána underpins the activities which have been prioritised under outcome 3. The strategy focuses on the following objectives: confronting youth crime; effective road policing for children and young people; ensuring children and young people contribute to and benefit from a peaceful community; working with young people in the community and; an excellent organisations.

There are a number of initiatives underway in the county that can add to the safety and security of young people. In one of them, Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg members and the Gardaí are involved in a pilot project, with two other counties, to look at the relationship between the Gardaí and young people. A questionnaire has been distributed both to young people and Gardaí and the recommendations from the research will be disseminated to both the Comhairle and the Gardaí. In addition the Gardaí are involved in best practice models in addressing youth crime.

Underlying Principles that were prioritised:

- Integrated Services and interagency co-operation
- Child-centred services
- Funding and maintaining current level of services

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence is a priority area identified through consultation with agencies involved in direct service provision that would benefit from an interagency approach. It is acknowledged that domestic violence has a significantly negative impact on children and families and there is a need to raise awareness of the issue.

Outcome 4: Economically Secure

Over recent years changes in the labour market and the rising level of unemployment has had a knock on effect to the economic security of both adults and children. The standardised unemployment rate in September 2012 was 14.8%. The downturn has meant that most people have less money in their pocket to spend on both essential and non-essential items and this has an effect on what parents can provide for their children.

The Quarterly National Household Survey, *Response of Households to the Economic Downturn*, pilot module quarter 2, 2011 showed that 79% of households cut back their spending on at least one of the measures listed in the survey as a result of the economic climate in the two years before the survey, more than half of households cut back their spending on groceries and

more than half cut back spending on going out. Almost two thirds of households cut back their spending on clothing and footwear. Spending on health insurance was reduced in 15% of households and 11% of households cut back spending on pension contributions. One fifth of households delayed or missed paying their bills in order to meet their outgoings on basic goods and services. One in ten delayed or missed loan repayments and a further one in ten delayed or missed paying their credit card bill. In the two years prior to the survey 45% of households spent some or all of their savings and 62% reduced the amount being saved. One in ten households borrowed money from family or friends to pay for basic goods and services. Households with children were most likely to report that they had taken more than four of the listed measures. One third of households where one adult lived with at least one child had taken three or four measures.

The CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Thematic Report on Children 2004 – 2010 showed that the rate of consistent poverty was highest in 2010 for individuals living in households with children and where no-one was working, at 23.6%. The consistent poverty rate of individuals living in households with children and where the head of household was unemployed in 2010 was 17.8%.

The ESRI report⁷ *Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland* underlined the impact of the economic security on children. According to the report over a quarter of all Irish children are affected by some form of deprivation, according to the report by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). In houses experiencing deprivation, many parents are diverting resources or are otherwise able to protect against deprivation specific to children. Instability in the parents' relationship increases the risk of child-specific deprivation, even in households that are not otherwise deprived, the research finds. Deprivation is measured by a household's access to basic items such as food, clothing and heating. Child-specific deprivation differs in being based on factors such as having adequate food and clothing, books, toys and games, as well as school trips and doctor/dentist visits.

According to the ESRI, mothers' employment is important in protecting children from child-specific deprivation, while all forms of deprivation are lower where the parents have high levels of educational attainment.

The study also identifies some gaps in access to GP and dental services, affecting small numbers of children outside the very lowest income groups. In 2010, 8% of children were in consistent poverty, compared to 6% per cent of the general population. Some 30% of children were in households experiencing deprivation compared to 23% of the general population. The report outlines that 13% of children aged two to 15 experience child-specific deprivation

Key findings from a policy perspective include the following

- Child poverty is not just an immediate child welfare issue, but one that has potential future implications for the economy and for future demand on public services. It is also important in breaking the cycle of disadvantage.
- The importance of employment in protecting children from deprivation highlights the need for economic policy to reduce unemployment as a priority.
- In measurement terms, a larger group of children is identified by the measure of basic deprivation than by the indicator of child-specific deprivation. Since most research

⁷ *Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland*, Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maitre, Christopher T. Whelan, ESRI and Department of Social Protection, Dublin 2012.

showing negative impacts of poverty on children is based on household-level measures of poverty, this reinforces the need for a continuing emphasis on children in deprived households, whether or not they lack the child-specific items.

- As well as work, adequate income is crucial to enabling parents to protect their children from deprivation. Given the higher risk of deprivation found in larger households, careful attention should be given to the impact on household income of proposed cuts in Child Benefit for the third and subsequent child.
- Given the importance of mothers' employment to protecting children from child-specific deprivation, making affordable childcare available would significantly contribute to the well-being of children. The provision of the free pre-school year, as well as the benefits it provides directly in terms of early education of children, is an important first step in this direction.
- Educational levels of the mother are important, not only in terms of their association with mother's work and with income, but have a direct association with levels of multiple deprivation among children. In designing programmes for second chance education and training for employment, consideration should be given to removing any barriers to participation faced by mothers.
- There is evidence that instability in the relationship between the parents (marital breakdown and cohabiting) may be associated with an increased risk of child-only deprivation. Further research is needed to investigate the supports needed to protect children in these households. The *National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland* (the *Growing Up in Ireland Survey* or GUI), with its large sample size and broad range of child outcomes, would seem to be an ideal source of data on the experience of children in different family forms.

The economic subgroup of the CDB aims to provide a high level strategic and integrated response to the present economic situation to enable the county to survive the economic downturn as best it can and prepare for economic recovery. This work is grounded in the Guidelines for the Operation of the County/City Development Board Economic Development Sub-Committee (Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government). The Social Inclusion Measures Group of the CDB is focusing on addressing the needs of the newly unemployed, while continuing to focus on long-term unemployed. During the lifetime of the plan Co. Wicklow CSC will maintain strong links with both subgroups of the CDB (or other emerging structure) through cross representation and explore any opportunities which might arise to assist with this element of children's lives which might include the development of a poverty strategy.

Local Development Companies provide a range of supports and services in response to situations of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion experienced by key target groups in their area of operation. Typically their strategies and related services provide for the development of progression pathways with the aim of supporting target group individuals to improve their social and economic situation through accessing employment or self-employment opportunities. The Bray Area Partnership Local Employment Service Network (LESN) and enterprise company supports are examples of the type of work undertaken. Such developments lead to positive outcomes for individuals, the family unit and their children. According Co. Wicklow CSC will continue to work closely with the Local Development Companies in the development and implementation of relevant actions in our three year plan.

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

The issue of parenting is central to the achievement of positive outcomes for children. Rearing children is a highly complex journey and subject to increasing pressures in Ireland particularly arising from the impact of the recession. In Wicklow there is a range of providers offering a broad range of supports and programmes to parents at all the stages of parenting and in addressing specific experiences and problems. McKeown, Pratschke and Haase (2003) identified that supports provided to the extended family play an important role in family wellbeing.

A number of issues arose directly from the sociodemographic profile and the overview of services in relation to Outcome 5 e.g. the high population figures for Wicklow and its high number of young people, high numbers of lone parent family units in Co. Wicklow, the concentration of family support services on the east coast of the county, the lack of support services in the West and South of the county. Whilst there is evidence of cooperation/collaboration between agencies it is informal and dependent on individuals. Additional priority areas were identified through consultation with agencies in direct contact with children and families:

- **Audit of Services working in the area of Family support:** more information is required in relation to the availability/accessibility of family support services in the county as well as the level of intervention provided by such services in order to be able to properly identify duplication or gaps.
- **Early Intervention & Prevention:** The importance of early intervention as a strategic approach to policy and practice in relation to children and families is well-documented. The cost benefit of adopting an early intervention approach was frequently reported (Allen, 2011). Agencies highlighted the need for a formal protocol to be put in place to deal with child welfare issues.
- **Support the implementation of Children First:** Agencies need training and support in the implementation of the new Children First Guidance document.
- **Parenting Courses:** McKeown (2000) indicated that the benefits of parenting (education) programmes include improved child behaviour, improved parent-child relationship, increased self-esteem, improved relationship between partners and reduction of parental stress. There are a variety of courses on offer from a number of different agencies and it was agreed that this information needs to be brought together in an effort to avoid duplication and to bring an integrated approach to the delivery of parenting programmes with a view to targeting resources where they are needed most.
- **Teenage Parents:** Teen parents were identified as a particularly vulnerable group and it was agreed that the CSC should try to identify the number of young people in need of support and what supports are currently available. It was agreed that a more integrated coordinated approach to the delivery of services for teen parents would be very beneficial.
- **Interface/Communication between agencies:** There is a great deal of informal collaboration/cooperation between agencies that requires more formal structures to be put in place to allow appropriate information sharing and interagency responses.

Challenges

County Wicklow CSC has experienced a number of challenges in bringing together this workplan.

Data Collection: Co. Wicklow CSC along with all other CSCs has experienced great difficulties in ascertaining relevant, meaningful data on a county basis across all five outcomes. CSO information from 2011 is being released on a modular basis and the most up to date information has not been available to inform planning. Some statistical information is available at a national level but not on a county basis and some information is not accessible to CSCs.

Changing Membership and Structures: Since its formation Co. Wicklow CSC has lost some of its champions through the changing structure of member organisations. This is of particular note in relation to the HSE which was one of the key drivers to the establishment of the CSC in Co. Wicklow. The CSC has not had senior level HSE representation since early 2012. Whilst the CEO of Co. Wicklow VEC was another of the key drivers of the CSC initiative she has moved positions and Co. Wicklow VEC is beginning the process of amalgamation, as such this position is currently vacant with an acting CEO committed to the process going forward. The Department of Education & Skills has never been represented on the committee which leaves a wide gap in the education sector for the county.

Timeframe: Co. Wicklow CSC did not have a Coordinator in post until March 2012 and this post was key in driving forward the delivery of the plan. However, the delivery of a plan within 7 months of the Coordinator taking up position allowed for only limited consultation with children and young people. The timeframe posed a significant challenge to subgroups in getting representatives from all relevant sectors and in the development of priority areas.

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

The CSC may not identify a priority area for each outcome, or it may have several priority areas under one outcome.

CSCs should include both newly identified and existing priorities or major initiatives being undertaken on an interagency basis.

National Outcomes	Local Priority Areas * (to be identified following the local needs analysis and the audit of services)
Healthy, both physically and mentally	<i>Play and Recreation Food and Nutrition Physically Active Housing/Homelessness Disability Youth Mental Health</i>
Supported in active learning	<i>Interagency Literacy & Numeracy Campaign Training in L&N for those working with families and young people Building Literacy and Numeracy capacity with parents and young children Tackling the issue of transitions from primary to secondary</i>
Safe from accidental and intentional harm / Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment	<i>Safe and Secure Domestic Violence</i>
Economically secure	<i>Link with CDB or emerging structure and Economic subgroup</i>
Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community / Included and participating in society	<i>Audit of Services working in the area of family support Early Intervention/Prevention Support the implementation of Children First Parenting Courses Teenage Parents Interface/Communication/Cooperation between agencies</i>

<i>Change Management</i>	<i>Local Priority Areas</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Data Collection CSC Steering Group Continued employment of CSC Coordinator CSC Coordinators' Website Commitment by Senior CSC members to Working Together Initiative Strategy and Business Plan Alignment Development of pragmatic local information and data sharing systems Policy/Practice affecting services impacting on children and young people

Section 6: Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Play and Recreation	To ensure adequate play and recreation infrastructure in the county and to encourage and promote children's play and recreation	No. of playgrounds/Multi Use Games Areas(MUGA)/ skateparks in the county under the LEADER programme, County Wicklow Partnership, county council funding and community contribution	1 completed and comprehensive play policy ranging from 0 – 18 years. 6 new playgrounds/ MUGAs	Set up an interagency task group to develop the play policy; Consult with stakeholders; Develop policy for adoption by Wicklow County Council and other relevant agencies	3 years	Wicklow County Council	National Play and recreation strategy; Children's strategy; DCLG sustainable housing guidelines; UN Child in the City guidelines
Food & Nutrition	Increase the physical health and well being of families by making accessible a range of courses on food and nutrition in the county	No. of courses on food and nutrition in the county; No agencies sharing resources in delivering courses	Increase by 25% the number of courses in the county; Increase by 10% the number of agencies	Compile and disseminate information on the food and nutrition courses 'Healthy Food Made Easy' already developed and available; Establish links between agencies; Develop creative ways to	1 -3 years	Co. Wicklow Partnership	Increase the physical health and well being of families by making accessible a range of courses on food and nutrition in the county

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
			sharing resources in delivering courses No of breakfast clubs	deliver courses e.g. playbus Support the continuation of breakfast clubs in the county and promote the provision of healthy foods at such clubs			
Physically active	Increase the health and wellbeing of children and young people by promoting and facilitating active lifestyles	Increased number of children involved in programmes	No of programmes No children participating in programmes 1 LSP in Wicklow 1 set of guidelines	Re-establish the LSP in Wicklow Support and promote sporting programmes especially those that target 'at-risk youth' Develop increase and maintain sporting and recreational infrastructure in the county and take full advantage of funding opportunities Develop guidelines for the built environment and open spaces, to	1 – 3 years	County Council & VEC	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
				encourage recreational activity. Support the findings of the DCU study on physical activity in Children in Wicklow Support PE Programmes in Schools			
Housing/homelessness /quality of housing	Create links with the Housing SPC of Wicklow County Council in order to address housing issues in relation to children and young people	Link established with Housing SPC of Wicklow County Council	Link to Housing SPC of Wicklow County Council	To be agreed	2012 to 2015	Wicklow County Council	Agenda for Children's Services
Disability	Establish link with Co. Wicklow Disability Local Implementation Group To avoid duplication and promote an interagency approach to disability services in the county	Relevant link established with Wicklow Disability LIG Relevant issues raised	1 link No. of issues raised	Liaise with Co. Wicklow Disability Local Implementation Group to agree how to establish appropriate link Raise any issues of concern with the LIG and support them in their	2012 to 2015	CSC coordinator and Wicklow Disability LIG	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
				work in the county			
Youth mental health	To promote positive mental health and well-being amongst young people	Mapping complete Number of activities identified Numbers and location of young people participating identified Up-dating annually on website Number of appropriate individuals trained in Mind Out and other similar youth mental health initiatives	90% mapped 100% Annual review 2 meetings held	To identify and map youth mental health activities in Co. Wicklow. Through Bray, Wicklow and Arklow Youth Mental Health Initiatives, gather numbers and location of young people participating in 2012. Link current urban initiatives which have youth mental health events to establish county-wide initiative that promotes positive mental health for young	Q1- 2013	YMH Subgroup CWVEC YMH Subgroup	Vision for Change My World Research Audit and Socio-economic profile UN Convention on Rights of Child National Children's Strategy

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
			20% increase	people. Identify number and increase those trained in 'Mind Out' and similar youth mental health initiatives		BYS	
Youth Mental health	To ensure that young people play key role in development and roll-out of youth mental health initiatives	Event and process documented Engagement with Youth Mental Health initiatives in Co. Wicklow Collation of models	Document compiled and distributed Young people identified and brought together Models shared	Document learning from Bray Youth mental health event, organised by young people for young people, to share learning with others Through current networks identify young people to be involved in youth participation model, this will be defined by them Review Headstrong and ISPCC Youth Participation models as examples to work with	2014 to 2015	YMH Subgroup	My World

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
				young people			
Youth Mental Health	To increase accessibility to youth mental health services To sustain current provision in light of economic challenges	Number of youth mental health services, mapping available on line Questionnaire developed for user's and ex-users of youth mental health services	Mapping of services 70% questionnaires completed, recommendations developed	To map services currently available in County Wicklow	2013	YMH Subgroup	
				Explore opportunities to develop additional services for example Jigsaw Initiative.	2013-2014	YMH Subgroup	
				Through consultation with young people explore mechanisms to make services more youth friendly and accessible	2013	HSE/Lucena/YMH Committee	
				Lobby for retention of current services such as youth counselling, child and adolescent mental	2013	YMH Subgroup/CSC	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
				health services			
Youth Mental Health	To strengthen inter-agency links to support more effective integration of services at local level	Identifying current CR Plans at local level		Develop inter-agency care pathways Development and implementation of interagency protocols regarding information sharing and interagency working	2013 2013	Change management sub-committee / CSC Committee	
Youth Mental Health	Support all those impacted by sudden traumatic incident and link to appropriate service	Access to CRP currently in place	Shared all available plans with stakeholders	Ensure all agencies are involved in Critical Response Plans/Protocols locally	2014 to 2015	YMH Subgroup	Support all those impacted by sudden traumatic incident and link to appropriate service

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Healthy, both physically and mentally

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Youth Mental Health	Develop local response to connection between drug and alcohol use and youth mental health with aim to developing appropriate responses	Engagement of drug and alcohol services on YMH Subgroup Development of inter-agency protocols as per above	1 Rep on committee No. of protocols developed	Establish links with current statutory and voluntary drug and alcohol services in Wicklow and surrounds Development of relationship with services with view to developing an inter-agency response	2013 to 2015	YMH Subgroup CSC Committee	
Youth Mental Health	Target schools in Co. Wicklow with regard to promoting positive mental health and supports as appropriate	No. of schools engaged No. of teachers participating in training	30% of schools involved	Develop training targeted at appropriate teachers in schools regarding 'One meaningful Adult' in consultation with Headstrong Model. Raise awareness in schools of role in youth mental health	2014 to 2015	YMH Subgroup	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 2: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Inter-agency Literacy & Numeracy Campaign	To raise awareness of Literacy & Numeracy resources throughout the county and nationally for parents, families and professionals, such as those available through NALA and the Wicklow VEC	Increased levels of sign-posting to local Literacy & Numeracy courses by third sector organizations, childcare and education professionals (primary and secondary) in the county. Higher awareness of Literacy & Numeracy issues by the public and of the services and resources available to assist with these issues.	Number of events held and number of updates provided to NALA	Update NALA website with details of L&N resources and activities available in Co. Wicklow. Promote National NALA campaign and resources to parents, education professionals, those working in the 'third sector' (i.e. voluntary and community orgs) and ECCE (Early Childhood Care & Education) professionals throughout the county. Disseminate information about L&N to childcare professionals and to parents via the various networks within the L&N Sub-group	Sep-Dec 2013	NALA/Co Wicklow VEC/WCCC	<i>Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young people 2011-2020, DES, 2011</i> <i>Working Together: Approaches to Family Literacy, NALA, 2004</i>

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 2: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Training in L&N for those working with families and young people	To increase the skills and shared learning of those already working with family literacy issues and build a network of professionals who can increase awareness of L&N issues and share their learning and best practice within their agencies.	Increased awareness and understanding of L&N issues among professionals in positions that can positively influence parents and families. Train childcare professionals, childcare development workers, professionals and volunteers working with families and young people to (a) raise awareness (b) increase referrals (c) improve communication of L&N issues and best practice.	Number of training courses held, number of participants, number of organisations involved.	Recruitment of suitable candidates through the Sub-group networks. VEC to provide L&N training to those working with children and families such as PHNs, Pre-school Leaders. Community Providers, community and statutory groups working with families in the ECCE sector, P&T group leaders.	Sep-2012-Sep 2015	Co. Wicklow VEC and CSC Sub-group on Support of Active Learning	<i>Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young people 2011-2020, DES, 2011</i> <i>Working Together: Approaches to Family Literacy, NALA, 2004</i>

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 2: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Building Literacy and Numeracy capacity with parents and young children	To develop an inter-agency work plan to build upon the good work already taking place by community and voluntary groups in the county.	Number of meetings of working group, successful dissemination of funding, evidence of inter-agency work and collaboration, no. of parents engaged by the agencies involved in the working group.	(a)Parents engaged (b) pre-school and parent & toddler groups engaged (c) number of sessions held, (d) number of overall participants (number of groups supported (e) evidence of increased collaboration between local agencies to tackle L&N issues in a more cohesive,	Call for agencies. Convene working task group of local Third Sector agencies to work with parents of pre-school aged children to nurture good practice in L&N among young families in the county Dissemination of funding. Agreement of targets/outputs.	Sept 2012 – July 2013	Co. Wicklow VEC/WCCC	<i>Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young people 2011-2020, DES, 2011</i> <i>Working Together: Approaches to Family Literacy, NALA, 2004</i>

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 2: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
			holistic manner				
Tackling the issue of transitions from primary to secondary education and within the school system (i.e. from the Junior to Senior Cycle) and the children who are 'missing' from school for any reason (inc. suspension, expulsion, non-completion), both temporarily and permanently.	Implementation of mechanisms to identify the number and identity of children in the county who go 'missing' from the system in transition from primary to secondary education. Carry out work with young people preparing to move to secondary school to increase the chances of successful transition.	Ability to identify the number and identity of children who go missing and provide the information to the relevant agencies and decision makers.	To target and ultimately reduce the number of children who go 'missing' from the system in transition from primary to secondary education and those who are missing from school attendance on a regular basis	Research to be carried out to assess the scale of the problem in Co. Wicklow and what mechanisms are currently in place to deal with this. If necessary, dependent on outcome of research, mechanisms to be drawn up by working group of relevant partners to tackle the issue. Issue to be monitored at the highest levels of the CSC as structural change may be needed to occur	November 2012 – Aug 2013	Inter-agency working group to established to deal with these issues including members of the Sub-group on Active Learning and any other relevant agencies.	<i>National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016, Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools: An Action Plan for Educational Inclusion, Department of Education and Science (DES), 2005.</i>

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 2: Supported in Active Learning

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
			or do not complete the transition from the junior to senior cycle.	to enable the identification of these children.			

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Safe & Secure	Engage with young people and children through schools in the delivery of key road safety messages	Increase the numbers of Garda Road Safety talks in schools. Delivery of "It Won't happen to me" programme to Transition year students.	No of talks/program me and no of participants	Deliver road safety talks Deliver 'It won't happen to me' programme	2012 to 2015	Garda Síochána in cooperation with local schools and VEC	Garda Síochána Children and Youth Strategy 2012-2014
Safe & Secure	Target High risk young drivers through the Diversion Programmes	Monitor youth referrals for Road Traffic Offences and consider young offending drivers for inclusion in Garda Youth Diversion Projects.	No of referrals received	Identify suitable candidates for referral	2012 to 2015	Garda Síochána	Garda Síochána Children and Youth Strategy 2012-2014

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Safe & secure	Work together with children and young people through schools and clubs	Maintain and develop Garda involvement in schools and clubs.	No. of event organised delivered attended	Community police and JLOs to organise, deliver and participate in relevant youth events Implementation of any recommendations coming from Garda/Comhairle na nÓg research and maintaining link with Comhairle Continued participation in Youth justice workshop of Mental Health week	2012 to 2015	Community Policing in cooperation with all Youth Groups.	Garda Síochána Children and Youth Strategy 2012-2014
Safe & secure	Promote personal safety for children and young people through the Garda Schools Programme	Continue the development and increase of the Garda Schools programme	No of programmes No of participants	Delivery of Garda schools programme by trained Garda personnel	2012 to 2015	Community Policing	Garda Síochána Children and Youth Strategy 2012-2014

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 3: Safe from accidental and intentional harm and secure in the immediate and wider physical environment

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Safe & secure	Continual support of the Youth Crime Case Management System	All prolific youth offenders will have a trained case manager assigned to them	No of offenders being managed	Trained Garda Case Managers interacting with offenders and relevant State agencies e.g. Courts, Probation	2012 to 2015	An Garda Síochána	Garda Síochána Children and Youth Strategy 2012-2014
Domestic Violence	Raise awareness of Domestic Violence and its impact on the family	Maintain links with the Women's refuge to monitor and develop strategies to liaise with all agencies working and involved with Children Services	TBC	Identify and disseminate information about existing services in the area Document information on refuge and services of support for Domestic Violence Address Gaps in service provision	2012 to 2015	HSE, Children and Families, Family Support Agencies, Women's Refuge	Domestic Violence

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 4: Economically Secure

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Example							
Maintain link with CDB (or emerging structure) & Economic Subgroup	To improve economic security for children & families in Co. Wicklow	Maintain strong link with CDB and its economic subgroup	No of CDB Meetings No of Economic Subgroup Meetings No of CSC Member participating No of initiatives undertaken No of submissions	To attend CDB and Economic subgroup meetings To make any submissions as recommended by the CSC	2012 to 2015	CSC Members	CDB
Collaboration with and between the Dept. of Social Protection, Local Development Companies and other bodies that provide services and supports	To raise awareness, knowledge and signposting of/to services leading to an increased engagement with and uptake of the supports available.	No. of bodies involved. Type and number of initiatives undertaken. Uptake of relevant services and supports.	Greater knowledge of employment services and support schemes such as Family	Relevant Government Depts./agencies, Local Development Companies and community based service providers will continue to promote and encourage engage with	2012 – 2015	Local Development Companies. Dept. of Social Protection. C/V sector groups.	Local Development Companies strategic plans. Government Action Plan for Jobs.

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Outcome Area 4: Economically Secure

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Example							
that impact on the economic circumstances of families, particularly low income family units.			Income Supplement that are designed to progress people into employment and maintain the family's economic viability and security.	and uptake of services that support families, particularly low income family units to have greater economic security.			

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

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

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Map of Services working in the area of Family Support	Identity what is the role of each of the services. Ensure that there is an interagency approach in meeting the needs of families Address gaps in service provision	Families and young people access the services	Map of all agencies both voluntary and statutory	Adopt a definition of Family Support Services Record stats in relation to services. Identify needs and gaps	2012 to 2015	HSE & CFSA	Child and Family Support Agency
Early Intervention & Prevention	Ensure an interagency response to working with families where children are at risk due to welfare concerns	Improve response to child welfare concerns	No. of Interagency Protocol in place in services	Devise an interagency protocol for family support services in Co. Wicklow	2012 to 2015	HSE Primary Care	Children First
Support the Implementation of Children First National Guidance across all agencies and community groups	To ensure that all those working with children and families in CSC member agencies have received training in Children First National	That all CSC Member staff will receive the identified training	No of sessions No of participants No of agencies trained	Provide information and training sessions in Children First Identify gaps and consider ways to address such gaps	2012 to 2015	CSC Members	Children First

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

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

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
	Guidance						
Parenting courses	To identify and evaluate the types and criteria of parenting courses being offered To avoid duplication and to promote an interagency approach to delivery To ensure that appropriate courses are available for specific target groups e.g. lone parents, parenting teenagers, fathers	Directory of parenting courses with a range of models available Interagency cooperation – number of agencies sharing resources to deliver courses	1 directory of parenting courses 3 new interagency actions where resources are shared	Compile a directory of parenting courses & providers for the county Identify gaps and overlaps Coordinate the delivery of evidence based parenting courses Establish links between relevant agencies Explore creative ways to deliver courses e.g. Playbus	2012 to 2015	HSE, DTF, Community & Voluntary agencies	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

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

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Teenage parents	To identify number of teenage parents Identify services providing support to teenage parents	Number of appropriate service providers Number of service users	Increase the number of programmes for teen parents	Map services available Identify opportunities for a more integrated and coordinated delivery of services Include fathers in programme delivery	2012 to 2015	HSE Primary Care & Family Support Services	TSP
Interface/Communication/Co-operation between agencies	Develop and implement systems which encourage interagency supports to families	Reduction of duplication Provision of joint initiatives Cross referrals	Services working with children and families in Wicklow	Develop/access/share protocols for information sharing Identify areas of referral/communication Identify areas of duplication	2012 to 2015	CSC Change Management Subgroup	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Research	To explore a priority area that requires further research relevant to Wicklow that will inform current and future planning	Relevant area and county based evidence from research available to support current & future planning	Research identified and report produced	Liaise with CSC and its subgroups to identify area for research Explore funding options Devise tender Select researcher Launch research	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Data/Planning Subgroup and Co. Wicklow CSC Members	
Data Collection	To update sociodemographic profile for Wicklow as CSO & other relevant information is released	Production of an annually updated sociodemographic profile for Wicklow	1 socio-demographic profile for Wicklow	Review existing sources of data Identify new sources of relevant data Regular review of data collected Update existing data	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Data/Planning Subgroup and all Co. Wicklow CSC members	
Data Collection	To complete the audit of services for Wicklow	Complete audit of services for Wicklow	1 Directory of all services in Wicklow	Continue to add additional information to existing database Create a directory of all services	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Data/Planning Subgroup and all Co. Wicklow CSC members	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Change management

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Data Collection	To lobby for alignment of data collection across all agencies including the CSO to meet local data requirements	Relevant data available on a county basis for all CSCs		Raise issues of concern in relation to data collection at CSC Steering Group Meetings	2012 to 2015	CSC Steering Group	
CSC Steering Group	To ensure that prioritised local issues are raised at national level	Relevant structures in place to ensure effective implementation of the Working together initiative	No. of meetings attended No. of progress reports provided	Attend CSC Steering Group Meetings Provide progress reports in advance	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	CSC Steering Group Representative & Co-ordinator	
Continued employment of Coordinator for Co. Wicklow CSC	To liaise with the DCYA to agree continued funding for CSC Coordinator post	Coordinator in place to support Co. Wicklow CSC and its subgroups in the implementation of the Co. Wicklow CYPP	1 Coordinator employed	Secure funding for continued employment of Co. Wicklow CSC Coordinator	Commence 2012 and complete by end Q1 2013 2013 to 2015	Change Management Subgroup and DCYA	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
CSC Coordinators' Network	To facilitate information sharing between CSCs To identify areas for possible collaboration	Effective CSC Coordinators Network	No. of Coordinator Networks attended annually	Attend Coordinators Network meetings Maintain regular and ongoing contact with other CSC Coordinators	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Coordinator	
Website	To create a website presence for Co. Wicklow CSC where relevant information can be shared with all stakeholders To promote awareness of Co. Wicklow CSC To ensure that information provided is accessible and without jargon	Information about the work of Co. Wicklow CSC shared with all stakeholders	Website presence	Identify the type of presence required Agree how this need can be met within available resources Identify relevant and appropriate information for uploading Maintain website presence ensuring all information is up-to-date, accessible and without jargon	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Change Management Subgroup & CSC Members	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee

Change management

Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Commitment by senior CSC members to <i>Working Together for Children</i> initiative	Full engagement of relevant agencies at senior level Promote awareness of Co. Wicklow CSC within member agencies	Full CSC membership at appropriate level	Membership attendance at CSC meetings is 90%	Attend meetings Identify and release resources for CSC work/projects	Ongoing 2012 to 2015	Co. Wicklow CSC Member Agencies	CDB
Strategy and business plan alignment	All local strategy and business plans aligned	Local strategy and business plans reflect CSC priorities	No. of CSC member agency strategy or business plans aligned	All agencies locally to ensure business plan alignment with Co. Wicklow CSC Action Plan	2012 to 2015	CSC Members	Agenda for Children's Services
Development of pragmatic local Information and data sharing systems.	Relevant information and data is available to support agreed interventions	Meetings of key agencies and local groups convened Protocols developed and implemented Relevant information and data sharing in evidence to support interventions	Type/range of information and data confirmed Method of dissemination agreed	Relevant agencies and local groups will meet to review existing practice, develop required protocols and agree local appropriate systems	2012 - 2015	CSC member agency to be agreed	

Action Plan for Co. Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee							
Change management							
Priority Area (To be identified based on the local needs analysis)	Objective(s) (A brief statement of what the CSC wants to accomplish in relation to each priority area. The objective(s) should be <u>measurable</u>)	Indicators (The measure which will be used to determine whether the objective is being achieved. Can be a national indicator or one that has been developed locally.)	Target	Activities (The activities that the CSC will undertake to deliver on its objectives)	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility	Link to other plans (e.g. documents from Government, state agencies, or local organisations e.g. RAPID)
Examples							
Policy/ practice affecting services impacting on children and young people	Adopting and integrating learning and best practice emanating from CSC strategy into mainline service provision	<p>Learning and best practice issues identified and disseminated</p> <p>Constructive communication channels and dialogue established with relevant bodies</p> <p>Learning and best practice developments influence children/young person positive change to key services</p>	Services are orientated to deliver on achieving better outcomes for children and young people	High level committee convened and charged with progressing service change implementation	2012 - 2015	CSC Members	

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

County Wicklow CSC is committed to ongoing review and monitoring of the implementation of the CYPP and will meet on a regular basis throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Subgroups are responsible for the implementation of the activities assigned to them and all Subgroup Chairs will report on progress on activities on a regular basis to the Co. Wicklow CSC.

Quarterly progress reports will be provided from Co. Wicklow CSC to the CSC Steering Group and the DCYA.

The Data/Planning Subgroup will ensure ongoing collection of relevant data and research to inform current and future planning including the evidence coming from other Children's Services Committees.

An in-depth annual review of the Wicklow CYPP will be completed and distributed to relevant stakeholders including the County Development Board (or emerging structure).

County Wicklow CSC will comply with all national reporting requirements.

Section 8:

Appendix A - Bibliography

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Appendix B – Terms of Reference Co. Wicklow CSC Subgroups

As set out in the *Governance Framework for the Working Together for Children Initiative* (2011), CSCs should establish sub-groups centred on the national outcomes for children and the priority actions which the CSC is trying to achieve under each outcome. CSCs may also establish a subgroup dealing with specific issues associated with interagency working such as data protection, information sharing etc.

Subgroup Chair and Membership

The Chair of each subgroup must be a member of the CSC who will be nominated to the position. Each sub-group chair should have expertise in the specific area and is expected to provide leadership and direction to the sub-group.

The subgroup structure provides the opportunity to include additional people outside of the main CSC such as practitioners, front line staff, people from the voluntary and community sector involved in direct service provision in the area.

Terms of Reference

It is envisaged that each subgroup will develop its own Terms of Reference based on the outcomes expected from the group subject to approval by Co. Wicklow CSC. However, the following standard Terms of Reference must be included:

Governance/Reporting Structure

The CSC subgroup is a subgroup of Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee and will act as an advisory group only. All decision making powers reside with the Children's Services Committee.

Membership

A minimum of two members of Co. Wicklow Children's Services Committee must sit on each subgroup and one of these must act as Chair. Any change to the membership is subject to the approval of the CSC. Subgroups membership should not generally exceed 14 in number. Subgroup members must be willing to be active participants and to undertake agreed work assigned to them.

External Subgroup members may be invited/nominated to participate in line with the *Governance Framework for the Working Together for Children Initiative* (2011) and with the approval of Co. Wicklow CSC. The Subgroup must take a countywide approach to the selection of external members. County Wicklow CSC members are welcome to offer nominations for External Subgroup membership from the statutory, voluntary or community sector whom they feel have the necessary expertise and capacity to undertake the role. In addition the listing of groups set out in the Wicklow County Community Directory is to be reviewed in order to identify relevant groups working in associated thematic areas who will be approached to express an interest in providing a Subgroup Member with the necessary expertise and capacity to undertake the role. The existing forum of groups who elected the Community & Voluntary Representatives to the Committee will also be approached in this regard. In the event that too many nominations are received for a particular Subgroup an election process will be used to select the external Subgroup Members.

Subgroup Chair (Role and Responsibilities)

The Subgroup Chair must convene meetings of the group and report progress to the CSC monthly and if the Subgroup Chair is not available to attend the CSC meeting they must submit a report in writing in advance.

The Subgroup Chair is also responsible for ensuring that:

- the Terms of Reference are drafted and submitted to the CSC for approval.
- the external membership of the subgroup is appropriately selected and that the names are provided to the CSC for approval.
- the meetings of the subgroups and any actions/activities agreed are recorded appropriately.

Meetings

Each subgroup should meet monthly in advance of the CSC meeting and a quorum should be established which is not less than 50% of the subgroup membership.

Section 8: Appendix C – Membership of Subgroups

Family Support Subgroup

F. d’Arcy, Co. Wicklow Partnership (Chair)
 P. Brennan, Bray Area Partnership
 F. Curry, Wicklow Children’s Services Committee
 M. Deasy, Springboard
 G. Fairweather, HSE
 C. Keegan, Wicklow Child & Family Project
 C. Kerins, Greystones Peoples Project
 A. McMorrow, Bray Womens Refuge
 C. O’Grady, Marian Centre
 E. Waters, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
 N. Wogan, Little Bray Family Resource Centre
 R. Yeates, Bray & East Wicklow Youth Services

Data/Planning Subgroup

A. Byrne, HSE
 F. Curry, Wicklow Children’s Services Committee
 A. Fox, Co. Wicklow VEC
 E. Waters, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
 G. Hickey, Wicklow County Council
 D. Whitfield, Wicklow County Council

Change Management Subgroup

J. Lane, Wicklow County Council (Chair)
 A. Byrne, HSE
 F. Darcy, Co. Wicklow Partnership
 P. Brennan, Bray Area Partnership
 F. Curry, CSC
 D. McCarthy, Garda Síochána

Youth Mental Health Subgroup

S. Morgan (Chair) Lucena Clinic
 A. Fox (Co-Chair) Co. Wicklow VEC
 F. Curry, Wicklow CSC
 R. Yeates, Bray Youth Services
 S. Stafford Johnson, HSE
 D. O’Brien, Hi Rez Youth Centre
 M. Crean, Bray Area Partnership
 E. Skinner, An Garda Síochána
 M. Nicholson / S.Doyle, ISPCC
 A. Daibhis, HSE
 B. Duffy, HSE

Physical Health & Safe/Secure Subgroup

D. Whitfield, Wicklow County Council (Chair)
M. Deasy, Arklow Springboard
D. Healy, HSE
S. Hill, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
D. McCarthy, Garda Síochána
M. Doyle, Co. Wicklow VEC - Bray Sports Promotion Unit

Supported in Active Learning Subgroup

E. Waters, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
E. McCann, Wicklow Travellers Group (has not attended)
C. Keegan, Wicklow Child & Family Project
M. Reardon, Home School Liaison
J. Stewart, NALA
B. Martin, Wicklow County Council (has not attended)
C. Byrne, Co. Wicklow VEC
M. Cuddihy, Home School Liaison

Section 8: Appendix D – Youth Consultation

Summary of findings from Youth Consultation October 2012

Total No. of Participants:	131
No. of Groups:	14
Age Range:	8 to 18 years
Areas Represented:	Arklow, Newtownmountkennedy and Bray

Outcome 1: Physical Health

All groups displayed a good understanding of what foods would contribute to good health e.g. vegetables, meat, fish etc. Surprisingly few groups mentioned fruit or water. Some groups were asked about their favourite home-cooked meals and these were mostly healthy options also with only a few young people mentioning fast-food such as pizza, chips. One group also mentioned having to prepare their own meals and not having a home-cooked meal every day.

All groups indicated high levels of activity in terms of play and exercise. Only one group mentioned not playing regularly for reasons such as 'nowhere to play', 'no one to play with'. There were a wide range of activities mentioned such as GAA, soccer, football, swimming, dancing, basketball, athletics and cycling. Similarly most groups indicated a good range of places where they can go to participate in physical activities.

A couple of interesting comments from the consultation in relation to outcome one include: 'gym too expensive' and 'open more places that cook proper food instead of fast-food restaurants'.

Outcome 1: Mental Health

Feeling good was associated with family, friends, physical activity and personal interests such as music, computer games etc by all groups. Negative feelings were associated by the majority of groups with fighting with family and friends and feeling guilty when you do something wrong. However, bullying was mentioned frequently.

All groups reported family and friends as being a great source of support to them and in making them feel good.

Whilst a number of negative feelings were expressed about school there were an equal number of positive feelings around school from the point of view of receiving an education and making friends.

The majority of groups reported negative feelings associated with the media in relation to the way young people are portrayed and the way their local area is portrayed. A number of groups mentioned how body image is portrayed in the media puts young people under pressure to look good.

Outcome 2: Supported in Active Learning

Only four groups representing 46 young people responded to this question. Those who responded reported enjoying learning as an individual/group, by reading, by doing, through using technology such as white board and when the subject is made interesting and fun. Young people reported disliking homework, early mornings and being shouted at or ignored. When asked what could make their experience better some of the suggestions included: no uniforms, going swimming, more sports, play equipment. Some Youthreach students suggested better lunches and a transport allowance.

Outcome 3: Safe and Secure

The majority of young people reported feeling safe in their own homes and with friends, grandparents and extended family members. The majority reported not feeling secure when they are alone especially walking alone at night and a few indicated that sometimes they do not feel safe in the area in which they live. Safe places reported by young people included: home, the homes of other family members or friends, youth centres/clubs and community centre. When asked what could be done to make them feel more safe/secure a few suggestions included: more street lights, more Garda stations in a large town rather than one big one.

Outcome 4: Economically Secure

Most young people acknowledged that their families have enough money to cover the things that they **need**, however, they did not have money for extras such as holidays or for things that the young people want to do including cinema and socialising. When asked what could be done to improve their families' situation most referred to more jobs, to things being too expensive and to less cuts.

Whilst some young people referred to winning the lottery and making money by becoming famous, some more practical suggestions were made such as 'free education', 'free uniforms and books', and 'free bread and milk every second day'.

Outcome 5: Positive Networks and included/participating in your community

Most young people reported that their family and friends make them feel part of a positive network in terms of the love, care, support and assistance they offer to them. Whilst most young people reported good relationships with neighbours a few indicated that they do not get along with or speak to their neighbours. There was a balance between positive and negative comments about the areas where young people live. Positive comments referred to some of the facilities available and to people being friendly. Negative comments referred to lack of facilities, litter/ dirt, criminal activity such as drug dealing, feelings of danger. A few negative comments were associated with Halloween in particular around bonfires and bangers.

Young people were asked if there are places for them to go in their area and whilst some indicated that there are no places the majority mentioned youth clubs/centres and sports facilities.

Finally young people were asked if their opinions were sought in relation to activities/setting where they participate. There was a good balance between the positive and negative responses to this question. However it is clear from the responses that their opinion is sought more often at youth clubs/centres rather than in settings such as school.