

# WICKLOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2025 TO 2027

Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee, Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre,  
Knockrobin, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow A67 K5C7

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## Foreword

We are pleased to present the Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan which covers the period from 2025 to 2027. This plan represents a strong commitment by the members of the Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee [CYPSC] and its subgroups to the children, young people and families of Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow has maintained a high population of children and young people as evidenced by the 2022 Census. The birth rate is declining in the county, and the numbers of 0–4-year-olds has decreased for the first time, however, inward migration is maintaining a high youth population and evidence of the continuing demand on services.

The previous planning phase for Wicklow CYPSC 2020-2024 has been impacted significantly by a number of challenges including the COVID 19 pandemic; the cyber-attack in mid-2022 which impacted both the HSE and Tusla IT systems for a number of months; the war in Ukraine which has resulted in up to 3,000 displaced persons including many children and young people being accommodated in the county; and increasing numbers of International Protection Applicants (IPAS). Several new International Protection Accommodation Centres have opened in the county to accommodate both Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) and International Protection Applicants (IPAS). Each of these developments has put increasing pressure on services struggling to meet demands for housing, education and healthcare in addition to families' impact by the economic crisis. It is acknowledged by Wicklow CYPSC that services in Wicklow have gone above and beyond to respond to these increasing demands and that Wicklow CYPSC has played an active part.

Despite the challenges of the last five years there have been some significantly positive developments. Healthy Ireland funding continues to enable us to deliver targeted actions under key priority areas such as the health and wellbeing of children and young people and their families. The current funding round 2023/2025 will bring up to €150,000 into the county. The addition of €50,000 International Protection Support Services funding to CYPSC in 2023 and 2024 has allowed us to provide supports directly to those living in International Protection Accommodation Services. We are grateful to our Implementing Partners under both funding streams without whom the delivery of these programmes would not be possible.

Several positive service developments in the period are set out under Section 3 of this plan and the many achievements of the Wicklow CYPSC initiative supported by its partners are also highlighted in Section 1 such as the work on school avoidance, domestic violence and work with new communities. The first Planet Youth survey was conducted in November 2024, and we look forward to working collaboratively with partners on the findings which will increase our collective understanding of protective factors and reduce risk factors for children and young people in the coming years.

Another exciting development of note in 2024 was the successful Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan FACES: Family, Adult and Child Enhanced Services. This is a two-year project for the next two years and will focus on the North Bray and South Dun Laoghaire areas. Using a Human Learning Systems Approach the project hopes to tackle the drivers of child poverty in the geographic area and to test interventions that may have a positive impact.

This plan presents a coordinated interagency approach to the delivery of services to children and young people in Wicklow for 2025 to 2027 by all agencies in Wicklow. It reflects the priorities that have been identified from an analysis of the needs in the county and a commitment by members to address these needs over the three years of the plan. The voice of children and young people is represented, and we are committed to strengthening the involvement of children and young people further during the lifetime of this plan. We welcome the publication of *Young Ireland* the new national policy framework for children and young people 2023-2028 which highlights commitments to the CYPSC initiative. We look forward to the publication of the review of CYPSC undertaken by the DCDE in 2024 and how it will inform the future direction, vision and resourcing of the initiative in the coming years.

Co. Wicklow CYPSC consider this plan a working document and it is committed to reviewing and amending it throughout the duration of implementation considering evidence of more effective models of practice or of emergent needs.

As Chairperson of the Co. Wicklow CYPSC, I wish to extend sincere thanks to all those involved in bringing this plan to fruition and to the members of our CYPSC and its subgroups for their continued commitment to the work of Co. Wicklow CYPSC. As we embark on the 2025-2027 CYPP, I draw inspiration from our achievements, for they remind us that together as a CYPSC, we can build a better future for our children, young people, and families. Wicklow CYPSC's journey is a testament to the power of unity, innovation, and unwavering dedication to the well-being of our community. It is my hope that this legacy will continue to inspire us as we work to create an even brighter future for the generations to come.

*Michelle McNichols*

Chairperson

Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

March 2025

## Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at local level.

CYPSC work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These are that children and young people:

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

## Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

### Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (now the Department of Children, Disability and Equality) established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) in 2007.

CYPSC bring together various agencies from the statutory, community, and voluntary sectors to jointly plan and coordinate services for children and young people aged 0-24. CYPSC play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of children, young people, and families at the local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

*Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028* which replaces the previous national policy for children and young people, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, reinforces the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this regard.

### Children and Young People's Services Committee in Co. Wicklow

Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee has been in existence since 2011.

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

Children, young people and families

- Co. Wicklow CYPSC is centred on children and young people, not agency driven.
- All of our work and decisions are based on supporting children and young people'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 CYPSC

- We will learn from other CYPSC, taking on board their experiences to inform our work
- All involved will have a clear understanding of the role of CYPSC and the particular role of Co. Wicklow CYPSC.
- 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 CYPSC into our organisations.
- Co. Wicklow CYPSC 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 actions happen.

- 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.

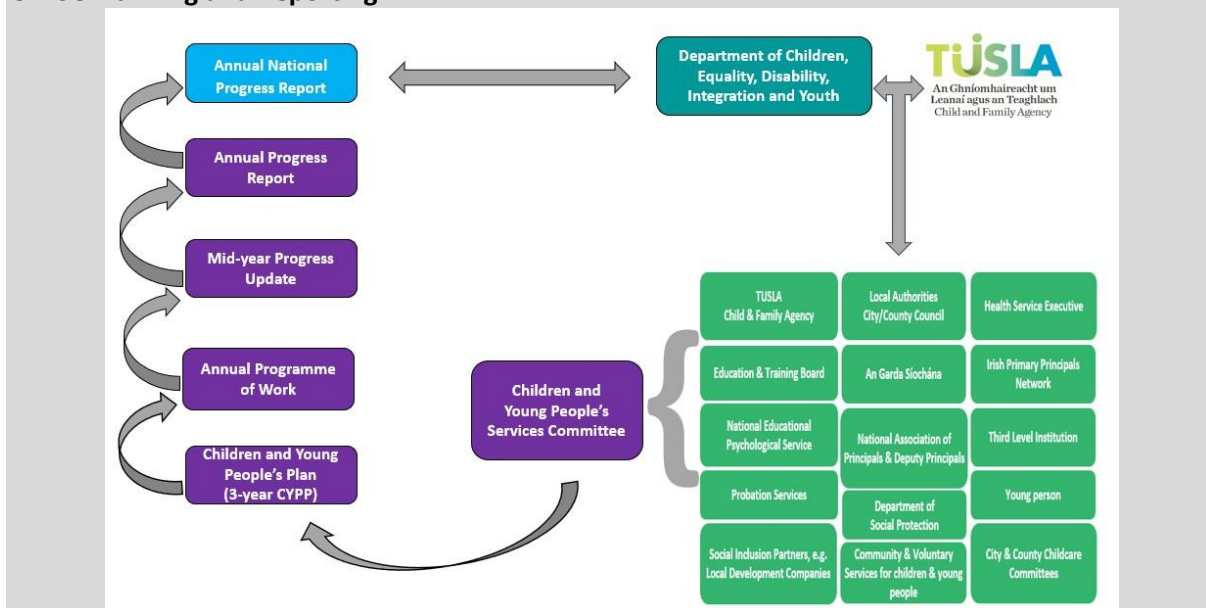
Since January 2016, Wicklow CYPSC implementation has been supported by just one full time local CYPSC Co-ordinator. Wicklow CYPSC has consistently advocated for additional implementation resources and expects its Implementation Team to be augmented in 2025 with a CYPSC Project Support role joining the Wicklow CYPSC Team.



## Who we are

Michelle McNicholas, Chairperson of Wicklow CYPSC	Interim Area Manager, Tusla, Dublin Southeast and Wicklow
Michael Nicholson, Vice-Chairperson of Wicklow CYPSC	Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Social Development, Wicklow County Council
AnneMarie McGovern	Irish Primary Principals Network Representative
Peter Brennan	Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership
Brian Carty	Co. Wicklow Partnership
Stephen Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Imelda Halton	Head of Service, Health Service Executive (HSE) Health and Wellbeing
Inspector Colm Corrigan	An Garda Síochána
Dr. Davina Healy	Principal Medical Officer, HSE
Sally Stafford Johnson	Psychology, HSE
Sarah Donnelly	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Helen Finnegan	National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
Dorothy Lawlor	Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Phillipa Lansdowne	HSE Disability Services
Yvonne Murray	Public Participation Network Representative
Adrienne Slator	Wicklow County Childcare Committee
Emily Murray Nelson	Youth Representatives (18-24 years)
Maeve Shanley	Drug and Alcohol Task Forces Representative
Caroline Sheehan	Principal Social Worker, Tusla
Emma Skinner	Juvenile Liaison Officer, An Garda Síochána
Eilish Kelly	Tusla Education Support Services
Kevin Webster	Principal Social Worker, Tusla
Bernie Meally	Foroige, C&V Representative (Youth Services)
Thomas Matthews	Daughters of Charity, C&V Representative
Fionnuala Curry	Coordinator, Co. Wicklow CYPSC

## CYPSC Planning and Reporting



## Achievements to date

During consultation for completion of the 2025-2027 CYPP, Wicklow CYPSC consulted with CYPSC and subgroup members. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that some of the remarkable achievements realised during the period 2020 to 2024 are presented below. The consultation has highlighted that Wicklow CYPSC has made significant strides in enhancing the well-being of children, young people, and families within the county. Through a multi-faceted approach, Wicklow CYPSC has fostered positive change and several key achievements across the five outcome areas for children and young people. These accomplishments include forging interagency collaboration and uniting diverse organisations and agencies in a collective effort to bolster support systems. The CYPSC has demonstrated a commitment to identifying strengths, needs and addressing gaps in services, leading to initiatives that respond to issues such as school avoidance, domestic violence, and aid for new communities.

In addition, the Wicklow CYPSC has prioritised training and professional development for service providers, bolstering the skill set of those serving the children and young people in the county. Networking and information sharing has laid a foundation for streamlined communication and service coordination. Leveraging funding, the CYPSC has ensured that resources have been targeted to local projects aimed at enhancing the lives of children, young people and families.

The CYPSC has further proven commitment by responding to new communities who by necessity arrived in the Wicklow area because of conflict in Ukraine. The CYPSC also responded to urgent public health needs which emerged during the period 2020-2024, providing and facilitating essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to CYPSC members, these types of initiatives and more, achieved together, have collectively contributed to a positive impact on children, young people and families in the Wicklow area, addressing mental health, addiction, school avoidance, and domestic violence concerns, and fostering the development of support networks for professionals that are comprehensive and integrated.

Wicklow CYPSC's extensive list of achievements over the period 2020-2024 has underscored its dedication to building a stronger, more resilient community for its children, young people and families. Some of Wicklow CYPSC's key achievements include:

- **Interagency Collaboration:** Bringing together different organisations and agencies to share information, collaborate and work towards common goals in supporting children, young people and families.
- **Identifying Needs and Addressing Gaps:** Identifying key needs in the community and creating pathways to address these needs through various initiatives, such as school avoidance resources, domestic violence support services, and targeted support for new communities.
- **Training and Professional Development:** Providing training opportunities for professionals to respond to the needs of families and young people, including programmes like Non-Violent Resistance<sup>1</sup> and SPACE<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Non-Violent Resistance: *NVR is an approach to families, schools and communities that is inspired by the doctrine championed by Mahatma Gandhi and by Dr Martin Luther King Jr*”.— Haim Omer, 2021

<sup>2</sup> SPACE stands for Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions and is a parent-based treatment program for children and adolescents with anxiety, OCD, and related problems.

- **Youth Participation and Awareness:** Organising youth participation events, raising awareness about youth mental health and drug-related harms and engaging young people in decision-making processes.
- **Networking and Information Sharing:** Creating a space for networking and sharing information among agencies, facilitating efficient communication and better coordination of services.
- **Funding Allocation:** Leveraging funding to support local projects and initiatives that improve the lives of children, young people and families.
- **Support for specialised initiatives:** Supporting initiatives that address specific challenges, such as hidden harm<sup>3</sup>, domestic violence, and targeted commissioning of support services for West Wicklow.
- **Promotion of Services:** Promoting the vast range of services and supports on offer in Co. Wicklow to ensure young people and families are aware of them.
- **Engagement with New Communities:** Providing information and support to new communities coming to the area through initiatives like information videos for Ukrainian nationals and targeted activities for children and young people in IPAS centres.
- **Response to Urgent Needs:** Responding to emergency needs, such as delivering activities and events for families during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Positive Impact on Families:** Contributing to improved outcomes for families, addressing issues related to mental health, addiction, school avoidance, and domestic violence.
- **Development of Support Networks:** Developing and coordinating support networks, such as West Wicklow Child and Family Support Network and West Wicklow New Communities Group, to provide comprehensive and integrated services.

According to Wicklow CYPSC members, specific initiatives that would not have happened without the intervention of the CYPSC in the past five years include but are not limited to:

- **School Avoidance:** Work to develop the Wicklow School Refusal pack was undertaken by a multi-agency group supported by Wicklow CYPSC towards the end of the 2019. The resource was launched digitally during COVID in May 2020 and one of our key partners, National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), delivered a pack to every school in the county. NEPS have been active partners in disseminating the resource and raising awareness of it in the county. A great deal of work has taken place to promote use of the pack including the development of a Parent Leaflet which has been distributed to parents of all primary and secondary schools in the county. A multi-agency group met throughout 2021/22 to assist in promoting awareness and trying to develop good working practices. In 2022 we hosted a Study Group from Sweden in Bray to share our knowledge with them. A copy of the resource is available from the resources section of Wicklow CYPSC webpage [HERE](#) During 2024 both in-person and online talks were provided to parents to further embed the use of the resource. This work has benefitted schools, parents and young people by providing a tool with common language that can be used to respond to the issue of school avoidance.
- **Domestic Violence Initiative:** The Wicklow Domestic Abuse Resource was developed in 2021/22 and launched in June 2022. Many agencies collaborated to produce this resource pack supported by Wicklow CYPSC. It provides information and support for

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<sup>3</sup> The experience of children living with, and affected by, parental substance misuse has become known as ‘**Hidden Harm**’ because these children are often unknown to services.

those in the community who have been impacted by Domestic Violence and Abuse. This resource was compiled based on feedback from the amazing women who linked with local services; Anu Outreach Bray Women's Refuge, Tusla Domestic Violence Practitioner and Saoirse Domestic Violence Services. We listened to what survivors felt would have helped them on their journey and included as much of their input as was possible. We view this resource as not only one that victims can use to access information, but also a valuable tool for professionals to raise awareness and increase their knowledge around Domestic Violence and the impact it can have on women and families. For a copy of this resource please visit [Wicklow DVA Resource](#). In 2023 the DVA resource was translated into five languages to make it available for use by more women and to take account of the diversity of our community ([Polish](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#), [Lithuanian](#) and [Ukrainian](#)).

- **Perinatal Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Home:** Wicklow CYPSC has been an active partner in the Minding Me (Kildare/South Dublin/West Wicklow) interagency group working to support women around the issue of perinatal mental health. The Minding Me group was formed in 2020 to respond to the significant feelings of loneliness and isolation being felt by women in the perinatal period. A range of resources to support mothers from pregnancy up to their child's first birthday is now available. The resources have been designed to increase awareness about maternal mental health, reduce stigma and signpost to relevant services. The resources are also helpful to partners and families and include videos, booklets and workbooks. An annual promotion is held to promote the resources during Maternal Mental Health month in May every year. These resources are available to download from [www.parentingsupport.ie](http://www.parentingsupport.ie) which is a joint initiative of Kildare CYPSC and Wicklow CYPSC. The positive impact for children in supporting mothers during the perinatal period is well evidenced in research and supported by national policy e.g. First 5<sup>4</sup>.

In 2022 several of the Minding Me group also collaborated to promote 'Wellbeing in the Home' which is a series of videos to support young people's understanding of parental mental health issues. These resources were developed by young people from Mind Space Mayo with professional support from their local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Minding Me group agreed that these resources would be of benefit to young people in Wicklow. With the support of a number of young people campaign resources were developed to promote this video series which is available to download from [WITH Project](#). This was an excellent example of child/youth participation in addition to replication/promotion of resources developed elsewhere in Ireland. The impact of the campaign was to increase awareness amongst young people of parental mental health, to reduce stigma around the issue and to signpost to appropriate services.

- **Refugee Response in the Wicklow Area:** Wicklow CYPSC and its members have played a crucial role in coordinating and supporting services for refugees in the county. Some of the work included: summer activities in International Protection Accommodation Centres; enabling access to organised community soccer and rugby summer camps; providing access to play equipment including sensory toys where required. In collaboration with Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow CYPSC launched three videos, and a series of maps designed to offer support to the new Ukrainian community in Co. Wicklow to find the main

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<sup>4</sup> First 5 is a whole-of-government strategy to improve the lives of babies, young children and their families. It is a ten-year plan to help make sure all children have positive early experiences and get a great start in life.

services/supports in the county. The videos and maps are divided across North, South and West Wicklow and you can find them at the links below.

North Wicklow Video and Map - [North Wicklow](#)

West Wicklow Video and Map - [West Wicklow](#)

South Wicklow Video and Map - [South Wicklow](#)

In 2023 and again in 2024, the International Protection Support Services (IPSS) unit of Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, provided €50,000 funding per CYPSC for work with children and young people and their families living in International Protection Accommodation Centres in the county. This funding enabled Wicklow CYPSC to support partners who have an existing relationship with IPAS accommodation centres. A range of interventions were provided including parenting support, family fun outings/events, access to summer activities, play/outdoor equipment. We are grateful to our implementation partners Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership and the Local Authority Integration Team. The impact of this work was to create more positive life experiences for those living in congregated settings; to provide opportunities for enjoyable activities outside of the IPAS centres particularly for children and young people; to provide opportunities for integration with other children and young people in the communities and to reduce isolation and enhance language acquisition.

- Cannabis research with Young People:** In 2023 Wicklow CYPSC in collaboration with youth services in the county undertook research into young people's views regarding cannabis use and parental attitudes to cannabis use. This work was undertaken as a cross-subgroup action arising from concerns about cannabis. Members from three CYPSC subgroups were involved. Subgroups wanted to explore the issues which were arising with a strong focus on capturing young people's opinions on how we could jointly tackle this issue. A report was finalised in 2024 which will inform the work in the CYPP 2025-27.
- Healthy Ireland Funding:** Wicklow CYPSC has continued to build on the work which has taken place using Healthy Ireland funding. For the period from the cessation of Round 3 funding from June to December 2022 CYPSC HIF funding was moved into Tusla. Wicklow CYPSC enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Wicklow Local Community Development Committee in the joint planning, coordination and administration of Healthy Ireland Funding up to 2022 and has continued to work closely with our LCDC colleagues. In 2022 HIF funding of €48,000 was used to support five health and wellbeing projects. In 2023, HIF funding of €45,800 was provided for two collaborative projects which focussed on health and wellbeing initiatives for children, young people and families and included target groups of children/young people with disabilities and those living in International Protection Accommodation. In 2024, funding of €59,000 enabled the funding of three projects. The first was a significant investment in the initiation of a counselling service within the West Wicklow Youth Project. This has enabled local access to counselling services for young people within their own community from rurally isolated areas with poor transport links. The second project is a positive youth mental health campaign run by the Wicklow Youth Mental Health Initiative which targets up to 400 young people from 6 schools in the Wicklow Town and surrounding area. This project was positively evaluated by the young people who benefitted from it and the feedback received will inform the development of this project in future years. The third project funded from Healthy Ireland funding in 2024 was 'The Sleep Project'. This project was undertaken in collaboration with a group of young

people from one of the youth services in the county. The young people were involved in developing a number of resources for parents to highlight the importance of sleep for their children. The young people contributed to the development of a parent leaflet, a fridge magnet and two short, animated videos. The resources will be disseminated widely throughout the county to try to improve awareness amongst parents of the importance of sleep.

- **Child Poverty Pilot:** In 2024 CYPSC and Local Community Development Committees throughout the country had the opportunity to apply for the opportunity to become one of four child poverty pilot sites. Wicklow CYPSC approached Dun Laoghaire CYPSC and their respective LCDC about the possibility of a joint application focussed on the North Bray and South DLR areas. During the period February to June 2024 an interagency committee was formed to support an application. The application was submitted in June 2024 and at the end of August 2024 we were advised that our application was successful. **Family: Adult and Child Enhanced Services (FACES) Plan** will undertake a systematic approach to analysing and identifying the drivers of child poverty in targeted adjacent neighbourhoods in North Bray and South-East Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) that straddle the respective county administrative boundaries. We are proposing an initial focus on the theme of pregnancy-4yrs and their families. Our work will shine a light on existing good practices, highlight gaps, identify service coordination and be a gateway to examining and encouraging change on the interlinked social, family and parent drivers of child poverty.
- **Planet Youth Wicklow<sup>5</sup>:** An interagency committee led by East Coast Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Wicklow CYPSC, Wicklow County Council (LCDC) and HSE Health and Wellbeing have worked to bring Planet Youth, the Icelandic Prevention Model<sup>6</sup>, to Wicklow. In November 2024 the first survey of 925 students (15 to 16 years of age) across 11 secondary schools and 4 Youthreach Centres was conducted. We look forward to 2025 when the survey findings will inform an action plan for the county as well as an opportunity to consider any impact on the Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027. The focus in 2025 will be on dissemination of the findings to the widest audience possible across the county. Each CYPSC Subgroup will have the opportunity to look at the findings to assess its impact on the CYPP. In this way we hope that the voice of the young people who have been surveyed will inform a broad range of plans for County Wicklow.

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<sup>5</sup> Visit the link for more information on Planet Youth Wicklow  
<https://wicklow.planetyouth.ie/>

<sup>6</sup> The Planet Youth prevention model is aimed at improving the lives of young people. The model has proven easily transferable and can be applied in any community. For more information visit <https://planetyouth.org/about/>



## How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

The Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has been developed by the Wicklow CYPSC member organisations. It is informed by the socio-demographic profile for the county detailed in Section 2 and by the overview of services to children, young people and families in Wicklow in Section 3. It also takes into consideration the national policy perspective and evidence from local, national and international research. A local needs analysis brings together the official information from government agencies (including information available from the 2022 the Census), with information collected directly from children, young people and service providers in the county and is structured and presented across the five national outcomes for children and young people.

The Change Management Subgroup of the Co. Wicklow CYPSC oversees the development of the CYPP for Co. Wicklow. The Change Management Subgroup appointed an external consultant to work alongside the CYPSC to develop the CYPP. The external consultant undertook an online consultation exercise with children and young people throughout the County. Questions on which the consultation process was based were informed by the Change Management Subgroup. A consultation process with children and young people, parents and stakeholders was conducted throughout June to September 2023. The process included:

Year	Process	Stakeholders Consulted	Outputs
2023	Children and young people consultation	522 responses from children and young people across the county	Primary research engaging children and young people, informing the needs analysis and action planning. Consultation structured around the five national outcomes.
2023	Children and young people consultation	Responses from 14 preschools across the county representing up to 300 preschool children	Primary research engaging children and young people, informing the needs analysis and action planning.
2023	CYPSC Members and stakeholder consultation	Responses from 50 CYPSC members and other stakeholders across the county	Analysis of achievements from 2019-2023. Indication of priorities for the 2025-27 CYPP.
2023	Workshops with CYPSC members.	At least three workshops with each CYPSC Sub-group throughout 2023.	Consideration of needs analysis by CYPSC Members; prioritisation of actions for the 2024-26 strategy.
2023	Workshop with GPs with special interest in child health in County Wicklow	4 GPs with special interest in child health in Co Wicklow.	Health professional input to the action planning process for the 2024-26 action plan.

A review of socio-demographic data was completed using results of the 2022 Census (where available within the timeframe), administrative data provided by Tusla and National Suicide Research Foundation.

## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Co. Wicklow

This demographic profile of Wicklow offers a detailed overview of Wicklow and its population covering a wide range of indicators based around a key number of core themes. The focus of this profile is to provide robust evidence and data to assist with the development of an action plan structured around the five national outcomes for children and young people leading to service provision and support for young people, marginalised, under-represented and vulnerable members of the population.

Key Data Summary			
Indicator	Measure	Co Wicklow	National
<b>Child and Youth Population</b>	Number of children and young people 0-24 years	50,755 (32.5%)	1,657,058 (32%)
	Number of children and young people 0-17 years	38,937 (25%)	1,218,567 (24%)
	Number of children aged 0-4	8,947 (6%)	295,415 (6%)
	Number of children aged 5-12	18,376 (12%)	568,184 (11%)
	Number of children aged 13-17	11,614 (7.4%)	354,968 (7%)
	Number of young adults aged 18-24	11,818 (7.5%)	438,491 (8.5%)
<b>Population</b>	Total Population of Co. Wicklow	155,851	5,127,000
<b>Nationality</b>	Net Migration to Wicklow 2016-22	9.4 per 1,000	7.5 per 1,000
	Dual Irish Citizens	5,742	170,597
	Non-Irish Citizens	9% of population	12% of population
	Travellers	887 (0.6%)	32,949 (0.6%)
	Children living in IPAS Accommodation	466	9,129 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Family Structure</b>	Average household size	2.84	2.74
	Number and percent of children in a creche	3,927 39%	139,899 42.17%
	HAP Households in Wicklow	1,980	68,180
	HAP households receiving Child Related Support	55.43	54.43
<b>Education</b>	Percent of population attaining 3 <sup>rd</sup> level education	47.7%	44.9%
	Percent of population with primary only or no formal qualifications	9.1%	9.8%
	Average primary school class size 03 July 2023	22.1	21.19
	Percentage of pupils in classes more than 30 pupils 03 July 2023	10%	11%

<sup>7</sup> This data is captured as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. It is important to note this is subject to change at monthly data collection points.



Key Data Summary			
Indicator	Measure	Co Wicklow	National
	Percent of primary school children absent over 20 days in 21/22	42.2%	39%
	Percent of post primary school children absent over 20 days in 21/22	31.5%	28%
<b>Health</b>	Infant mortality (2020)	2.5 per 1,000 live births	2.7 per 1,000 live births
	Children with a physical disability	2.5 per 1,000	2.7 per 1,000
	Children with an intellectual disability	6.3 per 1,000	7.4 per 1,000
	Breastfeeding rates (2020)	63.1%	61.46%
	Immunisation rates (CHO6 and 7)	90.6% (CHO6) 93.6% (CHO7)	91.8%
	Self-Harm rates for 10–24-year-olds (2017-20)	Female 587/100K Male 314/100K	N/A <sup>8</sup>
	Volunteering 0–14-year-olds	2.9%	3%
	Volunteering 15–24-year-olds	9.9%	11%
<b>Economic</b>	Unemployment rate	8.3%	8.3%
	Unemployment rate 15 – 24 years	16.9%	15.8%
<b>Safety</b>	Garda Youth Referrals (2022)	312	N/A <sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Not available. Data provided at County level for Wicklow in response to specific data request

<sup>9</sup> Not available, data provided by local Garda

## Background to County Wicklow:

County Wicklow is geographically divided 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.

The principal towns are located along the East Coast with a second linear arrangement of smaller centres in the west. East-west movement is severely restricted by the mountains so that most traffic is forced to travel on either the R756 or the R759 – two relatively minor roads. The county is also traversed by the M11 motorway/N11 providing commuter access to Dublin. There is an urban (predominantly encompassing the east of the county) and rural population composition within the county.

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. The information on services provided in the east and west of the county is included in Section 4.

## Administrative boundaries of the County

Wicklow CYPSC currently operates within two Community Health Organisation (CHO) areas<sup>10</sup>. These regions plan and provide public health and social care services for the people within their boundaries. Wicklow CYPSC operates across Community Healthcare East (CHO6) and CHO7 areas. The regions are due to be restructured with the intention of enabling service provision which is:

- Integrated, locally planned and delivered.
- Easier to access and navigate for patients and their families.
- Available closer to patients' home when they need them – right care, right place, right time.

The HSE restructuring will yield six health regions across Ireland and Wicklow CYPSC will continue to be split between two health regions, namely 'Dublin and Midlands' and 'Dublin and Southeast'. Wicklow is also covered by four Community Health Networks (CHNs). Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is undergoing a programme of transformation and change. Wicklow CYPSC Change Management Subgroup has undertaken to consider in 2025 the restructuring currently taking place in the HSE, Tusla and in An Garda Síochána to assess its impact on Wicklow CYPSC.

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<sup>10</sup> Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) operated by the HSE are geographic areas of community healthcare services outside of acute care – these include primary, social care, mental health and other health and well-being services.

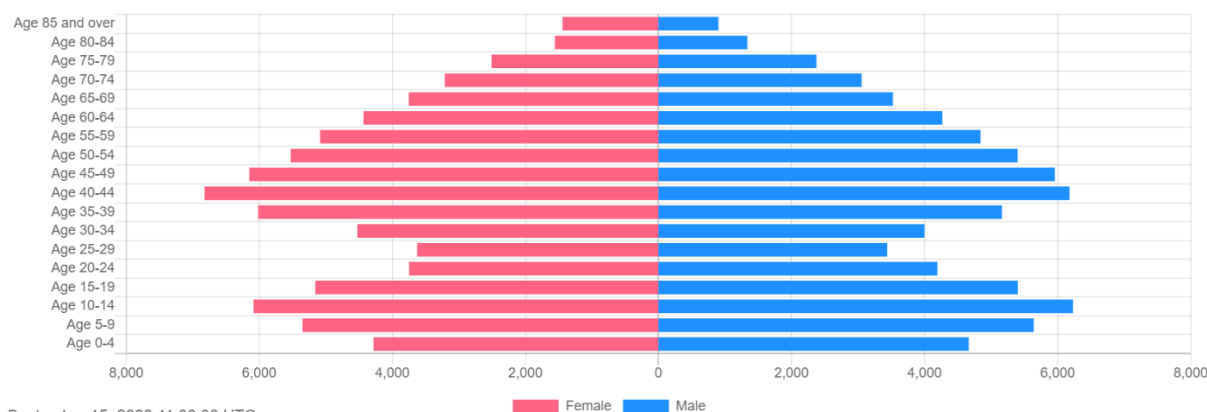
## Demographic information

### Population of County Wicklow:

The population in County Wicklow at the time of the most recent Census in 2022 was 155,851, an increase of 13,426 or 9.4% on the previous Census in 2016. This represented an above average population growth for the County, compared to the State for the same period (8.1%).

Of Wicklow's population, 79,287 were female and 76,564 were male, which means there were 97 males for every 100 females. In Ireland overall there were 2,604,590 females and 2,544,549 males or 98 males for every 100 females.

Figure 1 below shows a population pyramid for County Wicklow at the time of the Census in 2022:



September 15, 2023 11:00:00 UTC

Figure 1 Wicklow Population Pyramid, Source CSO, Census 2022

### Population by Age

The average age of Wicklow's population in April 2022 was 39.1 years, compared with 37.2 years in April 2016. Nationally, the average age of the population was 38.8, up from 37.4 in April 2016.

The number of people aged 65 and over continues to grow. This age group increased by 27% to 23,661 in Wicklow, and by 22% to 776,315 at a national level since 2016.

### Under 25 Years of age:

The number of children and young people aged under 25 in April 2022 continued to grow in County Wicklow from 48,463 in 2016 to 50,755 in 2022 (increase of 4.7%). The number of children aged 0-4 however decreased for the first time in three consecutive censuses from 10,173 in 2016 to 8,947 in 2022 (decrease of 12.1%).

Figure 2 below highlights a summary of the demographic profile aged Under 25 for Wicklow and the State in April 2022.

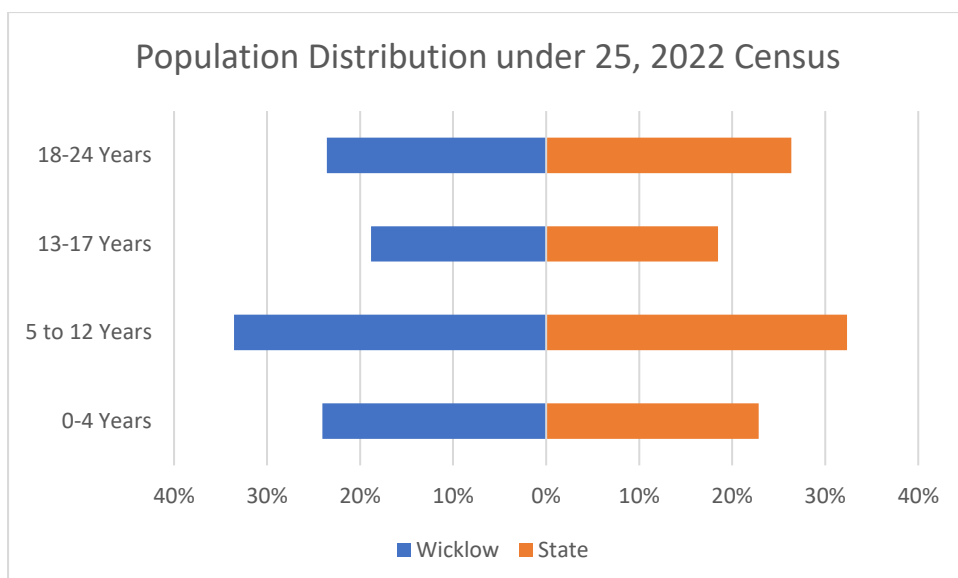


Figure 2 Population Distribution under 25 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 0-4 (Pre School):

In Wicklow there was a pre-school population of 8,947 in April 2022 (Figure 3). This has reduced since the last Census in 2016 and reflects the overall downward trend in numbers of children aged 0-4 in the State. The 0-4 age cohort accounts for 24% of those aged under 25 in Wicklow.

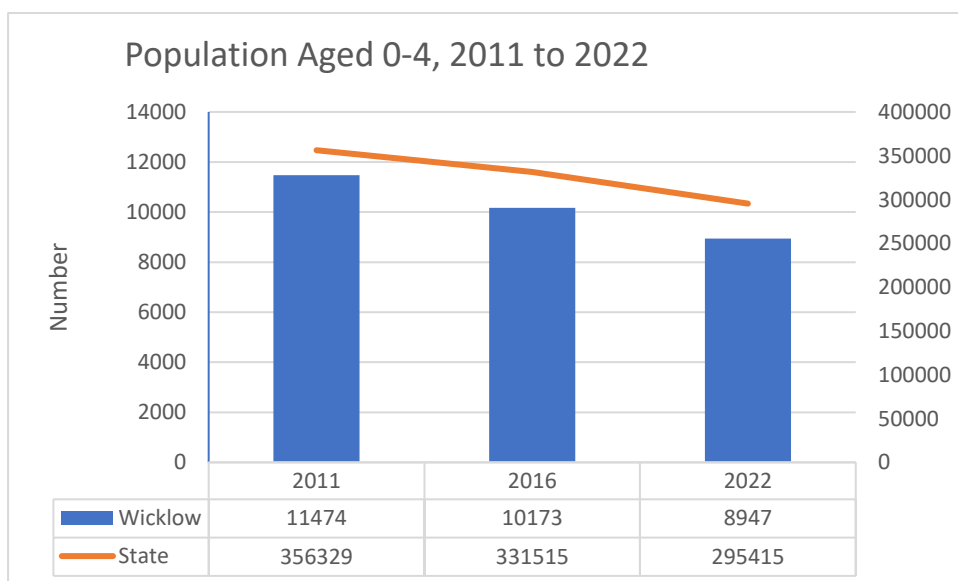


Figure 3 Population 0-4 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 5-12 (Primary School):

There was a primary school population in Wicklow of 18,376 in April 2022 (Figure 4). This has increased by 392 since the last Census in 2016 and reflects the overall upward trend in numbers of children aged 5-12 in the State. The 5-12 age cohort accounts for 36% of those aged under 25 in the County.

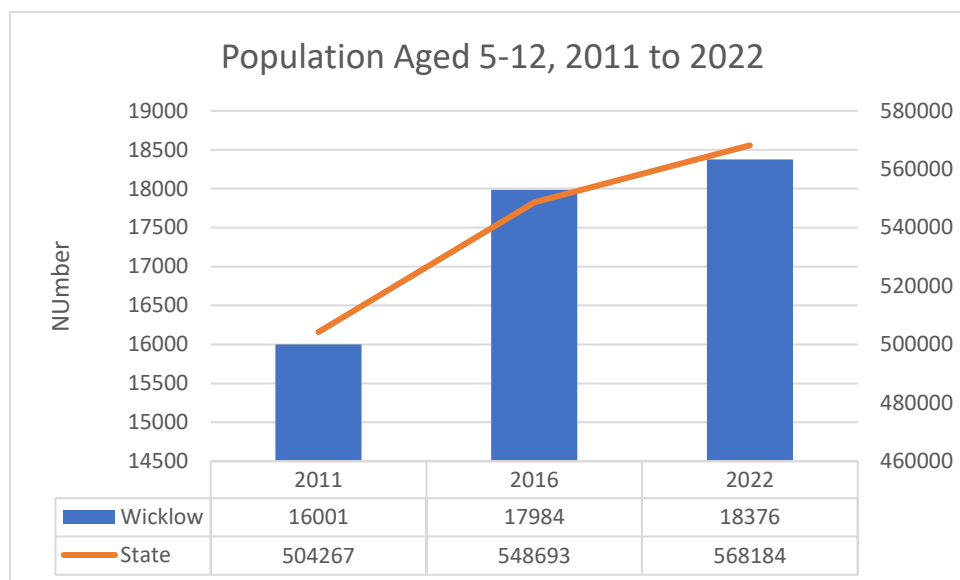


Figure 4 Population 5-12 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 13-17 (Secondary School):

Wicklow has a secondary-school aged population of 11,614 in April 2022 (Figure 5). This has increased by 1,730 since the last Census in 2016 and reflects the upward trend in numbers of children aged 13-17 in the State. The age cohort accounts for 23% of those aged under 25 in the County.

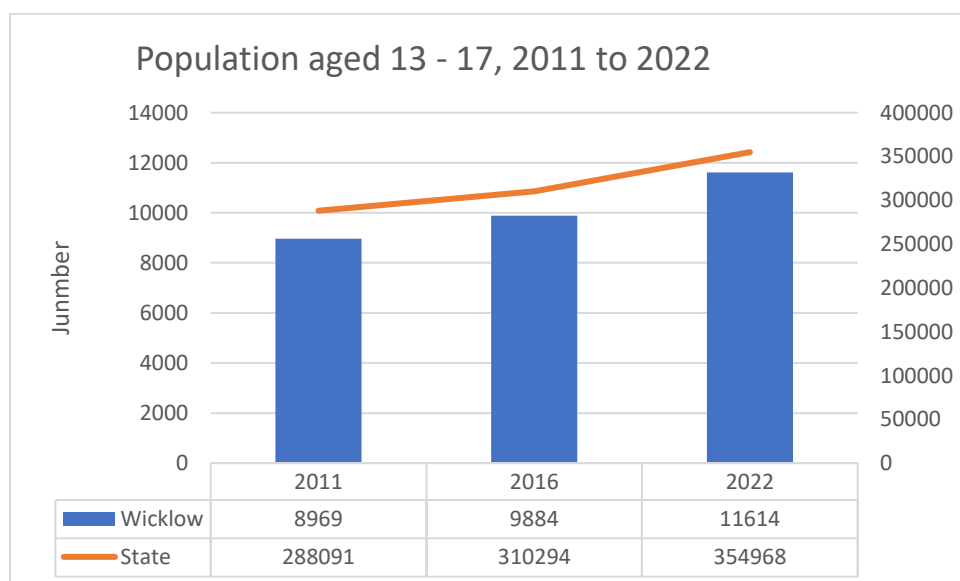


Figure 5 Population 13-17 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 18-24:

There was a population of 11,818 young people aged 18-24 in April 2022 in County Wicklow (Figure 6). This has increased by 1,396 since the last Census in 2016 and reflects an upward trend in numbers of children aged 18-24 in the State. The age cohort accounts for 23% of those aged under 25 in the County.

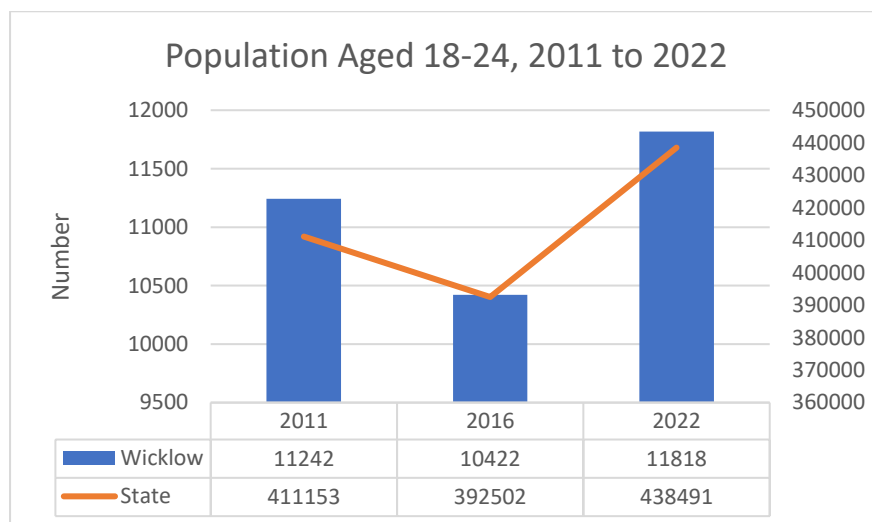


Figure 6 Population 18-24 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Birth rate per 1,000 people

Figure 7 below illustrates a declining trend in birth rates in County Wicklow which in the past three years of data, is declining faster than the state average.

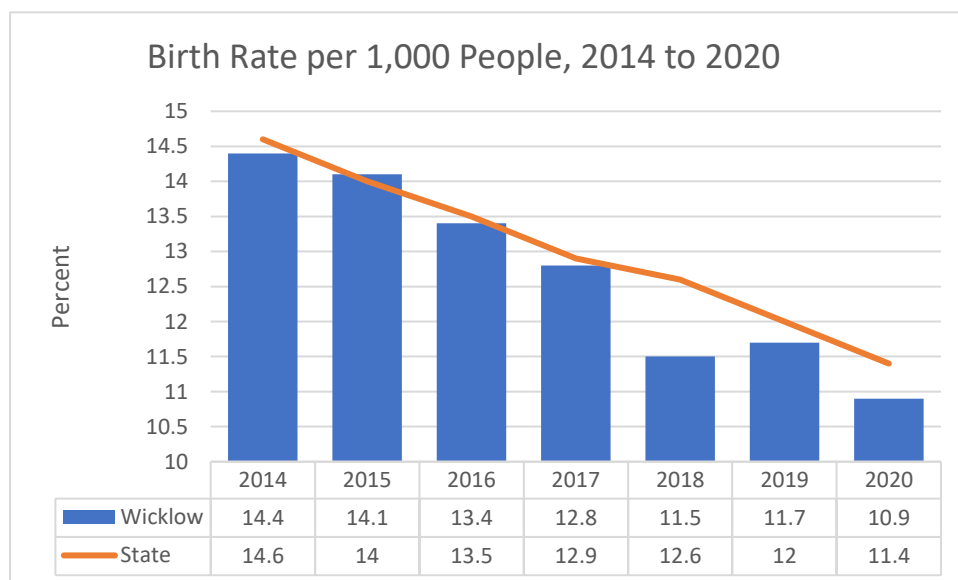


Figure 7 Birth Rate per 1,000 people (Source CSO, Vital Statistics 2022)

### Annual estimated net migration

Figure 8 shows that Wicklow had a positive estimated net migration (numbers coming into Wicklow greater than those leaving the county) of 9.4 per 1,000 people between the 2016 and 2022 Census. This was higher than the rate of 7.5 per 1,000 for the State.

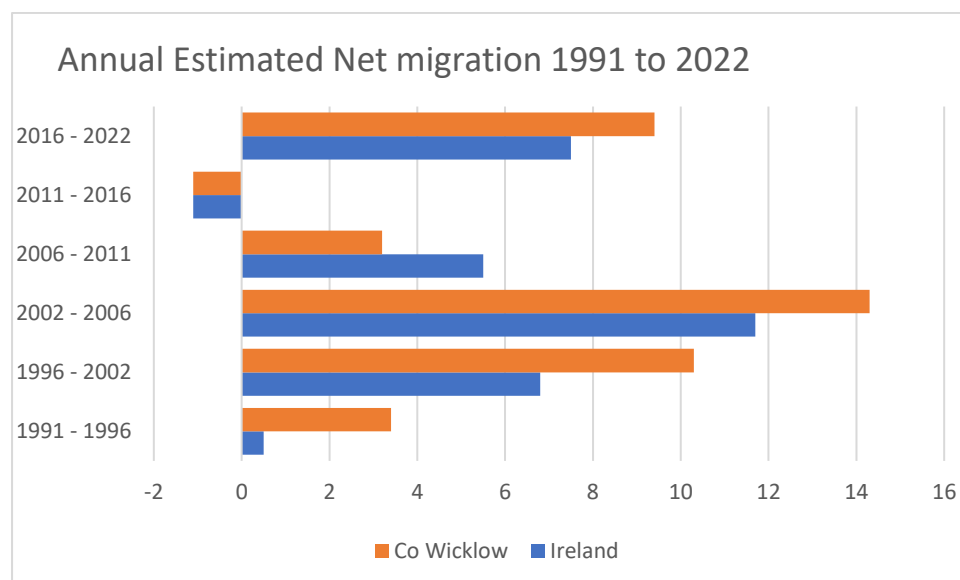


Figure 8 Annual Estimated Net Migration (Source: CSO Census 2022)

Figure 9 shows that average household size in Co. Wicklow reduced broadly in line with the State average from 1991 to 2022. In April 2022, average household size in the County was 2.84.

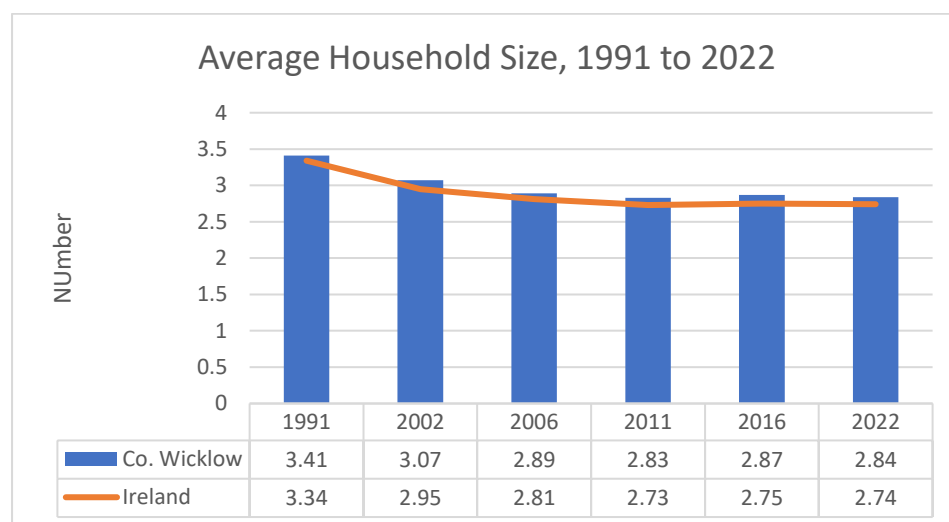


Figure 9 Average Household Size (Source: CSO Census 2022)

## Citizenship

In Wicklow non-Irish citizens accounted for 10% of the county's population. Among the non-Irish residents, the largest group were UK citizens (2,917 people) followed by Polish citizens (2,244), Romanian (1,018) and Lithuanian (680). Nationally there were more than 631,000 non-Irish citizens, which was 12% of the population. The number of dual-Irish citizens, which is when you are a citizen of two countries at the same time, in the county increased from 3,276 in 2016 to 5,742 in 2022. The largest dual-Irish citizenships included Irish-UK (1,226 people), Irish-US (995) and Irish-Australia (591). There were more than 170,500 dual-Irish residents in Ireland in Census 2022.

Table 1 below outlines the number and percentage of children and young people aged under 25 from Irish/other citizenships as highlighted in the 2022 Census:

			0 - 14 years		15 - 24 years	
	0 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	Wicklow %	State %	Wicklow %	State %
<b>All citizenships</b>	31956	18381				
<b>Ireland</b>	29438	16739	92.1	88.9	91.1	85.7
<b>Other</b>	2518	1642	7.9	11.3	9.2	14.3

*Table 1 Citizenship of children and young people aged under 25, Source CSO Census 2022*

Table 1 shows that at the time of the census in 2022, Wicklow had a lower percentage of children and young people of non-Irish citizenships than the state average. Among children and young people, the largest groups of non-Irish citizens were Polish (444) followed by UK and NI citizens (311), Romania (260), other Asia (245), and Africa (232). At the time of the Census there were 199 children and young people with Ukraine citizenship, this has increased significantly in the interim period.

Given the increase in arrivals from Ukraine and other countries particularly throughout 2022/24, the Census data must be read in conjunction with more recently released data. 'Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland, Series 15' (February 2025) published by the CSO indicates that there are 2036 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in Wicklow. According to Series 15 data, there were 330 primary school and 206 post primary school enrolments in Wicklow for the academic year 2024/25.

## Dual Irish Citizens

In Wicklow, as noted earlier, the number of dual Irish citizens increased from 3,276 to 5,742 while non-Irish citizens accounted for 9% of the county's population. Nationally, dual Irish citizenship increased by 63% from 104,784 to 170,597 people and non-Irish citizens made up 12% of the population.

## Families

There were 41,277 families in Wicklow in April 2022, up from 38,495 (+7%) in 2016. The average number of children per family in the county was 1.36, compared with 1.34 nationally.



Table 2 below shows the number of family units in Wicklow with children by size and age of children:

	All children 15 and over	All children under 15	Children both under and over 15	Total	Percent
<b>Families with 1 child</b>	6,933	4,461	0	<b>11,394</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Families with 2 children</b>	3,735	5,560	1,878	<b>11,173</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Families with 3 children</b>	1,136	2,155	1,749	<b>5,040</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Families with 4 children</b>	237	397	713	<b>1,347</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Families with 5 or more children</b>	45	70	213	<b>328</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Families without children</b>	0	0	0	<b>11,995</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Total families</b>	<b>12,086</b>	<b>12,643</b>	<b>4,553</b>	<b>41,277</b>	

*Table 2 Family units with children by size and age of children in Wicklow, Source CSO Census 2022*

The table shows that many families (55%) had either 1 or 2 children.

Families in Wicklow included 19,129 married couples with children and 3,013 cohabiting couples with children. A further 6,043 families with children were headed by single mothers and 1,097 by single fathers. There were also 9,542 married couples without children and 2,453 cohabiting couples without children.

The number of same-sex couples in Wicklow in April 2022 increased to 283 compared with 159 in 2016. Nationally, there were 10,393 same-sex couples.

There were 9,099 families in rented accommodation in the county (22%). This was similar to 2016.

### Private households and Living Alone

The average household size in Wicklow in April 2022 was 2.84 people. This was slightly above the national average of 2.74 people.

The number of people living alone in the county grew from 9,919 to 11,068, an increase of 12% since Census 2016.

There were 22,478 people aged 65 and over living in the county in April 2022. Of these 5,242 were living alone. This was an 29% increase in those aged 65 and over living alone.

## Adults Living with Their Parents

In April 2022 in Wicklow, 17,090 adults, or 15% of all those aged 18 and over in the county, were still living with their parents. This was an increase of 2,389 (16%) since 2016.

Nationally, there were 522,486 adult children aged 18 years and above living with their parents (13%). Overall, nationally, almost 25,000 adults living with their parents were unpaid carers. In Wicklow, 731 (4%) adults living with their parents were unpaid carers.

In 2022, 24 was the youngest age at which most people nationally were not living with their parents. This was up from 23 in 2011. In Wicklow this was 27 years. Of all adults living with their parents nationally in 2022, 57% were male. Similarly in Wicklow, 57% were male.

Just over one in five (18%) of all adults in the Bray West Local Electoral Area were living with their parents in April 2022, the highest rate in the county.

## Childcare

There were 32,254 children (aged under 15) living in Wicklow in April 2022. This was 13 fewer than in 2016. Nationally, there were 1,012,287 children aged under 15 (up 5,735 since 2016). Almost one in three – 331,783 – were in some form of childcare. In Wicklow, 10,098 (31%) of those aged under 15 were in childcare. Of these 3,927 children are in a crèche/Montessori/playgroup/after school service in the county (39%). Just over one in four (2,966) were being cared for by an unpaid relative or family member. A further 1,589 (16%) were being cared for by a childminder (in the childminder's home). The rest of children were in differing forms of childcare.

## International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS)

Statistics provided in IPAS Weekly Data (25<sup>th</sup> January 2025) suggest that 466 children are currently accommodated in IPAS centres throughout the county. Of these, 276 are in West Wicklow and the remaining 190 are in the East of the county. This is 22% of the total number of children accommodated in IPAS throughout the state (9,129) at the time of recording. This figure suggests that Wicklow accommodates the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of children of all counties in Ireland. It is important to note that this figure is a snapshot in time and can change at each monthly data count.

As previously stated, it is estimated that there are 2,036 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection [BOTP] residing in Wicklow (CSO, Feb 2025).

### Deprivation:

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index uses data from Census 2022, analysing ten measures of an area's levels of disadvantage. These include educational attainment, employment status and the numbers living in individual households. Almost 19,000 small areas (50-200 households) were indexed leading to the development of a detailed map of the relative affluence and disadvantage.

The Pobal Deprivation indices illustrate that County Wicklow had a deprivation index of 1.12 in 2022 compared to 1.43 in 2016 which is 'marginally above average'. The information comprising the index for County Wicklow is highlighted in Table 3 below:

Indicator	Score
Pobal HP Index 2022	1.12
Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2016	142,425
Population 2022	155,851
Population Change %	9.43
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	35.88
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	17.16
Proportion with Primary Education Only 2022 %	9.51
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	43.59
Unemployment Rate – Male %	8.56
Unemployment Rate – Female %	8.11

*Table 3 Pobal 2022 Deprivation Index, County Wicklow, Source Pobal 2022*

The overall index of deprivation and the patterns of population throughout the county, masks pockets of deprivation in a number of areas of the county in the north, east and south of Wicklow, particularly in and around the urban areas of Wicklow Town, Arklow and several areas in Bray. Given the overall population composition of the county, greater insight on actual deprivation and affluence levels is provided from a review of small area data.

Figure 10 below illustrates pockets of deprivation in and around Wicklow town.

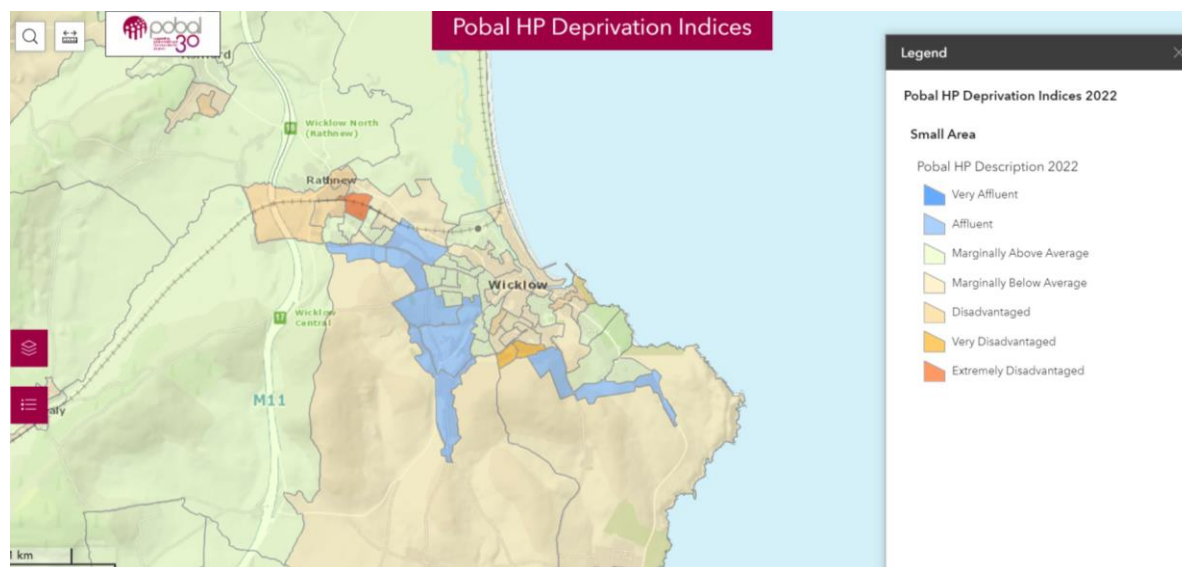


Figure 10 Deprivation in Wicklow Town, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows very and extremely disadvantaged areas in Rathnew (as low as -31.01) and in Mountain View (-24.18) and Hillview (-26.88) areas of the town. Three of the most deprived areas in the town show the following deprivation profile:

Small Area ID	257077011	257078017	257078018
ED Name	Wicklow Rural	Wicklow Urban	Wicklow Urban
County	Wicklow	Wicklow	Wicklow
Pobal HP Index 2022	-31.01	-24.18	-26.88
Pobal HP Description 2022	Extremely Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged
Population 2022	377	354	195
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	30.24	29.94	31.28
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	33.33	40.63	42.86
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	26	22.22	20.37
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	8	14.53	15.74
Unemployment Rate - Male	26.32	31.63	47.92
Unemployment Rate - Female	29.76	19.74	42.5

Table 4 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged areas in Wicklow Town, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

Figure 11 below illustrates pockets of affluence and deprivation in and around Bray.

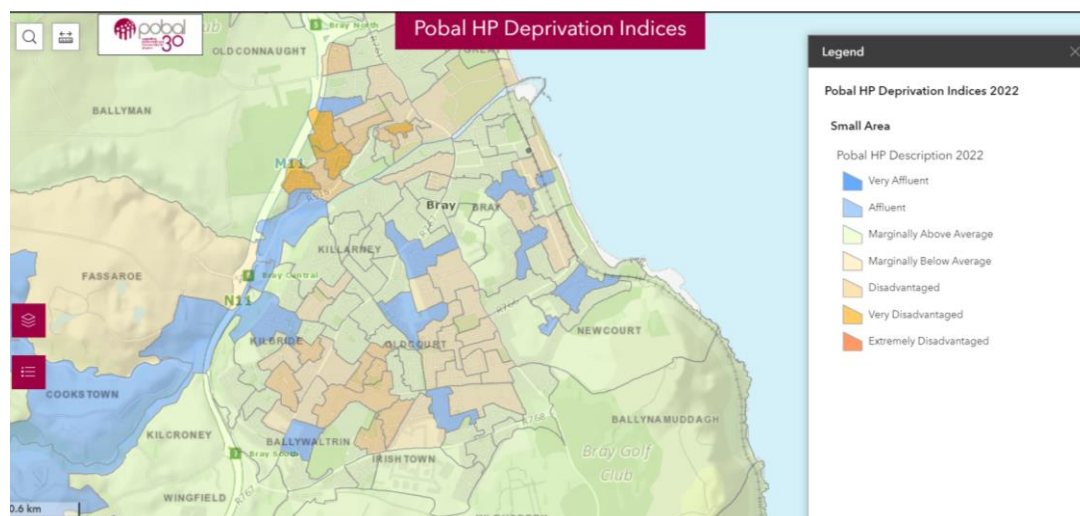


Figure 11 Deprivation in Bray, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows a mixed picture of deprivation in Bray with very affluent pockets (Bray 2 up to 18.33) ranging to extremely disadvantaged (Rathmichael as low as -28.79). The table below illustrates the range of deprivation index throughout Bray urban area ranging from extremely disadvantaged to very affluent:

Small Area ID	257082002	257080008	257081006/02	257081016
ED Name	Rathmichael (Bray)	Bray No. 1	Bray No. 2	Bray No. 2
County	Wicklow	Wicklow	Wicklow	Wicklow
Pobal HP Index 2022	-28.79	-23.67	14.27	18.33
Pobal HP Description 2022	Very Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged	Affluent	Affluent
Population 2022	392	133	186	158
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	34.18	39.1	26.34	28.48
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	52.5	22.22	25	14.29
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	26.52	29.9	3.42	0.99
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	10.43	14.43	62.39	62.38
Unemployment Rate - Male	29.55	23.33	3.23	0
Unemployment Rate - Female	25	11.54	2.08	5.88

Table 5 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged and affluent areas in Bray, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

Figure 12 below illustrates pockets of deprivation in and around Arklow.

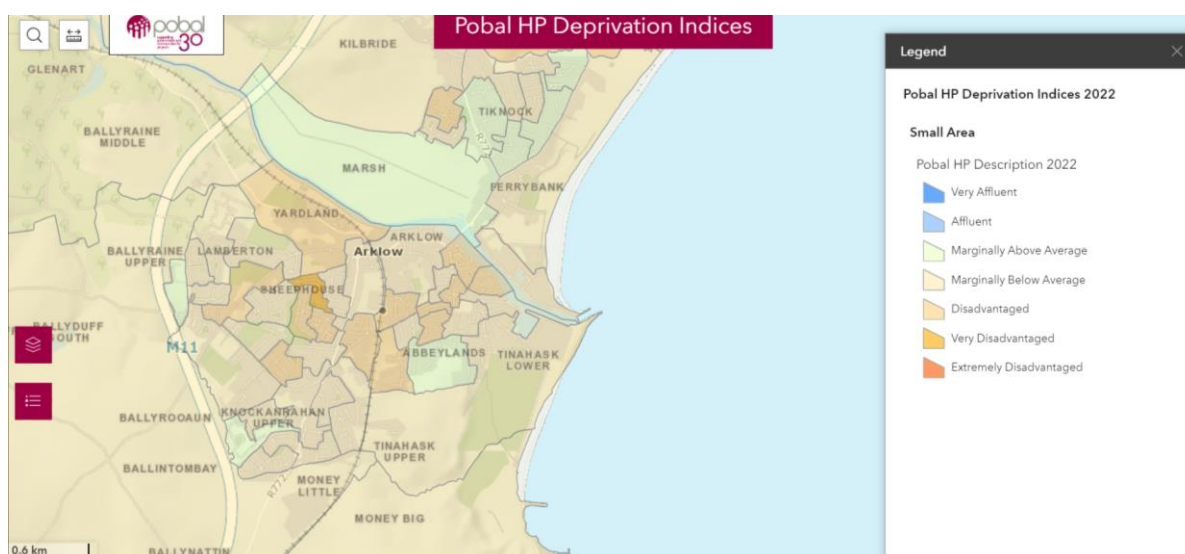


Figure 12 Deprivation in Arklow, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows a level of deprivation across the town and immediate hinterland of Arklow ranging to extremely disadvantaged area in Shoebridge in the town with the following deprivation profile:

Small Area ID	257004020
ED Name	Arklow No. 1 Urban
County	Wicklow
Pobal HP Index 2022	-24.03
Pobal HP Description 2022	Very Disadvantaged
Population 2022	189
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	38.62
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	27.27
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	31.45
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	10.06
Unemployment Rate - Male	16.67
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.14

Table 6 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged area in Arklow, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

## Health

The general health question in the 2023 Census had five response options ranging from very good, good, fair, bad to very bad<sup>11</sup>. More than 133,000 people (85%) in the county stated their health was very good or good in Census 2022. This was down from 89% in Census 2016 and 90% in Census 2011. Nationally, 83% of people had good or very good health, down from 87% in 2016 and 88% in 2011. Among the county's females, 44,330 (56%) reported very good health, along with 56% (43,148) of males. There were also 2,613 people who reported bad or very bad health in the county, up from 2,017 people in 2016.

### Smoking/Vaping

According to the Census 2022, in Wicklow, more than 13,400 people smoked daily in April 2022 which was 9% of the population compared with 9% nationally. Just over 6,400 people (4%) smoked occasionally while just over 31,400 (20%) people had given up smoking. More than 96,000 people stated they never smoked (62%). Nationally, 60% of the population never smoked.

The State of Tobacco Control in Ireland<sup>12</sup> shows that smoking prevalence in Ireland has declined from 23% in 2015 to 18% in 2021, but remains high in some population groups, such as middle-aged adults, lower socio-economic groups, and people with mental health conditions. It also highlights the changing patterns of smoking behaviour and product use, such as occasional smoking, roll-your-own tobacco, and e-cigarettes. While statistics on prevalence are not available at County level from this study, we assume prevalence rates in County Wicklow are broadly similar to those at National level. Bearing this in mind, relevant prevalence rates at national level in addition to the overall rate are:

- Current smoking prevalence children, aged 10-17 years 5%
- Use of e-cigarettes: current smokers 6%; ex-smokers 10%; never smoked <1%.

The number of males who smoked daily was greater than the number of females, (7,466 males compared with 5,958 females).

Unfortunately, information on the proportion of the population using vapes was not included in the 2022 Census. An information leaflet for parents was produced by HSE in May 2023. While the information did not include specific statistics at county level, some statistics were included at a national level which are worth considering for context. In 2019, the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (EPSAD) carried out a national survey on e-cigarette use among 15–16-year-olds. It found that in Ireland, 39% of 15–16-year-olds have tried e-cigarettes and that 18% reported as being current users of e-cigarettes.

The survey found that more students report using e-cigarettes in 2019 than in 2015, and the use of e-cigarettes among students is now more common than cigarette smoking. Almost four in 10 students (39%) had tried e-cigarettes and almost one in 5 (18%) were current users, making both ever-use and current use of e-cigarettes higher than use of combustible cigarettes. As with smoking, boys (46%) were more likely than girls (33%) to have tried e-cigarettes and to be current users (23% vs 14%). When asked about their reasons for trying e-cigarettes, two-thirds (66%) said that it was “out of curiosity” and 29% said that it was because their friends offered it. Only 3% said that it was “to stop smoking cigarettes”. This point was further reinforced when respondents were asked about their

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<sup>11</sup> Information from this question in the Census is not available by age group. We have included it here to give a general indication of the state of health and wellbeing in the county.

<sup>12</sup> [state-of-tobacco-control-report-2022.pdf \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/eng/pressroom/pressdetail.aspx?id=1234)



tobacco use when they first used an e-cigarette. More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) had never smoked cigarettes, while 24% smoked occasionally, and only 9% smoked regularly.

While not in the Wicklow area it is interesting to note that Foróige Sligo, in partnership with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDATF) and Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB (MSLETB), commissioned research to understand the impact that vaping products have on children and young people in Ireland through listening to their direct experiences of vaping<sup>13</sup>. The research indicates that across all age groups there is a link between a 'cool' identity and vaping use. It also reveals the perceived social standing that vaping allows some young people to feel among their peers, facilitating a sense of social cohesion. Young people consulted as part of the study felt that the marketing of vapes is inherently youth-orientated and directly targets them, with a "toy-like" attraction and inventiveness of products in terms of flavour, colour, and personalisation.

Other insights revealed by children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim, included:

- 10 - 12-year-olds said that vapes are openly and prominently displayed at convenient local access points such as local shops and/or through their own social groups.
- 36% of young people between the age of 13 – 16 years said that they currently vape and that they had never smoked previously.
- "I know that I have an addiction... I just don't think about it, I know it's going to be hard to get off them..." admitted Anna aged 17.

## Carers

There were more than 9,200 unpaid carers in Wicklow in April 2022, which was 6% of the county's population compared with 4% in 2016. Nationally there were almost 300,000 unpaid carers, or 6% of the population, up from 4% in the previous census.

Females in the county were more likely to be carers than males, with 63% of all carers being female, a similar trend to the national figure. There were 5,827 female carers (7% of all females), compared with 3,376 male carers (4% of all males) in Wicklow.

There were 134 carers in Wicklow under 15 years of age providing regular unpaid care which was an increase on 2016 when there were 111 young carers.

As well as the growth in the number of carers, the period between 2016 and 2022 also saw some notable increases in the hours of unpaid care provided. The number of carers in Wicklow providing 43 or more hours of unpaid help each week more than doubled, from 1,144 in 2016 to 2,677 in 2022.

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<sup>13</sup> [Foróige Sligo Release Vaping Research Report | Foróige](#)



### Infant and Neonatal Mortality:

There were 153 infant deaths registered in the State in 2020 giving an infant mortality rate of 2.7 per 1,000 live births. The rate in Wicklow was lower at 2.5 per 1,000 live births. Figure 13 below shows that the rate continued to fall over the past 10 years from 4.5 per 1,000 in 2014:

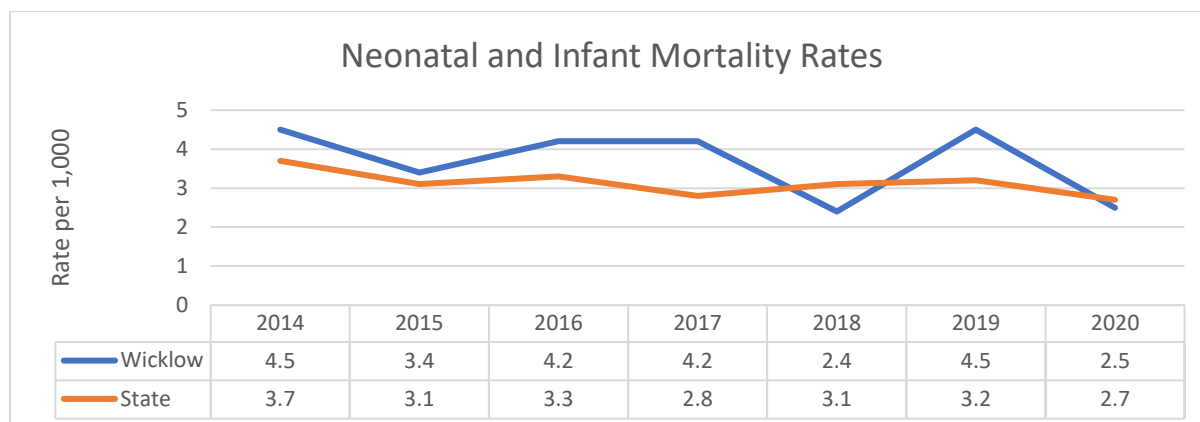


Figure 13 Infant and Neonatal mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births, Source: CSO Vital Statistics

### Breastfeeding rates on discharge from hospital:

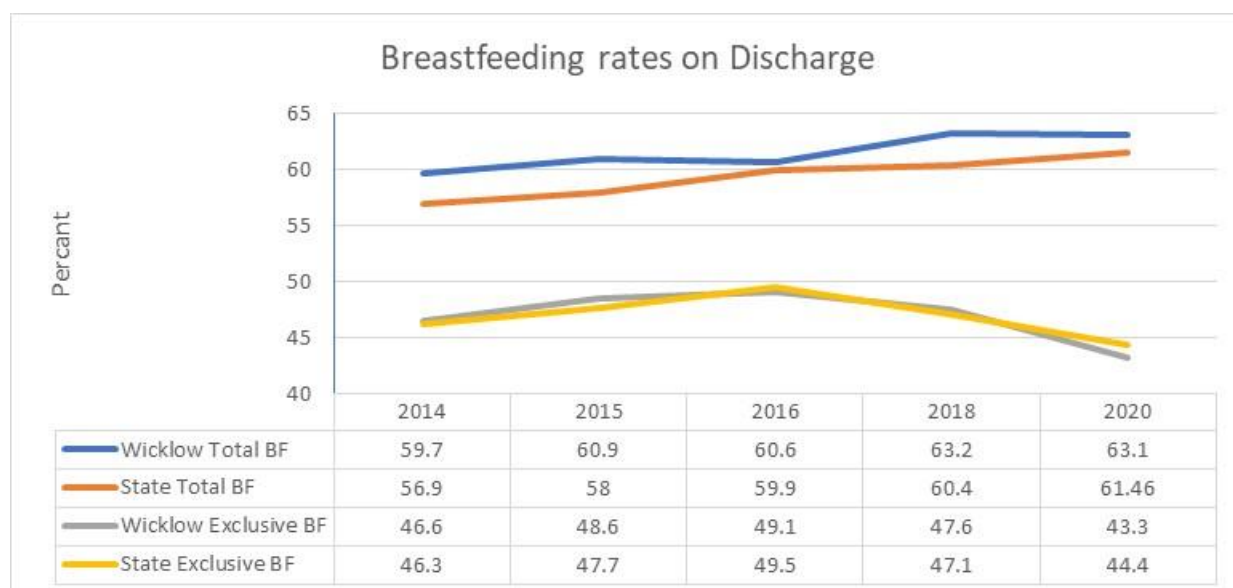


Figure 14 Breastfeeding rates on discharge from hospital, Source: National Perinatal Statistics Report (NPRS); Healthcare Pricing Office 2020

Figure 14 above shows that while combined breastfeeding rates (exclusively breastfed and breast and formula combined) had increased from 2014 to 2020 and was higher than the overall state average, the rate of babies who were exclusively breastfed on discharge has declined in the same period for both Wicklow and State.

### Immunisation rates:

Figure 15 below shows immunisation rates for the CHO6 and 7 areas between 2016 to 2020.

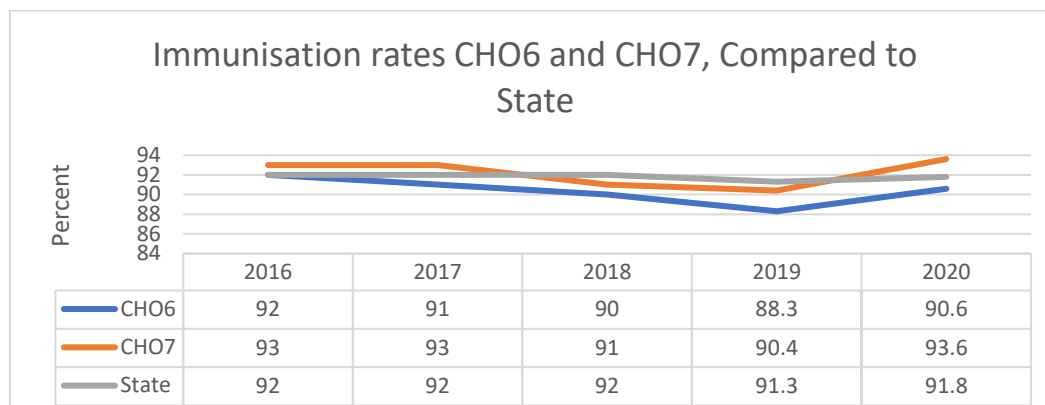


Figure 15 % of children at 24 months who have had their first dose of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR1) vaccine.  
Source: Annual report on immunisation uptake at 12 and 24 months, HPSC

It shows a lower percentage uptake in the CHO6 area in all years and a lower uptake in both CHO areas for 2018 and 2019.

### Self-Harm:

Figure 16 below shows the National Suicide Research Foundation data from 2017-2020 in relation to self-harm for young people aged 10-24 in the Wicklow and surrounding CHO areas. It illustrates a comparison of self-harm rates per 100,000 children and young people aged between 10-24:

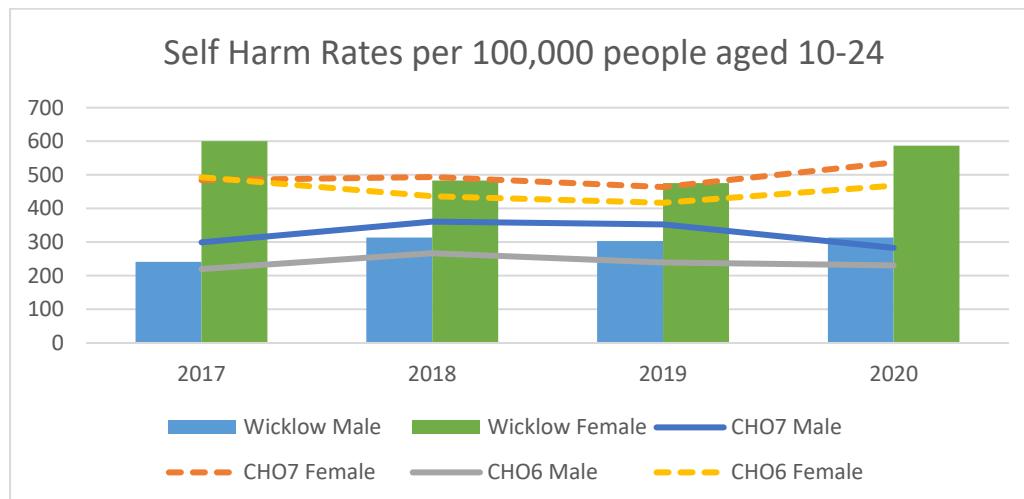


Figure 10 Self-harm rates per 100,000 for CYP aged 10-24

The data shows that self-harm rates are higher for females across all areas; self-harm rates in Wicklow are higher than the respective CHO areas for 2017 and 2019 and; self-harm rates for boys in Wicklow is higher than those recorded for CHO6 area but slightly lower than those recorded for CHO7 area.

### Sexually transmitted infections (STI):

Data on notifiable Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in Ireland are collated nationally by Health Protection Surveillance Centre. STI have been increasing in Ireland since 2013 when case-based notification of STIs was introduced<sup>14</sup>. In 2020 there was a reduction in cases, coinciding with the first wave of COVID-19, and since then notifications have increased in 2021, and 2022, exceeding the numbers observed in 2019 and previous years for all STIs bar Herpes simplex (genital) and Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).

The decrease in STI notifications in 2020 and 2021, compared to 2019 was likely due to several factors including long periods of national lockdown, social and physical distancing measures, reduced sexual health and GP services and reduced testing opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the collection and reporting of enhanced data variables, such as mode of transmission, for STI notifications during 2020 and 2021. Initiatives to improve data quality are underway according to the HPSC but all enhanced data for this period should be interpreted with caution. Table 7 below highlights the number of STI reported in Wicklow in the last two years of data collection and makes comparisons to the State average.

<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% of 2022 Local Total</b>	<b>2022 National Percent</b>
<b>Notifications of Chlamydia among 15- 19 years</b>	310	398	6.43%	8.49%
<b>Notifications of Chlamydia among 0-24 years</b>	1762	2472	39.96%	49.34%
<b>Notifications of Gonorrhoea among 15-19 years</b>	83	147	5.28%	7.48%
<b>Notifications of Gonorrhoea among 0- 24 years</b>	420	606	21.77%	33.37%
<b>Notifications of Herpes Simplex (Genital) among 15-19 years</b>	78	78	8.22%	10.87%
<b>Notifications of Herpes Simplex (Genital) among 0-24 years</b>	309	325	34.25%	41.20%

Table 2 Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) notifications, Ireland, 2018 and 2022, Source HSPC, HSE

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/STI\\_annual\\_data\\_tables\\_2023\\_Final%20v1.0.pdf](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/STI_annual_data_tables_2023_Final%20v1.0.pdf)

## Drugs and Alcohol:

### Alcohol Treatment demand:

This includes data on **treated problem alcohol use** for the year 2022 - trends for the seven-year period from 2016 to 2022<sup>15</sup>. It must be noted that not all alcohol treatment services were participating in the National Drug Treatment Reporting System during the period under review. Therefore, it may be assumed that the data presented in this bulletin under-estimates the true extent of treated alcohol use in Ireland.

In 2022, 7,421 cases were treated for problem alcohol use across the State. In 2022, the **median age** at which cases first started drinking alcohol was 16 years.

Figure 17 below shows numbers of treated cases between 2016 to 2022. It shows that the numbers in Co. Wicklow have increased steadily year on year since 2016 (excepting a reduction in the 2019 and 2020 years), almost doubling in number between 2016 to 2022.

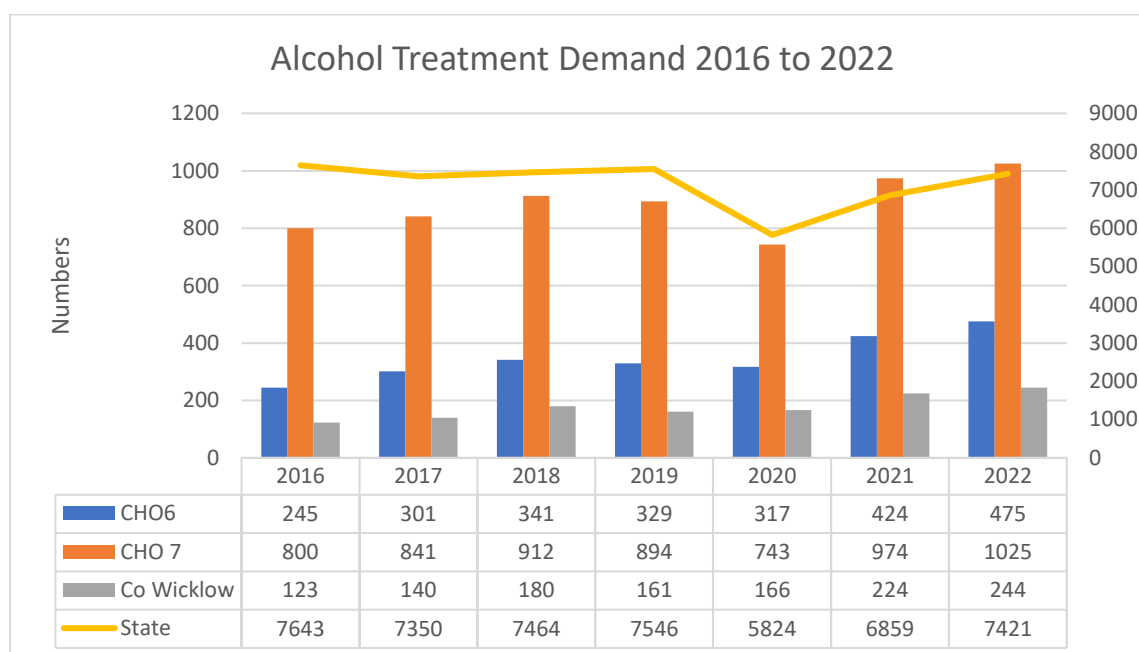


Figure 11 Alcohol Treatment Demand (Source: Health Research Board, August 2023)

**Polydrug use** (problem use of more than one substance) was reported by almost one-quarter (24.2%) of cases. This was an increase from 23.7% in 2021. Across the State, the most common drugs used together were (1) alcohol plus cocaine, followed by (2) alcohol plus cannabis, followed by (3) alcohol, plus cannabis and cocaine.

In 2022, **cocaine** surpassed cannabis as the most common additional drug reported, increasing by 134.7% between 2016 and 2022 (from 35.4% in 2016 to 61.4% in 2022).

Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force was set up because of a locally coordinated response to the problems caused by the use of drugs and later alcohol. Many of the Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force funded programmes target young people from early years to finishing schools and work to

<sup>15</sup> Included in the NDTRS are cases treated in all types of services: outpatient, inpatient, low threshold, general practitioners (GPs), and those treated in prison.

support them throughout their journey, this includes Headlamps, St Fergal's and the Education and Prevention programme.

The Task Force produced an annual report including research completed with 300 people in treatment for problem alcohol and drugs use in the Bray area.

- 34% of respondents to the survey were under 24 years of age.
- More than half of those in treatment were unemployed.
- 17% of those in treatment left school before 14 years of age, more than 61% had left school by Junior Cert.
- 40% of respondents were defined as problem drinkers, 33% harmful and 25% hazardous.
- 30% of those in treatment live within a family context, 21% with a partner and children, and 7% alone with a child/children.
- 57% of those in treatment had a child aged under 5 living with them, and 48% had a child aged more than 5 living with them.

Emerging issues identified by the task force include:

- Dual diagnosis
- Drug related intimidation
- Hidden harm
- New drugs, e.g. nitrous oxide
- Poly drug use identified as a worrying trend among young people

## Disability:

In April 2022 in Wicklow, more than 35,400 people (23% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. Of these, 12,487 people (8% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent or a lot. A further 22,997 people (15% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to some extent or a little.

In Ireland overall, more females (22%) than males (21%) experienced a long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. In Wicklow, this rate was 23% for females and 22% for males.

### Children with a disability:

Table 8 below shows most recent figures released from the 2022 Census at area level for children/young people with a disability to any extent. The data is compared to State level as figures are not provided by age group at county level.

	Baltinglass	Bray West	Greystones	Wicklow	Arklow	Bray East	Ireland
<b>0 - 4 years</b>	4.3	4.8	4.1	5.2	5.7	3.6	4.3
<b>5 - 9 years</b>	10.9	10	9.5	12.2	13.1	10.4	10.2
<b>10 - 14 years</b>	15.7	13.8	14.1	16.2	16.4	14.4	13.6
<b>15 - 19 years</b>	18.5	19.4	19.8	22	22.3	19.5	17.1
<b>20 - 24 years</b>	19	20.3	22.8	24.7	20.7	25	19.4

Table 3 Children and young people with any disability as a percentage in Wicklow, Source CSO Census 2022

The table shows a slightly higher than average proportion of children with disabilities to any extent in each area.

Figure 18 below shows the rate per 1000 of children with a physical disability in Wicklow 2014 to 2020 compared to the State.

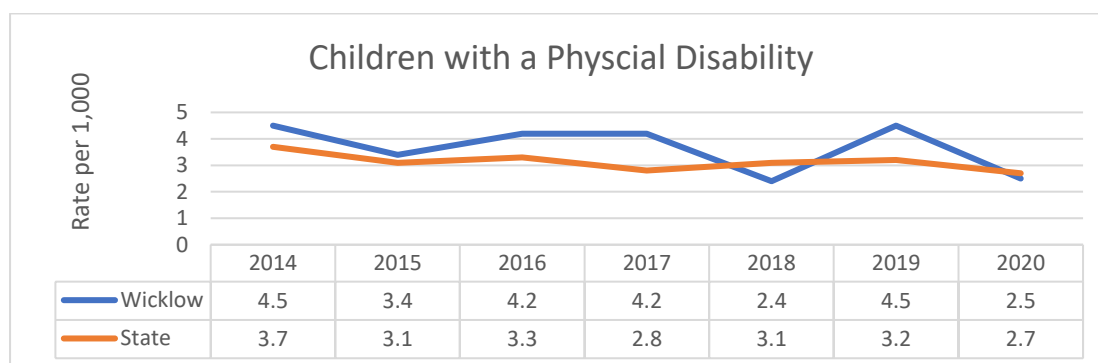


Figure 12 Rate per 1000 children with Physical Disability in State / Wicklow. Source: The State of the Nation's Children Report

Figure 19 below shows the rate per 1000 of children with an intellectual disability in Wicklow 2011 to 2017 compared to the State.

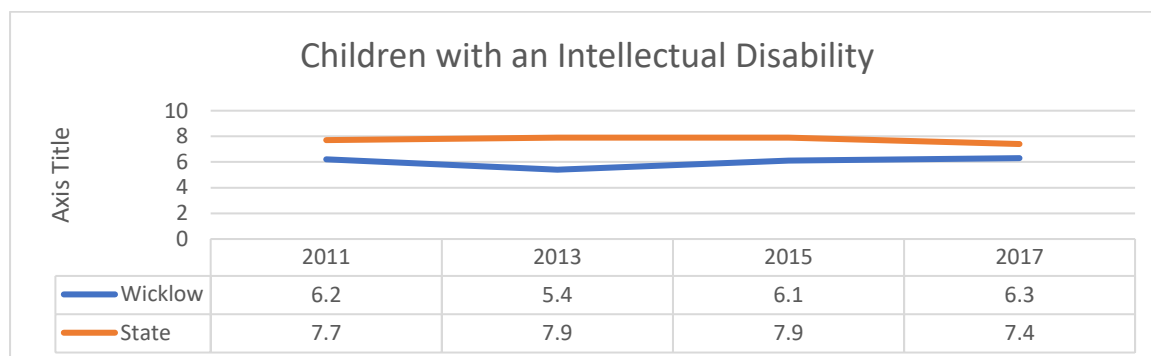


Figure 13 Rate per 1000 children with Intellectual Disability in State / Wicklow. Source: The State of the Nation's Children Report

### People engaging with disability services:

National Ability Supports System (NASS) is a national database that records information about Health Service Executive (HSE) disability-funded services that are received or identified as required by a service provider because of an intellectual disability; developmental delay; physical, sensory, neurological, learning, and speech and/or language disabilities; or autism. There were 45,068 children aged 18 years and under who were registered on NASS as engaging with children's disability services in 2022. The majority (70%) were male, the average age was 9 years, and a disability type was recorded for almost two-thirds of children (64%; 29,019). Of the children who had a recorded disability type, autism was the most recorded (39%; 11,416), followed by intellectual disability (ID) (24%; 6,992), and physical disability (6%; 1,667).

Table 9 below shows the number of children aged under 18 on the NASS registers for County Wicklow, and the relevant CHO6 and 7 areas:

	Number of children <18 on NASS Register	% of Children in State on register	% Children <18
<b>CHO7</b>	1,422	3.2%	
<b>CHO6</b>	7,068	15.7%	
<b>Co Wicklow</b>	850	1.9%	2.1%

Table 4 Children on NASS register (Source HRB: NASS Bulletin 2022)

The table shows a slightly smaller proportion of children on the state register (1.9%) than may be expected given the proportion of children living in the county (2.1% of state total).

## Education:

### Primary schools:

There are 82 mainstream primary schools in County Wicklow, educating 17,668 children (Sept, 2024). Fifteen of the primary schools are classified as DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). There are also three Special Primary Schools.

Average class size of primary schools in Wicklow was 22 pupils as of 03 July 2023<sup>16</sup> (21 pupils in the State). 14% of pupils were in classes ranging in size from 1-19 (17% in the State); 76% in classes between 20-29 (71% in the State), and 10% in classes with more than 30 pupils (11% in the State). The average class size for DEIS schools was similar at 21 pupils.

### Post primary schools:

There are 24 secondary schools in County Wicklow educating 13,520 pupils (Sept, 2024). This is an increase of 1 school since the last Wicklow CYPSC CYPP and an increase of 1,933 children. Seven of the post-primary schools are classified as DEIS. There are 40 special classes at post-primary level across six schools.

The proportion of children with a non-Irish Nationality attending primary schools has increased from 7.4% in 2017-18 to 9.7% in 2022-23. The biggest proportion of children with non-Irish nationality attending primary schools in Wicklow in 2022-23 were from EU15 countries (excluding Ireland and UK), followed by Asia and Middle East, and Other Europe (32).

### Special Education:

In addition, there were three Special Schools in Wicklow with a total enrolment of 229 pupils. Two are in Bray and one in Newcastle. At class level in mainstream schools there are 40 special classes/teaching posts in Wicklow across 20 primary schools. The classes are allocated as follows: Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders (30 classes), ASD Early Intervention (5 classes), Mild General Learning Disability (4 classes), Specific Speech and Language Disorder (1 class).

### School enrolment data:

The most recent Department of Education statistical bulletin showed that primary school enrolments in County Wicklow have increased by 14.4% between 2010 to 2020 representing the third highest percentage change across the State behind Meath and Dublin. In the last year of available data, enrolments increased by 89 across the county.

School enrolments at post primary schools have risen significantly across the country in the past two years of available data (2010-2020). Enrolments in County Wicklow have increased by 32.1% over the ten-year period, the fifth highest county in the State.

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<sup>16</sup> Class size Information at individual primary schools' level, Department of Education, 03 July 2023 [gov - Class-size information at individual primary-school level \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-statistics/publication-4a100-class-size-information-at-individual-primary-school-level/)



### Schools' absence data:

Figure 20 below shows mean percent of 20-day absences for both primary and post-primary schools in County Wicklow, compared to the state average for the past three years of data:

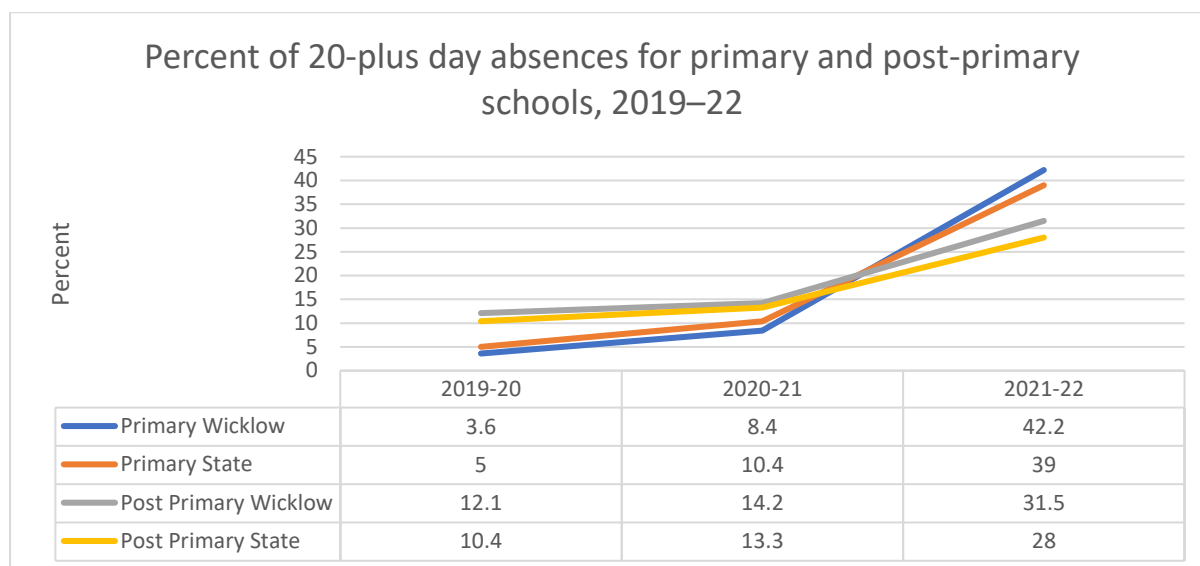


Figure 14 Mean Percent of 20-day absences, Source: TUSLA - School Attendance Data from Primary and Post-Primary Schools (by academic year)

Figure 20 shows a significant increase in the percentage of children and young people missing more than 20 days of school over the past three years. While the trend across the state is also increasing, the percentage for Wicklow was higher than the state average in the past academic year for which data is available.

### Educational Attainment – Total Population

Relative to other local authorities in Ireland, Wicklow has a very well-educated population. According to Census 2022, the number of people with a third level qualification in the county rose from just over 38,500 in 2016 to just over 49,100 in 2022. This was a rate of 48% compared with 45% nationally. There were 1,261 people in the county who held a PhD, which was 3.3% of all PhD holders in the country. In Wicklow, 35.1% (32,454) of the population who have completed education hold a third level degree or higher – the 6th highest rate in the State.

Almost 26,400 people, or 26% of all those aged 15 and over, had completed their full-time education at upper secondary level. This was up from just over 25,500 people in 2016. Nationally, almost 867,400 people had completed their education at upper secondary level (26%).

Nearly 13,500 people in the county in Census 2022 (13% of all those aged 15 and over) had completed their education at lower secondary level. More than 446,000 people nationally had completed their education at lower secondary level (13%) see Figure 21 below.

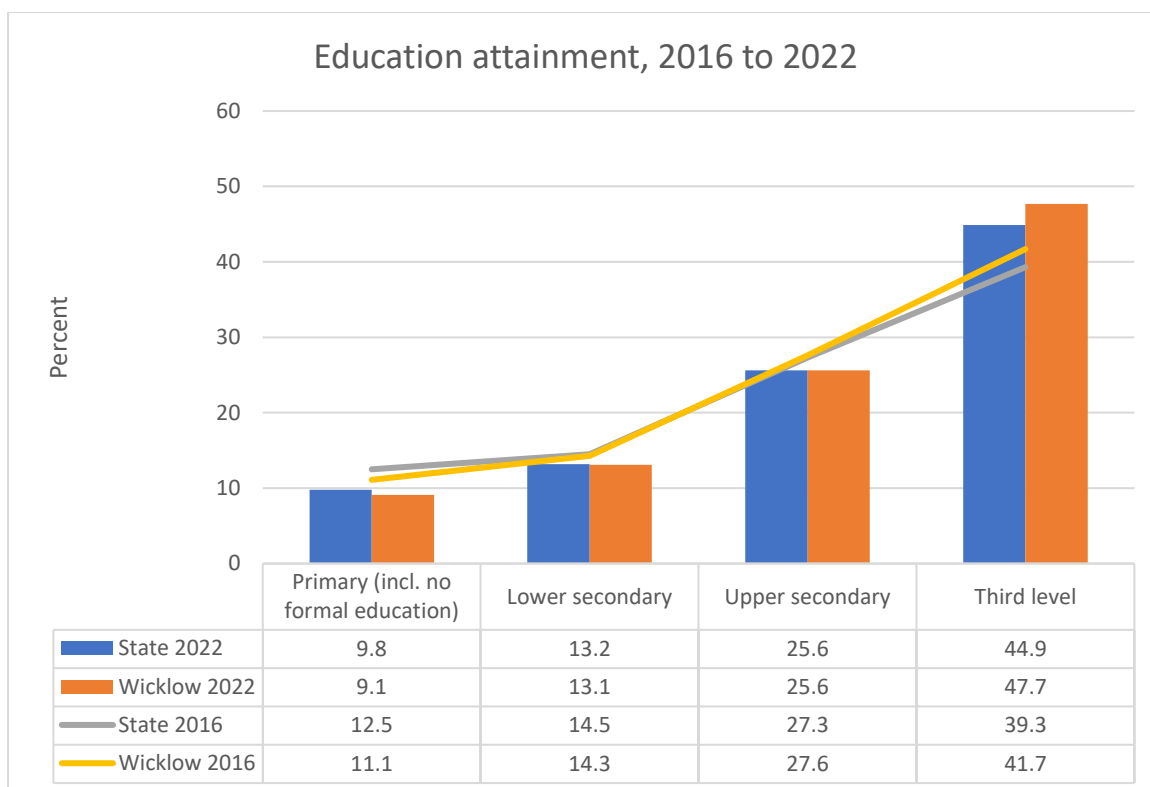


Figure 15: Educational Attainment – Percentage of Total Population, Census 2022

Figure 21 above illustrates that the percentage of attainment at third level has increased since the last Census of population from 41.7% to 47.7% (higher than the state average). Likewise, the percentage of residents leaving school at primary level including no formal qualification has decreased from 11.1% to 9.1% (lower than the state average).

### Pre-School and Childcare

The Early Years Sector Service Profile survey provides key data on the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) sector in Ireland. According to the most recent survey, there were a total of 171 ELC/SCA centres in County Wicklow, 21 community based and 150 private. Wicklow had one of the lowest ratios of community to private sector providers in the country at 12% (state average 26%).

There were 32,254 children aged 15 and under in Wicklow in April 2022. Of these, 10,098 (31%) were in childcare, compared with 33% nationally.

Data provided by Pobal highlights the overall childcare capacity and costs in Wicklow. Of the 2,928 childcare spaces available in Wicklow (4,849 in 2018) 2,518 are enrolled and 410 vacant. This gives a vacancy rate of 14% in Wicklow. Wicklow has the joint highest proportion of places for pre-schoolers at 79% compared to 69% in the state.

## Economic Security:

The table below shows the number of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) recipients referred from Homeless services in Wicklow and comparisons for the same period to the State. Table 10 shows that the number of HAP Homeless in Wicklow increased in the last three years of available data, but percentages are lower than the state average.

	2017	2018	2019
<b>No. of HAP Homeless in Wicklow</b>	37	42	132
<b>% of HAP Homeless referred from Homeless Services in Wicklow</b>	8.79	7.53	21.09
<b>% of HAP Homeless referred from Homeless Services in State</b>	13.24	16.02	21.11

Table 5 number of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme referred from Homeless services (Source CSO)

Table 11 below shows the percentage of residents in HAP Housing that are in paid employment. Data at County level is only available for the period 2017 to 2018:

	2017	2018
<b>All Counties</b>	49.5	55.7
<b>Wicklow</b>	56.3	54.1

Table 6 Percentage of HAP Household residents in paid employment (Source CSO)

Table 12 shows the percentage of HAP Households in receipt of Children Related Support for the period 2017 to 2019. It shows a higher percentage of HAP Households in receipts of Children Related Support than the state average for the past three years of available data.

	2017	2018	2019
<b>Wicklow</b>	64.13	60.25	55.43
<b>State</b>	55.95	57.16	54.43

Table 7 Percentage of HAP Household residents in receipt of Children Related Support

## Unemployment

Unemployment figures for Wicklow for Wicklow County Council area in April 2022 were 8.4%, which was similar to the unemployment rate for the State of 8.3%. The rate of unemployment for young people aged 15-24 was higher than the state average at 16.9% compared to 15.8%.

## Employment

There were 68,971 people (aged 15 and over) at work in Wicklow, an increase of 9,837 people (+17%) between 2016 and 2022. Nationally, there were 313,656 additional people (+16%) at work.

## Working From Home

In Wicklow, 25,839 people (aged 15 and over) worked from home at least one day a week in 2022. This represented 37% of the workforce. The national figure was 32%.

## Childcare

Wicklow has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest average weekly childcare cost of €213.30 (€204.25 in 2018) after the four Dublin local authorities. This has not changed since the time of the last Wicklow CYPSC CYPP.

## Affordable housing:

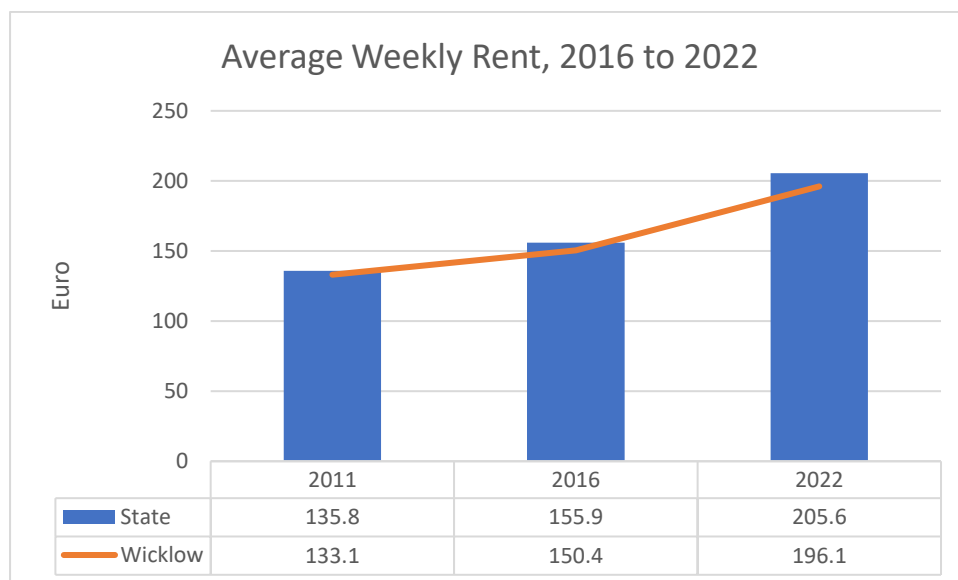


Figure 16 Average Weekly rent, 2016 to 2022 (Source: CSO Census 2022)

## Housing:

In 2022 in Wicklow, 71% of households owned their own home, with a further 24% renting. This compared with 66% of households owning their home nationally and 28% renting.

	October 2023
<b>No. on list for Social Housing Support</b>	4,521
<b>No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)</b>	155
<b>No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment</b>	2,521
<b>No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation</b>	23
<b>No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation</b>	28

Table 8 Housing and Homeless Information, Wicklow County Council, June 2023

Table 13 above highlights that as of October 2023, more than 4,500 people were on a waiting list for housing support in the county.

## Safety:

### Garda Youth Referrals

A Garda youth referral is created when a young person has been accused of committing an offense and there is enough evidence to proceed with the case. Figure 23 highlights the number of referrals from 2018 to 2022:

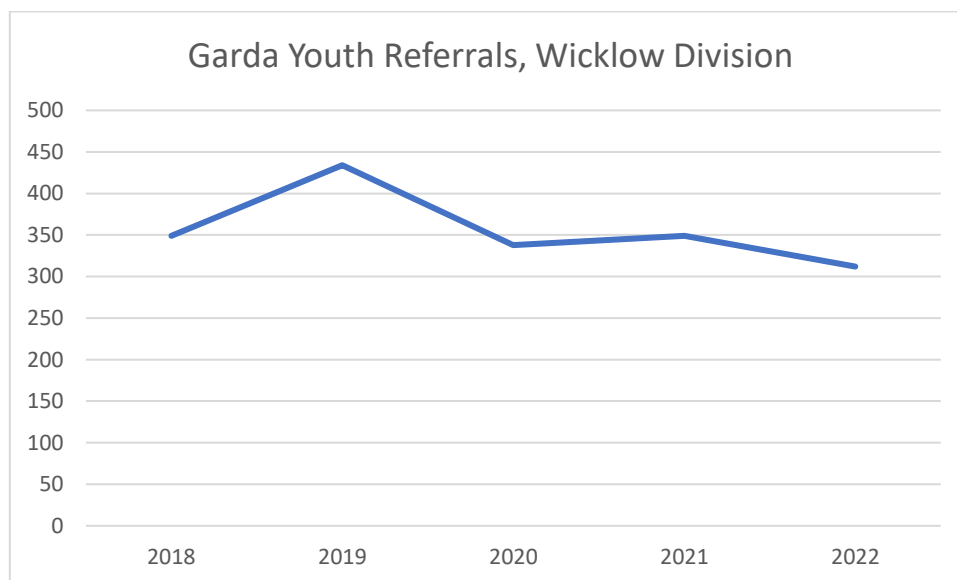


Figure 17 Garda Youth Referrals, Wicklow Division 2018 to 2022, An Garda Síochána

Figure 23 shows that the number of referrals has trended to decrease over the period of the last Wicklow CYPSC CYPP. A particularly high number of referrals was made in 2019 but has steadily decreased between 2020 to 2023<sup>17</sup>.

### Recorded Crime

Table 14 below highlights Garda Recorded Crime data for Wicklow Garda Division from 2017 to 2022. It highlights an average of 89 sexual offences recorded per year in the Wicklow Garda Division, 75 rape and sexual assault, and 17 other sexual offences. The data also shows an average of 6 offences per year of abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Sexual offences</b>	83	106	96	98	85	70
<b>Rape and sexual assault</b>	71	85	77	85	67	68
<b>Other sexual offences</b>	12	21	19	13	19	18
<b>Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty</b>	12	8	6	7	3	1

Table 9 Recorded Crime for Wicklow Garda Division 2017-22 (Source CSO)

<sup>17</sup> Care should be taken in interpretation of data in this chart as decrease in figures recorded may reflect decrease in reporting.

## Domestic Violence

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
<b>Wicklow Division</b>	814	804	918	504 (up to July 2023)

*Table 10 Incidents of Domestic Abuse, An Garda Siochona PULSE data, July 2023*

Table 15 shows an average of 845 incidents of reported domestic violence over the past three full years of data. \*Data for 2023 is provided up to and including 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## Road safety in Wicklow:

Table 16 highlights the number of people killed and injured in Road Traffic Collisions in County Wicklow between 2017 to 2020.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Persons killed</b>	2	5	3	2
<b>Persons injured</b>	210	164	234	126

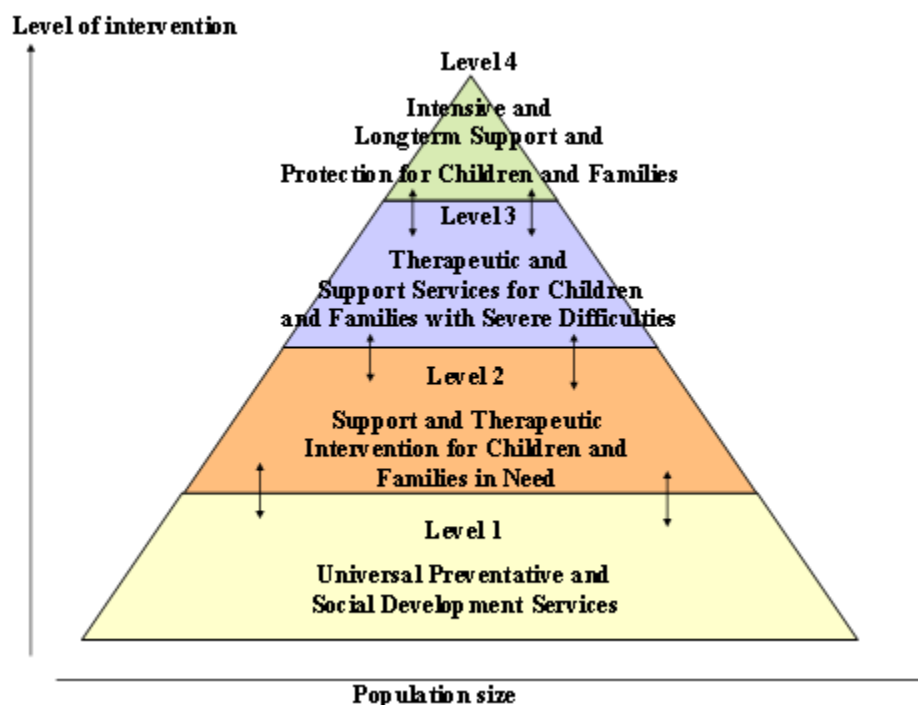
*Table 11 Number of persons killed and injured in RTC's (Source RSA 30/11/22)*

## Volunteering

At the time of the Census, a lower percentage of children and all young people aged under 25 were involved in volunteering activity than the State average at 2.9% of 0–14-year-olds compared to 3% nationally; and 9.9% of 15–24-year-olds compare to 11% nationally.

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

### Hardiker Model



This section summarises the services provided to children, young people and families in County Wicklow, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. This information is based on an audit of services conducted by Co. Wicklow CYPSC. Services are presented using the Hardiker Model above to reflect the level of intervention which services are providing from Level 1 being universal preventative and social development services to Level 4 being intensive and long-term support and protection. If you are seeking further information on any of the services presented, please visit [www.wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie](http://www.wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie)

Wicklow CYPSC presents the information on services available in the county across the following headings:

Health and Social Services includes Child Protection and Welfare, Health, Mental Health and Drugs and Alcohol, Disability Services

Education

Policing and Youth Justice

Family Support

Domestic Violence

Local Authority Services

Social Welfare

Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture

Youth

Other Services

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
<b>Health and Social Services</b>			
<b>Child Protection and Welfare</b>			
Tusla – The Child and Family Agency There are two Tusla Areas covering Co. Wicklow Dublin South East/Wicklow Kildare/West Wicklow	Tusla, The Child and Family Agency is now the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. The Agency operates under the <a href="#">Child and Family Agency Act 2013</a> , a progressive piece of legislation with children at its heart and families viewed as the foundation of a strong healthy community where children can flourish.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal HL 2-4
In Sync Family Services (West Wicklow)	The FAIM Project (Family Assessment & Intervention Model) is a differential response type model. It is an initiative developed by InSync Youth & Family Services and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency in Kildare/West Wicklow. It aims to ensure child welfare concerns are addressed as quickly as possible and to provide children and families with an assessment of need and a brief intervention based on their needs.	Voluntary	Targeted HL3
<b>Health</b>			
General Practitioners, Dental Practices and Health Centres	42 GP practices in Wicklow 65 Dental Practices in Wicklow 12 Health Centres in Wicklow	Private	Universal HL1
HSE Primary Care Services (countywide) CHO 6/CH East (all of Wicklow excluding West Wicklow) and CHO 7 (West Wicklow)	The Primary Care Team is responsible for organising and delivering primary health care to meet the needs of the local population. They include Public Health Nursing, Primary Care Psychology, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Social Work and Occupational Therapy.	Statutory	Universal HL1-2
HSE Countywide through CHO 6/CH East (All of Wicklow excluding West Wicklow) and CHO 7 (West Wicklow)	Child and Adolescent Physical Health – Speech and Language Therapy Psychology Occupational Therapy Second Tier Audiology Child Health Surveillance	Statutory	Universal HL1
HSE Countywide through CH East (All of Wicklow excluding West Wicklow) and CHO 7 (West Wicklow)	Child and Adolescent Physical Health – Preschool Immunisation Programme [GP] School Immunisation Programme (Primary and Secondary) [Nursing Dept.]	Statutory	Universal HL1



Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	School screening Vision and hearing: delivered in Schools and Health Centres by PHNs		
HSE Countywide through CH East (All of Wicklow excluding West Wicklow) and CHO 7 (West Wicklow)	The Universal Child Health programme is undertaken as follows: Antenatal Care ceasing at 2 weeks old. Maternity Care Scheme this shared care between GP and Hospital up to 2 weeks postnatally. New-born bloodspot Screening undertaken by PHN and Maternity settings- this can involve care until the baby is a couple of months old. Child Health Screening and Surveillance Programme- undertaken by the PHN service at 3-4 months, 9-11 months, 2 year and 4 years. Children are not discharged until reaching school and can be under their care for longer if there are complex needs. Undertaken by PHNs in the home and Health centre setting ( 13 Health centres in Wicklow). Childhood and School Immunisation Programme- Shared between GP and PHN teams in Wicklow.	Statutory	Universal HL1-2 depending on needs
County Wicklow Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers	Wicklow Primary Health Care Project is based in the Wicklow Travellers Group and resourced by the HSE, Bray and Wicklow Travellers' Groups. The Community Healthcare Workers provide an outreach service that focuses on health promotion, information and supporting access to mainstream health services. The work includes lobbying for adequate and culturally sensitive delivery of health services, working for improved opportunities and outcomes for Travellers in the health care system. It also supports positive mental health initiatives and suicide preventative measures.	Voluntary	Targeted HL1-2
Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership	To support increased participation in sport and active recreation throughout County Wicklow especially across specific target groups such as women and girls, youth, older adults, people with disabilities, unemployed, disadvantaged and minority groups.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted HL1-2

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	Wicklow Local Sports Partnership also works to ensure that local resources are put to best possible use.		
Sports Promotion Units (KWETB) 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, Disability, Ethnic Minority and Parents and Families in the Bray, Newtown, Kilcoole and Arklow areas. The programmes are aimed at youth aged between 10 to 25 years.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal HL1-2
Co. Wicklow Partnership – Healthy Food Made Easy programme (HFME)	Healthy Food Made Easy is a healthy eating initiative aimed at 10 years upwards. The Programme is delivered in conjunction with the HSE.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Co. Wicklow Partnership – Community Tobacco Project	The Community Tobacco Project aims to increase knowledge and awareness of tobacco related harm and the benefits of quitting, support and empower people to quit, influence social attitudes to smoking and help to make smoke free the norm. The Programme Coordinator works with a variety of community groups, businesses and individuals to provide information sessions, carry out carbon monoxide screening, provide brief interventions for smoking cessation and encourage and refer smokers to the HSE smoking cessation clinics.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Wicklow County Council Healthy Ireland	Healthy Wicklow through the Healthy Ireland Fund aims to improve the Health & Wellbeing of everyone living in the County. Healthy Wicklow was developed in response to several significant public health challenges and growing health inequalities. The funds support initiatives targeted at all age groups, particularly children, adolescent and young people, older people, those living in disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities.	Statutory	Targeted and Universal HL 1 - 4
Wicklow County Council Sláintecare Healthy Communities	Wicklow County Council has appointed a Sláintecare Healthy Community Local Development Officer to oversee the	Statutory	Universal HL1

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	delivery of targeted health and wellbeing projects in Bray		
Sláintecare Healthy Communities (Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership)	Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme delivery of core services within the greater Bray area including – Stop Smoking; Healthy Food Made Easy and Social Prescribing programmes. Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Parenting Supports	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal HL1-2
<b>Mental Health</b>			
HSE Primary Care Psychology (countywide) through CH East and CHO 7	Psychological services to people experiencing mild to moderate difficulties. Referral from Primary Health Care, Health Centre or Health Professional.	Statutory	Universal HL1-2
Jigsaw Wicklow	Jigsaw Wicklow is a free, non-judgemental and confidential mental health support service for young people aged 12 – 25 living, working or studying in Wicklow.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Wicklow Youth Mental Health Initiative (WYMHI) Gr82Byng	WYMHI is an inter-agency working group. The initiative works with transition year and Youthreach students promoting positive mental health and highlighting options for maintaining positive mental health and building resilience.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted HL1
Living Life Counselling – East Coast	Low Cost and no-cost Counselling for adults, couples, adolescents and children	Part voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Sophia Counselling – West Wicklow	Low Cost and no-cost Counselling for adults, couples, adolescents and children	Part voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Naas Child and Family Project (NCFP) West Wicklow	The Naas Child and Family Project (NCFP) is part of In Sync Youth and Family services, and in partnership with TUSLA, has provided a community-based family support service to parents and children in Naas since 1999. This service is now providing Play Therapy to Primary School aged children. The service is available two days per week to those referred by Tusla and are living in the Blessington/ Dunlavin area. As therapists, we accompany families on their therapeutic journey to a better life.	Voluntary	Targeted HL3
Family Support Services Therapeutic Services:	Several of the family support services in the county provide therapeutic services	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Arklow Springboard Wicklow Child and Family Project Greystones FRC	such as: play therapy, counselling for parents and children engaged in their services, parenting programmes, direct work with children. Greystones FRC also offers Rainbows – a programme supporting children through bereavement or parental separation.		
Bray Local Drugs Task Force - Headlamps	School based service working with 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	Statutory	Targeted HL2-3
Co. Wicklow Partnership – Tunnel Project, Arklow	A community mental health initiative to provide social/personal support and develop programmes for people experiencing enduring mental health issues. Adult service.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Bray Youth Services Bray	Youth Counselling for young people 12 – 18 years (2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Students)	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
InSync West Wicklow Youth Project	Youth Counselling for young people 12-21 years	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
St John of Gods Community Services Lucena Clinic CAMHS	Lucena Clinic, CAMHS provide mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have moderate to severe mental disorders that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team. Referrals are accepted from GPs, Hospitals and Jigsaw. Concerns include Moderate to severe anxiety disorders. Moderate to severe Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder/ Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD). Moderate to severe Depression. Bipolar Affective Disorder. Psychosis. Moderate to severe eating disorder. Suicidal ideation in the context of a mental disorder	Voluntary	Targeted HL3
Linn Dara Mid-Kildare and South Kildare (covering West Wicklow)	Community Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services provides multidisciplinary assessment and/or treatment for children and adolescents referred with concerns around mental health issues	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
HSE – Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention	Two Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention for the county support the implementation of Connecting for Life local plans, support national and local positive mental health campaigns and provide access to a wide range of positive mental health training opportunities	Statutory	Universal
HSE - Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officers	Two Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officers for the county provide a proactive and timely community-based support to individuals, families, groups, or communities who have experienced a suicide loss.	Statutory	Targeted
Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership - Social Prescribing for Health and Wellbeing: Bray and North Wicklow	The Social Prescribing Service is an initiative which aims to link persons (over 18) into activities within their communities to improve their health and wellbeing with an overall aim of self-management.	Voluntary	Targeted
County Wicklow Partnership - Social Prescribing for Health and Wellbeing: Wicklow East area	The Social Prescribing Service is an initiative which aims to link persons (over 18) into activities within their communities to improve their health and wellbeing with an overall aim of self-management.	Voluntary	Targeted
Cairdeas Clubhouse Platinum Clubhouse Harvest Centre (all part of EVE a department within the HSE)	A Clubhouse is a programme of support for individuals on their road to recovery. Similar services are available to people from West Wicklow through Platinum Clubhouse (Newbridge) and Harvest Centre (Kildare Town).	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Mental Health Ireland	MHI is the longest established national mental health charity in Ireland. West Wicklow area is supported by a MHI development officer who works alongside communities and groups promoting mental health and wellbeing at a local and regional level and supporting the work of the Mental Health Associations.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
West Wicklow Mental Health Association	A group comprised of people living and working in the West Wicklow area with a passion for mental health and wellbeing. Their aim is to support and promote mental health awareness in communities across West Wicklow.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
<b>Drugs and Alcohol</b>			
YoDA – CHO East (East Wicklow only)	The YoDA East Coast service offers substance use treatment to Under 18's in CHO East (Wicklow, (excluding west Wicklow) and Southeast Dublin). The current service offers assessment and treatment by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner with additional input from child and adolescent psychiatry and family therapy (specific to drug and alcohol related problems)	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4
Wicklow Child and Family Project- Addiction Youth Worker (Under 18s) (funded by ECRDATF)	Addiction Youth Worker to work with under 18's experiencing drug and alcohol misuse	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
Bray Youth Service Drug Education Workers - Bray LDATF area only	Drugs Education Programme - primary Schools Programmes, Clubs/groups, Support to Bray Drug and Alcohol Forum - Youth Events, Community Conference, Training Events - Adults working with young people, Community Quizzes and Outreach	Voluntary	Universal HL1
East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	ECRDATF works in conjunction with existing services and provides direct funding to a range of local agencies dealing with drug and alcohol problems across CH East. Supported initiatives include Living Life Counselling, Tiglin, MQI CRIS, Counselling support, Development Worker, DRIVE Coordinator.	Statutory and Voluntary	Targeted HL1-4
Southwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force covers West Wicklow	SWRDATF works in conjunction with existing services and provides direct funding to a range of local agencies dealing with alcohol and other drug problems. Supports include ARAS, HALO, Hope Cottage family support service, DPEI, safer communities, community addiction studies courses and DARA project (drug free) CE scheme.	Statutory and Voluntary	Targeted HL1-4
MQI Community Recovery and Integration Supports (CRIS)  East and Central Wicklow	CRIS is a community-based addiction support service, focusing on recovery and integration supports for adults and their families. The service offers one-to-one case management and care planning for people who are either looking to address their drug/alcohol	Voluntary	Both

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
(Funded by East Coast Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force)	use or who are already in recovery. The service also provides supports for families affected by addiction.		
MQI Brief Counselling (funded by ECRDATF)	Adult drug/alcohol users can access an initial series of counselling sessions to assist with their care plan and identify current and future needs to maintain a recovery path.	Voluntary	
Living Life Counselling East Coast (Arklow/Bray)	Provides professional, affordable counselling services - spaces available to ECRDTF clients experiencing addiction and their families	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
DAISH Bray Travellers Community Development Group	DAISH is a Traveller specific drugs initiative that was set up in response to the growing issue of substance abuse within the Traveller community. DAISH aims to address substance misuse among Travellers in a culturally appropriate way. DAISH is funded by the Bray Local Drugs Task Force.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Bray Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force – funded initiatives in Bray	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. Supported initiatives include; Living Life Counselling, the Integration Support Service, DAISH, BYS Drug education workers, Ballywaltrim Young Women's Project, Headlamps in 5 primary schools in Bray and Little Bray Youth Project	Statutory	Targeted HL2-3
Bray Community Addiction Team (BCAT)	BCAT is a community addiction team. It provides open-access low-threshold evidence-based services to people in Bray affected by drug and/or alcohol problems, their families and the wider community. It delivers evidence-based interventions/programs to the target group in one-to-one and group settings. It provides outreach services, addiction support to people in and on release prison for drug/alcohol related crime, family support, U18's, Drop In and a Harm Reduction Program (needle exchange)	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Integration Support Project: Bray Community Addiction Team	Integration Support Project. Provision of integration and aftercare support to a range of client categories. Stabilised and drug free problematic drug users.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
HSE Addiction Services East Coast	HSE Harm Reduction Service and Rehabilitation Team <b>for over 18s</b> . HSE Counselling/Psychotherapy for adults ( <b>over 18</b> ) experiencing issues involving addiction or those experiencing difficulties around a family member's addiction. We offer assessment, explore treatment options, provide education, information and guidance, referral to inpatient treatment and counselling/therapy.	Statutory	Targeted HL2-3
Foroige, Drug Prevention and Education Initiative <b>West Wicklow/Kildare</b> (funded by Southwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force SWRDATF)	A range of Education and Training Programmes for Parents/Carers, Community Members, Volunteers and Staff. Primary and Secondary Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programmes for Young People. Policy Development Workshops, Family Support, Strengthening Families Programme, Support, information and referral.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Teachin an Dóchais (Cottage of Hope) Family Support <b>Kildare/West Wicklow</b> (funded by SWRDATF)	A family support information and resource centre for family members who have a loved one with alcohol or other drug problems – offering services which include counselling, holistic and the 5 Step method (a brief psychosocial intervention)	Community	Targeted HL2-3
HALO Project <b>Kildare/West Wicklow</b> (funded by SWRDATF)	Community based addiction services for young people under 18 years old, and their families, affected by substance use problems.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
ARAS - Community Addiction Services <b>West Wicklow/Kildare</b> (funding by SWRDATF)	Community based addiction services for individuals and families affected by substance use problems providing limited service in the Blessington area	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
HSE Outreach Team West Wicklow	Outreach addiction services to substance misusers in the target area. <b>Primarily over 18s</b>	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4
Tiglin	Residential Treatment Centres for men and women. Step down supported housing. Day Service (Arklow) <b>For over 18s</b>	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
Barnardos Bray Family Support Service – The project covers Bray and surrounding areas – Kilcoole/Greystones/NTMKY/Wicklow town.	Barnardos Bray Family support service offers support to families and children impacted by their loved one's addiction. This support is offered to parents and children on an individual basis in the home /project. Support is provided to parents to understand the	Voluntary	Targeted HL3-4



Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	impact of addiction on their child's development. Children are given a safe space to talk about and explore emotions around their experience of addiction within the family. The work is delivered through a suite of trauma informed programs and principles.		
DLR Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Hidden Harm Project: Wicklow/DLR (funded by Tusla)	A Hidden Harm Coordinator has been appointed to oversee the implementation of the Hidden Harm Framework in the area which is a response to the impact of parental problem alcohol and drug use on children and young people.	Statutory	Targeted
Arklow Family Centre	Youth Drugs and Alcohol Diversion Project for Under 18. Service provided by Family Worker aimed at children aged 12-18 whose substance use is beginning to get problematic. One to one support for child/young person and family support.	Voluntary	Targeted
<b>Disability Services</b>			
HSE Disability Services	HSE Disability Services provide and fund a range of services for people with disabilities and their carers. These services can include home support/day services/respite and residential care for children and adults aged 0-65 years. Some of these services are provided directly by the HSE or are provided by other agencies who are commissioned by the HSE to provide service on their behalf.	Statutory	Universal HL2-4
Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's ) reconfigured in September 2021 under a Lead Agency Model. Enable Ireland is Lead Agency in Wicklow. The CDNT is the reconfiguration of previous services provided by Enable Ireland/St Catherine's Association and HSE Early Intervention and School Age teams.	A children's disability network team (CDNT) provides specialised support and services for children who have a disability and complex health needs associated with their disability. The CDNT supports a child's development, wellbeing and participation in family and community life.	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Three Teams (Bray, Wicklow, Arklow) cover East Wicklow (CHO6) and one Team covers West Wicklow (CHO7)			
HSE Day Opportunities	Day Opportunities Division support adult day service users in receipt of day services under the New Directions Framework. Also support school leavers wishing to avail of HSE funded Day Services or Rehabilitative Training Programmes. Team provides full transitional support for school leavers into their day services or rehabilitative training programmes.	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4
St Catherine's Association	Provide respite for children with complex needs and residential services for children/adults with complex needs.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
Enable Ireland Respite services	Provide respite for children with complex needs	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
HSE Respite	Referrals for respite are to the HSE Central Referral Forum. Only children in receipt of services from the CDNT are eligible to apply. Only adults attending a HSE funded agency are eligible.	Statutory	Targeted HL2-4
St. John of Gods, Ravenswell, Bray Co. Wicklow	Residential service for people with learning disabilities	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Sunbeam House Services - countywide	Sunbeam House Services provides a range of supports to adults with intellectual disabilities.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
KARE	KARE provide support to people who have an intellectual disability and their families and work in mid and south Kildare, east Offaly, West Wicklow and Northeast Carlow.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Peacehaven Trust Ltd Greystones	Offers residential care services through Three Community houses located in Greystones, Co. Wicklow for adults with mild/moderate disabilities	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Bray Lakers	Bray Lakers Social and 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	Voluntary	Universal HL1

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	services to members across Leinster from its centre in Bray, Co. Wicklow		
Carers' Association Countywide	Home respite services to family carers and support services to family carers	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiatives (ASDI)	Offers autism spectrum services to adults on the ASD spectrum. ASDI run two residential units in Arklow Town and in Ashford and a day service in Wicklow Town	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Bray Family Resource and Development Centre	Bray Family Resource and Development Centre offers a wide variety of services including a Community Sensory Room that can be accessed by families/individuals and local services.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership	IMPACT Initiative working with PWD to support progression and placement in employment in the open labour market	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal HL1-2
<b>Education</b>			
Department of Education and Skills Primary and Secondary schools	Primary and Secondary school provision and support in Co. Wicklow. 82 Mainstream Primary Schools and 3 Special Primary Schools, 15 of these are classified as DEIS. There are 24 Secondary Schools (7 DEIS). There are 40 special classes in Wicklow at primary level across 20 schools. There are 10 special classes at post-primary level across 6 schools.	Statutory	Universal HL1
School Completion Programmes	There are 4 School Completion Projects in Wicklow covering 10 primary schools and 5 Post Primary Schools. It is operational in Arklow, Rathdrum, Dunlavin, Bray, Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford and Newtownmountkennedy.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
National Learning Network	Training courses and support services for people 18years+ who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, people with illness or disability) in two centres: Arklow and Bray	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership	Provision of inclusion focused education supports to named target groups.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
County Wicklow Partnership- Arklow, Wicklow and	Provision of inclusion focused education supports to named target groups.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Baltinglass Munipal District			
Wicklow Travellers Group, CEART Countywide, excluding Bray	Support for parents and liaison with the schools. Support the Wicklow School Completion Programme. Supporting schools who are working to attain and retain the Yellow Flag (celebrating diversity) in their schools. Helping children with homework and school projects.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
Bray Travellers Community Development Group	BTCDG activities and supports are Traveller specific in nature. <b>BTCDG</b> offers Educational Training Programme, Community Development, DAISH project: harm reduction and education on substance misuse, Youth Activities and Diversity Training	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
National Educational Psychological Service, countywide	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	Statutory	Targeted and Universal HL2-3
Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)	<b>TESS</b> has three strands namely the Statutory Educational Welfare Service (EWS) and the two school support services the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) and the School Completion Programme (SCP). The three <b>TESS</b> strands work together collaboratively with schools, families and other relevant services to achieve the best educational outcomes for children and young people. There are 17 schools with access to a HSCL in Wicklow and there are 15 HSCL. There are 3 Education Welfare Officers covering Co. Wicklow.	Statutory	Universal HL2-3
Family Support Services: Arklow Springboard Bray Family Resource & Development Centre Greystones FRC	Several of the family support services, and the Greystones Family Resource Centre provides community education programmes which are supported by the Community Education Services of Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.	Voluntary	Universal HL1

<b>Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board</b>			
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	<p>KWETB is the Statutory Body responsible for providing education and training services to the community in the county through its Second Level Schools (10 – 3 DEIS) and 1 community national school, Further Education and Training Centres (6), Youthreach (4) and through its Adult and Community Education Programmes. Other services include Scholarships for students on existing grants and Youth Services. KWETB Youth Officer provides supports to youth services and voluntary youth clubs, advocating for additional services to meet any gaps in service provision for young people. KWETB also has responsibility for an Outdoor Education Centre, Wicklow Music Generation and a Prison Education Unit.</p>	Statutory	Universal HL1
KWETB Youthreach: Bray and North Wicklow Arklow Wicklow Town West Wicklow	<p>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 Kildare and Wicklow ETB 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. There are 4 Youthreach Centres in Co. Wicklow (Bray, Wicklow, Arklow and Blessington)</p>	Statutory	Universal HL2
Youthreach Career Guidance and Counselling Services	<p>Career Guidance and Counselling for Early School Leavers aged 15 to 21 years. The Advocate supports young people that have left school early as they can struggle to find a route back into education, training or employment.</p>	Statutory	Universal HL2

<b>Policing and Youth Justice</b>			
Garda Stations	17 Garda Stations across Co. Wicklow	Statutory	Universal HL1
Gardaí- Juvenile Liaison Officers- Countywide	Juvenile Justice – focus on youths who have committed offences aged 12 – 18 years. There are 4 JLOs covering specific areas of the county.	Statutory	Universal HL2-3
The Way Project (Foroige)	The WAY Project is a Youth Diversion Project covering Wicklow Town and Rathnew. 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	Targeted HL3-4
Foroige – The Way Project	Two new Youth Diversion Projects are to be established in 2024/5 to cover South and West Wicklow	Voluntary	Target HL3-4
Bray Youth Service Crosscare - New Directions Project	New Directions is a Youth Diversion project managed by BYS/Crosscare that covers the Bray, Greystones, Newtown and Kilcoole areas of Wicklow	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
<b>Family Support</b>			
Tusla – The Child and Family Agency There are two Tusla Areas covering Co. Wicklow DSE/Wicklow Kildare/West Wicklow	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support – Child and Family Support Networks and Meitheal.  Tusla Family Support Service	Statutory	Universal HL1-3  H 2-4
Greystones Family Resource Centre	Greystones Family Resource Centre targets areas of Greystones facing social exclusion through child, youth, adult and senior community development programmes through a family centred perspective.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Rainbows: Greystones FRC	The Rainbows programme supports children and young people affected by loss because of bereavement, separation or divorce. The service is available in local communities throughout Ireland. The service is grant aided by Tusla. The programme is delivered through 1 FRC in Co. Wicklow and through 16 schools.	Voluntary	Universal HL1

Bray Family Resource and Development Centre	Bray Family Resource and Development Centre offers a wide variety of services including Childcare Service (Oldcourt and Fassaroe), Youth Development Programmes, One to One and group support for individuals and families, Strengthening Families and Rainbows Programmes, Adult Education programmes. There is also a Community Sensory Room that can be accessed by families/individuals and local services.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
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	Targeted HL1-3
Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership [BNWAP] Bray, Greystones, NTMKY, Newcastle, Kilcoole	BNWAP supports Tusla in the implementation of Meitheal in an area where there is no specific family support service i.e. Bray, Greystones, NTMKY, Newcastle, Kilcoole	Voluntary	Targeted HL2
Wicklow Child and Family Project	The Wicklow Child and 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 and parents giving specific attention to families where child protection, welfare and health problems exist, reduce the risk 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 and drop in facilities for information and support. The service also supports Tusla in the implementation of Meitheal.	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Arklow Family Centre	Arklow Family Centre is part of the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service. The catchment area for Arklow	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3

	<p>Springboard includes Arklow Town and surrounding areas, Aughrim, Avoca, Tinahely, Shillelagh and Carnew. The Service aims to meet the needs of children and parents, giving specific attention to families where child protection and welfare concerns exist. Our model of service has three aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support children and families develop coping skills and resilience</li> <li>2. To help families develop social supports within their family and in their local community</li> <li>3. To support the development of attachment and resilience skills of children</li> </ol> <p>The model of service delivery allows for short term targeted and long term intensive therapeutic work with children, young people and their families.</p>		
Supporting Parents and Early Childcare Services (SPECS) Initiative	<p>SPECS is a Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership initiative working in the greater Bray area which takes a Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) approach to working with key adults in children's lives to improve outcomes. SPECS works with families, services and practitioners including:</p> <p>Direct supports provided to families in a range of ways including group settings, one to one and home-based work e.g. PFL, evidence-based parenting programmes</p> <p>Capacity Building with practitioners in schools, early years services, community and statutory e.g. oral language strand, transitions support</p> <p>Interagency approach bringing services and practitioners together to identify gaps and share practice e.g. IMH Network</p>	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3



Domestic Violence			
Barnardos: TLC Kidz covers all of Co. Wicklow	The TLC Kidz Project is a community coordinated response for children and mothers in recovery from domestic violence and abuse. The TLC Kidz Project seeks to create a common vision and shared responsibility among services in supporting the recovery of children who have experienced domestic abuse	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Tusla Family Support: Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Practitioner	The Tusla Family Support Service, Wicklow has a Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Practitioner, and the post is dedicated to supporting those experiencing domestic violence. This service is also available in West Wicklow.	Statutory	Targeted HL2-3
Greystones FRC	Domestic violence service to victims of DV, women and men in the target area	Statutory	Targeted HL2
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	Targeted HL2-4
Bray Women's Refuge Outreach Service – East Wicklow 'Anu Wicklow'	Offers confidential appointments providing support to families in the community including court accompaniment	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
Saoirse Domestic Violence Services Outreach Service – West Wicklow	Offers confidential appointments providing support to families in the community including court accompaniment	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-4
St. Louise's Unit, Crumlin	Provides assessment and therapy services to children and families living in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow where sexual abuse is a concern	Statutory	Targeted HL3-4
Garda Divisional Protective Services Unit	Specific Unit to deal with sexual crimes and crimes against children	Statutory	Targeted HL3-4
Wicklow Travellers Group	The WTG Domestic Violence project adopts community work approaches to preventing DSGBV in the Traveller community.	Voluntary	Targeted HL204

Local Authority Services			
Planning Section	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 HL1
Community Cultural and Social Development Section,	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 Healthy Ireland.	Statutory	Universal HL1
Local Authority Integration Team	LAIT was established in Wicklow in late 2023 and has 4 workers in place	Statutory	Universal HL1
Wicklow Library Service	<p>Library Service - caters for all age groups from infancy to Senior adulthood and engages with all social inclusion measure groups including people with disabilities, the Traveller Interagency Group, the School Completion Programme and the migrant population, older people, new communities, ex-prisoners, people living in geographically remote areas, people with mental health concerns, people of all ages who struggle with literacy and people of all ages from the LGBTQI community. The library service has adapted premises/services to facilitate people with physical and sensory disabilities. The service ring fences places to include marginalised children in activities and in general runs focused events and try to mainstream people at risk of social exclusion into all events /programmes/services. Wicklow County Council Library Service engages with all schools to offer online literacy and mathematics learning licences to students in need of extra supports.</p> <p>Wicklow County Council Library Service engages with new communities to ensure their information needs are being met. English Language</p>	Statutory	Universal HL1

	Conversation Groups now feature in most libraries; the aim being to provide a new welcoming space where people from all communities can practice conversational English and make new friends.		
Environmental Services Directorate	Environmental promotion and awareness raising, Green Schools programme, Secondary Schools Environment debating competition.	Statutory	Universal HL1
Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate	Footpaths, transport planning, road safety,	Statutory	Universal HL1
<b>Housing/Homelessness</b>			
Wicklow County Council – Housing Section	Homelessness, Emergency Accommodation, Social Housing. Children and families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness	Statutory	Targeted and Universal HL1-2
Dublin Simon [Wicklow]	<p><b>Kilmantain Hill, Wicklow - Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation</b> –Kilmantain Hill has 11 rooms to support persons either homeless, exiting a higher support facility or in danger of becoming homeless.</p> <p><b>Fitzwilliam Road Wicklow</b> - Homeless Family Service – The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units –.</p> <p><b>San Remo Bray - Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation</b> - a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather initiative Beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients.</p>	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Tiglin	<b>Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones</b> - 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas for people exiting addiction	Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Wicklow County Council and Approved Housing Bodies [AHBs]	Wicklow County Council owns properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the support needs of the clients.	Statutory & Voluntary	Targeted HL2-3
Peter McVerry Trust	Housing first recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in	Voluntary	Targeted HL 2-3

Housing First – Mid East Region	other areas. Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region of which Wicklow is part. Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 15 clients under Housing First.		
Wicklow Homeless Five Loaves	Drop-in centre for persons experiencing homelessness in Bray	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Wicklow Travellers Group – CEART Bray Travellers Development Network Accommodation Services	Supporting Travellers who are seeking the provision of adequate, suitable and culturally appropriate accommodation based on meaningful consultation. Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the provision of accommodation through engaging in relevant research, information and data collection	Voluntary	Targeted HL1
Approved Housing Bodies [AHBs]	Several Approved Housing Bodies [AHBs] are active in Wicklow providing houses both one-off and multiple units throughout the county with the support of Wicklow County Council	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
<b>Social Welfare</b>			
Department of Employment and Social Protection	To promote active participation in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services.	Statutory	Universal HL1-2
<b>Employment</b>			
County Wicklow Partnership – <b>Tús Programme</b>	Employment Activation Programme placing all age ranges including 18 to 24 demographics with community and non-profit groups for a period of one year. Development/Mentoring process in place to define and support the areas of personal/professional development based on individual participants needs. Mentoring Initiative for 18 to 24 age group. Partnered with older experienced participant for skills training within the work environment. Engagement with KWETB for literacy/general training courses. County Wicklow Partnership S.I.C.A.P. for Start Your Own Business, Occupational First Aid and Safe Pass courses. Employability Services are utilised for further support.	Loc. Dev. Sector	Universal HL1

	18-24 years – 19 Current Placement Providers across schools, GAA clubs, tidy towns and other community initiatives		
County Wicklow Partnership SICAP programme employment supports	Enterprise Support: Start your Own Business courses, bookkeeping and taxation course, assistance with BTWEA applications. Social Enterprise Development  Employment Supports: CV and interview skills workshops, one-to-one career advice and guidance service, education grants, provision of training courses e.g. Safepass and Manual Handling, wellbeing and motivation workshops		
Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership (BNWAP)	BNWAP Local Area Employment Service Network – provision of welfare to work guidance and activation to clients referred by DSP covering Bray, Wicklow and Kildare. Enterprise Support: Start your Own Business courses, assistance with BTWEA. Social Enterprise Development	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Shuttle Knit Ltd CEART	The community enterprise, Shuttle Knit Ltd, is a partnership between Travellers and the settled community. The logo “knitting communities together” expresses the spirit of the enterprise. Shuttle Knit creates and designs an innovative range of knitwear products for nationwide and worldwide sales.	Voluntary	Targeted HL1
Kildare and Wicklow ETB	Provides a wide range of training opportunities through its Further Education and Training Centres in Co. Wicklow.	Statutory	Universal HL1
KWETB Guidance Service	The KWETB Guidance service provides education and employment guidance and training to young people aged between 15 and 21 who are out of school.	Statutory	Universal HL1
Wicklow Travellers’ Group, CEART	Developing the capacity of Travellers to become workers in the areas of community development, community health, drugs related work and mental health/suicide prevention, etc. Supporting positive public service recruitment to train and employ Travellers in public services.	Voluntary	Targeted HL1-2
<b>Youth</b>			

Volunteer Led Youth Groups	There are 62 volunteer led youth groups registered with KWETB	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in the 31 local authorities of the country. It is for young people under the age of 18 and is designed to enable them to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Wicklow Travellers Group - CEART	Engaging young Travellers in weekly youth development programmes including personal development, up-skilling, non-formal education, an annual summer project, sporting events throughout the year, seasonal events at Christmas and Halloween and a drop-in facility.	Voluntary	Targeted HL1
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 HL1
Bray Youth and Information Service(Bray to Newtown/Newcastle)	Youth Services with a range of projects 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.	Voluntary	Universal HL1

Connect - Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project. Three contact points: Little Bray youth project Ballywaltrim Community Centre South Bray Family Resource Centre	The Youth project is committed to supporting and meeting the needs of the most at risk young people, families and their communities within the most disadvantaged communities in Bray. Drop-in programmes, Life skills programmes, Art, drama, sports and music, IT access and training, summer programmes, One to one support, Informal/formal educational supports and programmes, Training and peer education, Mentoring, Family support, Street work, Advocacy, Fundraising, International projects	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Greystones FRC	Youth Groups for teenagers from the target area Low-cost Summer Project for children from low-income households supported by Wicklow County Council	Statutory	Universal HL1
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 HL1
County Wicklow Partnership- SICAP programme youth supports	Young person's Transition Group training course (for 6th class/1st year students) within the Croi Rath Naoi Project Rathnew, support of young people from specific target groups undertaking summer camps and out of school activities, support of Local Community Groups with children and family's focus, collaborative initiatives with DEIS schools and other local service providers.	Local Deve. Sector	Universal HL1
County Wicklow Partnership	Youth Groups, Kids Club, Homework Classes, Summer Projects, Parent and Toddler, collaboration on events such as Youth Mental Health. Work collaboratively with other organisations.	Local Deve. Sector	Universal HL1
Co. Wicklow Partnership – LEADER Rural Youth	Rural Youth - Strategic Action 1 Provision of bespoke, flexible and creative pathways to learning for young people	Voluntary	Universal HL1

	Rural Youth - Strategic Action 2 Develop and deliver a youth re-engagement programme in West Wicklow Rural Youth – Strategic Action 3 Support provision of social infrastructure for young people in specific areas where the need is greatest.		
Co. Wicklow Partnership – LEADER Rural Youth (contd.)	In addition, the programme will continue to offer support to community groups wishing to improve local infrastructure for the wider community including young people e.g. community infrastructure (including playgrounds, MUGAs etc.), community halls, community parks and gardens, walks, biodiversity projects etc.		
County Wicklow Partnership	Rural Recreation Project – TY Students Rathdrum	Voluntary	Universal HL1
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 HL1
Bray Youth and Information Service – Adventure Sports	Outdoor Education – Kayaking, Rock Climbing, team games, camp craft, survival skills, etc.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
County Wicklow Partnership – SICAP Programme, Youth Activities	Collaborations/partnerships with Foroige, Comhairle na nÓg and ECRDATF re. Identifying and addressing needs LGBT Transgender event 2016 Wicklow Pride Diversity Youth and Children Summer Programme	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
County Wicklow Partnership – SICAP Programme, Youth Activities <b>contd.</b>	Support is provided to families and lone parents through afterschool programme and supports, summer camps, Easter camps, parent and toddler groups and development days, healthy eating courses for parents and children.		
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 HL1
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 HL1
Dcaf – Blessington	Youth café and youth club, range of youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Teen Scene – Dunlavin	Youth café and youth club, general youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Valleymount Youth Café	Youth café and youth club, general youth activities, drop in, group work	Voluntary	Universal HL1
East Wicklow Youth Service	Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Service (funded by UBU DCDE) work with at risk young people aged 10 – 25 years by supporting them using a range of methods including Drop In's, Outreach, Developmental Group work. One to One support, Advocacy and Outdoor learning. EWYS operate in Arklow (The VAULT) where the service is based, "Inspire" (main street Rathdrum) and Hillview Centre, Wicklow.	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal HL1
<b>Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture</b>			
Variety of Youth Clubs and Projects	There are a variety of Youth Clubs in the county including the following; Ballywaltrim Youth Project, Celtic Youth 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.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Scouting Ireland	Currently 12 Scout clubs active in Co. Wicklow. Scouting Ireland enables young people to build the skills they need to maximise life's opportunities.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Other Uniform Youth Groups	There are a variety of other youth uniform groups in Co. Wicklow including Girl Guides, Girls Friendly Society, Boys and Girls Brigade.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Macra Na Feirme	There are 4 Macra groups (2 active) in the county committed to personal development and places emphasis on social interaction and participation.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Other Youth Groups	Approx. 25 other youth groups ranging from music/arts based, faith based, drop-in youth club across county.	Voluntary	Universal HL1
Sports Group	There are a vast range of sporting clubs/groups providing recreational facilities and training for young people	Voluntary	Universal HL1

	e.g. GAA clubs, athletics, community games, boxing clubs, martial arts, etc		
Bray Travellers Community Development Group	BTCDG runs wide ranging activities for young Travellers. General youth activities, after-school homework club, small group work, summer projects.	Voluntary	Universal HL1-2
Fishing Futures c/o CEART	Fishing Futures was established in November 2006 by a group of volunteer anglers and representatives from local community groups. The main aim of the project was to offer an angling experience to individuals and groups within the community who were marginalized, both socially and economically.	Voluntary	Targeted and Universal HL1
<b>Other Services</b>			
Wicklow County Childcare Committee	Advisory service for those working with children including early years, parents, and school age services. There are 168 pre-school services, 17 Parent and Toddler Groups and 20 Community Childcare facilities.	Statutory	Universal HL1
Citizens Information Centres	2 Citizen Information Centres providing information, advice and advocacy in Co. Wicklow: Arklow and Bray	Statutory	Universal HL1
TFI Local Link: Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	TFI Local Link CKW bus services connect communities throughout rural Ireland as part of the TFI Public Transport Network. They form a network of affordable bus services for everyone who wants to travel to or from local towns and villages	Voluntary	Universal HL1

**Changes to the Overview of Services since the previous plan that have resulted in an increase/change or reduction in services.**

Citizens Information Centres in the county were closed during COVID and many have not reopened. This is a significant loss to the county and particularly to vulnerable communities such as members of our new communities.

**Health**

Medical examinations at 9 months are no longer completed as a routine check with Area Medical Officers. This is now completed by the Public Health Nurse Service at 9-11 months with a referral onward to Senior Medical Officer if required.

The Healthy Communities Programme is providing additional and targeted resources to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of people living within the greater Bray area

**Disability:**

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT ) reconfigured in September 2021 under a Lead Agency Model which is Enable Ireland in Wicklow. The CDNT is the reconfiguration of previous services provided by Enable Ireland/St Catherine's Association and HSE Early Intervention and School Age teams. There are three CDNT teams covering Bray, Wicklow and Arklow that is part of Community Healthcare East and 1 CDNT Team covering West Wicklow under CHO7.

**Education:**

In 2022 the number of DEIS primary schools in Wicklow increased by 7 to 15 in total: 3 at Urban 1, 7 at Urban 2 and 5 Rural. One primary school was reclassified from rural to Urban 1 (St. Coen's, Rathnew). Three post primary schools also received DEIS status to bring the total number to 7. There has been a significant increase in special class provision since 2019 when there were 40 special classes in Wicklow at primary level across 20 schools. In 2022 there are 63 special classes across 29 schools at primary level. Similarly, there were 10 special classes at post-primary level across 6 schools and this has increased to 26 special classes across 14 schools. Wicklow Travellers Group have also recently employed an Education Worker which will be hugely beneficial to outcomes for this vulnerable cohort of young people.

**Family Support:**

Due to high demands Tusla Family Support services have been unable to accept community referrals in the last year (2024). Bray has some support services for vulnerable families; however, a dedicated family support service is a significant gap in this large urban centre.

**Domestic Violence:**

The introduction of TLC Kidz across Co. Wicklow in 2022/23 is a significant and welcome development for the county that responds to the needs of children and mothers who have experienced domestic violence.

In 2019, Wicklow Travellers Group secured funding for a pilot Traveller Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (DSGBV) Project. This became a core funded project in 2022. The project adopts community work approaches to preventing DSGBV in the Traveller community. As a minority ethnic group, Travellers experience several barriers in relation to DSGBV information, support, protection and preventative measures. The Project aims to bridge this gap by working with service providers and Traveller organisations and community in six different counties in Ireland.

In February 2023 the Tusla Family Support Service, Wicklow secured an extra full-time post, with the addition of a Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Practitioner to their team.

**New Communities:**

Several organisations have strengthened their workforces to reflect the increase in the new community population in the county. The Ukraine crisis has seen up to 3,000 new residents and the increase in the International Protection Accommodation in the county has up to 500 new residents. Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership has employed Ukrainian Support workers and opened a Ukrainian Community Centre in Bray. County Wicklow Partnership [CWP] has employed 3 Ukrainian Support workers and opened two support hubs in Arklow and Wicklow. CWP has also employed an Integration Support Worker . Tusla has funded an additional post within the Wicklow Child and

Family Project in Wicklow town to support the needs of families in two IPAS centres in the area. Wicklow County Council have employed 4 workers for the Local Area Integration Team and is hoping to strengthen this team.

### **Youth Justice**

The expansion of the Youth Diversion Projects in the county in 2023 is welcome. The Way Project, Wicklow Town has expanded into Rathnew with a new service and additional supports available. The New Directions Project in Bray is now extending into Greystones and whilst they do not have a premises there are two workers available to take referrals. We look forward to the establishment of the project for South and West Wicklow. The expansion of these projects is responding to the needs identified in these areas during the lifetime of the previous Children and Young People's Plan.

### **Youth Services**

A significant number of volunteer youth clubs closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and have not reopened. There is a lack of youth work services in particular geographic areas including Greystones, Wicklow Town and South Wicklow. Inadequate resourcing of youth work services in the county and challenges in securing/retaining staff was highlighted.

## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Wicklow

This section highlights the main concerns and issues for Children and Young People in Wicklow, drawn from the socio-demographic profile, the audit of services and consultations undertaken with children, young people, service providers, Wicklow CYPSC and subgroup members and many others.

It conveys “how the children and young people in the county are doing” in terms of the five national outcomes for children and young people:

- Active and healthy, physical and mental well being
- Achieving full potential in learning and development
- Safe and protected from harm
- Economic security and opportunity
- Connected, respected and contributing to their world

As highlighted previously in Section 1 of the CYPP, the Wicklow CYPSC completed a consultation process with children, young people and stakeholders in the development of this CYPP. The consultation process and questions within were designed around the five national outcomes for children and young people articulated above. We have summarised the results of this consultation process alongside key learning from engagement with stakeholders in this section against a range of key questions:

- How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?
- What did the consultations tell us?
- What did CYPSC members say?
- Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?
- What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?

<b>Outcome 1. Active Healthy, physical and mental wellbeing</b>	
How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?	<p>In 2022, 85% of people in Wicklow stated that their health was good or very good compared with 89% in 2016. Wicklow has a pre-school population of 8,947 (2022). This has reduced since the last Census in 2016 and reflects an overall downward trend in numbers of children aged 0-4 in the State. A declining trend in birth rates in Wicklow is noted however net migration is maintaining a high youth population and evidence of continuing demand for services. Net migration to Wicklow is higher than the state average. Self-Harm data indicates higher self-harm rate for females. Alcohol Treatment Demand has increased steadily year on year since 2016, almost doubling in number between 2016 to 2022.</p>
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Two thirds of primary school age children surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP (65.7%) exercise for 30 minutes or more at least five days each week, meeting the Chief Medical Officer recommended guidelines for physical activity. Primary school age children would like CYPSC to influence more afterschool activities, lower price of sports activities, build more playgrounds, focus on green spaces, parks etc.</p> <p>Responses from post-primary young people surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP indicated: 40% are meeting the Chief Medical Officer guidelines for physical activity, 15% vape and 2% smoke, 23% reported that they drink, most avoid binge drinking and 10% of young people indicated that they take drugs and that they are aware of the risks. Post primary students indicated lower than average wellbeing scores. Young people are looking for more facilities, safe spaces, diverse activities and affordability.</p> <p>The Wicklow CYPSC CYPP consultation with young people showed that significant proportions of children and young people aged 10-24 have experienced school/exam stress (almost 70%), anxiety and depression (65%), bullying (51%) and loneliness (42%).</p>
What did CYPSC members say?	<p>CYPSC and Subgroup members raised a wide range of issues during consultation that can be summarised under the following thematic areas. Prevention and Early Intervention: Keep prioritising early support for children, young people and families. Trauma Informed Practices: Promote trauma-aware approaches across services. Youth Mental Health and Drug Misuse: Focus on mental health support, prevention and education. Mental Health Services and Training: Expand access to services and provide mental health awareness. Some additional suggestions from CYPSC members included: education/prevention work in relation to vaping and exploring the provision of sexual education to young people and appropriate training for professionals.</p>
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<p>Some challenges were highlighted during the consultation for the CYPP. General Practitioners (GPs) with special interest in child health in County Wicklow felt that lack of access to services for children and young people is a significant issue in the county. This was echoed by many professionals consulted. GPs felt there is a need for clearer mechanisms to signpost children and young people to available services across the county. GPs also indicated that social prescribing in certain areas of the county is under-resourced. Medical examinations are no longer being completed as a routine</p>

## Outcome 1. Active Healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

	<p>check by Area Medical Officers which might lead to missed/delayed diagnosis. The impact of the reconfiguration of disability services into Children's Disability Network Teams is still not clear. Many children/young people are still waiting long periods for therapeutic inputs and some teams are not at full staffing.</p>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<p><b>Sexual Health and Wellbeing:</b> To increase awareness of sexual health in the county and to increase number of professionals trained to deliver sexual health programmes</p> <p><b>Inclusive physical activity promotion:</b> To provide increased opportunity to all children in Wicklow to be physically active and to increase number of trained parents/coaches and teachers.</p> <p><b>Vaping and smoking:</b> To reduce prevalence of vaping and smoking by young people; To support and promote vape/ smoke free zones across Co. Wicklow through Municipal Districts</p> <p><b>Youth Mental Health and Emotional Well being:</b> To increase awareness of positive mental health and support services amongst young people: To increase awareness of effective approaches to reducing suicidal behaviour among young people; To increase awareness of youth mental health services for professionals in relation of under 18s services in the county</p> <p><b>Maternal Mental Health:</b> To increase awareness of maternal mental health and supports and to reduce stigma</p> <p><b>Sleep Hygiene:</b> To support parents in understanding the impact of sleep on physical and mental wellbeing in young people.</p> <p><b>Expansion of Jigsaw Wicklow beyond North Wicklow:</b> To support the expansion of the hub and spoke model of Jigsaw Wicklow outside North Wicklow and to promote engagement with Community and School Training</p> <p><b>Child Health:</b> To increase knowledge and awareness of child health in the county; To promote vaccination uptake in Co. Wicklow; To support the health and wellbeing of young children in Bray.</p> <p><b>Trauma Awareness:</b> To increase level of trauma awareness and trauma aware services in Co. Wicklow</p> <p><b>Planet Youth Responses:</b> To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow</p>

## Outcome 2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?	<p>County Wicklow has a well-educated population with 48% attaining 3<sup>rd</sup> level qualifications. There are 82 mainstream primary schools in Wicklow educating 17,668 children. Primary school enrolments have increased by 14% and post-primary school enrolments have increased by 32% between 2010-20 – one of the highest increases in the country.</p> <p>The number of children with a non-Irish nationality attending primary schools has increased from 7.4% in 2017-18 to 9.7% in 2022-23.</p> <p>There are 24 post-primary schools in Wicklow educating 12,922 children. There were 42.2% of children in primary school absent over 20 days in 2021/22 a sharp rise from 11.6% (2014-18). There were 31.5% of young people from post-primary absent for over 20 days in 2021/22.</p> <p>Almost 26,400 people, or 26% of all those aged 15 and over, had completed their full-time education at upper secondary level.</p>
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Primary school children surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP reported that 16% of 6–12-year-olds said that they struggle with learning in school. Almost 8% of 6–12-year-olds said they ‘hate school’ and stay away from it when they can. The top issues children may face when struggling at school are difficulty with numbers/maths and spelling, challenges in learning, Irish language, social skills and Dyslexia.</p> <p>Post primary school children surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP reported that 92% of children and young people aged 10-24 are currently at school or further education. More than 43% indicate that they struggle with learning in school. The struggle with learning was greater for those in further education with 51% of 18–24-year-olds surveyed reporting this as an issue.</p>
What did CYPSC Members say?	<p>Addressing school refusal and retention is crucial to ensure children remain engaged in education. Strengthening family support services, including specialized parenting programmes can provide essential guidance. Implementing collaborative approaches among professionals and establishing best practices for safeguarding are vital to support vulnerable children and young people. GPs with special interest in child health highlighted school refusal as an increasing common issue, attributing it to factors such as sleep deprivation, rising screen time and hidden harm – all of which are becoming more prevalent.</p> <p>Attendance monitoring has been suspended from the School Completion Programme and this needs to be reinstated.</p>
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<p>Number of DEIS Primary schools increased by 7 to 15 in total and number of DEIS Secondary schools increased by 3 to 7 in total.</p> <p>There has been a significant increase in special class provision since 2019. The lack of a Youthreach Centre in Baltinglass was noted as well as the challenges for young people in travelling to Blessington to access that centre.</p>



<p>What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?</p>	<p><b>School Avoidance:</b> build on work from previous CYPP.</p> <p><b>Language Support:</b> share and build on work already undertaken in previous CYPP.</p> <p><b>Literacy and Numeracy:</b> a number of actions to strengthen literacy numeracy and bring awareness to literacy and numeracy tools.</p> <p><b>Transitions:</b> from pre-school to primary and primary to post-primary.</p> <p><b>Creative Arts in the Early Years:</b> seek opportunities to bring creative arts to very young children.</p> <p><b>Progression Pathways for NEETS young people and young people with disabilities:</b> update/disseminate progression pathways guide developed by Wicklow CYPSC.</p> <p><b>Planet Youth:</b> To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow</p>
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<b>Outcome 3. Safe and Protected from Harm</b>	
How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?	Garda recorded Crime data from 2020 to 2022 highlights an average of 845 incidents of domestic violence per year in the Wicklow Garda Division. Garda Recorded Crime data from 2017 to 2022 highlights an average of 89 sexual offences per year in the Wicklow Garda Division, 75 rape and sexual assault, and 17 other sexual offences and 6 cases of child cases of child abandonment, neglect or cruelty. Wicklow experienced positive net migration of 9.4 per 1,000 people between the 2016 to 2022 higher than the national rate of 7.5 per 1,000. In addition, the county now hosts significant numbers of IPAS residents including up to 500 children and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection because of the war in Ukraine.
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Pre-school age children surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP indicated their favourite things about the place they live which included some of the following: the sea, the walks/forests, access to wild outdoor spaces; rural setting with proximity to amenities; wide footpaths for walking and cycling and large back gardens for play.</p> <p>Primary school children surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP reported that 93% like living in Wicklow, and think it is a good place to live. Only 4% gave negative opinions and 3% gave a neutral opinion. Many children expressed positive feelings about living in Wicklow, using words like "nice," "good," "great," "amazing," "lovely," and "fantastic" to describe their experiences.</p> <p>The top ways children have suggested to make Wicklow a safer place: more footpaths; kid-friendly areas and green spaces; increased Garda presence; better facilities for sports; safe cycling and play areas; safer roads and crossings</p> <p>Post-primary aged young people surveyed also expressed concern about safety, especially in certain areas. Some young people feel that the county is not very diverse or inclusive.</p>
What did CYPSC Members say?	Need to strengthen and expand the Meitheal model <sup>18</sup> to ensure effective support co-ordination for children, young people and families. Prioritise services addressing domestic violence and its impact on children. Support children experiencing hidden harm, ensuring early intervention and tailored supports. Expand and embed Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) practices to support families experiencing child to parent violence. Address inconsistencies in sexual consent education across schools. Advocate for comprehensive, standardised programmes countywide. Focus on early intervention for children experiencing anxiety especially during key transitions (e.g. preschool to primary school). Build on work already done by Supporting Parents and Early Childhood Settings (SPECS) while providing more parental supports. Recognise the growing scale of homelessness in Co. Wicklow and ensure that the CYPP includes concrete actions to support children, young people and families impacted by housing insecurity.

<sup>18</sup> Meitheal refers to a national practice model, operated by Tusla, designed to provide support to children, young people, and families experiencing difficulties.

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<p>Several organisations have strengthened their workforces to reflect the increase in new community population in the county.</p> <p>The number of Youth Diversion Projects have increased in the county.</p> <p>Training needs analysis required to identify gaps in training for professionals e.g. Parents Plus Adolescent Programme, Non-Violent Resistance and SPACE</p>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<p><b>PPFS/CFSN and Meitheal:</b> ensuring a coordinated, evidence informed and interagency approach to the needs of children, young people and families in Wicklow</p> <p><b>Training for Professionals:</b> ensuring a coordinated/collaborative approach to training.</p> <p><b>Parenting Support:</b> To utilise relevant funding to promote Parental Participation Projects and Parenting Support Champions; To co-ordinate and plan parenting supports including the promotion of <a href="http://parentingsupport.ie">parentingsupport.ie</a>; To work with partners to establish Parent Hubs in Wicklow and support an existing Hub in Dunlavin, West Wicklow; To provide support to the NVR and SPACE networks across the area and to explore funding for further training in the area</p> <p><b>New Communities:</b> To ensure joint coordination and planning around new communities' work</p> <p><b>Domestic Violence:</b> To ensure joint coordination and planning around DSGBV in the county</p> <p><b>Drugs and Alcohol:</b> To support implementation of the Hidden Harm strategy through the Meitheal framework of family support; To promote the Drug Related Intimidation (DRIVE) programme and signpost victims and concerned others to the liaison and/or the nominated inspector</p> <p><b>Planet Youth:</b> To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow</p>

## Outcome 4. Economic Security and Opportunity

How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?	<p>In Q4 2024, the employment rate for those aged 15-64 in Wicklow was 74.3%, a slight increase from the previous quarter. Almost 69,000 people were at work in April 2022, with a significant portion in full-time employment. Wicklow also has one of the lowest unemployment rates per capita in Ireland, with 297 people signing on per 10,000 inhabitants in December 2024. Wicklow saw a 17% increase in employment between 2016 and 2022, with 68,971 people aged 15 and over at work – slightly above the 16% national rise. There were 32,254 children/young people aged 15 and under, 31% of whom were in childcare compared to 33% nationally.</p> <p>Homeownership in Wicklow stood at 71%, higher than the 66% national figure, which 24% rented, lower than the 28% national average. The number of people in receipt of Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) rose from 37 to 132 over the last three years with a higher percentage of HAP households received child-related supports than the national average. Wicklow's deprivation index improved from 1.43 (2016) to 1.12 (2022) marking it as "marginally above average", however, pockets of deprivation remain e.g. Rathnew (-31.01).</p> <p>Childcare costs are among the highest in the country at €213 per week, with only 12% of places in community-based childcare, one of the lowest rates in Ireland.</p>
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>The survey of children and young people for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP stated that 85% of children and young people say they and their family usually have enough money to get along with life comfortably, 10% say they sometimes don't have enough to buy basic food requirements and 5% said they regularly struggle to pay bills, go on holiday or pay for schoolbooks.</p>
What did CYPSC Members say?	<p>CYPSC members identified key challenges in the county, particularly around poverty, economic hardship, and homelessness, emphasising the need for prevention and early intervention strategies. Strengthening connections with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was highlighted including improving communication and ensuring CYPSC representation. Disability remains a priority area, with a focus on aligning with ongoing initiatives like the IMPACT<sup>19</sup> pilot project in Bray and CYPSC Progressing Pathways document. A call was made for the development of a new community's action plan and for expanding services to address early school leaving. Additionally, better integration with services funded and promoted under LCDC was recommended to enhance support for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>CYPSC members would like to see Sláintecare Healthy Communities expanded to other parts of Wicklow.</p> <p>CYPSC members want to see further work in relation to the issue of food poverty building on the research already undertaken.</p>

<sup>19</sup> IMPACT WorkAbility Inclusive Pathways to Employment programme supports people with disabilities living in Bray and North Wicklow to achieve sustainable employment, become self-employed or progress in your career.

<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>Need for increased services to address the impact of early school leaving Need to make better connections with services funded and promoted under LCDC with a particular focus on SICAP Need to create better networks between food providers to address the issue of food poverty.</p>
<p>What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?</p>	<p><b>Youth Employability:</b> To establish needs of the target group using a place-based approach. Identify and test appropriate response interventions. <b>Integration of New Communities:</b> To ensure the integration of new communities and to utilise CYPSC IPSS funding to support integration initiatives <b>Local Community Development Committee [LCDC]:</b> To strengthen the relationship between Wicklow CYPSC and Wicklow LCDC and to raise issues impacting children and young people in Co. Wicklow <b>Employment for those with disabilities:</b> To promote pathways to education, training and employment for those with disabilities <b>Disadvantaged Youth in West Wicklow:</b> To support target young people in West Wicklow <b>Expansion of Sláintecare Healthy Communities:</b> To seek to expand Sláintecare Healthy Communities into other areas of the county <b>Food Poverty:</b> To raise awareness of the issue of food poverty in the county and to build networks of support <b>Child Poverty:</b> To identify the drivers of child poverty in the pilot area and to test interventions using a Human Learning System [HLS] approach <b>Planet Youth Responses:</b> To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow</p>

<b>Outcome 5. Connected Respected and Contributing to their world</b>	
How are Children & Young People in Wicklow CYPSC area doing?	<p>More than 57% of children and young people aged 12 and over (who participated in the consultation for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP) participate in volunteering or are members of a youth club, youth service or sports group. However, Census data shows lower youth volunteering rates for Wicklow - 2.9% of 0–14-year-olds compared to 3% nationally and 9.9% of 15–24-year-olds compared to 11% nationally. There was an average of 356 Garda Youth referrals to Youth Diversion Projects per annum from 2018 to 2022.</p>
What did the consultations tell us?	<p>Most children and young people surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP have positive feelings about their community with 73% of 12–25-year-olds and 93% of 6–12-year-olds saying they enjoy living in Wicklow. However, 32% of children and young people aged 10-24 indicated reported difficulties with social skills and 11.6% chose not to answer this question.</p> <p>Regarding social media, 57% of children and young people aged 10-24 indicated that they feel social media is a good platform, 50% felt that it is sometimes, and 3% think it isn't a good platform. The most popular apps amongst young people surveyed for the Wicklow CYPSC CYPP are WhatsApp and YouTube (both used by nearly 85%), Snapchat (80%), Facebook (27%) and Twitter/X (22%).</p> <p>Two thirds of 6-12 years olds are members of local clubs, especially sports clubs, with GAA, soccer and rugby being the most popular in addition to tennis and basketball.</p>
What did CYPSC Members say?	<p>A focus on enhancing youth services and involving young people in meaningful activities emerged from discussions.</p> <p>More information is required in relation to the roll out of Tusla Child and Youth Participation Training to ensure youth services involvement.</p> <p>Strengthen and support existing work with LGBTQ+ young people</p> <p>Identify and address service gaps in the county guided by the Kildare and Wicklow ETB service mapping of the county.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about healthy relationships and the need to provide young people with guidance.</p> <p>Utilise work already undertaken with young people in relation to cannabis use and broaden to substance misuse – including cocaine and vaping.</p> <p>Explore supports for young carers in the county with Family Carers Ireland and link with existing youth services.</p> <p>Additional areas for work were also highlighted including gambling,</p>

<p>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</p>	<p>A significant number of volunteer youth clubs closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and have not reopened. Lack of youth work services in particular geographic areas including Wicklow Town and South Wicklow. Inadequate resourcing of youth work services in the county and challenges in securing/retaining staff was highlighted.</p>
<p>What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?</p>	<p><b>Youth Participation:</b> Ensure the active participation of young people on CYPSC; To work with existing structures to maintain participation of children and young people in CYPSC 12-17 years; To provide participation training on a multi-agency basis informed by Hub na n'Óg; To promote/ support the roll out of programmes under the Tusla Youth Participation annual funding. <b>Gaps in youth services:</b> To identify and highlight gaps in youth services in Co. Wicklow <b>LGBTQi+ Young People:</b> To improve awareness of LGBTQi+ issues through training and other events <b>Garda and Youth relationships:</b> To create opportunities for positive garda/ youth relationships; To strengthen youth services relationship with Joint Policing Committee or Community Safety Partnership structures to ensure youth safety concerns are highlighted <b>Substance Misuse and Vaping:</b> To provide appropriate training to respond to the issue of drug misuse <b>Gambling issues for young people:</b> To raise awareness of the issue of gambling and how it might be addressed within the youth work context <b>Rural isolation for young people:</b> To examine the impact of transport issues for young people in South and West Wicklow <b>Young Carers:</b> To increase access to youth services by Young Carers <b>Planet Youth Responses:</b> To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow</p>

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

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	Sexual Health and Wellbeing; Inclusive physical activity promotion; Vaping and Smoking; Youth Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing; Maternal Mental Health; Sleep Hygiene; Expansion of Jigsaw Wicklow; Child Health; Trauma Awareness and; Planet Youth.
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	School Avoidance; Language Support; Literacy and Numeracy; Transitions; Creative Arts in the Early Years; Progression Pathways for NEETS young people and young people with disabilities and; Planet Youth.
3. Safe and protected from harm	PPFS/CFSN and Meitheal; Training for Professionals; Parenting Support; New Communities; Domestic Violence; Drugs and Alcohol; Planet Youth.
4. Economic security and opportunity	Youth Employability; Integration of New Communities; Local Community Development Committee [LCDC]; Employment for those with disabilities; Disadvantaged Youth in West Wicklow; Expansion of Sláintecare Healthy Communities; Food Poverty; Child Poverty; Planet Youth Responses.
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Youth Participation; Gaps in youth services; LGBTQi+ Young People; Garda and Youth relationships; Substance Misuse and Vaping; Gambling issues for young people; Rural isolation for young people; Young Carers; Planet Youth Responses.

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change Management	Youth Participation training; Organisational restructuring; CYPSC Review; Alignment of work; Communication; Involvement with relevant structures; Community Directory; Data Collection and Planet Youth; updating the existing Critical Incident Protocol



## **Section 6: Action Plan for Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee**

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Sexual Health and Wellbeing	To increase awareness of sexual health in the county and to increase number of professionals trained to deliver sexual health programmes	No of programme per annum No of professionals trained No of promotions of free care to females and to free STI testing	1 programme per annum Up to 20 participants Min 5 promotions of free care	Promotion of training programme to all CYPSC and Subgroup networks Promotion of free care to females and STI testing	2025-2026	Health promotion and Improvement CYPSC Member Organisations	National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020 Review of NSHS 2023 Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-25	Outcome 5
Inclusive physical activity promotion	To provide increased opportunity to all children in Wicklow to be physically active. To increase number of trained parents/coaches and teachers.	No. of school and community programmes delivered that target youth. No. of training programmes delivered to parents, coaches & teachers	Minimum of 5 school-based programmes delivered.  Minimum of 5 training programmes delivered.	Delivery of disability inclusion summer camps and IPAS activities. Delivery of training and education opportunities throughout the county.	2025-2026	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.	National Physical Activity Plan National Sports Policy Healthy Wicklow Strategy Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership plan	Outcome 2
Vaping and smoking	To reduce prevalence of vaping and smoking by young people.	Programme delivered County-wide No. of Participants No. of relevant resources shared	1 programme 10/15 participants Minimum of 5 events at which Vaping/Smoking	Support HP&I to deliver Quit4Youth programmes in Wicklow	2025-2027	HSE Health Promotion & Improvement	Healthy Wicklow Strategy Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health-led response to drug	Outcome 5 Listen to and involve children and young people

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
			leaflets distributed to target groups	Share appropriate resources through youth services			and alcohol use in Ireland 2017–2025.	
Vaping and Smoking	To support and promote vape/ smoke free zones across Co. Wicklow through Municipal Districts	Number of places vape/smoke free in Co. Wicklow	All playgrounds 80%+ sports grounds and clubs	Support and promote the delivery of vape/smoke free zones across Co. Wicklow such as	2025-2027	Wicklow Municipal Districts, Community Tobacco Workers	As above	
Youth Mental Health and Emotional Well being	To increase awareness of positive mental health and support services amongst young people	Gr82Byng Campaign Increase number of participating areas/schools Number of national campaigns supported	1 local campaign delivered and supported 300+ students participating 6+ schools engaged 1 national campaign supported	Support the existing youth mental health initiatives and campaigns including programmes delivered by HSE Health Promotion & Improvement  Expand Gr82Byng to other parts of Wicklow.	2025-2027	Wicklow YMHI BNWAP Jigsaw HSE Health Promotion & Improvement	Connecting for Life 2015-20 Vision for Change	Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord
Youth Mental Health and Emotional Well being	To increase awareness of effective approaches to reducing suicidal	No. of suicide prevention courses  No. of participants attending	30 courses p.a.  Up to 500 participants p.a.	Continue to support suicide prevention training programmes in	2025-2027	HSE MH (ROSP)	Connecting for Life 2015-20 Vision for Change	Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	behaviour among young people			line with the National Suicide Prevention Education and Training Plan for professionals working with young people				
Youth Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	To increase awareness of youth mental health services for professionals in relation of under 18s services in the county	A revised referral pathway tool for circulation to professionals  Promotion and raise awareness to GPs	1 referral pathway Reviewed annually  Min. 1 promotions per annum to GPs and other professionals	Referral pathway for U18s services in Wicklow reviewed annually and distributed to professionals	2025-2027	Wicklow CYPSC YMH Subgroup	Connecting for Life 2015-20 Vision for Change	Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord
Maternal Mental Health	To increase awareness of maternal mental health and supports and to reduce stigma	No. of campaigns Increase number of agencies involved in campaign in Wicklow No. of promotions of resources	1 campaign per annum Min. 10 agencies involved in campaign Min. 10 promotions of Maternal Mental Health Resources p.a.	Support the work of the Minding Me Group to ensure the ongoing promotion of the maternal mental health resources developed	2025-2027	HSE CHO7 Multi-agency Task Group	Connecting for Life 2015-20 Vision for Change	Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Sleep Hygiene	To support parents in understanding the impact of sleep on physical and mental wellbeing in young people.	Information guidance and other promotional tools for parents developed and circulated Video developed by young people for parents	1 Parent Leaflet produced and disseminated 1 fridge magnet produced and disseminated 2 Videos produced and disseminate	Develop parental guidance focussed on importance and value of sleep and provide good sleep hygiene practice. Work with young people to produce video for parents	2025-2027	KWETB & Youth Diversion Projects Jigsaw HSE CAMHS	Healthy Wicklow Strategy Healthy Ireland	Outcome 2 Achieving Full Potential Listen to and involve children and young people
Expansion of Jigsaw Wicklow beyond North Wicklow	To support the expansion of the hub and spoke model of Jigsaw Wicklow outside North Wicklow. To promote engagement with Community and School Training	No. of outreach locations Annual review of issues arising Community and School Training	2 Outreach locations in Wicklow Town and West Wicklow 1 Annual Report Min. 5 Community or School Training	Identify with partners suitable locations for outreach services Ongoing promotion of training opportunities for community and/or schools	2025-2027	Jigsaw Wicklow and partners	Connecting for Life 2015-20 Vision for Change Healthy Wicklow	Early Intervention and Prevention
Child Health	To increase knowledge and awareness of child health in the county.	MyChild.ie promoted in CYPSC updates/ newsletters Number of initiatives promoted annually on social media	5 promotions annually in updates/ newsletters 5 links shared through social media annually	Use existing CYPSC updates and newsletters and social media to promote the MyChild.ie to CYPSC Partners	2025-2027	Public Health Nursing Service  Wicklow CYPSC & Partners	The National Healthy Childhood Programme	Early Intervention and Prevention

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Child Health	To promote vaccination uptake in Co. Wicklow	Maintain/ improve current levels of vaccination uptake	+95% uptake of Primary Childhood vaccinations and Junior Infant boosters and First year vaccines of Tdap/MenACWY	Use the CYPSC and its subgroups as a vehicle to promote and disseminate information on vaccination. Tackle vaccination fatigue. Encourage sharing via social media.	2025-2027	HSE and CYPSC Partners	First 5 Healthy Wicklow Strategy	Early Intervention and Prevention
Child Health	To support the health and wellbeing of young children in Bray.	Funding identified Health & Wellbeing project commenced Evaluation Reports	1 funding source identified 1 H&WB Project in Bray 1 Evaluation Report	Work with the H&WB Project Groups to identify potential funding sources Support establishment	2025-2027	H&WB Project Group Bray HSE Wicklow CYPSC	First 5 Healthy Wicklow Strategy	Early Intervention and Prevention
Trauma Awareness	To increase level of trauma awareness and trauma aware services in Co. Wicklow	Analysis/mapping of training Training delivered No of participants Evaluation report	1 Analysis/map 1 training event Min. 20 participants 1 Evaluation Report produced	Identify trauma awareness training need Identify suitable trauma training Delivery and evaluation	2025-2027	LCDC Subgroup Outcome 1 CYPSC Subgroup Outcome 3 CYPSC Subgroup	Sharing the Vision National Mental Health Policy Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023	Early Intervention and Prevention
Planet Youth Responses	To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow	PY Survey Findings Responses reviewed	1 PY Report 2025 1 review in Yr 1 Up to 2 actions per annum in Years 2 and 3	To review the PY findings and to consider responses that will meet the needs of	2025-2027	PY Steering Committee ECRDATF YMH Subgroup	The Strategic Action Plan for the National Drugs Strategy 2023-2024.	Outcomes 1,3,4 & 5 Early Intervention and Prevention Supporting Parents

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of actions agreed and implemented		young people and families in the county			Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
School Avoidance	To build the capacity of relevant stakeholders to deal with the issue of school avoidance e.g. school staff, parents To continue to promote the School Avoidance Pack	Workshops or webinar for relevant stakeholders Promotion of School Avoidance Pack	Up to 2 events per annum Minimum 15 participants per event 2 mailouts to schools per annum with pack linked	Identify practical training opportunities for parents and other stakeholders Consider impact of issues such as social anxiety, LGBT+, Post COVID	2025-2027	TESS – EWS PPFS/CFSN colleagues	SICAP plans	Outcome 4 Support Parents
Language Support	To increase awareness of the importance of language supports for young children across Co. Wicklow	Learning event for relevant stakeholders Event Evaluation Increase number of Talkboost programmes delivered	1 learning event No of participants Evaluation report produced 10% increase in number of Talkboost programmes delivered	Showcase work that has taken place through BNWAP SPECS and others Source funding for Talkboost Pack to enable further expansion of Talkboost in Wicklow	2025-2027	SPECS Wicklow County Childcare Committee HSE	Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life National Healthy Childhood Programme	Outcome 1 Support Parents
Literacy and Numeracy	To support and promote early literacy/ numeracy initiatives	No. of targeted promotions per annum	Up to 4 targeted promotions per annum	Use CYPSC structures and related networks including social media channels to	2025-2027	Wicklow Libraries and Wicklow CYPSC partner agencies	Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life	Outcome 1 Support Parents



Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				promote literacy and numeracy initiatives to target communities				
Literacy and Numeracy	To promote take up of TTRS (Touch Type Read Spell) and Lexia use with new communities To support increase of informal language groups for new communities through the library services	No of targeted promotions per annum Increase number of licences for both TTRS and Lexia in use Increase in number of informal language groups	Up to 4 targeted promotions per annum Increase in licences 10% increase in number of informal language groups	Use CYPSC structures and related networks including social media channels to promote literacy and numeracy initiatives to new communities	2025-2027	Wicklow Libraries Wicklow CYPSC structures LAIT Partnership Companies Failte Isteach	Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life Learning for Life	Outcome 1 Support Parents
Transitions	To promote the importance of transition from Preschool to Primary school	Promote use of national transition tool and take up of National Parent Council workshops and Library Packs	Annual promotion to all preschools and primary schools in Wicklow	Identify suitable means to promote national transition tool, NPC workshops, Library Packs Ensure an annual promotion	2025-2027	Wicklow CCC SPECS Libraries	National Youth Strategy	Outcome 5 Strengthening Transitions
Transitions	To develop guidance on a good practice for transition from primary to	Good practice guidance circulated to all Primary and Post – Primary	1 guidance document completed and sent to all Primary and post-primary	Consult with relevant stakeholders and compile guidance on good practice	2025-2027	TESS - EWS, IPPN	National Youth Strategy	Outcome 5 Strengthening Transitions

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	secondary for Primary DEIS and Non DEIS Schools	Schools in Co. Wicklow Evaluation conducted to inform any revisions required	Schools in Co. Wicklow 1 Evaluation of the resource	for both DEIS and Non- DEIS Schools				
Creative Arts in the Early Years	To promote creative arts in the early years through the delivery of I Am Baba or other suitable programme to target audience	I Am Baba Workshops or other arts programmes delivered  Numbers of participants	2 workshops or programmes per annum  Up to 20 participants	Programmes identified and promoted to target groups Locations agreed Venues booked Programmes delivered	2025-2027	Wicklow CCC BNWAP SPECS Wicklow Libraries Wicklow CYPSC Partners	First 5: A Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019 - 2028	Outcome 1 and 5 Support Parents Involve children and young people
Progression Pathways for young people	To maintain up to date progression pathways document for young people 16-24 years excluded from mainstream education and young people with disabilities	Annual review of progression pathways document Dissemination to relevant stakeholders	1 Annual review 1 Up to date Progression Pathway document Dissemination annually to relevant stakeholders	Review the Progression pathway document annually. Disseminate to relevant stakeholders	2025-2027	Outcome 2 Subgroup and Wicklow CYPSC Partners	SICAP plans	Outcome 4 Support Parents
Planet Youth Responses	To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow	PY Survey Findings Responses reviewed	1 PY Report 2025 1 review in Yr 1 Up to 2 actions per annum in Years 2 and 3	To review the PY findings and to consider responses that will meet the needs of	2025-2027	PY Steering Committee ECRDATF YMH Subgroup	The Strategic Action Plan for the National Drugs Strategy 2023-2024.	Outcomes 1,3,4 & 5 Early Intervention and Prevention Supporting Parents

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of actions agreed and implemented		young people and families in the county			Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
PPFS, CFSN and Meitheal East and West Wicklow	To ensure a coordinated, evidence informed and interagency response for children, young people and families across Co. Wicklow	No. of PPFS SC meetings per annum and no. of CFSN meetings No of Meitheal Training Events	1 PPFS Steering Committee x 5 meetings pa and 4 CFSN x 3 meetings per annum 1 Meitheal Training Event pa	Coordinate PPFS meetings PPFS staff to coordinate CFSN and Meitheal Training	2025-2027	Tusla PPFS	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord
Training for Professionals	To identify and address training needs of PPFS CFSN Network members and Youth Services	No. of events No. of participants Evaluation	2 events per annum 15 min participants per event 1 evaluation per event	Annual TNA undertaken in consultation with CFSN and PPFS members and Others Training identified and delivered Monitored and evaluated	2025-2027	Tusla and PPFS Members Other CYPSC members	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord
Parenting Support	To utilise funding to deliver Parental Participation Projects	Number of Parent Participation Projects Evaluation of Projects	Number of PP projects p.a. 1 Evaluation Report for each project	EOIs for Parental Participation Funding issued annually PP Projects delivered and evaluated	2025-2027	Tusla and PPFS Members	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	Early intervention and Prevention Parenting Support

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	To support the Parenting Support Champions programme	Increase number of Parent Support Champions	8 PSCs across East Wicklow and Dublin Southeast	PSC membership reviewed and reestablished.  PSC Learning Event annual funding allocated across East Wicklow and Dublin Southeast.				
Parenting Support	To co-ordinate and plan parenting supports including the promotion of parentingsupport.ie	Online platform for sharing of parenting support information	1 online platform Parentingsupport.ie 1 directory of trainers and programmes	Ongoing promotion of the updated parenting support website Ongoing uploading of relevant information	2025-2027	Wicklow CYPSC Kildare CYPSC PPFS CFSN	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents	Parenting Support Early Intervention and Prevention
Parenting Support	To work with partners to establish Parent Hubs in Wicklow and support an existing Hub in Dunlavin, West Wicklow.	Increase number of Parent Hubs in Wicklow	2 - 4 Parents Hubs	Aligning to Action 15 Young Ireland explore with partners how Parenting Hubs can be established and where Maintain support to Dunlavin Parent Hub in West Wicklow and seek to expand	2025-2027	Tusla	Young Ireland	Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Parenting Support	To provide support to the NVR and SPACE networks across the area and to explore funding for further training in the area	NVR and SPACE network maintained Regular Supervision offered to SPACE Core Group Review needs for further training and source funding	1 NVR & SPACE network for Wicklow 5 SPACE Supervision sessions per annum 1 review of need in Year 1/2 and addressed in Year 2/3 if funding sourced	Supervision for NVR and SPACE networks to continue	2025-2027	Wicklow CYPSC DLR CYPSC PPFS	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents NVR and SPACE Materials	Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention
New Communities	To ensure joint coordination and planning around new communities' work	New Communities PS Network in place 1 workplan for the network Annual review of workplan No of actions/ Interventions No of projects supported by IPSS funding	1 New Communities PS Network 1 workplan 1 review of workplan annually No of actions/ Interventions p.a. Up to 5 projects p.a. supported under IPSS funding	New communities parent support network to meet regularly Annual workplan agreed Actions/ interventions implemented	2025-2027	Tusla, PPFS and CFSNs	Migrant integration Strategy Resettlement/ Reunification Report 2018	Outcome 5 Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention
Domestic Violence	To ensure joint coordination and planning around DSGBV in the county	DSGBV network supported by PPFS Workplan for DV work across area	1 DSGBV Network 1 workplan 1 review of workplan annually 1/2 actions/	DSGBV Network to meet regularly Workplan reviewed annually and actions	2025-2027	Tusla	Tusla DSGBV Suite of Documents	Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		Annual review of workplan No of actions/ interventions	Interventions p.a.	agreed across awareness raising, training etc.				
Drugs and Alcohol	To support implementation of the Hidden Harm strategy through the Meitheal framework of family support	Increase awareness of Hidden Harm Establish link between Hidden Harm and Meitheal framework	No. Hidden Harm Workshops No. of Meitheal initiated in response to Hidden Harm assessments of need	Practice liaison worker will work with frontline group to implement Hidden Harm across the region.	2025-2027	Dun Laoghaire and Wicklow PPFS Shared action	Tusla PPFS Suite of Documents Hidden Harm Policy Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017–2025.	Parent Support Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Coord
Drugs and Alcohol	To promote the Drug Related Intimidation (DRIVE) programme and signpost victims and concerned others to the liaison and/or the nominated inspector	DRIVE Liaison Network Workers are in place and their details are shared with agencies for signposting. Training will be provided for liaisons	1 DRIVE Liaison Worker per local task force and regional task force.	Training to come (awaiting funding).  Liaisons attend monthly meetings to share information, develop TOR and streamline information.	2025-2027	ECRDATAF SWRDATAF	National Drugs Strategy	Outcome 1
Housing and Homelessness	To strengthen relationships with	Review meeting to be held in 2024	1 Review meeting in 2024	Themed meeting to take place in	2025-2027	Housing	Rebuilding Ireland: Action	Outcome 1 Parent Support

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	Housing Section of Wicklow County Council	and actions/role to be agreed	Further actions to be agreed following review meeting	2024 to review and agree CYPSC and PPFS role in relation to housing and homelessness issues arising across the area			Plan for Housing and Homelessness	Early Intervention and Prevention
Online Safety	To promote the importance of online safety to parents across Co. Wicklow	Promotion of online safety workshops and materials to parents across the county	Minimum 4 promotions per annum	Promotion of Website and Barnardos materials and workshops to parents	2025-2027	PPFS and CFSN and other CYPSC Members	Action Plan for Online Safety	Outcome 1 and 2 Early Intervention and Prevention Support parents
Planet Youth	To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow	PY Survey Findings Responses reviewed No. of actions agreed and implemented	1 PY Report 2025 1 review in Yr 1 Up to 2 actions per annum in Years 2 and 3	To review the PY findings and to consider responses that will meet the needs of young people and families in the county	2025-2027	PY Steering Committee ECRDATAF YMH Subgroup	The Strategic Action Plan for the National Drugs Strategy 2023-2024. Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	Outcomes 2,3,4 & 5 Early Intervention and Prevention Support Parents



Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Employability	To improve coordination and collaboration around NEETS work	Interagency meeting of relevant stakeholder involved in NEETS Report collated and disseminated	1 meeting 1 report collated and shared	Interagency meeting of relevant stakeholder Establish gaps What is working well? Collate/share learning	2025-2027	Partnership Companies, DEASP, Youth Services	Nat. Action Plan for Social Inclusion Pathways to Work PEIL SICAP Plans LECP	Outcome 2 and 5 Cross Government and Interagency Collab. And Coordination
Integration of New Communities	To ensure the integration of new communities and to utilise CYPSC IPSS funding to support integration initiatives	County level new communities group adopting place-based informed action. CYPSC/IPSS funding projects identified annually	1 county level committee  Up to 5 IPSS funded Projects per annum	Review of supports provided by a number of partners Multi-agency liaison to ensure adequate signposting	2025-2027	Wicklow CC	White paper	Outcome 2 and 5
Local Community Development Committee [LCDC]	To strengthen the relationship between Wicklow CYPSC and Wicklow LCDC and to raise issues impacting children and young people in Co. Wicklow	LCDC Meetings Attended Regular updates between LCDC and CYPSC	Min of 6 LCDC meetings per annum 1 input per annum between LCDC and CYPSC	CYPSC secured membership of LCDC in 2024 Issues identified through CYPSC and its subgroups to be raised with LCDC	2025-2027	Local Authority And all CYPSC Subgroups	LECP	All Outcomes and TGs
Employment for those with disabilities	To promote pathways to education, training	Number of Disability Inclusion Steering	4 DISC Meetings	Work with DISC and PPN to hold a Disability Event	2025-2027	CYPSC Coordinator	Disability Inclusion Strategy Document	All outcome areas

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	and employment for those with disabilities	Committee (DISC) meetings Promotion of Progression Pathways document	Up to 2 promotions of pathways document per annum	where options for education, training and employment can be displayed				
Disadvantaged Youth in West Wicklow	To support target young people in West Wicklow	Summer Event delivered Number of participants	1 Event per annum in West Wicklow 10 min participants	Career mentoring/ job coaching/ upskilling / group outings and team building for disadvantaged young people in West Wicklow	2025-2027	County Wicklow Partnership and West Wicklow Youth Project	Nat. Action Plan for Social Inclusion CWP SICAP plan LECP	Outcome 5 Early Intervention and Prevention Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Co-ordination
Expansion of Sláintecare Healthy Communities	To seek to expand Sláintecare Healthy Communities into other areas of the county	Sláintecare Healthy Communities secured for another location in Wicklow	1 new area secured	Following successful evaluation of Bray site – seek to expand model to other areas of Wicklow (Arklow and Carnew to be prioritised)	2025-2027	HSE Health Improvement	Sláintecare	All Outcomes and TGs
Food Poverty	To raise awareness of the issue of food poverty in the county and to	Food Network coordinator appointed Food Network established Workplan agreed	1 coordinator 1 network from across the county 1 workplan	Appointment of food network coordinator Network set up Workplan agreed	2025-2027	Wicklow Food Poverty Steering Committee	Wicklow Food Strategy LECP SICAP plans	All Outcomes and TGs

Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	build networks of support							
Child Poverty	To identify the drivers of child poverty in the pilot area and to test interventions using a Human Learning System [HLS] approach	System Mapping HLS training Test Interventions Evaluation	1 System Map Up to 3 HLS trainings in Year 1 Up to 2 test interventions in Years 1 and 2	Work collaboratively with partners to successfully deliver Year 1 and Year 2 objectives and outcomes of the FACES Local Area Child Poverty Pilot	2025-2027	Outcome 4	Child Poverty and Wellbeing Young Ireland	All Outcomes and TGs
Planet Youth Responses	To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow	PY Survey Findings Responses reviewed No. of actions agreed and implemented	1 PY Report 2025 1 review in Yr 1 Up to 2 actions per annum in Years 2 and 3	To review the PY findings and to consider responses that will meet the needs of young people and families in the county	2025-2027	PY Steering Committee ECRDATF YMH Subgroup	The Strategic Action Plan for the National Drugs Strategy 2023-2024. Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	Outcomes 2,3,4 & 5 Early Intervention and Prevention Supporting Parents

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Participation	Ensure the active participation of young people on CYPSC	Young person contributing to the work of the CYPSC	2 young people 18-24 appointed to CYPSC  Seek additional reps	Nomination form circulated through relevant structures	2025-2027	CYPSC Co-ordinator and Outcome 5 Subgroup	National Youth Strategy Participation Strategy and Guidance	Outcome 1 Listen to and Involve Ch and YP
Youth Participation	To work with existing structures to maintain participation of children and young people in CYPSC 12-17 years	Outcome 5 Subgroup meetings Workplan Number of actions involving C&YP per annum	5 meetings per annum 1 workplan Minimum 1 action per annum involving C&YP	Maintain O5 Subgroup and membership to ensure participation of 12-17 via Comhairle na nÓg and other youth work and youth justice services in the county	2025-2027	CYPSC Co-ordinator and Outcome 5 Subgroup	National Youth Strategy Tusla Child and Youth Participation Strategy	Outcome 1 Listen to and Involve Ch and YP
Youth Participation	To provide participation training on a multi-agency basis informed by Hub na n'Óg	No of Training Events No Participants Training Evaluation	1 training event per annum 15/20 participants Evaluation report	Identify training facilitator Identify multi-agency participants Training delivered Training evaluated	2025-2027	KWETB	National Youth Strategy Participation Strategy and Guidance	Outcome 1 Listen to and involve Children and Young People
Youth Participation	To promote/ support the roll out of programmes under the Tusla Youth Participation annual funding	Briefing sessions held No of initiatives delivered through accessing seed funding  Projects reviewed annually	1 briefing session per annum  Minimum 2 projects per annum supported  Project Reviews	Increase youth participation through use of Lundy Model Annual briefing session on seed funding PPFS Manager to review applications and allocated funding accordingly.	2025-2027	Tusla	Tusla Child and Youth Participation Strategy	Outcome 3 Listen to and Involve Ch and YP

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Review projects rolled out through accessing seed funding				
Gaps in youth services	To identify and highlight gaps in youth services in Co. Wicklow	Action research report for agreed geographical areas of need to include Traveller projects Dissemination of research report	Action research report Dissemination to relevant bodies including DCDE, KWETB, Wicklow County Council, Local Dev. Companies	Funders identified Research proposal tendered Researcher appointed and research identified	2025-2027	KWETB Tusla	National Youth Strategy KWETB Strategy LECP	Outcome 1 and 3 Ensure Quality Services
LGBTQ+	To improve awareness of LGBTQ+ issues through training and other events	No. of training/other events No. participating	1 event per annum Min. 10 participants	In person event completed annually Access funding to provide training. Recommendations for organisations on how they can be more inclusive. Scope what is available currently for families in this area.	2025-2027	O5 Subgroup Members In Sync	National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy	Outcome 1 and 3 Listen to and Involve Ch. and YP Cross Government and Interagency Collab and Co-ordination
Garda and Youth relationships	To create opportunities for positive garda/ youth relationships	Invitations to Garda to attend youth events Q&A session at events	No of events at which Garda represented No of Q&A sessions	Ensuring that Gardai are invited to attend youth events (where appropriate) Gardai to be invited to host Q&A sessions with young people	2025-2027	Outcome 5 Subgroup and Gardai	Youth Justice Strategy 1.8.1	Outcome 1 and 3 Listen to and Involve Ch. and YP

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Advocating for maintaining and increasing community gardai				
Garda and Youth Relationships	To strengthen youth services relationship with Joint Policing Committee or Community Safety Partnership structures to ensure youth safety concerns are highlighted	Establish representation of youth services on relevant structures Youth safety concerns to be shared with JPC and/or CSP with possible responses modelled in other areas	Appropriate youth services representation on JPC or new CSP to be secured 1 submission of concerns/responses from young people	Membership of JPC in Wicklow to be examined to find out who represents youth services How/when CSP is to be established Safety concerns to be collated and submitted	2025-2027	O5 Subgroup Members	Youth Justice Strategy 1.8.1	Outcome 1 and 3 Listen to and Involve Ch. and YP
Substance Misuse and Vaping	To provide appropriate training to respond to the issue of drug misuse	Review research report and work with young people to consider responses	1 Review of research report in 2025 1 event with young people Up to 20 young people participating 2 responses identified	Work with youth services to bring young people together to review research and identify youth-led responses	2025-2027	Outcome 5 Subgroup	Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	Outcome 1
Gambling issues for young people	To raise awareness of the issue of gambling and how it might	Event to focus on gambling to take place focussed on youth work professionals	1 Event 1 Evaluation report Review of findings to agree further initiatives	Identify key speakers, researchers and programmes to host an event in 2024	2025-2027	Outcome 5 Subgroup with support from	Gambling Regulation Bill 2022	Outcome 1 and 2

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	be addressed within the youth work context	Evaluation of event and further events to be considered based on findings		Undertake and evaluation of the event to decide any additional work required		other Outcome groups		
Rural isolation for young people	To examine the impact of transport issues for young people in South and West Wicklow	Funding sourced for research Researcher engaged and research undertaken Research disseminated to relevant bodies	Funding identified 1 Research report No of research presentations to relevant bodies	Researcher engaged Research undertaken Dissemination of research findings to relevant bodies including Bus Eireann, Local Link, Wicklow County Council	2025-2027	CWP CYPSC West Wicklow Youth Project & Schools	National Youth Strategy Participation Strategy and Guidance	Outcome 1 and 3 Listen to and Involve Ch. and YP Ensure quality services
Young Carers	To increase access to youth services by Young Carers	Number of organisations identified, and interagency meeting held Needs/responses identified	Interagency group established in Year 1 Max 2 interagency meetings in years 2 & 3 1 Needs Analysis 1 response in years 2 and 3	Carer organisations identified to be invited to interagency meeting focussed on Young Carers and to include Young Carer if possible Needs and Responses identified and delivered	2025-2027	Outcome 5 Subgroup	Young Ireland	Outcome 1, 2 & 3
Planet Youth Responses	To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people in Wicklow	PY Survey Findings Responses reviewed No. of actions agreed and implemented	1 PY Report 2025 1 review in Yr 1 Up to 2 actions per annum in Years 2 and 3	To review the PY findings and to consider responses that will meet the needs of young people and families in the county	2025-2027	PY Steering Committee ECRDATF YMH Subgroup	The Strategic Action Plan for the National Drugs Strategy 2023-2024. Healthy Ireland	Outcomes 1, 2,3 & 4 Early Intervention and Prevention Supporting Parents

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
							Strategic Plan. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025.	



## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee CHANGE MANAGEMENT

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Participation training	To explore youth participation training for CYPSC members	Training Event No. of CYPSC Members participating	1 event Min. 15 participants	Identify need and agencies Participation Training event organised and held	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup and all CYPSC Subgroups	DCYA and Tusla Participation Policies	Outcome 5 Listen to and involve Ch. And YP.
Organisational restructuring	To review in 2024/25 the impact of restructuring within the CYPSC area i.e. HSE, Tusla, Gardai on CYPSC and Subgroup membership and or areas of work	Meeting of CM group Restructuring reviewed New members identified	1 meeting in 2025 No. of issues highlighted No. of new members	Meeting of CM group Issues identified Membership changes agreed	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup and all CYPSC Subgroups	SICAP Plans LECP Co. Dev. Plan	Cross-Government and Interagency Collab. and Co-ord.
CYPSC Review	To review the recommendations of the national CYPSC review undertaken by CES	Review Recommendations of CYPSC National Review undertaken in 2024 by CES	1 review meeting in 2025	To review the recommendations of the national CYPSC review to assess impact	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup	Young Ireland	Cross-Government and Interagency Collab. and Co-ord.
Alignment of work	To align CYPSC work with partner agencies' plans and programmes of work	CYPSC consulted and mentioned in member agencies' plans	2 SICAP Plans 1 LECP 1 County Development Plan No. Operational Plans and	Work with CYPSC Member agencies to ensure that CYPP is consulted and that CYPSC is referenced in relevant plans	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup and all CYPSC Subgroups	SICAP Plans LECP Co. Dev. Plan	Cross-Government and Interagency Collab. and Co-ord.

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee CHANGE MANAGEMENT

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
			Programmes of Work					
Communication	To raise issues impacting on children and young people in Wicklow with relevant structures To raise awareness of the Wicklow CYPSC with stakeholders and share information of relevance	No of issues raised No of submissions made Presentations to relevant stakeholders No. of newsletters & general updates Regular updates to Wicklow CYPSC site and Facebook Page and other social media	Min 1 issue raised Min 1 submission made 1 to 2 presentations per annum Min. 5 Newsletters/ Updates p.a. Min. monthly updates to Wicklow CYPSC website & Facebook page/Instagram	Issues identified on an ongoing basis CYPSC Coordinator and Members to avail of opportunities to promote Wicklow CYPSC Seasonal Newsletters and General Updates to be collated and distributed Regular updates to FB and Website	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup and all CYPSC Subgroups	Relevant to all CYPSC agency plans	All Outcomes and TGs
Communication	To strengthen link between and across CYPSC and its subgroups and create ways to share information and capture learning	Joint CYPSC/ Subgroup meeting to be held annually	1 joint meeting per annum	One annual meeting of the main CYPSC and all subgroups' members at an external venue	2025-2027	O4 and CM Subgroup and all CYPSC Subgroups	Relevant to all CYPSC agency plans	All Outcomes and TGs
Involvement with relevant structures	To participate in National network. To meet reporting requirements. To	No. of Network meetings Reporting completed	3 CYPSC network meetings per annum 1 POW	Attend meetings of network and other events as required	2025-2027	CYPSC Co-ordinator	Relevant to all CYPSC agency plans	All outcomes and TGs 4 and 6

## Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee CHANGE MANAGEMENT

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	represent CYPSC on Irish Childhood Bereavement Network and to represent Wicklow CYPSC on Wicklow Structures.	ICBN meetings attended CYPSC representation on other Wicklow structures	1 Annual Report 1 Mid-Year Report per annum 4 ICBN meetings per annum No of structures	Meet reporting requirements and other				
Community Directory	To support the maintenance and promotion of the Co. Wicklow Community directory site	Directory of services in Co. Wicklow Promotion of site Updates to directory to be a Standing item on CYPSC and Subgroup Agendas	1 new directory 1 promotion event per annum A Standing item on each agenda annually	Avail of all opportunities to promote the site through CYPSC members and events Ensure site is linked on CYPSC Member's sites	2025-2027	BNWAP All CYPSC Members	Relevant to all CYPSC agency plans	All outcomes and TGs 1, 2, 4 and 6
Data Collection and Planet Youth	To implement Planet Youth over the next 5 years Review the impact of CSO data from 2022 when it is available Consider other ways in which partners can gather and share information	Planet Youth to commence in 2024 Review CSO data from 2022 Other means of gathering/sharing relevant data to be identified	Planet Youth administered in Co. Wicklow schools in Q4 2024 CSO data reviewed Other data sources identified	Work with ECRDATF to implement PY and seek funding for same Review CSO data that comes out in 2024 Work with CYPSC partners to identify other areas of mutual	2025-2027	ECRDATF Wicklow CYPSC members	Relevant to all CYPSC agency plans	All Outcomes TG 6

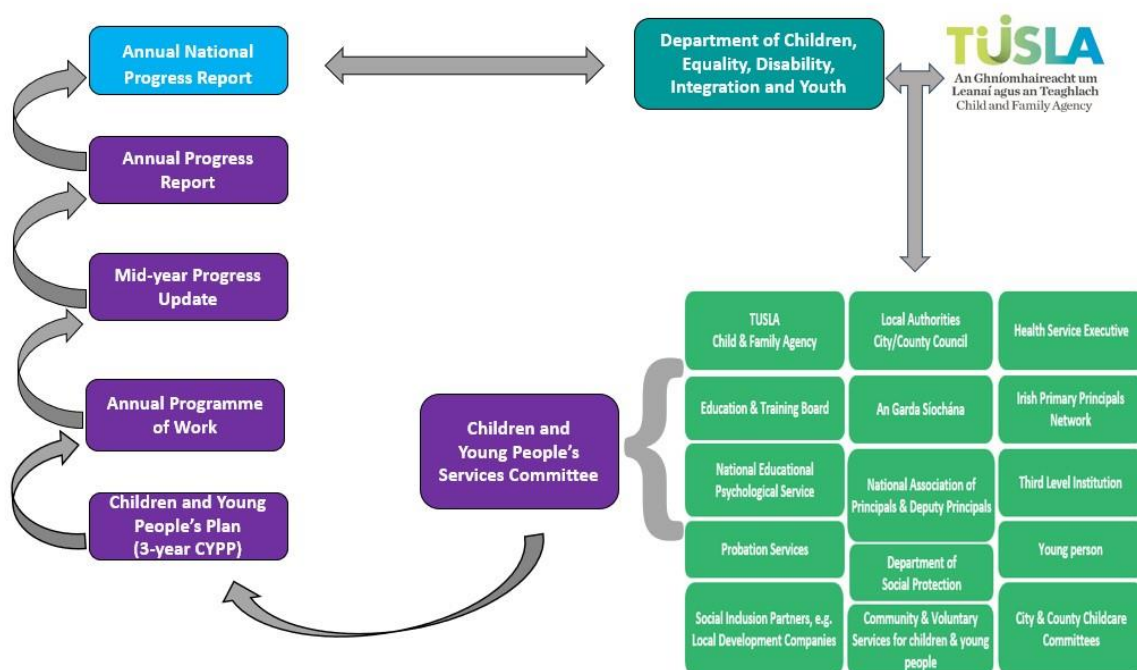
Action Plan for Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee CHANGE MANAGEMENT								
Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				interest for data sharing				
Critical Incident Protocol	To maintain a critical incident protocol for the county	Critical Incident Protocol for Co. Wicklow Annual review of CIP	1 CIP for Co. Wicklow 1 annual review of CIP	Finalise CIP for Co. Wicklow Form relevant structures to support CIP Annual Review	2025-2027	CYPSC Change Management Subgroup	Connecting for Life	Outcome 3 and TGs 2, 4 and 6

## Section 7: Monitoring and Review

Co. Wicklow CYPSC 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 – not less than five times per annum.

Wicklow CYPSC Subgroups will be responsible for the implementation of the activities assigned to them and all Subgroup Chairpersons will report on progress on activities on a regular basis to Co. Wicklow CYPSC. In this way emerging issues/challenges will be identified and addressed by the committee.

Wicklow CYPSC will adhere to the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework (see Figure 24 below) which sets out the parameters within which CYPSC planning and reporting will be conducted. Wicklow CYPSC commits to completing and submitting annual and mid-year reports and to utilise these reports to strengthen our governance of Wicklow CYPSC.



**Figure 24: CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework**

The Change Management Subgroup of Wicklow CYPSC will ensure ongoing collection of relevant data and research to inform current and future planning including the evidence coming from other Children and Young People's Services Committees.

A review of the Wicklow CYPP 2025-2027 will be completed at the end of the three years to inform the delivery of our next CYPP.

Co. Wicklow CYPSC will comply with all national reporting requirements and will avail of all opportunities to showcase its work.

## Section 8: Appendices

### Appendix A: Glossary

<b>BNWAP</b>	<b>Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership</b>
<b>CFSN</b>	<b>Child and Family Support Network</b>
<b>CH East</b>	<b>Community Healthcare East</b>
<b>CHO</b>	<b>Community Health Organisation</b>
<b>CYPSC</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services Committees</b>
<b>CWP</b>	<b>County Wicklow Partnership</b>
<b>DCDE</b>	<b>Department of Children, Disability and Equality</b>
<b>EBSA</b>	<b>Emotionally Based School Avoidance</b>
<b>ETB</b>	<b>Education and Training Board</b>
<b>HIF</b>	<b>Healthy Ireland Funding</b>
<b>HSE</b>	<b>Health Service Executive</b>
<b>KWETB</b>	<b>Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board</b>
<b>LCDC</b>	<b>Local Community Development Committee</b>
<b>LHO</b>	<b>Local Health Office</b>
<b>NVR</b>	<b>Non-Violent Resistance</b>
<b>PPFS</b>	<b>Prevention Partnership and Family Support</b>
<b>SCP</b>	<b>School Completion Programme</b>
<b>SONC</b>	<b>State of the Nations Children</b>
<b>TESS</b>	<b>Tusla Education Support Service</b>

## Appendix B: Promotion of the Consultation Process for the CYPP 2025- 2027

**CYPSC** **WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES  
Wicklow

The Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee (Wicklow CYPSC) is drafting a new three-year plan and we want to hear from you! Tell us about the issues affecting children and young people in Wicklow and what should we be doing to help?

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO GO TO THE SURVEY:**

<p>FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN (A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WILL NEED TO HELP) SCAN ME</p>	<p>FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS SCAN ME</p>	<p>FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS 12-24 YEARS SCAN ME</p>	<p>IF YOU ARE A PARENT LIVING IN CO. WICKLOW WE WANT TO HEAR SCAN ME</p>
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## Appendix C: Local Area Child Poverty Pilot, Briefing Note (June 2025)

## BRIEFING NOTE

## Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan (LACPAP)

Bray &amp; North Wicklow, Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown Pilot Project, June 2025

## Background

CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committees) operate in all 27 counties to improve outcomes for 0–24-year-olds through interagency collaboration.

In 2024, over 256,000 children in Ireland lived in enforced deprivation (SILC).

**Pilot area:** North Bray & South-East Dún Laoghaire – marked by high lone parent households, unemployment, and low parental education.

FACES (Family and Child Enhanced Services) is a **targeted local pilot** developed via a 6-month CYPSC/LCDC process.

One of four **national pilots**, funded at €100,000/year for 2 years.

**Focus:** Early intervention, systems change, and place-based collaboration for families with children aged 0–4.

## What is the Project?

The Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan (LACPAP) is a pioneering initiative funded through the **What Works** programme under the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Bray, North Wicklow, and Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown have been selected as **one of just four pilot areas nationally** to develop and test a **place-based, systems-level response** to child poverty.

Using a **Human Learning Systems approach**, the project brings together community voices, public services, and local data to identify the specific **drivers of child poverty** in our area-and co-design meaningful, sustainable responses.

## Why it Matters?

Child poverty remains one of the most urgent and persistent challenges facing Irish society. National data can only go so far—**real change begins at local level**.

This project:

- Gives voice to lived experience.
- Uncovers the barriers and gaps in local systems.
- Builds a collective response that is grounded in **shared learning, collaboration, and equity**.

It is **not a short-term intervention**, but a way to **rethink how we tackle poverty**, and how public systems can become more responsive to local realities in Bray North Wicklow and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

## Why This Pilot Is Unique?

- **One of only four** national LACPAP pilots.
- **Cross-boundary collaboration** between Bray, North Wicklow, and DLR.
- Uses a **Human Learning Systems model**—while not commonly applied in Irish public service projects it is gaining momentum and assessed to be the new approach to public service models.
- Creates a **replicable model** for other regions to follow.
- Has already shown **early impact** by strengthening partnerships and aligning services with real community needs.

## What is Human Learning Systems?

- **People-centred approach:** HLS focuses on meeting the **real, lived** needs of individuals rather than delivering pre-defined services or outcomes.
- **Learning through relationships:** It emphasises collaboration, trust, and continuous learning between people, communities, and service providers.
- **Flexible and adaptive systems:** HLS supports systems that evolve based on feedback, local context, and shared learning – rather than rigid targets or top-down control.

## How You Can Support or Amplify It?

- **Champion the project** within national policy conversations, recognising its value as a learning model.
- **Advocate for ongoing support** and funding pathways for community-led, place-based approaches.
- **Engage with findings** as they emerge to inform your own contributions to child poverty and wellbeing policy.

This is an opportunity to connect **local learning** in Bray, North Wicklow and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown to **national change**.  
**We really want you to be part of it.**

