



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Cork



Cork Children &  
Young People's Plan  
2024 - 2026

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Copies of this Plan are available on: <https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/cork.228.html>

Cover page picture from a Cork CYPSC Parent and Toddler focus group consultation, Dec.2023



Members of Staff from Springboard and Good Shepherd Cork at the Cork CYPSC  
Healthy Ireland supported Youth Club Pod for children and young people who are homeless 2024

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## Foreword

As Chairperson I am delighted to publish the Cork Children and Young People's Plan 2024 – 2026.

This plan is informed by over 1,300 key stakeholders who were consulted across Cork City and County, including 880 children and young people and 297 parents/guardians. Listening to and responding to the voice of children, young people and families is an area we will continue to build on from our first work plan. We aim to further embed this throughout our structures, promoting a culture of meaningful participation.

The plan sets out the key thematic priorities, objectives and actions that Cork CYPSC is planning to work on over the next three years in line with *Young Ireland, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028)*. The work programme will be implemented through the CYPSC subgroups, working in collaboration with our interagency partners in the statutory, community and voluntary sector. It is this interagency commitment and collaboration that enables us to achieve better outcomes for children, young people, and their families, which is the focus of our work.

The new plan builds on the work carried out over the last few years, the section in the plan on 'Achievements and Impacts' details the successes and highlights the activities that were implemented to support the social and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families, and is a testament of the strong collaborative interagency work that has continued, including through the challenging years of Covid.

The Action Plan section of our plan sets out all the priority areas for 2024 – 2026. While the plan aims to support all children and young people, there is a recognition of the need to focus supports on seldom heard/ marginalised children and young people, and to promote a trauma informed approach to practice, supporting engagement in learning. Supporting parents also remains a priority area in this new plan.

Key themes regarding inclusion, diversity, anti- racism, participation and trauma informed practice are essential themes which we have identified to support the work, and the frontline practitioners and agencies working to improve services and supports to children, young people and families. It is through our collective vision and approach that we will achieve the aims set out in this plan, and I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders towards its implementation.

On behalf of Cork CYPSC, I would like to thank all those who took part in the consultations and development of the plan, particularly the children, young people and families who completed surveys and took part in the focus groups. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of all of our partners and for their continued commitment to working together to improve outcomes for all children, young people and families in Cork City and County.

Deirbhile Murphy  
Chairperson Cork CYPSC

## List of Acronyms

CAMHS	Child and Adult Mental Health Service
CFSN	Child and Family Support Networks
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CRA	Children's Rights Alliance
DATF	Drug and Alcohol Task Force
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DSGBV	Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
ECCE	Early Childhood Education and Care
ED	Electoral Division
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
GYDP	Garda Youth Diversion Programme
HBSC	Heath Behaviour in School Aged Children Study
HSE	Health Service Executive
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEA	Local Electoral Area
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LHO	Local Health Office
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
PPN	Public Participation Network
TESS	Tusla Education and Support Service
SA	Small Area



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## Section 1: Introduction

This Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) outlines the strategic approach that Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee (Cork CYPSC) will take in its work to improve the lives of children, young people, and families in Cork City and County from 2024 – 2026. The Plan includes information on the key thematic priorities, objectives and actions that the CYPSC is planning for its work over the next three years, as well as the background information, research findings and policy analysis that informed the development of the plan.

This plan is evidence informed and the product of a comprehensive process that involved data gathering, socio-demographic analysis, primary and secondary research on the current child, youth and family services landscape and needs in the Cork region, as well as international, national and local policy analysis. This process took place during the second half of 2023 and early 2024. In order to identify needs and gaps in Cork City and County, consultations with over 1,300 stakeholders in the city and county were undertaken, as well as service mapping and the creation of a socio-demographic profile for Cork. Consultations were conducted across Cork City and County and included three online surveys (one for children and young people, one for parents/ guardians and one for service providers), as well as 15 focus groups with children and young people, 13 focus groups with parents/ guardians, and a comprehensive, facilitated review and planning process with members of Cork CYPSC. The work of the CYPSC during the period of its last Plan was also reviewed, with achievements, impacts and learning identified which also informed the new Plan.

CYPSC are county-level committees and interagency structures established by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people across Ireland. The overall purpose of CYPSC is to improve outcomes for children and young people through enabling more effective interagency planning, co-operation, and collaboration, as well as developing and supporting practical interventions within its region. CYPSC work to realise the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland which are set out in *Young Ireland, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028)*.<sup>1</sup> These national outcomes are that children and young people:

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

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) (2023) *Young Ireland, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028)*, Dublin: DCEDIY.



Every CYPSC develops and implements a three-year Plan which outlines that Committee's thematic priorities, as well as detailing those elements that have informed priorities, objectives and actions, including socio-demographics, service mapping, needs analysis and policy context.

The following table provides an overview of the contents of this plan:

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background to and overview of Cork CYPSC</li> <li>• Review of Cork CYPSC achievements, impact and learning since its last Plan</li> <li>• Overview of how this Plan was developed and who was involved</li> </ul>
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Socio-demographic Profile of Cork City and County</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Cork City and County</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>The Needs of Children and Young people in Cork City and County</b> This section addresses the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are children and young people in Cork doing in relation to each National Outcome Area?</li> <li>• Are there sufficient services in relation to each National Outcome Area?</li> <li>• What did the consultations tell us generally in relation to each National Outcome Area?</li> <li>• What are the Local Priority Themes and related objectives that Cork CYPSC will focus on for the next three years within each National Outcome Area?</li> <li>• What did the consultations tell us in relation to each of these Local Priority Areas?</li> <li>• What does other research and policy tell us in relation to each Local Priority Area?</li> </ul>
<b>Section 5</b>	An overview of all the <b>Local Priority Themes</b> within each of the national outcome areas that the CYPSC will focus on from 2024 – 2026.
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>Detailed Action Plan for 2024 to 2026</b> including objectives, targets, indicators, activities, timeframe, lead and partner organisations and links to other plans.
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b> processes

Table 1.1 Outline of the contents of each section of this Children and Young People's Plan

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

CYPSC were first set up in 2007 and there are 27 Committees across Ireland. They are led by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and are delivered through Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. CYPSC are made up of the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children, young people, and families in each county and are supported and co-ordinated by a CYPSC Co-ordinator.

The purpose of CYPSC is to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people within the thematic areas of the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These are set out in *Young Ireland, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028)*.<sup>2</sup> CYPSC do this in a variety of ways including:

- Ensuring the needs of children and young people are identified and addressed
- Planning and coordinating services for children and young people, including overseeing the effective implementation of national and regional policies, strategies, and priorities
- Ensuring effective collaboration among services working with children and young people in an area, including strengthening collective decision making and supporting the implementation of interagency initiatives
- Promoting quality, evidence informed, and outcomes-focussed planning and practice
- Optimising the use of resources at local level and informing national policy regarding resource allocation, and,
- Promoting the participation of children and young people in decision-making and developing quality practices and quality services provision within its area.

The vision of *Young Ireland* is, 'an Ireland which fully respects and realises the rights of children and young people' and it aims to provide a platform to realise the rights of children and young people in Ireland. It highlights the importance of interagency working to achieve this vision and gives CYPSC a key role in this regard.<sup>3</sup>

*Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024* sets out ten high levels goals for CYPSC and states that the main focus for CYPSC for the 2019 – 2024 period is to build on the positive work to date, to strengthen CYPSC infrastructure and to use evidence informed planning to identify local and national priorities for improving the lives of children, young people and families in Ireland.<sup>4</sup> DCEDIY is currently in the process of completing a national review of the CYPSC initiative.

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<sup>2</sup> The Five National Outcomes for Children and Young People are: Active and Healthy, Achieving in Learning and Development, Safe and Protected from Harm, Economic Security and Opportunity, Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *Young Ireland*, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, Dublin: DCEDIY.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019) *Share Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024*, Dublin: DCEDIY

CYPSC link and collaborate with other regional interagency structures in each county. These include Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN), Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC).

Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) are led by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency and are made up of key agencies that provide services to children and young people within the CFSN local area. We have 12 CFSN covering the following geographic areas:

- East Cork
- North Lee East
- North Lee West
- Macroom
- West Cork
- Bandon
- South Lee City
- South Lee Harbour
- Ballincollig
- Mallow / Charleville
- Mitchelstown / Fermoy
- Duhallow

CFSN work to integrate service delivery and support families to experience services as easily as possible in their CFSN area.<sup>5</sup>

Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) are led by the Local Authorities and are responsible for coordinating, planning and overseeing local development initiatives, and aim to bring a more coordinated approach to local and community development activity. Members include the public and private sector, including local authority members, state agency, as well as private sector and community sector representatives. Cork City Local Community Development Committee has recently published a new Local Economic and Community Plan for the city<sup>6</sup> and Cork County Council formally adopted the Cork County LECP (2024 – 2030) in March 2024.<sup>7</sup>

PPNs are networks of community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations under the Department of Rural and Community Development. They aim to provide a connection between local authorities and local communities and ensure community members are represented in decision making processes and planning and to facilitate information sharing. There are two PPNs in Cork. Cork County PPN is made up of more than 400 members and Cork City PPN is made up of 200 members.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/child-and-family-support-network-co-ordinators/>

<sup>6</sup> Cork City Council (2024) Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029, Cork: Cork City Council

<sup>7</sup> Cork County Council (2024) Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2030, Cork: Cork County Council

## 1.2 Who We Are

Cork CYPSC was established in 2014. Its remit covers the whole of Cork City and County which covers an area of 7,500 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of over 580,000 (Census 2022). The interagency Committee is made up of representatives of statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations involved in the management and delivery of services to children and young people across the County of Cork.

The Mission of Cork CYPSC is to maximise the impact of services working together by selecting targeted projects in order to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families in Cork City and County.<sup>8</sup> The work of the Committee follows and aligns with the vision, principles and values of *Young Ireland*, all with the goal of achieving positive outcomes for children and young people under Ireland's five national thematic outcome areas.

There is both a main CYPSC Committee and 7 thematic CYPSC subgroups for children and young people. The subgroups are made up of members of the main CYPSC committee as well as other practitioners, front line staff and people from the voluntary and community sectors that have a specific interest and expertise in particular themes. The seven Cork CYPSC subgroups are:

No.	CYPSC Subgroup	Aligned with National Outcome
1	Anti Racism	Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
2	Information and research	Spans all outcome areas
3	Keeping Young Travellers Well	Outcome 1 Active and Healthy
4	Safe and Protected from Harm	Outcome 3 safe and protected
5	Supporting Parents	Outcome 2 Achieving in Learning and Development
6	Under 12s Participation	Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
7	Homelessness	Outcome 4 Economic Security

Table 1.2: Cork CYPSC Subgroups



CYPSC Supporting Parents Subgroup 'Train the Trainer' Workshop for Professionals supporting Parents



Members of the Anti-Racism subgroup from the Cork Migrant Centre and City Council

<sup>8</sup> Cork CYPSC Mission Statement was reviewed and updated in 2023 by the main CYPSC Committee.

The current members of Cork CYPSC Main Committee are as follows

Agency	Representative
An Garda Síochána	Miriam Maguire
Barnardo's	Stephanie Whyte
Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services	Lorraine O'Donovan
Cork City Childcare Committee	Janet Dennehy
Cork City Council	Rebecca Loughry (Vice Chair)
Cork City Council	Sandra Cogan Williamson
Cork City Partnership	Brenda Barry
Cork County Childcare Committee	Tina Hayes
Cork County Council	Lorraine Hogan
Cork County Council	Sharon Corcoran
Education and Training Board	Mick Finn
HSE Primary Care	Aisling Lenihan
HSE Traveller Health	Deirdre O'Reilly
Irish Primary Principals Network (Belmont Boys School)	Sheila O'Connor
Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	Aoife Griffin
Midleton Family Resource Centre	Sean Ahern
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (Christ King Girls School)	Richel Long
Probation Service	Linda Power
Sexual Assault Treatment Unit	Margo Noonan
<i>Third Level Representative</i>	<i>vacant</i>
Togher Family Centre	Niamh Sheridan
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Area Manager)	Deirbhile Murphy (Chairperson)
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Cork CYPSC Coordinator)	Tracey Holt
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Childcare Manager)	Kieran Campbell
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Education Support Service)	Dan O'Shea
Tusla Child and Family Agency (Neighbourhood Youth Project)	Diarmuid O'Driscoll
Tusla Child and Family Agency (Prevention, Partnership and Family Support)	Lynda Monahan
Tusla Child and Family Agency (Springboard)	Karen McCarthy

Table 1.3: Members of Cork CYPSC Main Committee as of January 2024

### 1.3 Review of Previous Children and Young People's Plan

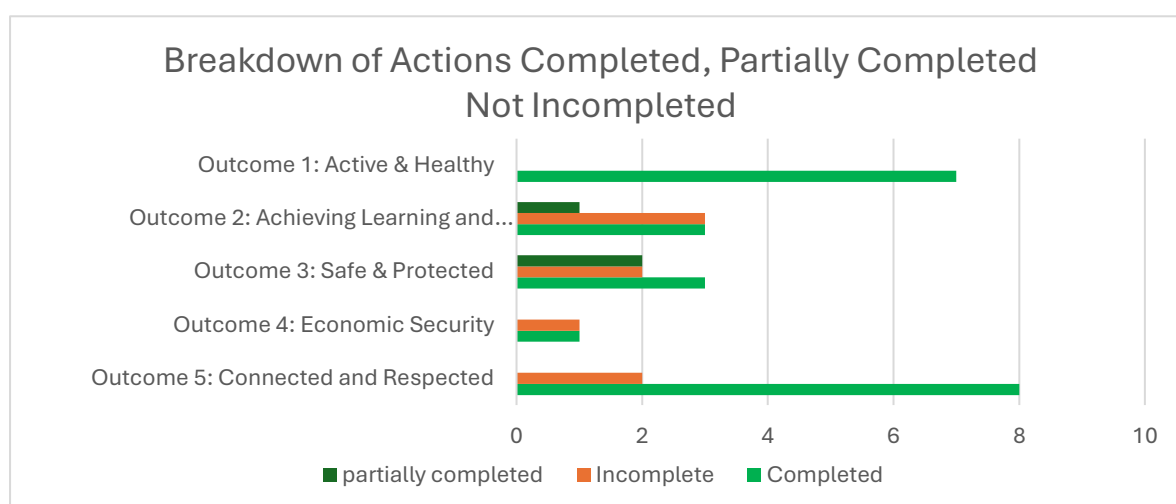
From November 2022 to April 2023, the Main Committee of Cork CYPSC undertook an independently facilitated review and planning process comprising three workshops and follow up surveys. The purpose of the review process was to reconnect and reinvigorate the committee in the post Covid-19 environment, reflect on how the CYPSC members work together now and on recent achievements, learning as well as preparing for the development of the new plan.

During the process of developing this plan, the wider CYPSC membership were also supported and facilitated to discuss and review the CYPSC achievements and learning since the last Plan as well as the current reality for Cork CYPSC including strengths, opportunities, threats and areas for development. Members were encouraged to take these discussions into account during the action planning process, and to ensure that objectives, targets and activities that were identified and agreed were realistic and achievable.

The following section summarises the outcomes and learning from both the 2022/2023 review process and the more recent review process that was carried out as part of the development for this plan with the wider membership (main Committee and sub-group members).

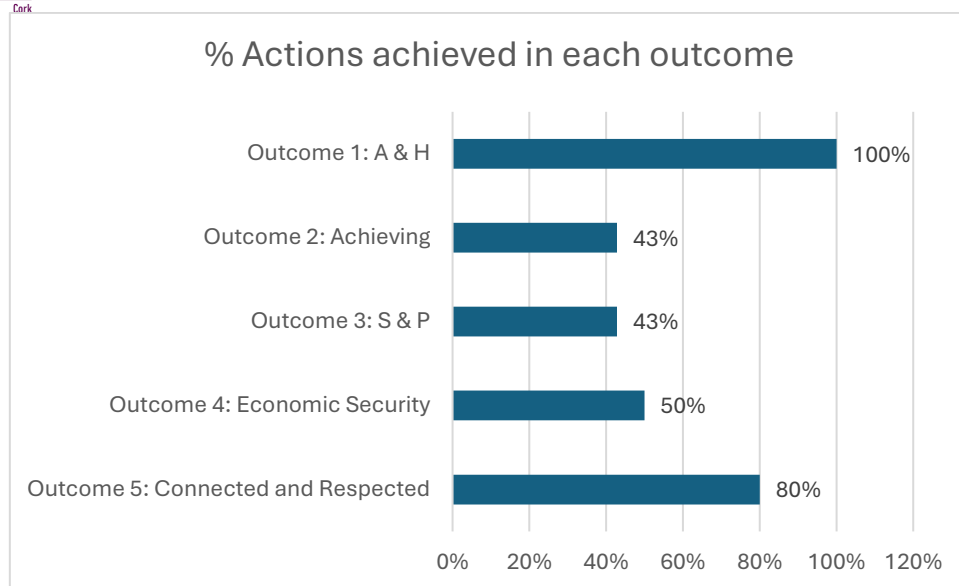
#### Cork CYPSC Achievements and Impacts (2019 – 2023)

This section provides a summary of Cork CYPSC achievements between 2019 and 2023 and the related impacts. The Information and Research group carried out a review of Actions under the Five National Outcome Areas, the following tables show the number of Actions completed, partially completed and not completed across the five National Outcome areas



Graph 1.1: Review of Progress in Achieving Objectives per Priority Area for the 5 National Outcomes in CYPSP 2019 – 2022





Graph 1.2: Percentage of actions completed in the 2019 – 2022 Cork CYPSC CYPP

The graph above shows the percentage of actions completed in the 2019 – 2022 Cork CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan. This does not include additional activities which were undertaken in response to Covid 19 Pandemic.

## Cork CYPSC Achievements

Theme	Achievement	Impact
<b>Research and Evaluation</b>	The CYPSC Keeping Young Travellers Well subgroup commissioned a review of a suite of activities provided through the Community Health strand of the Healthy Ireland Fund.	<p>The review highlighted the collaborative interagency and joint planning of CYPSC in providing a flexible, creative response to working with Travellers.</p> <p>An animation was developed by the Traveller Visibility Group where Young Travellers raised issues of discrimination, this information fed into the CYPSC anti racism subgroup to support planning for a Youth led Summit. The animation and report can be found here: <a href="#">Measuring the Impact of Discrimination on Traveller Youth Mental Health (TVG, 2022)</a></p>
	The CYPSC under 12's Participation subgroup carried out an online survey with Service providers on child and youth Participation Practice. This led to a mapping of Participation Practice needs and gaps in Cork.	<p>100+ service providers completed the Participation Survey which informed the Action Plan for the Participation subgroup</p> <p>There was strong evidence of joint planning and joint working across all CYPSC member agencies</p>

Theme	Achievement	Impact
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Successful funding applications (2023) for interagency projects, including funding for new staff.</p> <p>€40,000 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integrations and Youth 'What Works' for Cork Child Friendly Cities development worker.</p> <p>€100,000 from the National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) for two anti-racism development workers and an Anti- Racism Communications Strategy.</p>	<p>Child Friendly Cities (CFC) development worker (recruited in April 2024) to deliver a child friendly City strategic plan to align to the UNICEF model</p> <p>A CFC Youth Forum was developed with 8 Young people who have received Children's Rights training from the Ombudsman office.</p> <p>Two Anti Racism development workers recruited to Cork Migrant Centre to support the Youth Led Anti Racism Summit and to further develop the youth anti racism toolkit with modules to upskill teachers.</p> <p>€25,000 of the NAPAR funding was shared with Kerry CYPSC to lead on the development of a regional Anti Racism communication strategy to support community organisations to address anti-refugee sentiments in Co. Cork and Kerry. This has enabled Cork and Kerry CYPSC to work collaboratively towards a Regional Response and Resource. A communication Campaign will be delivered in 2025</p>
	<p>Healthy Ireland Fund received to support a Good Shepherd Cork and Springboard Joint youth club and wrap around supports for children living in Homelessness.</p>	<p>90+ children and their families benefitted from the joint youth club and associated activities to improve their wellbeing and reduce the impact of living in homeless services.</p>
	<p>Receipt of the Community Resilience Fund Healthy Ireland (during Covid-19)</p>	<p>The ISPCC produced a resilience video in consultation with young people living in International Protection accommodation. The video was delivered to a series of schools and community organisations to support the development of resilience skills for children and young people.</p> <p>A series of mindfulness programmes were implemented to support young people to deal with the anxieties they were experiencing during Covid-19.</p>

Theme	Achievement	Impact
	Cork CYPSC in Collaboration with The Tusla Aftercare Team Sponsored an Executive Leadership programme with the University of Limerick	15 Professionals working with Children and young people trained through the executive leadership programme. Dormant Accounts Funding received for the Aftercare Team to seek the voices of young people in Aftercare to inform and influence service provision. Project recommendations for Service Improvement to be delivered in 2025
<b>Integration and community mobilisation</b>	City and County Council Mobilisation Forum Membership during Covid-19 and the Ukraine Response	Strong Interagency collaboration and planning during times of crisis; during Covid; the Ukraine crisis and for those living in international protection.
	Support for women living in emergency accommodation to engage with International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and to be consulted on accommodation plans.	Women facilitated and empowered to engage in consultations with IPAS officials, regarding changes to their accommodation. IPAS agreement to have a more consultative process going forward.
<b>Covid-19 Response</b>	<p>During Covid-19 a variety of programmes were put in place to support children to engage in education and social activities</p> <p>A CYPSC Residents Forum was set up for families living in International Protection</p>	<p>Focus groups with children contributed to Cork CYPSC understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people. This led to us developing online Programmes and activities which supported engagement of children and young people sharing and developing skills for managing anxiety and their wellbeing.</p> <p>40 Tablets were purchased for children and young people in Homeless Services which enabled their continued engagement in education and services online.</p> <p>A platform was developed for receiving and sharing public health information to support residents wellbeing. It ensured HSE health information was translated and understood, and areas of concern shared with the relevant Health professionals.</p>

Theme	Achievement	Impact
<b>Supporting Children and Young People living in International Protection</b>	A variety of programmes and activities have been funded for children living in International Protection Accommodation Service.	Through the Cork Migrant Centre, Nasc and other organisations, opportunities for children and families living in international protection accommodation in Cork City and County have been provided, promoting increased engagement and integration in the community.  Children and Young people have been provided new opportunities to participate in Summer Camps, group and community activities therapeutic support, as well as access to a economic fund to support education, resources and social activities. The coordinated approach through CYPSC has provided us with a growing evidence base, to support the roll out of the International Protection Services Support programme
	Webinar with children and young people living in International Protection during Covid-19 giving them access to policy makers and service providers.	This has led on to an annual in-person Youth-Led Anti-Racism Summit. Now children and young people impacted by racism have a platform within CYPSC to engage with service providers and policy makers.  The Ombudsman for Children's Office added racism to their complaints policy.  Development of an Interagency network of over 60 organisations taking an intersectional approach with young people who experience different forms of racism and discrimination, including young people from the Traveller, Roma and LGBTQ+ community.
<b>Support for people experiencing DSGVB</b>	Sponsorship of the TLC Kidz Empower Kids Event led by Barnardo's	Frontline service providers attended a TLC Kidz workshop and were informed of the Empower Kidz resource and the importance of listening to children who experience Domestic Violence. The resource was made available for them in their area of work. This workshop has enabled shared learning across CYPSC networks.

Table 1.4: Key Cork CYPSC Achievements and corresponding impact (2019 – 2023)

During the Cork CYPSC Review Process in 2022/2023, and the strategic planning process in 2023/2024, CYPSC members discussed and identified achievements in relation to change management, how the CYPSC does its work and the impact of CYPSC membership for organisations.

*'Being a member of CYPSC adds legitimacy to our work'*

(CYPSC member, Cork)

Change Management Achievements (including how the CYPSC works)	
<b>Interagency collaboration and relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued and strong engagement by members across the statutory, community and voluntary sector in Cork City and County, with a participative, collaborative approach being taken.</li> <li>Collaborative working practices continue and are recognised as bringing great value and positive outcomes for children and young people.</li> <li>CYPSC provides a forum to bring organisations together and facilitate them to think strategically together.</li> <li>Quality relationships and networks have developed, including positive connections and networks that were maintained during Covid-19.</li> </ul>
<b>Good Governance and Accountability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring takes place in accordance with national CYPSC planning and reporting framework.</li> <li>Independently facilitated Review process.</li> <li>Focus has been aligned to National Outcome Areas for children and young people.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence informed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researching and sharing data, information and knowledge on the needs of children, young people and families in Cork on an ongoing basis, ensures the needs of children, young people and families are to the forefront of practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership and structure – response to emerging needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strong interagency relationships of CYPSC members have brought knowledge and expertise, and have enabled members to adapt well to emerging needs. This includes members' individual and collective responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and support for Ukrainian refugees.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion and representation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring children's needs and issues are visible and that children's services are represented at various fora</li> <li>Cork CYPSC has worked to ensure the Inclusion of seldom heard young people, including Travellers, those living in international protection and those in alternative education</li> </ul>

Table 1.5: Key Cork CYPSC Achievements in relation to Change Management and How CYPSC Works

Impact for CYPSC Member organisations
<p>The benefits and impact of Cork CYPSC for its members included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CYPSC has increased opportunities to build and maintain new and valuable relationships and networks, share information, learn from others and access training and supports that they might not otherwise have had access to.</li> <li>The CYPSC has given member organisations opportunities to develop initiatives to benefit young people and which also help to meet their own organisational goals.</li> </ul>

- The CYPSC has increased communication and networks between services, to learn about each other and referral pathways, including between city and county services.
- The CYPSC has acted as a conduit for funding and provided access to funding that member organisations may not have been successful in getting on their own.

Table 1.6: Impact for CYPSC Member organisations

## Challenges for Cork CYPSC (2019 – 2023)

Cork CYPSC members identified some challenges which we will be cognisant of for the delivery of the 2024 Children and Young People's Plan.

CYPSC Challenges (2019 – 2023)	
<b>Summary of challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity of members to engage with CYPSC and/or to carry out CYPSC related work can be challenging at times due to their own organisational responsibilities and workloads, particularly if the work is not aligned with their own organisation's plans/goals.</li> <li>• Some gaps in membership impacts the capacity to deliver and implement agreed actions.</li> <li>• Ensuring the meaningful engagement of seldom heard children and young people within the CYPSC structures.</li> <li>• The cost of living, housing crisis and demand on services provide very real challenges for services meeting the increasing needs of families.</li> </ul>

Table 1.7: Cork CYPSC Challenges (2019 – 2023)

## Key Learning to Inform the new Cork Plan

Members were facilitated to think about what they and the CYPSC could learn from these achievements, impact and challenges outlined above. This was to further inform the development of the CYPSC and the plan. Key learning is summarised in Table 1.7 below.

*"Joint planning and collaboration = better outcomes for children and young people"*

Cork CYPSC Member

Learning to inform the new Cork CYPP	
<b>Key Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value, benefits and importance of interagency collaboration and the interagency model, listening to each other and working as a team is key to improving outcomes for children and young people and effectively implementing agreed objectives.</li> <li>• Regular and effective communication, ensuring information is shared within and across organisations supports good practice and is a key element to avoid duplication of work/initiatives.</li> <li>• There is benefit in learning from other CYPSC, both in terms of examples of good practice in projects/initiatives and sharing information on opportunities and learning.</li> <li>• Working together brings a non-siloed approach which is valuable and broadens potential responses, providing more opportunities to contribute to better outcomes for children and young people.</li> </ul>



Learning to inform the new Cork CYPP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for flexibility, and to be responsive and innovative. The Covid Pandemic brought this acutely into focus.</li> <li>• The importance of focussed/dedicated resources for projects including for project staff to co-ordinate, lead and implement projects, particularly as members are all so busy.</li> <li>• The value of the diverse membership base who have substantial expertise, experience and evidence of needs on the ground enables effective responses and projects to be identified.</li> <li>• It is important that members have the capacity to commit and stay engaged in CYPSC.</li> <li>• Collection of Outcomes and Impacts of programmes and activities by the main CYPSC and its subgroup is key for effective evaluation of the Children and Young People's Plan.</li> </ul>

Table 1.8. Learning to Inform the new CYPP (2024 – 2026)

*'We are powerful together'*

(CYPSC member, Cork)

## 1.4 How this Plan was Developed

Cork's new Children and Young People's Plan (2024 – 2026)) was developed over a seven-month period between September 2023 and April 2024. The following stages and steps were completed:

1. **Desk research** that included a review of policy and literature as well as a review of the previous Cork CYPSC Workplan.
2. **A review of services** in Cork across all priority action areas
3. Production of **a socio-demographic profile** utilising data from Census 2022 and other relevant data sources.
4. **Consultations** with **1,376 stakeholders** across Cork were completed (see Figure 1.1 pg. 22). Stakeholders included children and young people, parents/guardians and service providers/agency representatives. Methodologies included surveys and a number of small focus groups.( See Figure 1.1 below)
5. **Strategic Planning Process:** A comprehensive four-stage strategic planning process marked the culmination of the development of the plan. Two day-long independently facilitated, participatory strategic planning workshops were held with members of the CYPSC main committee and subgroups (and some other key stakeholders who have worked with Cork CYPSC in recent years). In total these meetings were attended by over 100 people working with children, young people and their families in Cork City and County.

Participants at the first workshop were presented with the findings of the consultations, emerging needs and socio-demographic data, presented according to the five national outcomes for children and young people. This was followed by group discussions, brainstorming with post-its and voting on what participants would like Cork CYPSC to achieve by the end of the next CYPP in each Outcome Area.



Based on the outcomes of this meeting, the CYPSC agreed the main local priority areas that they would focus on in the new Plan. The second large strategic planning meeting then focussed on drafting and finalising objectives and targets within each local priority area, as well as identifying the activities need to achieve each goal.

Following these two meetings, the members of the CYPSC main committee and subgroups met within their smaller groups to review the outcomes of the workshops and make final decisions on the Action Plan for the new CYPP.

*Pictures from first Strategic Planning Day with CYPSC Stakeholders facilitated by Aoife Collins and Aoife Dowling, Independent Consultants*

## Distribution of Consultations

In total, 1,376 participants, including children, young people, parents/ guardians, and service providers actively contributed to the consultation process, providing valuable insights to shape the development of the Cork CYPSC plan.

Figure 1.1 below and Table 1.8 illustrates the level of engagement and diversity of those who participated across the City and County, responding to surveys, participating in focus groups, and attending consultation events.

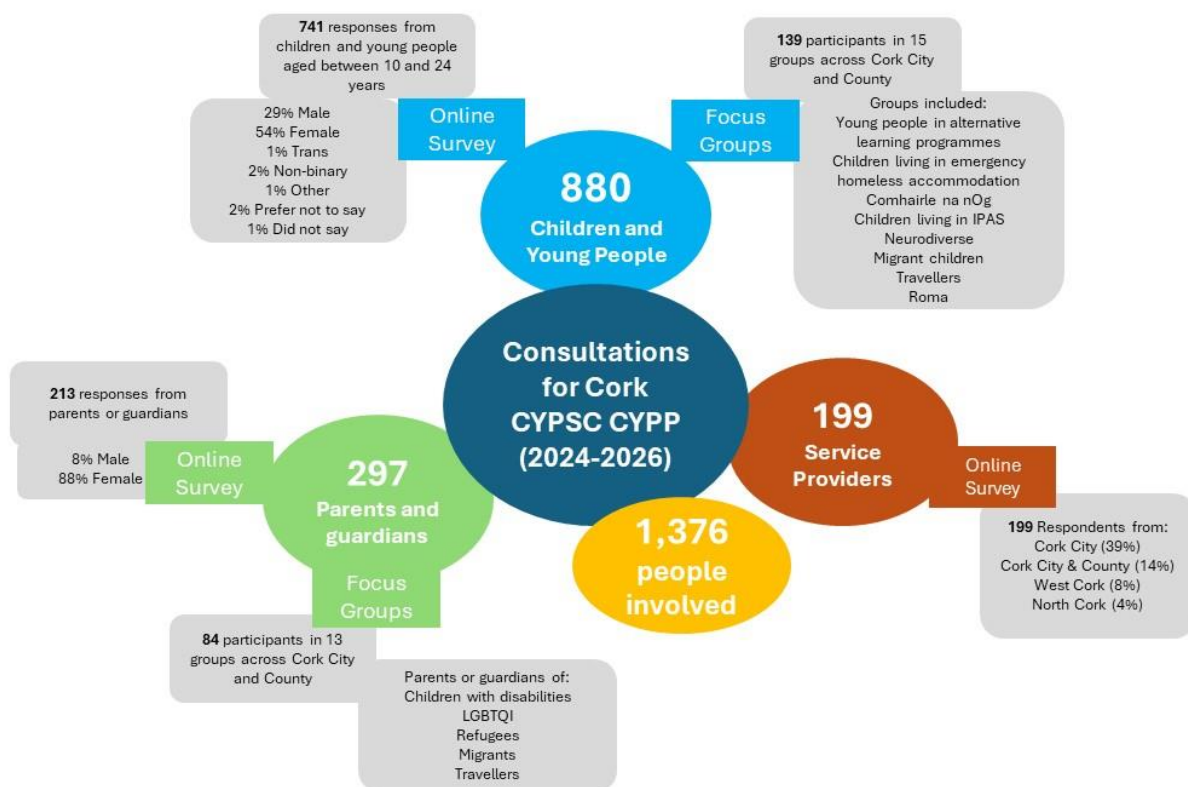


Figure 1.1 Overview of Consultations

	Service Providers	Parents	Children and Young People
<b>Focus Groups</b>	n/a	84	139
<b>Surveys</b>	199	213	741
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>880</b>

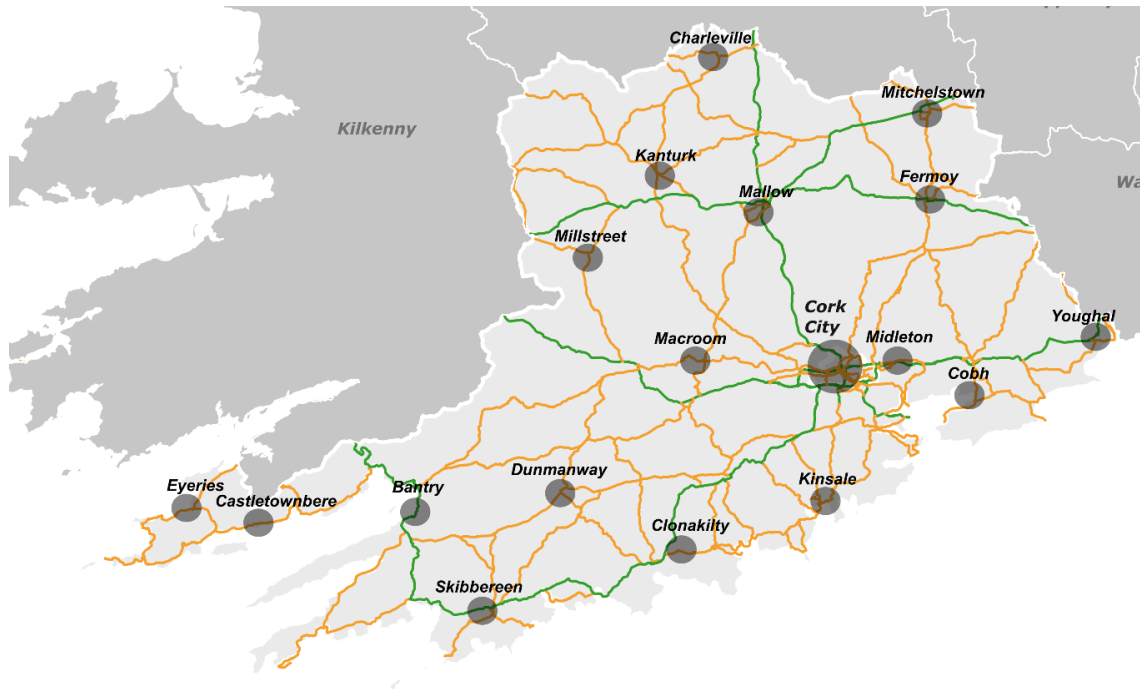
Table 1.8 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the Cork CYPSC CYPP

The process involved three online surveys, ensuring anonymity and voluntary participation. These surveys were distributed through CYPSC Committee member organisations and an extensive network of organisations, schools, and youth groups, employing a random method. It is worth noting that some areas were more prominently represented than others, reflecting the diverse distribution levels and varying degrees of participation across different regions and target groups.

## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Cork

### 2.1 Overview

The Cork CYPSC area reaches from Youghal in the east of the county, north to Charleville and extends out to the westwards to the Beara peninsula.



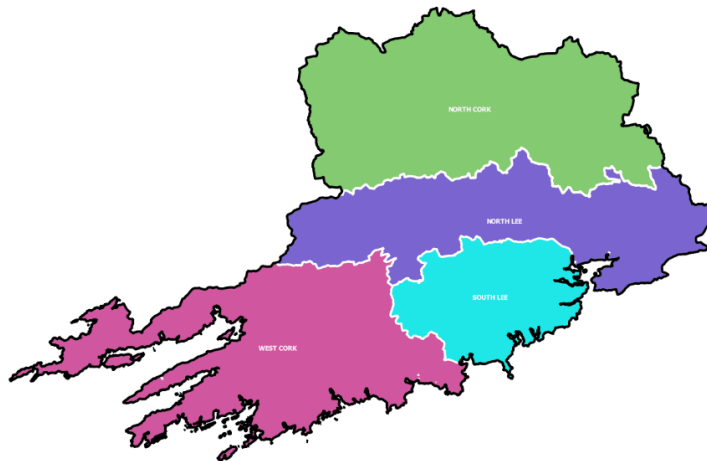
Map 2.1 Cork CYPSC Area

The current population of 584,156 (Census 2022) represents a population growth of 12.0% between 2011 and 2022. While Cork has the greatest population of all the CYPSC areas between 2011 and 2022 it also had the twelfth highest population growth and was greater than the State average population growth of 8.1%.

Cork's large population is characterised by:

- Having both a significant urban and rural based population
- Being home to the second largest city in Ireland and with large district towns that include Cobh, Midleton, Mallow, Youghal, Bandon and Fermoy distributed throughout Cork County
- Several strong island communities along the west coast including Bere Island, Cape Clear (also a Gaeltacht area), Heir Island and Sherkin Island.
- And a vibrant Gaeltacht community comprising of five villages, Baile Mhúirne, Cúil Aodha, Cill na Martra, Réidh na nDoirí and Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in the Mhúscraí area located in West Cork.

This socio demographic profile utilises the Local Health Office Areas (LHOs) as set out by the Health Service Executive (HSE) (see Map 2.2).



Map 2.2 LHO Boundaries Cork

## 2.2 Key Indicators

Key Indicators	Cork	State	Source
<b>Child and Youth Population:</b> Number of Children and Young People aged 0-24 years Percentage of total population	187,069 32%	1,657,058 32%	Census 2022
<b>Child Population:</b> Number of children under 18 years (0-17 years) Percentage of total population	136,786 23%	1,218,567 23%	Census 2022
<b>Young Adult Population:</b> Number of young people aged 18 - 24 years Percentage of total population	50,283 8%	438,491 8%	Census 2022
<b>Infant Mortality:</b> The number of deaths among infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	3.9 per 1,000	3.3 per 1,000	CSO 2021 <sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2020

Key Indicators	Cork	State	Source
<b>Child Mortality:</b> Number of deaths of children by death	1 - 4 years: 22 deaths 5-9 years: 0 deaths 10-14 years: 2 deaths 15-19 years: 10 deaths 20-24 years: 13 deaths	1 - 4 years: 19 deaths 5-9 years: 16 deaths 10-14 years: 26 deaths 15-19 years: 71 deaths 20-24 years: 104 deaths	CSO 2021 <sup>10</sup>
<b>Traveller children</b> Number of Traveller children Rate per 1,000 children	1,040 11.6	14,142 7.6	Census 2022
<b>Foreign national children</b> Number of foreign national children Rate per 1,000 children	8,536 65.3	88,630 72.7	Census 2022
<b>Children with a disability</b> Number of children with a disability Rate per 1,000 children	15,649 115.5	131,764 108.1	Census 2022
<b>Young Carers</b> Number of children who provide regular unpaid personal help Rate (per 1,000) of children	971 6.8	8,165 6.7	Census 2022
<b>Family Structure</b> Number and percentage of children living in a lone-parent household Percentage of children of all children	19,019 14.8%	189,437 15.5%	Census 2022

Table 2.1 Key Comparators

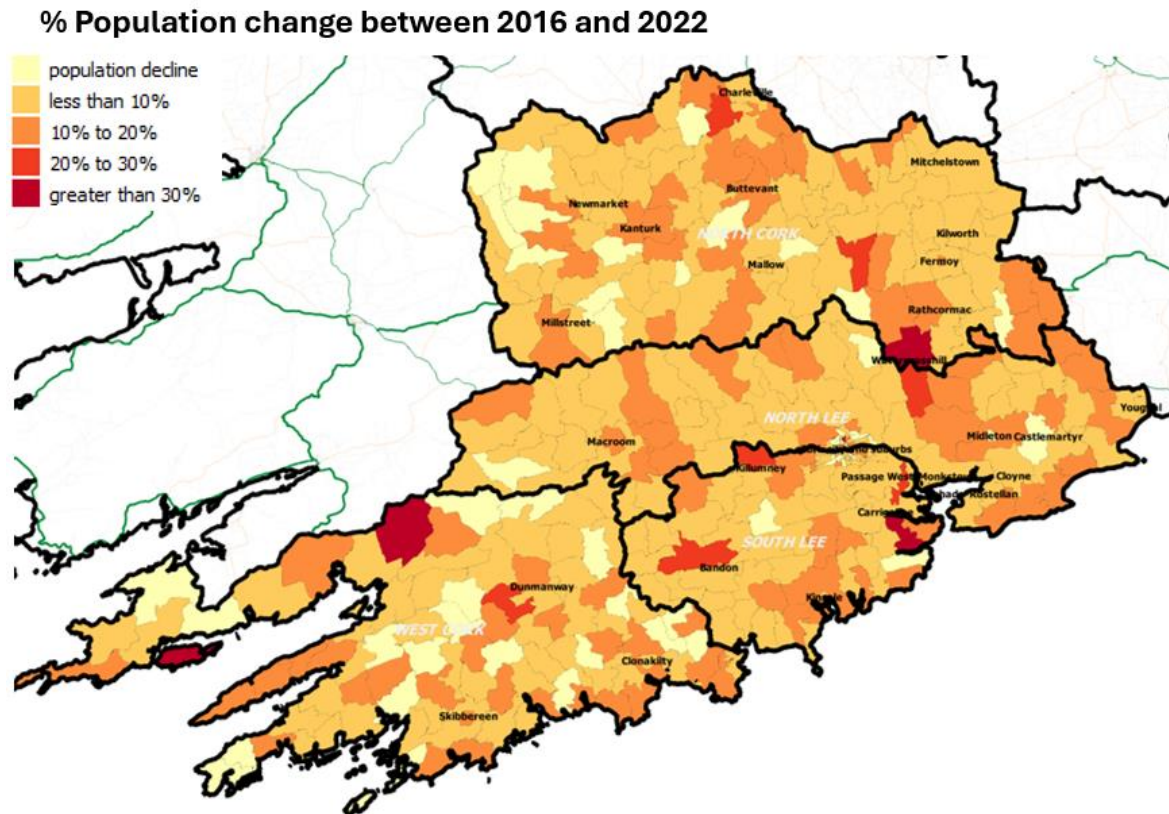
<sup>10</sup> CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2020



## 2.3 Demographics

### Population change

As of April 2022, the total population in the Cork CYPSC area was 584,156. This figure represented a population growth of 8% since the 2016 Census and was in line with the state average population growth. The Cork CYPSC area is characterised as having the greatest total population of all the CYPSC areas. Dublin City North CYPSC has the second highest at 350,260 and Fingal the third highest with 330,506. Map 2.2 shows the distribution of population growth seen in Cork at Electoral Division (ED) level between 2016 and 2022.



Map 2.3 Population change by ED 2016 -2022. Source: Census 2022

The greatest number of population growth was in:

- Ballincollig (+1,917)
- Douglas (+1,298)
- Midleton Rural (+1,126)
- Carrigaline (+1,080)
- Lehenagh (+958)

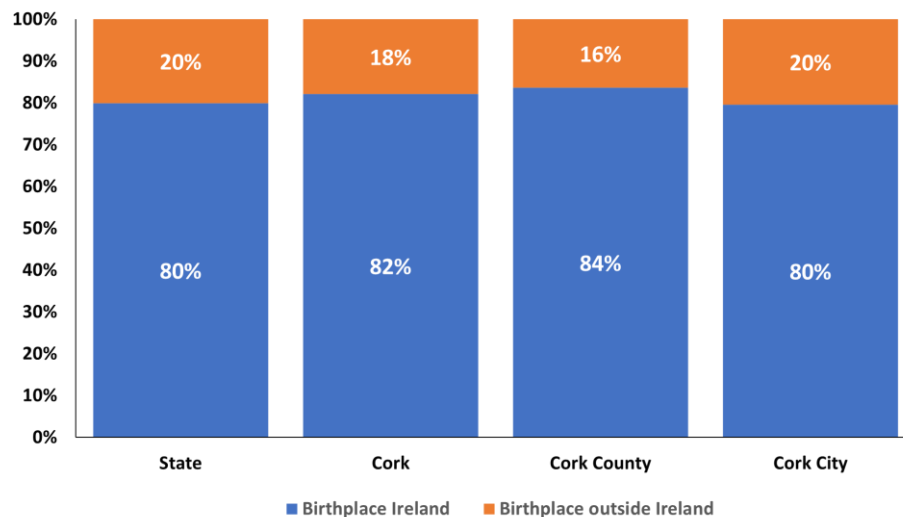
The greatest proportion of population growth was in:

- Farranferris C (+43.5%)
- City Hall A (+34.6%)
- Ahil (+31.75%)
- Bear (+31.7%)

- Cork Centre A (+31.1%)

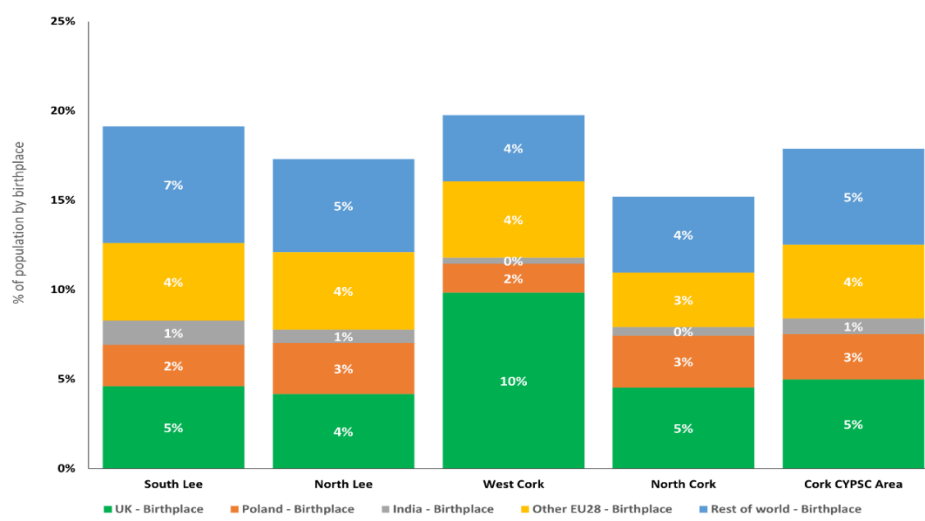
## Population born outside of Ireland

Data released from Census 2022 shows the diversity of the population in Cork in terms of the birthplace of its population. At a CYPSC level the proportion of population whose birthplace is outside Ireland in Cork (18%) is slightly lower than the State average (20%). When the same data is examined at Cork City and Cork County it shows how Cork City's population has a higher proportion of population (20%) born outside of Ireland compared to Cork County (16%).



Graph 2.1 Population by birthplace 2022

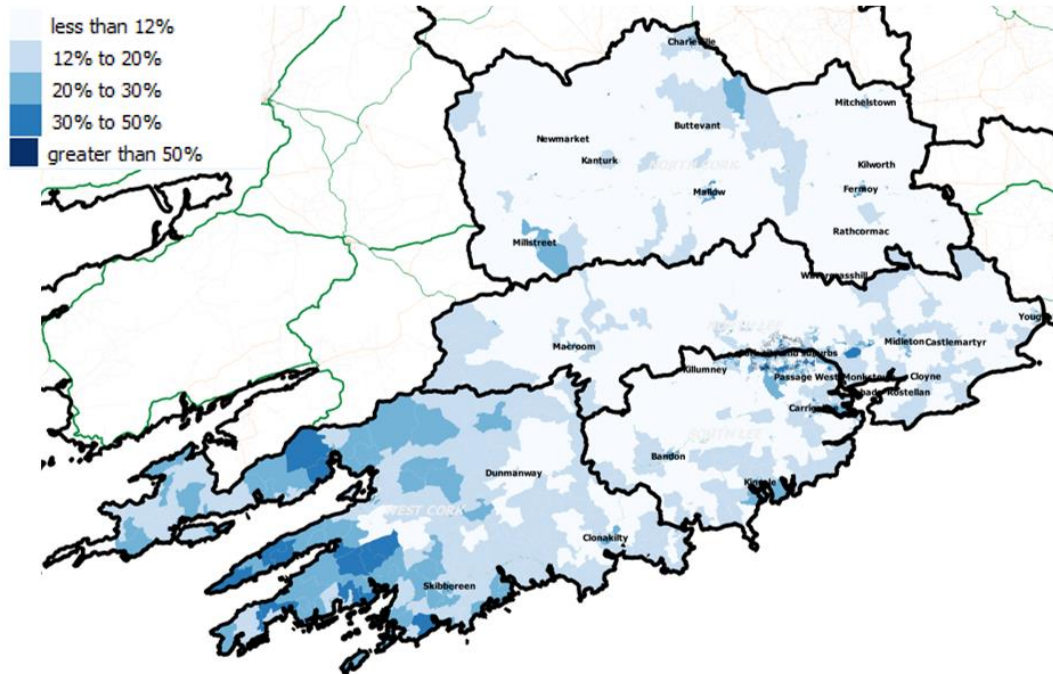
Data in Graph 2.2 outlines the population by LHO and their birthplace. In comparison with the other LHOs West Cork and South Less have the most diverse population by birthplace where nearly 20% of their population was born outside of Ireland. Note: Ireland is not included as it would dwarf the other ethnic groups in the graph.



Graph 2.2 Population by birthplace and LEA 2022

Map 2.4 shows the distribution of the percentage of population born outside of Ireland in Census 2022 at Small Area level. There is clear spatial distribution with the highest proportions in and around major suburban areas as well as in West Cork.

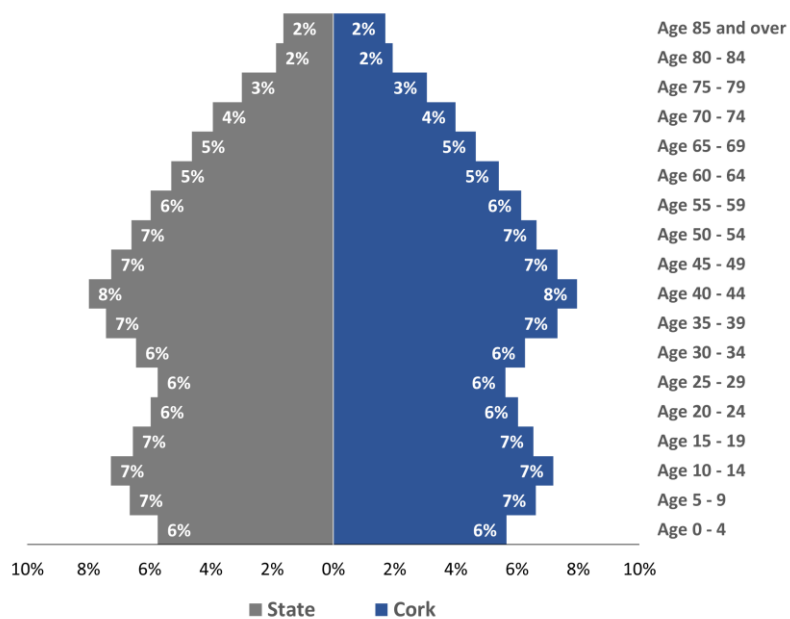
### % Population with a birthplace outside of Ireland



Map 2.4 Population born outside Ireland. Source: Census 2022

## Age Profile

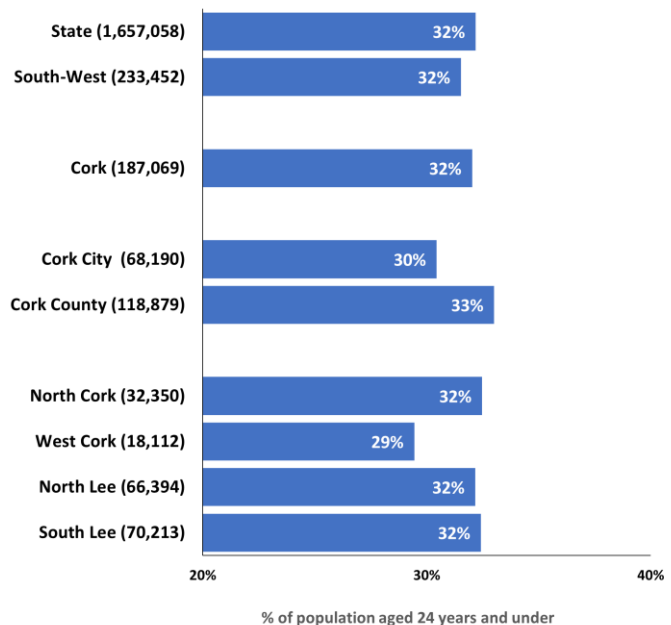
Figures released from Census 2022 shows how Cork's age profile is in line with the state. Cork has a similar representative share in the working age and young age groups compared to state averages. Graph 2.3 outlines the population pyramid of Cork and compares it to the state.



Graph 2.3 Population Pyramid. Source Census 2022

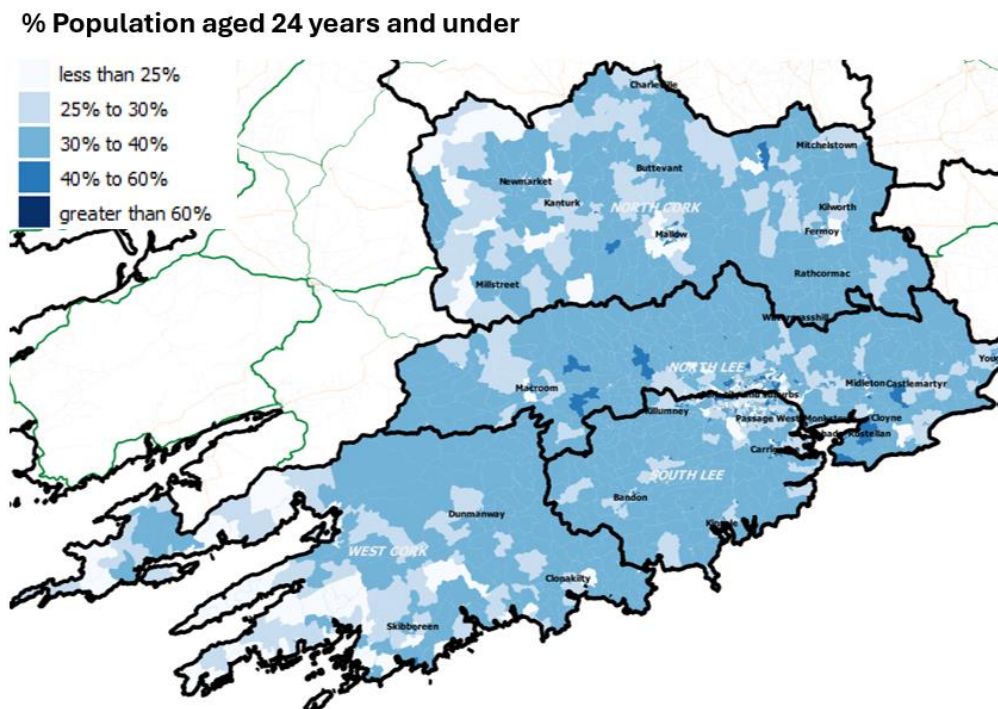
Further analysis was carried out on the 0 to 24 years age group. Graph 2.4 shows the proportion of population aged 0 to 24 years in Cork and the LHOs as well as comparing it to the state and regional averages.

As outlined in the graph, the proportion of population aged 0 to 24 years in Cork and the LHOs is in line with national and regional average at 32%. There is an exception in the West Cork LHO where the proportion of youth population is lower at 29%. Also, the proportion of youth population is greater in Cork County at 33% when compared to the City at 30%.



Graph 2.4 Population aged 0 to 24 years. Source Census 2022

Map 2.5 highlights the areas with the highest proportions of youth population. These include rural areas throughout the county between the major urban settlements. Areas with highest proportions of greater than 60% are all located in Cork City Centre close to University College Cork and Munster Technological University. While other areas of noticeably high youth population include Castlemartyr, Middleton, Carrigtwohill and Mallow.



Map 2.5 Population aged 24 years and under. Source Census 2022

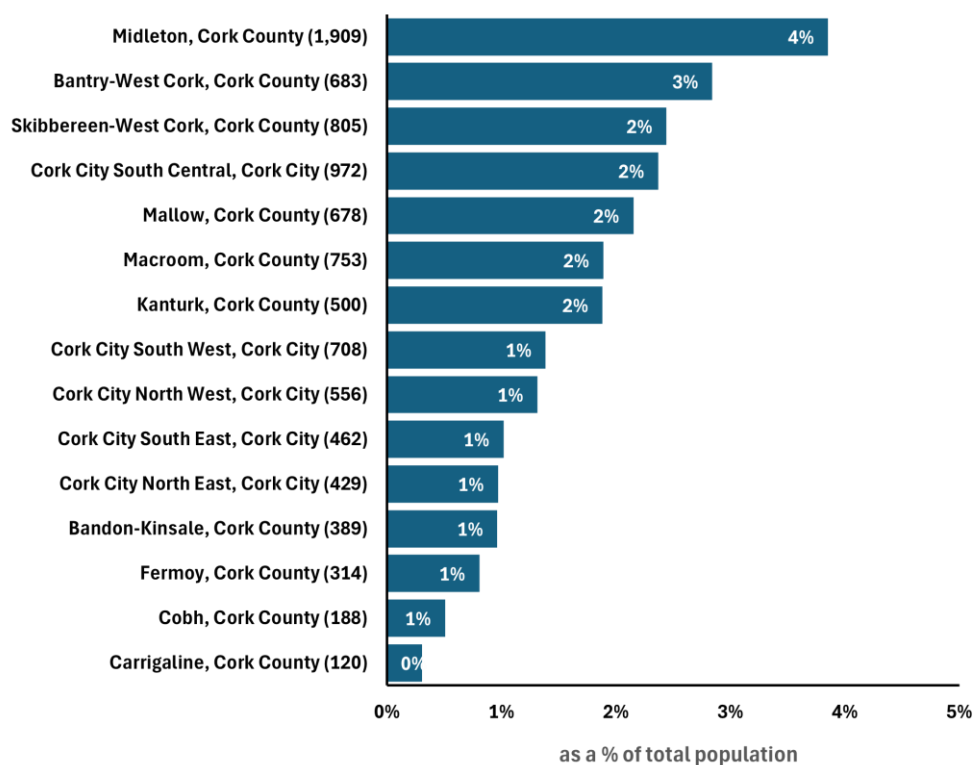
## 2.4 International Protection Support Services (IPSS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) from Ukraine

According to the DCEDIY, as of January 2024:

- There were 12 International Protection Accommodation Centres in Cork housing 518 International Protection Applicants aged 0-17
- This figure of 518 equated to 9% of the total children in the state living in International Protection Accommodation Centres.

According to the CSO<sup>11</sup>, as of February 2024:

- 100,901 people had arrived in Ireland from the Ukraine since May 2022. Location of Ukrainian arrivals are based on PPSN allocations, associated local post offices and, if available, the residential address from accommodation recognition payments.
- This data shows how of the total figure 9,466 (or 9%) were residing in Cork in February 2024, based on the allocation of PPS numbers. This data is also available by Local Electoral Area (LEA) and is outlined in Graph 2.5.



Graph 2.5 New arrivals from Ukraine as a percentage of the total existing population. Source CSO 2024

<sup>11</sup> <https://data.cso.ie/table/UA05>



- Graph 2.5 shows the proportion of new arrivals from Ukraine as a percentage of the total existing population. The LEAs of Middleton and Bantry West have seen the highest proportion of Ukrainian arrivals based on the 2022 population of the other LEAs in Cork.

## 2.5 Births and mothers

- In 2022 there were 6,070 births registered in the Cork CYPSC area according to the CSO Vital Statistics<sup>12</sup>. In Cork City the number of births was 1,164 and equated to a birth rate of 10.3 per thousand population, this was the third lowest birth rates in the country when compared with the other 30 local authorities. In contrast, the greatest birth rate in Cork County at 12.2 per 1,000 population (or 4,906 births) and exceeded the state average of 11.9 per 1,000 population.
- According the CSO Vital statistics, in 2021 the average first time mother in Cork County was 32.4 years. This was older than the state average of 31.7 years. First time mothers were slightly younger in Cork City at 31.7 years old.
- According to the CSO Vital Statistics in 2021 there were 37 births to mothers aged less than 20 years old in Cork County and 14 in Cork City. These numbers equated to 0.7% of the total births in Cork County and was less than the state average of 1.2% while the rate was slightly higher at 1.1% in Cork City
- In 2020, according to the Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO) 6.0% of babies born in Cork weighing under 2,500 grammes, this was higher than the State average of 5.8%.
- In 2020, according to the Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO)<sup>13</sup> 63.3% of mothers were exclusively breastfeeding their babies in Cork. This was significantly higher than the State average of 44.2% of mothers breastfeeding exclusively and relative to the 25 other counties was the highest rate in the country.
- According to the Health Research Board (HRB), 100% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse<sup>14</sup> within 72 hours in the LHOs of Noth Cork, North Lee and West Cork and 99% in South Cork in 2021 (State 97.8%)
- According to the HRB, in South Lee 93% of children reaching ten months within the reporting period had their developmental check before reaching 10 months. Relative to the other LHOs this was the second highest rate in the country. The rates were slightly lower in West Cork (91%), North Cork (90%) and North Lee (90%).

## 2.6 Family Structure

- As of April 2023, according to the latest Census results there were 101,248 families living in the Cork CYPSC area. Further analysis of this showed how there were 43,713 families with children all aged under 15 years. The figure represented 43.2% of the total families and was in line with the state average of 43.2%.

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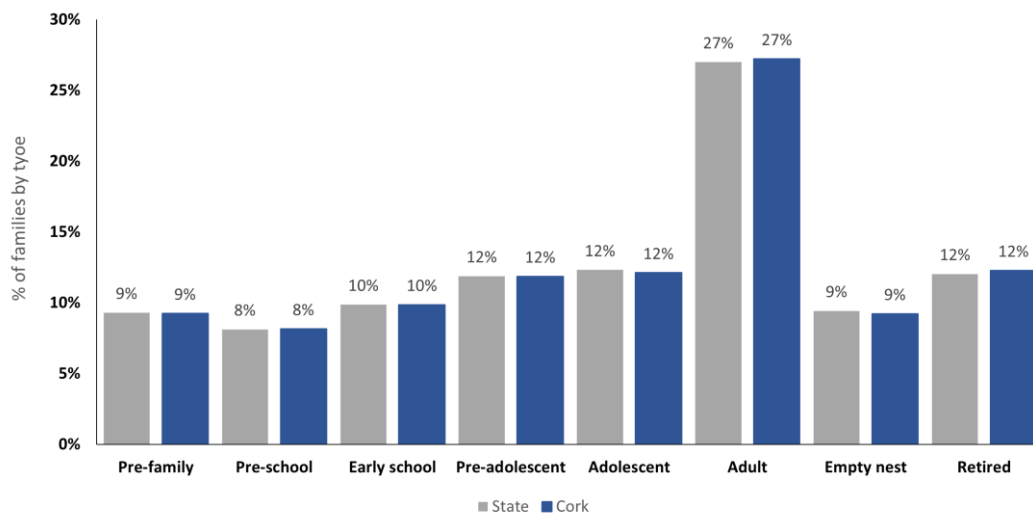
<sup>12</sup> VSAS12 - Births Registered

<sup>13</sup> Source: [http://www.hpo.ie/latest\\_hipe\\_nprs\\_reports/NPRS\\_2020/Perinatal\\_Statistics\\_Report\\_2020.pdf](http://www.hpo.ie/latest_hipe_nprs_reports/NPRS_2020/Perinatal_Statistics_Report_2020.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Source: <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/alcohol-and-drug-treatment/latest-data/>



Further data from Census 2022 is outlined in Graph 2.6 detailing the proportions of families by cycle<sup>15</sup> in Cork and percentage of families by type in Cork is broadly in line with the state averages.

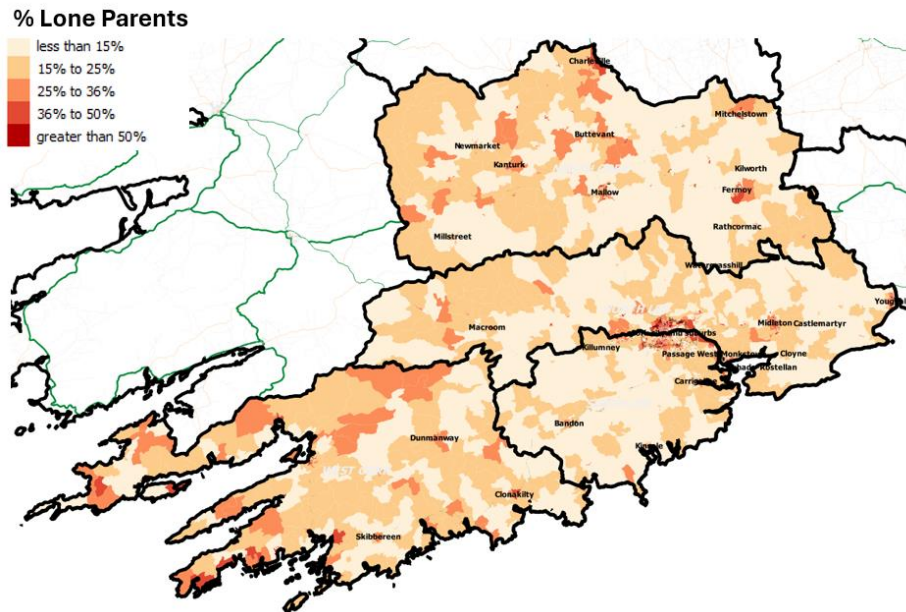


Graph 2.6 Families by Type. Source: Census 2022

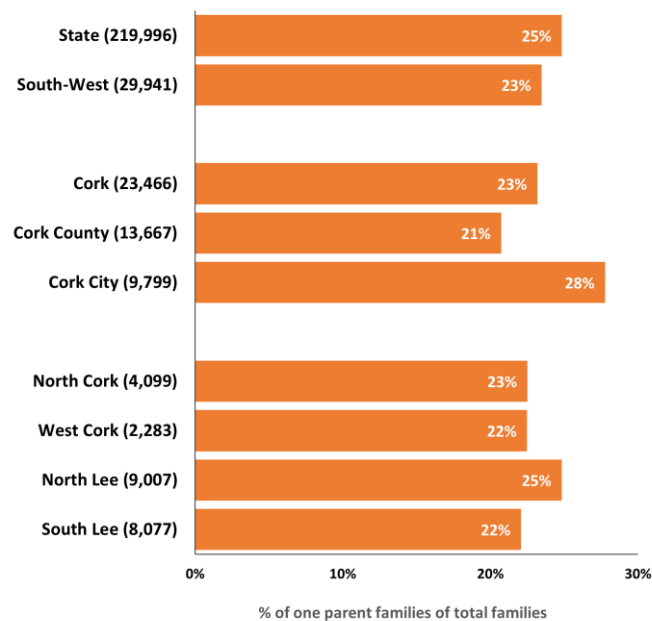
## 2.7 One Parent Families

- In Cork, according to Census 2022 One Parent Families with children aged under and over 15 years account for 23% of the total families. This is slightly lower than the state average of 25%.
- Despite the overall rate of lone parents when the data is examined at small area level it reveals areas of extremely high rates of lone parents. The geographical spread of lone parent can be examined in Graph 2.7 and Map 2.6. These graphics highlight the differences of the rate of Lone Parent families at LHO level, with the highest proportions in Cork City.
- While the map highlights how some areas proportions of greater than 50% of lone parent families.

<sup>15</sup> Source: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpp3/censusofpopulation2022profile3-householdsfamiliesandchildcare/backgroundnotes/>



Map 2.6 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022

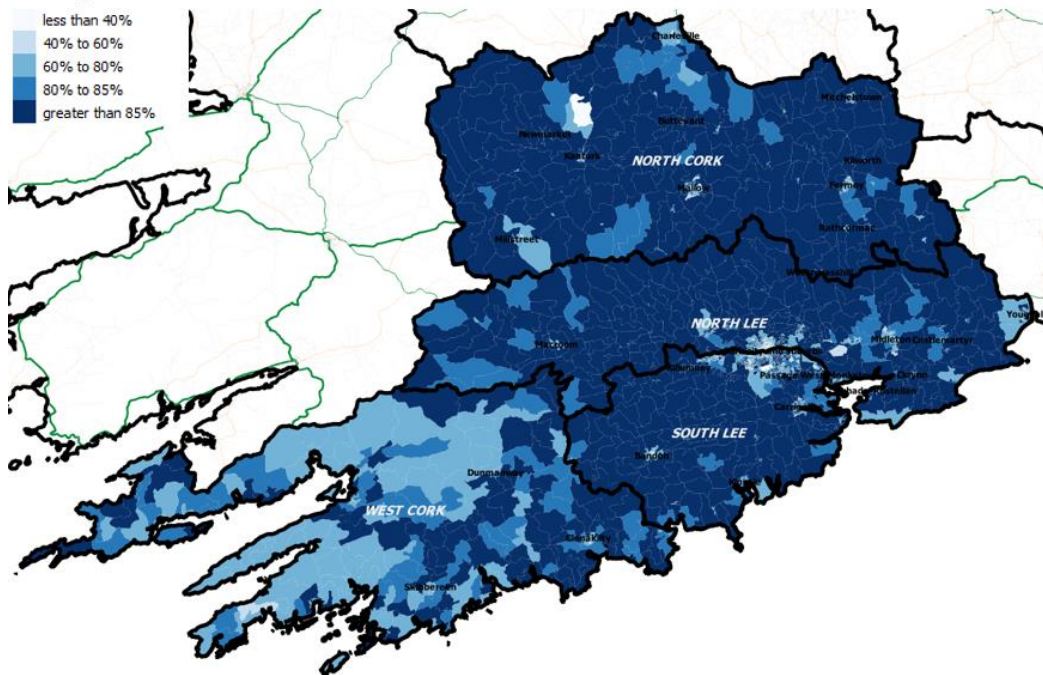
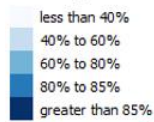


Graph 2.7 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022

## 2.8 Ethnicity

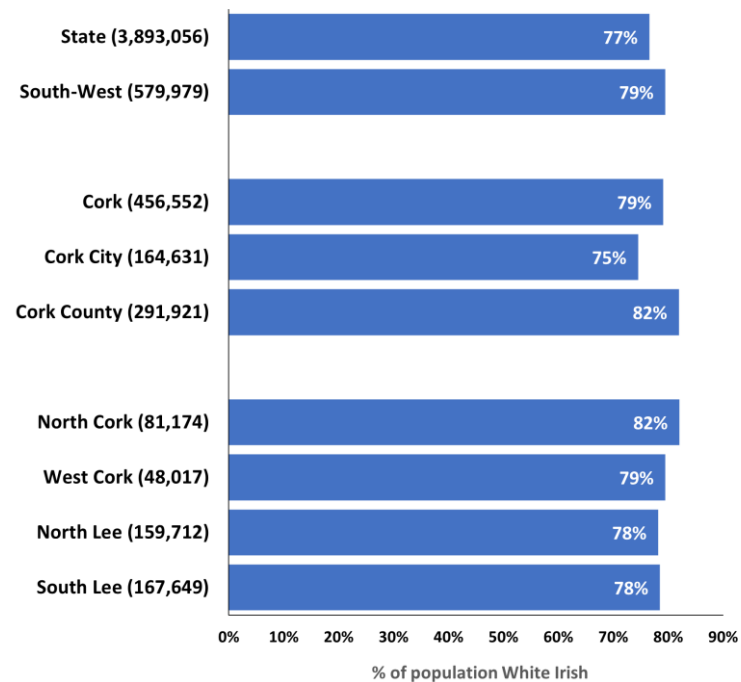
- Ethnic diversity as well as its distribution is outlined in Graph 2.8 and Map 2.7 with the proportion of population classified as 'White Irish' according to Census 2022.
- Map 2.7 highlights how areas with the lowest proportions of population classified as 'White Irish' are in West Cork, Cork City and Newmarket near Kanturk.

### % Population White Irish

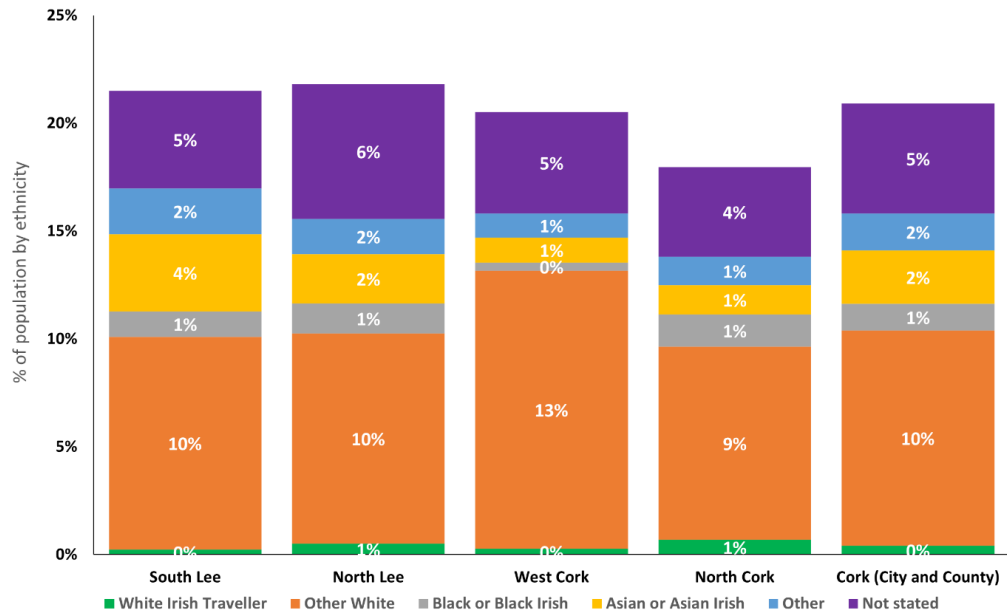


Map 2.7 Population classified as 'White Irish' Source: Census 2022

- Graph 2.9 outlines the minor ethnicity groups by LHO as well as Cork (City and County) for comparison.



Graph 2.8 Population classified as 'White Irish' Source: Census 2022

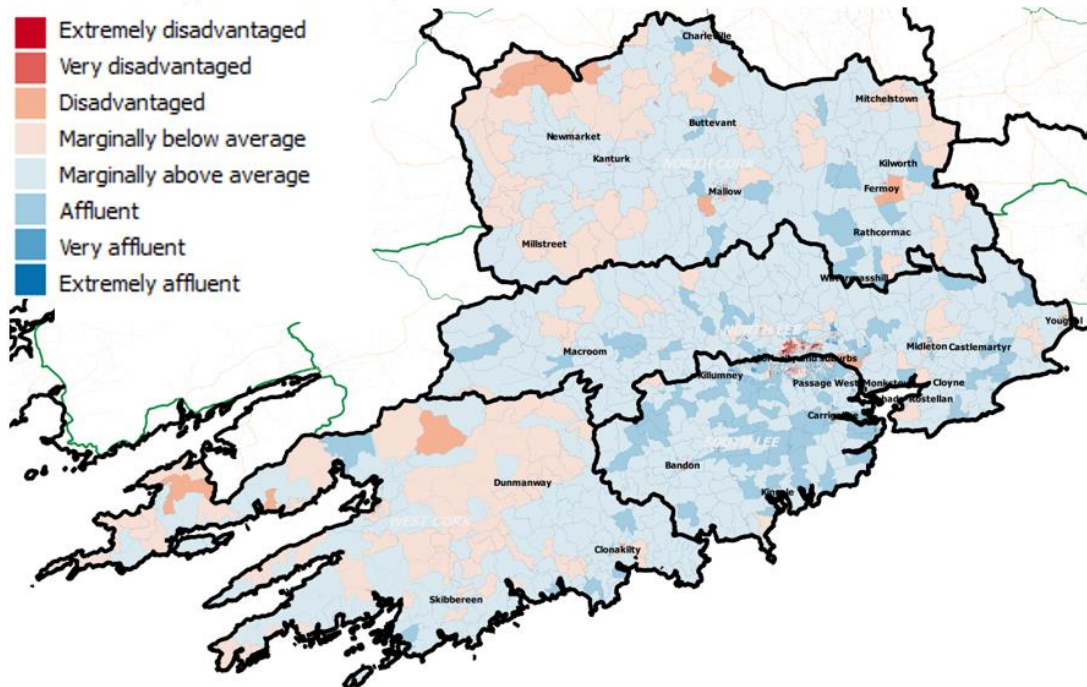


Graph 2.9 Population by Ethnic Minority Groupings. Source Census 2022

## 2.9 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

- The 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at the level of 18,919 Small Areas (SAs) in 2022 in Ireland based on the Relative Index Scores for 2022.
- Map 2.8 shows the Pobal HP Deprivation Index by SAs throughout the Cork CYPSC Area.

### Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022



Map 2.8 Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022. Source: Pobal

- According to the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, as of 2022 there were 13 SAs classified as extremely disadvantaged in the Cork CYPSC Area. 12 out of 13 of these areas were in Cork

City in Knocknaheeny, Blackpool, The Glen, Gurrabraher and Mayfield. One was located in Charleville.

- The map shows the spatial distribution of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index throughout Cork and there is a distinctive pattern. Areas of disadvantage are located in West Cork, Cork City north, as well as in northern areas of the county; Millstreet, Newmarket, Mitchelstown and Fermoy. Areas of affluence are located in the south of the county as well as in semi-urban areas around Cork City.

## 2.10 Housing Tenure

- According to Census 2022, 18% of houses in the Cork CYPSC area are rented from a private landlord and this is in line with the state average also of 18%. As Table 2.2 shows there are differences between the rate of private rental when the data is examined at city and county level as well as throughout the LHOs.

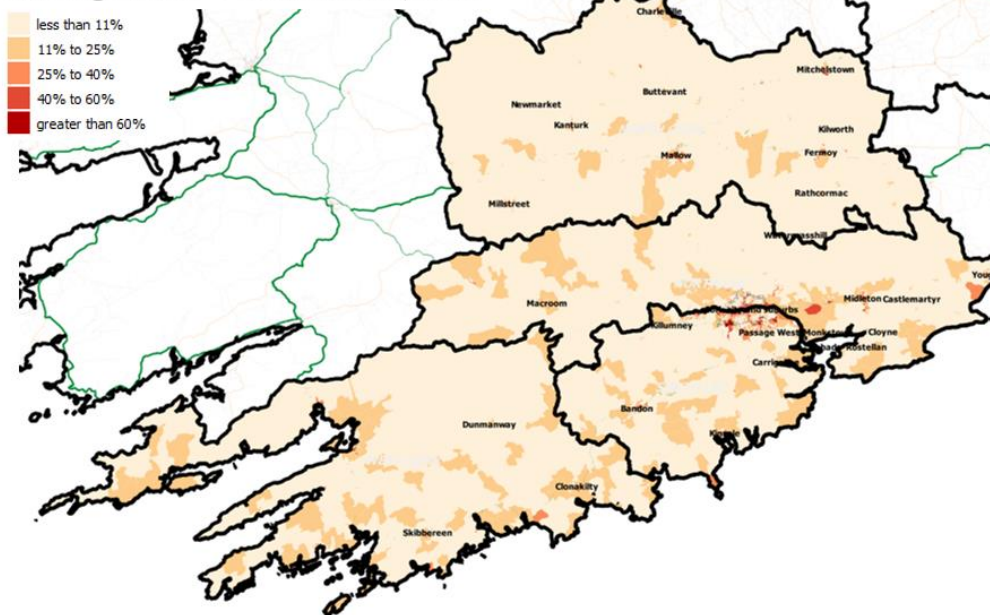
	% Owned with mortgage or loan	% Owned outright	% Rented from private landlord	% Rented from Local Authority	% Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body
State	29%	37%	18%	8%	2%
South-West Cork	27%	40%	17%	9%	1%
Cork County	28%	38%	18%	9%	2%
Cork City	31%	42%	14%	6%	1%
South Lee	24%	33%	24%	13%	2%
North Lee	29%	37%	21%	7%	2%
West Cork	29%	34%	18%	12%	2%
North Cork	21%	50%	15%	6%	1%
	29%	42%	14%	8%	2%

Table 2.2 Households by housing tenure (Source: Census 2022)

- The rate of private rental accommodation is far greater in Cork City at 24% when compared to the county where it is only 14%. Similarly, the rate of social housing is far greater in the city at 13% while it is only 6% in the county.
- When this data is examined at LHO level there are higher rates of private rented accommodation in the South Lee LHO. The highest rate of social housing is in the North Lee LHO at 6% and the lowest in West Cork at 6%.
- Map 2.9 shows a clear spatial distribution whereby areas with the highest proportions of private rented are located in the main urban areas, including Cork City and the lowest in rural areas.



### Housing Tenure – Private Rented, 2022



Map 2.9 Proportion of households renting privately. Source: Census 2022

## 2.11 Homelessness

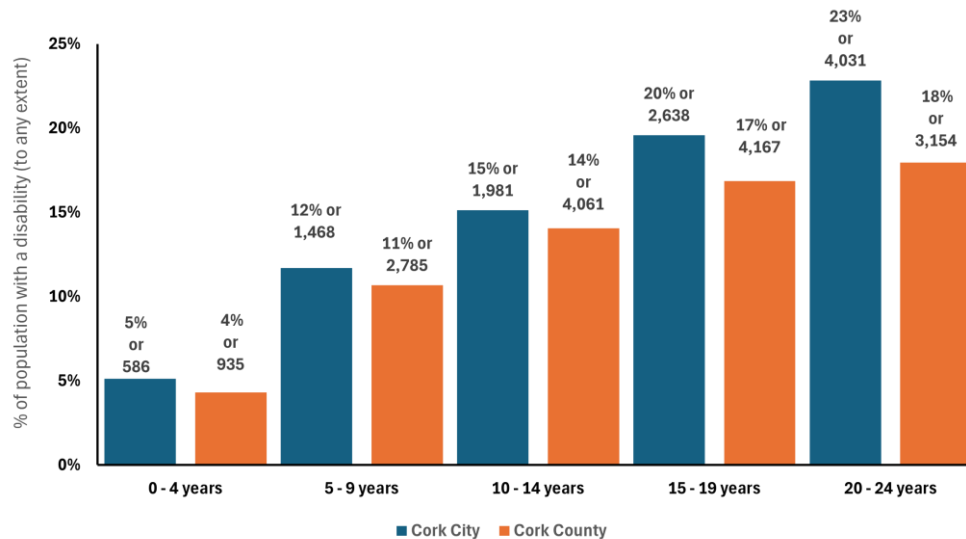
- According to the Summary of Social Housing Assessments<sup>16</sup> published by the Housing Agency in 2022, there were 1,392 households with children on the social housing waiting list in Cork City. This figure represented a rate of 39.4 per 1,000 households with children in Cork City. Relative to the other LAs' rate, it was the fourth highest rate in the State and above the State average of 23.8. Galway City recorded the highest rate of 91.3 and Roscommon the lowest at 5.0.
- In the same time period there were 897 households with children on the social housing waiting list in Cork County. This equated to the eight lowest rate in the state when compared to the other LAs.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, published monthly homeless reports<sup>17</sup> and makes available information on the number of families, young people (aged 18 to 24 years) and dependent children living in homelessness by region.
- As of February 2024, there were:
  - 74 young people aged 18 to 24 years living in homelessness in the Southwest (Cork City, Cork County and Kerry).
  - 101 families accessing emergency accommodation with 183 dependent children.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/862a4-summary-of-social-housing-assessments-2022-key-findings/>

<sup>17</sup> Monthly Homelessness Report February 2024

## 2.12 Children with a Disability

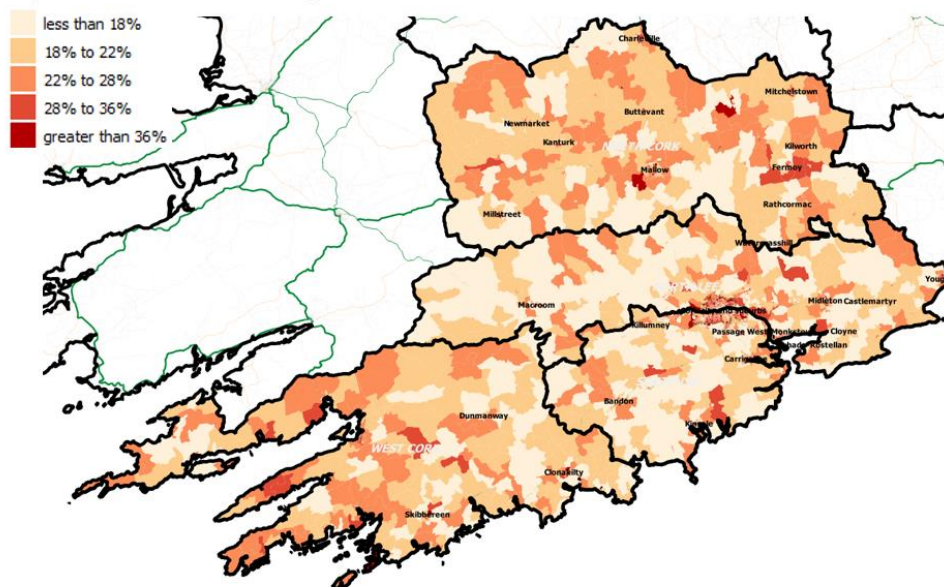
- According to Census 2022, there were 14,040 children and young people in Cork with a disability to any extent. This figure represents 18% of the population aged 0 to 24 years.
- Graph 2.10 breaks down this figure by age groups as well as the proportion of the total children in that age group.



Graph 2.10 Proportion of children and young people with a disability. Source: Census 2022

- Map 2.10 shows the proportion of total population with a disability (breakdown by age at this geography is not available) by SA in Cork according to Census 2022. Areas of high proportions are distributed throughout Cork.
- Areas with the highest rates in Cork of over 45% (all ages with a disability) include: Mahon, Montenotte, Blackpool, Mallow, Mayfield and Clonakilty.

**Population with a Disability, 2022**



Map 2.10 Proportion of population with a disability. Source: Census 2002



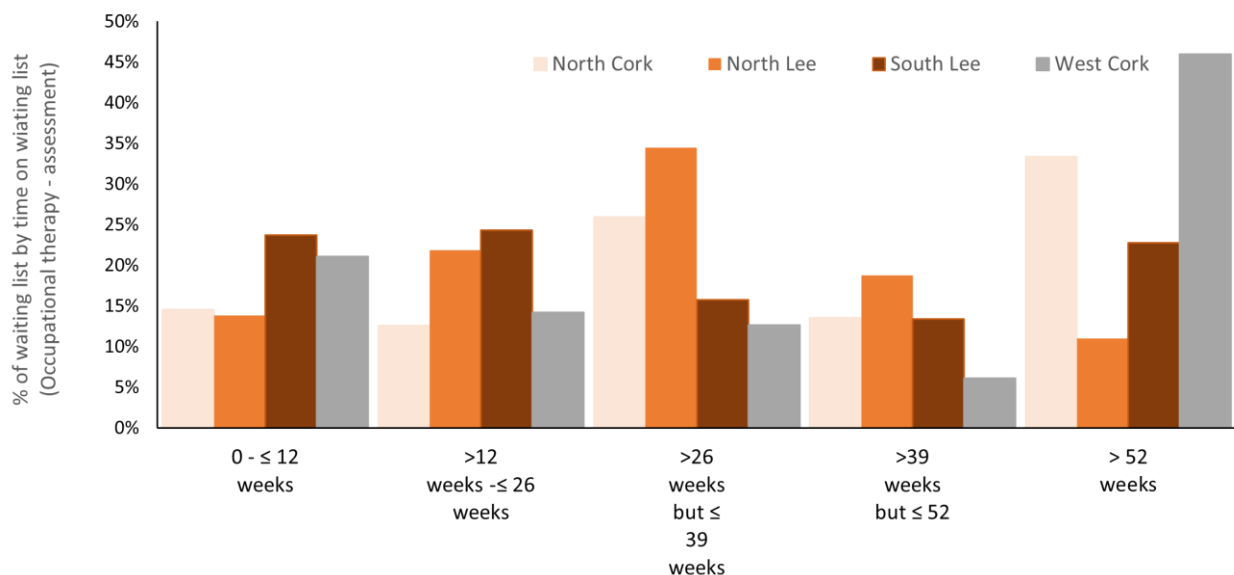
## 2.13 Waiting Lists

- Table 2.3 outlines the numbers of children aged 0 to 17 years awaiting services in North Cork, North Lee, South Lee and West Cork LHOs, as of May 2022 according to the HSE<sup>18</sup>.

	Psychology Treatment	Occupational Therapy First Time Assessment
North Cork	377	620
North Lee	618	571
South Lee	1,232	1,066
West Cork	177	261

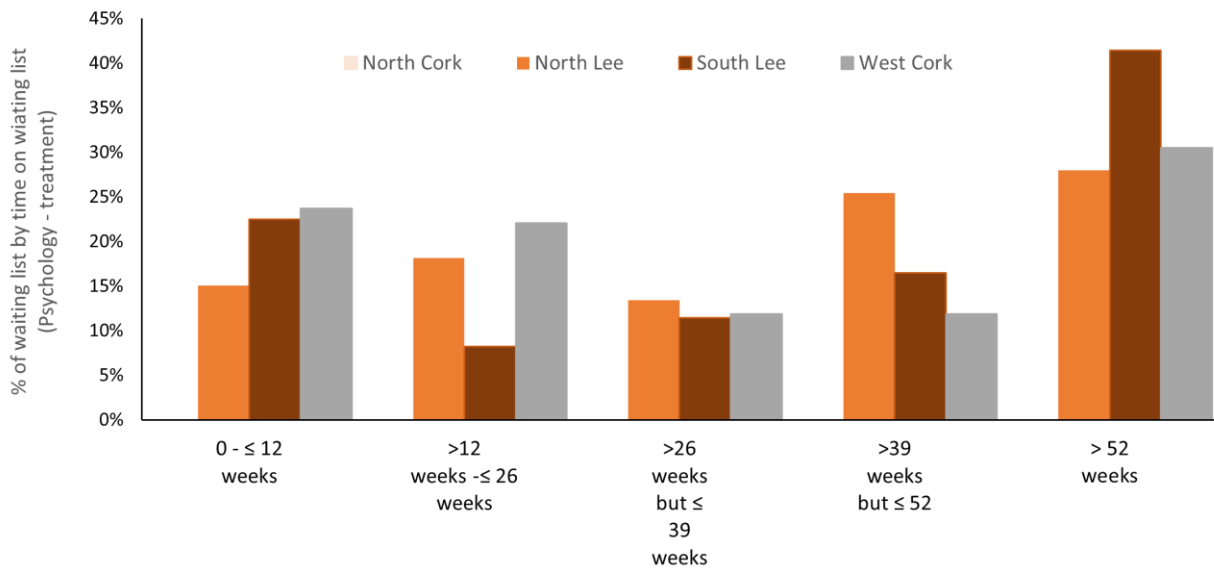
Table 2.3 Waiting List for HSE children's services as of May 2022

- As outlined in Graph 2.11 and 2.12 of the children awaiting either an Occupational Therapy assessment or Psychology treatment most are waiting over 52 weeks in the Cork LHOs.



Graph 2.11 Proportion of children waiting for a psychology treatment by length of time

<sup>18</sup> Source: National Disability Services (hse.ie)



Graph 2.12 Proportion of children waiting for an occupational therapy assessment by length of time

- According to the latest Parliamentary Questions<sup>19</sup> (PQs) there has been a significant increase on the number of children and young people waiting to access CAMHS services from 2,755 in December 2020 to 4,434 at end February 2023 nationally.
- In 2021, information on the waiting lists for CAMH services was made available at Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Level of which there are 9. Cork is within CHO Area 4 and also includes Kerry and was made available by PQ<sup>20</sup>. In March 2021, there were 582 children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS in CHO9 which accounted for more than 24% of the national figure of 2,384.

## 2.14 Rates of Self-Harm in Men and Women aged 25 years and under

- According to the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF)<sup>21</sup> in 2020, the rate of self-harm for females aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 477.1 per 100,000 females aged 10 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the North Lee LHO (510.7) and lower than the average in the South Lee (476.7), North Cork (418.1) and West Cork (292.8)
- In 2020, the rate of self-harm for males aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 250.7 per 100,000 males aged 10 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the North Lee LHO (390.4) and was the highest in the country in this time when compared with the others LHOs. Rates were lower in South Lee (251.4), North Cork (220.7) and West Cork (117.3).

<sup>19</sup> Source: [Mental Health Services – Thursday, 20 Apr 2023 – Parliamentary Questions \(33rd Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

<sup>20</sup> Source: [pq-47739-21-mark-ward.pdf \(hse.ie\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> Source: [National Suicide Research Foundation: https://www.nsrff.ie/](#)

## 2.15 Suicide

- In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) provides mortality data including deaths by suicide. Death due to intentional self-harm is classified as an unnatural death and therefore, must be referred to the coroner for investigation. This investigation can take a protracted length of time to complete for various reasons (such as getting medical reports, health and safety reports, engineer's report, the involvement of the Director of Public Prosecutions) and this delays the registration of such deaths. Data from the CSO is published in different stages: 1. Numbers of deaths are provided firstly based on year of registration – 'provisional' 2. They are revised later, by year of occurrence – 'official' 3. Finally, they are revised later again, to include late registrations. The 2022 statistics are 'provisional' and subject to change should more deaths be registered as a suicide in subsequent years.
- According to the CSO Vital Statistics<sup>22</sup>, in 2022 there was a suicide rate of 5.4 in Cork City. This rate was lower than the State rate of 8.1. The rate was higher in Cork County at 8.9.

## 2.16 Drugs and Alcohol Treatment

- Information on the number of young people aged 24 years and under, accessing treatment for alcohol and drug problems is published by the Health Research Board<sup>23</sup>. The information is released at LHO.
- In 2022, 152 children and young people residing in the North Lee area accessed treatment for drugs and alcohol use. This figure equated to a rate of 37.1 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 24 years. Compared with the other LHOs in the state this was the sixth highest rate in the country. The rate in South Lee (n=53 or 25.4 per 1,000 population) was slightly lower, followed by North Cork (n=37 or 19.3 per 1,000 population) and West Cork (n=17 or 15.6 per 1,000 population).

## 2.17 Education

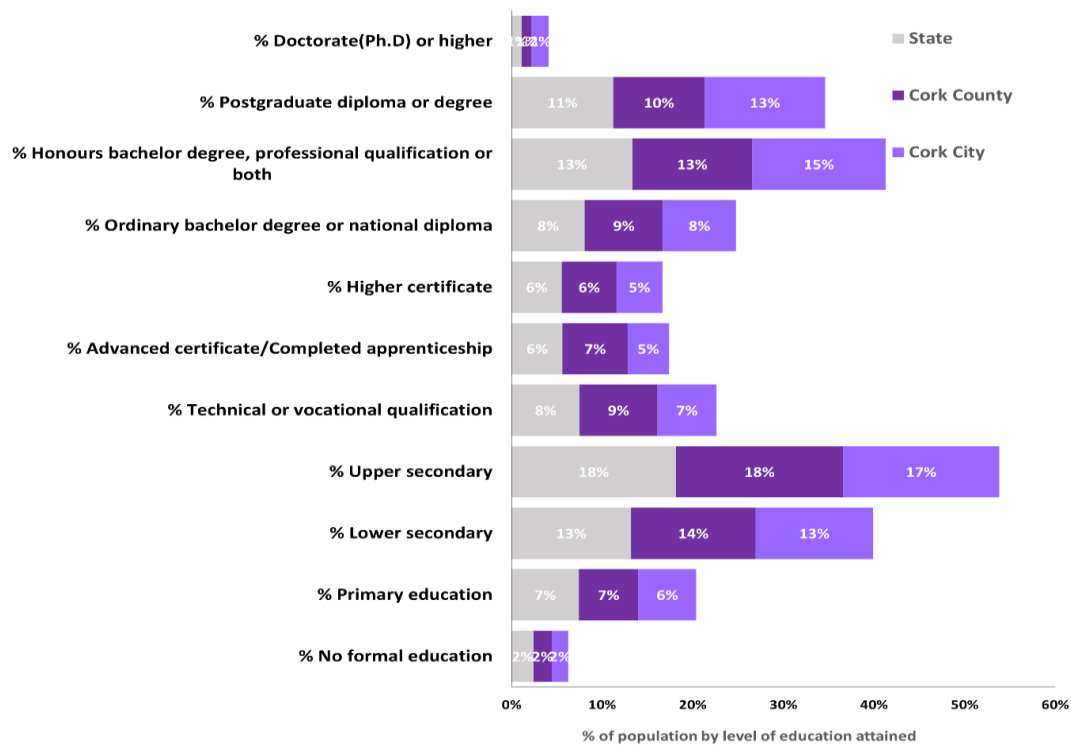
### Educational Attainment

- Census 2022 data shows that 235,674 people in Cork had completed their education.
- Graph 2.13 below shows the distribution of educational attainment in Cork City as well as County. When compared with the State, both Cork City and Cork County have a higher-than-average level of third level education attainment.

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<sup>22</sup> Source: [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

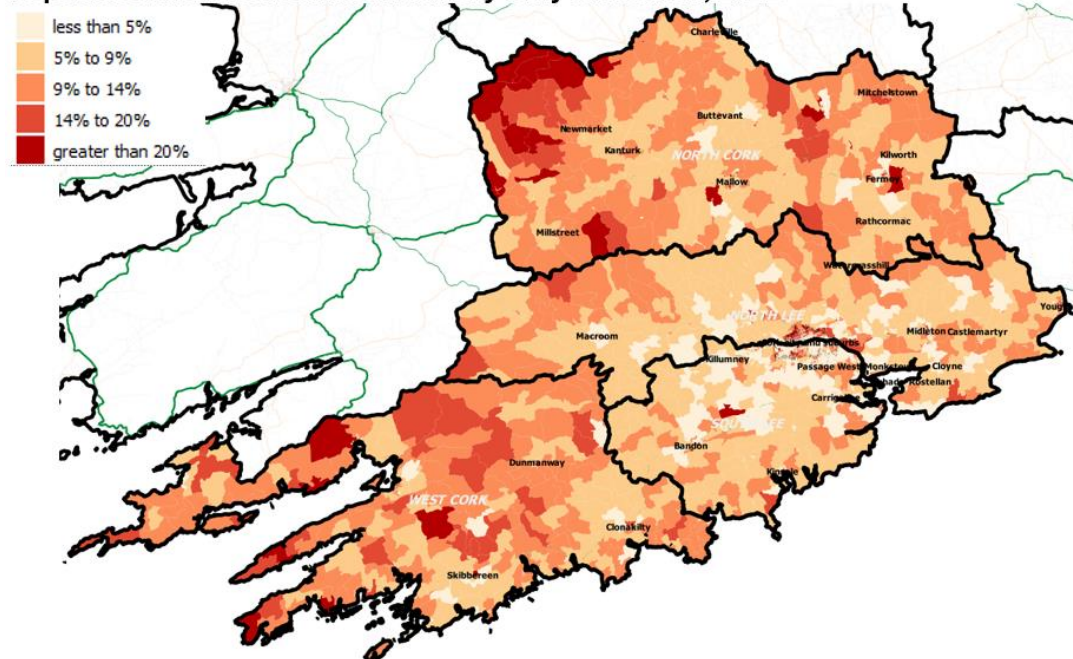
<sup>23</sup> Source: <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/alcohol-and-drug-treatment/latest-data/>



Graph 2.13 Proportion of population by Educational Attainment. Source: Census 2022

- Despite these higher than average educational attainment rates, there are clusters of small areas with low levels of education attainment evident in: Gillabbey, Glasheen, Knocknaheeny, Blackpool, Youghal and Castletownroche. Map 2.11 shows the distribution of population with no formal or primary only education attainment throughout the County.

**Population with No Formal or Primary Only Education, 2022**



Map 2.11 Proportion of population with no formal or primary only education. Source: Census 2022

## Early Years

According to the Pobal Early Years report in 2020/21<sup>24</sup>:

- There were 92 community providers and 304 private providers of Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services in Cork County. In Cork City there were 44 community providers and 58 private providers of Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services.
- With a total of 2,187 vacant childcare places there was a vacancy rate of 24% in Cork County. The vacancy rate in Cork City was higher at 29% as there were 487 vacant places.
- €204.30 was the average weekly fee for childcare in Cork City and the sixth highest in the country, followed by Cork County at €193.53 which was the seventh highest rate.
- Staff working in childcare in Cork City were the fifth highest paid in the country with an hourly rate of €14.35. Staff in Cork County were the eight highest in the country with an hourly rate of €13.35.

## Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Retention

- Leaving certificate retention rates are published by the Department of Education on an annual basis.<sup>25</sup> This information includes the number of young people that begin secondary school and complete their Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate within 5 or 6 years. This information is released by administrative county.
- Department of Education statistics<sup>26</sup> show that in 2016, 2,000 young people began secondary school in Cork City. Of these 97.5% completed their Junior Certificate and by 2021 or 2022 90.9% had completed their Leaving Certificate.
- In Cork County, of the 5,081 that began their secondary school in 2016, 98.4% had completed their Junior Certificate and by 2021 or 2022 92.5% had completed their Leaving Certificate.

## School absenteeism

- Tusla school attendance figures<sup>27</sup> show that in the years 2019-22, Cork was the second highest county in terms of school absences, after Dublin.
- However, County Cork's rate of 20+plus day absences was lower than the state average in the 2021-22 school year: In primary schools, 36.7% of students in Cork were absent for over 20 days, compared to the national average of 39%; and in secondary schools, 21.4% of Cork students were absent for over 20 days, compared to 28.0% on average nationally.<sup>28</sup>
- DEIS schools traditionally have higher rates of students who are absent for 20-plus days. In 2019-2020 the rate of 20-plus day absences in DEIS Band 1 primary schools was 12.1%, compared to 5.0% for all primary schools and 17.1% in secondary schools, compared to 9.5% for all post-primary schools. Attendance rates for DEIS schools at county level have not been published.

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<sup>24</sup> Source: Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020 2021 (pobal.ie)

<sup>25</sup> Source: [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - Retention ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie))

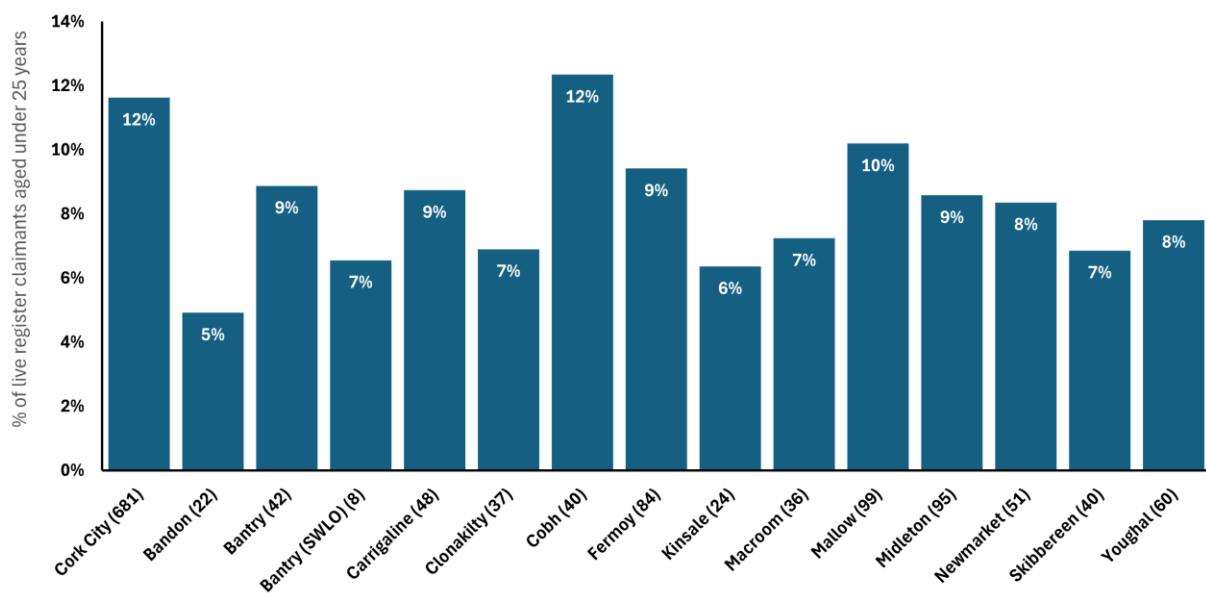
<sup>26</sup> Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/64f5b-ministers-foley-and-harris-announce-publication-of-latest-education-indicators-for-ireland-report/>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR\\_SAR\\_2019\\_22.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> The 20-plus day absence rate in 2021-22 were the highest ever recorded, corresponding to the peak of Ireland's Covid-19 cases over winter 2021-22. In comparison, the state average for 20-plus day absences from 2014 – 2018 was 11.6% for primary and 15% for post-primary.

## 2.16 Youth Unemployment

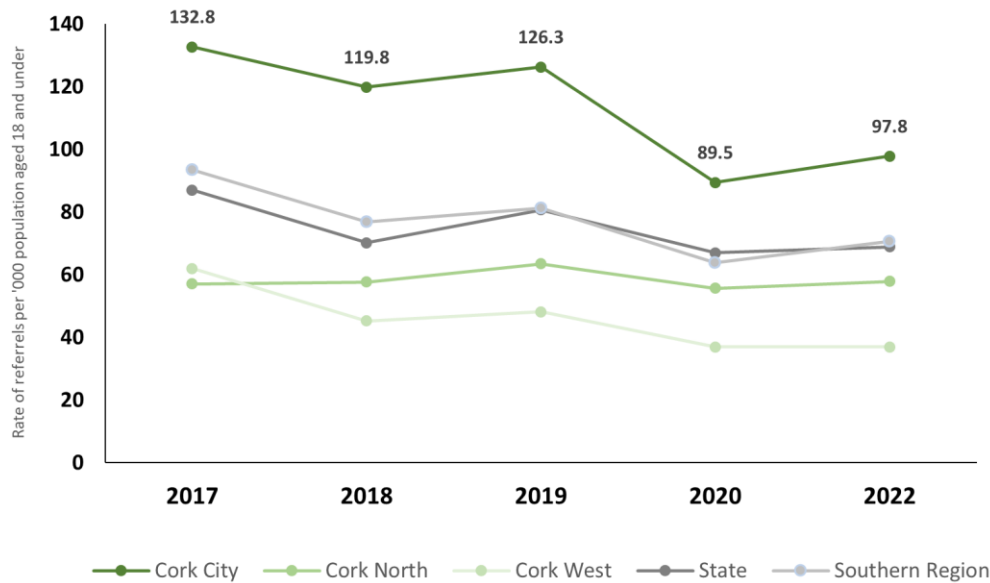
- Data on the number of people signed on the Live Register is released by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) through the CSO monthly. This information includes the number of young people aged under 25 years that are signing on. There are 15 Department of Social Protection offices throughout Cork City and County.
- As of February 2024, there were 1,367 young people aged 25 years and under signing on the Live Register in Cork City and County. In Cork City and County this represented 10% of the total live register claimants.
- Graph 2.14 outlines the distribution of claimants aged under 25 years in Cork City and County by social welfare office.
- The rate of young claimants is highest in Cobh and Cork City at 12% and the lowest rates are in Skibbereen (7%), Kinsale (6%) and Bandon (5%).



Graph 2.14: Young people (24 years and under) signing on the Live Register. Source: Department of Social Protection and CSO 2024

## 2.17 Garda Youth Diversion Programme

- The Garda Youth Diversion Programme (GYDP) is a national initiative provided for in the Children's Act 2001. Its aim is to support An Garda Síochána in diverting young people away from further offending through a network of Garda Youth Diversion Projects. They target 12–17-year-olds with the intention of diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. In Cork there are 13 GYDP's.
- The latest published data available is for the period 2022. This data shows how Cork City had 515 referrals of young people and equated to rate of 97.8 per 1,000 population aged 18 and under. When compared to all of the other Garda Regions this was the fourth highest rate in Ireland. Rates were lower in Cork North (57.9) and Cork West (37.0).
- Graph 2.15 below shows the fluctuations of these rates since 2017 (data for 2021 is unavailable). This graph shows how the rates have always been high in Cork City and have decreased over time.



Graph 2.15: Referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme. Source: Garda Youth Diversion Programme and CSO 2023

## 2.18 Tusla Referrals and Children in care

According to the Tusla Review of Adequacy Report<sup>[1]</sup> (2023):

- In 2023, there were 8,333 referrals received in Cork (6.1 per 100 child population). Despite having the highest number of children under 18 years, Cork ranked 4<sup>th</sup> lowest overall for child protection referrals when compared with other areas.
- In Q4 2023, there were 2,630 Open Cases, there were 28% Awaiting allocation which was greater than the National Average of 24%.
- In Dec 2023, there were 116 Children Active on the Child Protection Notification System. That was a rate of 8.5 per 10,000 child population, the National Average was 7.9.
- At end of Dec 2023 there were 705 children in care in Cork, Cork was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest among 17 ISAs, the National average was 4.6 per 1,000 child population.
- 95% of Children in care had an Allocated Social worker (National 81%) and 82% had an Up-to-Date Care plan (National 76%)

<sup>[1]</sup> Review\_of\_Adequacy\_Report\_2022.pdf (tusla.ie)



## Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Cork

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

1. **Health and Social Services**
2. **Education**
3. **Policing and Youth Justice**
4. **Local Authority Services**
5. **Social Welfare**
6. **Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture**
7. **Youth**
8. **Other services**

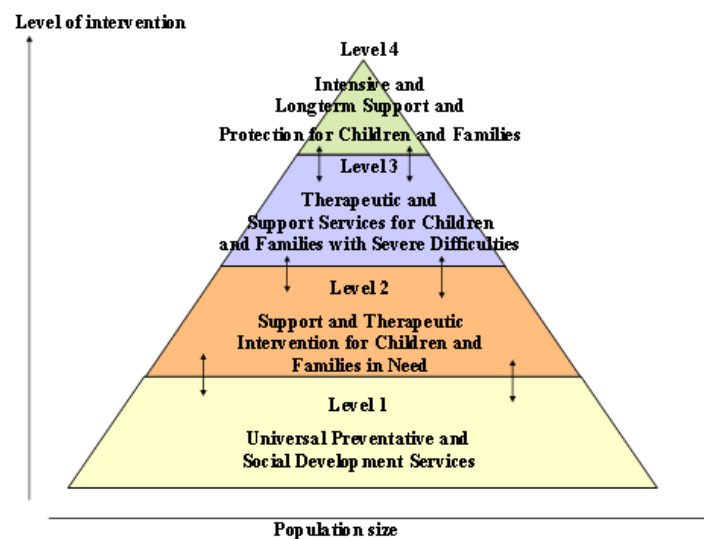


Figure 3.1: Hardiker Model (Source: Hardiker et al, 1991<sup>29</sup>)

These services can be understood as being universal or targeted services, and are best illustrated by the Hardiker Model (Figure 3.1), and have been categorised as such in the listing.

<sup>29</sup> Source: [Vol. 21, No. 4, August 1991 of The British Journal of Social Work on JSTOR](#)

1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES			
Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>HSE Community Services and Primary Care Team</b>	<p>There are four Local Health Office Areas (LHOs) in Cork; North Lee, South Lee, Cork North and Cork West. In each LHO area there are <b>Health Centres</b> which provide a wide range of <b>primary care teams and community services</b>. Services include GP services, Public Health Nurses, Social Work and Child Protection Services, Child Health Services, Community Audiology Service, Disability Services, Older People Services, Chiropody, Ophthalmic, Speech and Language Therapy, Addiction Counselling and Treatment, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.</p> <p><b>PRIMARY CARE CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b></p> <p>Primary Care Children's Services include: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Psychology. These disciplines work closely with other core Primary Care Services such as Dietetics, Community Medical Doctors and Public Health Nurses. These services are for children and young people with non-complex needs.</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S DISABILITY NETWORK TEAM (CDNT)</b></p> <p>The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) supports children and young people with complex needs arising from a disability, who require the supports of an interdisciplinary (one which works collaboratively) team. CDNTs operate in defined geographical areas. Children are assigned to the team that is local to their home address.</p> <p><b>CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)</b></p> <p>CAMHS is a service that provides specialist mental health assessment and treatment to children and young people (up to 18 years) who are experiencing moderate or severe mental health difficulties</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4
<b>Youth Health Service - HSE</b>	<p>The HSE's Youth Health Service in Penrose House, Penrose Quay, Cork provides a broad range of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General advice and support in relation to Sexual health</li> <li>• STI screening / clinic</li> <li>• GSTI screening / clinic</li> <li>• Contraceptive clinic</li> <li>• Unplanned pregnancy support and counselling</li> <li>• Post termination medical checks and counselling</li> <li>• One to one youth work support for sexual health education and information</li> <li>• Drug and alcohol support and counselling</li> </ul> <p>Counselling for sexual health issues, sexuality, relationships and other related concerns to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## 1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Tusla Child and Family Agency</b>	<p>Tusla is responsible for improving the wellbeing and outcomes for children. A range of supports is provided by Tusla, including Child Protection and Welfare, Social Work and Family Support, Fostering and Alternative care and Aftercare Services.</p> <p>Cork Dedicated contact Point to report a concern about a child is based in North Point Business Park.</p> <p>Social Work Teams cover North Lee SW / South Lee SW / North Cork SW / West Cork.</p> <p>Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Services offer a comprehensive suite of early intervention and prevention services, including Meitheal, a case coordinated approach for families with additional needs who require multi agency Intervention. The PPFS team coordinates Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN), there are 4 in Cork: North Lee, South Lee, North Cork and West Cork</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4
<b>Local Development Companies</b>	<p>There are four Development Partnerships in the Cork CYPSC area providing a range of supports to individuals, families and communities to promote Social Inclusion, Employment, Training and wellbeing supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork City Partnership</li> <li>• Ballhoura Development North Cork</li> <li>• West Cork Development Partnership</li> <li>• South East Cork Area Development</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Comhar na nOileán</b>	<p>Development organisation for the inhabited Islands of Ireland. Implementing Social inclusion Activation Programme on the West Cork Islands, supporting groups and activities with families and children, supporting island development and service planning.</p>		Universal & Targeted, Hardiker, Level 1-3

## 1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Family Resource Centres (FRC)</b>	<p>There are 9 FRC throughout Cork City and County under the Tusla National Family Support Programme. They provide a range of services including childcare, youth support, Meitheal, counselling, specific family support programmes, information support and meeting space. Locations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballincollig Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Bandon Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Beara Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Cobh Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Dunmanway Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• Le Cheile Family Resource Centre (Mallow)</li> <li>• Midleton Family Resource Centre</li> <li>• The Cara Centre, Adrigole Family Resource Centre</li> </ul> <p>Other Centres in Cork include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mahon Family Resource</li> <li>• Youghal Family Resource Initiative</li> <li>• Cumann Na nDaoine</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Togher Family Centre</b>	<p>Togher Family Centre provides a range of services for children, parents and individuals across 5 locations in Cork. These services include, Early Years, Pre School, Youth Services, Summer Camp, Family Support, Parent and Toddler, Counselling, Play Therapy, Child Contact, Family Mediation and Adult Education Classes to more. For more information please visit our website on <a href="http://www.tfamc.ie">www.tfamc.ie</a>.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3

## 1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Springboard Tusla</b>	<p>Springboard is a programme of family support for vulnerable families initiated by the Department of Health and Children. Springboard projects target early intervention to children and families most at risk. RAPID areas are prioritised. Two areas in the North side of Cork city have been identified, Knocknaheeny and Farranree.</p> <p>Objectives of Springboard family support initiative:</p> <p>Respond in a supportive manner where children's welfare is under threat.</p> <p>Reduce risk to children by enhancing their family life.</p> <p>Prevent avoidable entry of children into the care system</p> <p>Attempt to address current problems being experienced by children and families in the designated areas.</p> <p>Develop existing strengths of parents/carers and children who are under stress.</p> <p>Enable families to develop strategies for coping with stress.</p> <p>Provide an accessible, realistic and user friendly service</p> <p>Connect families with supportive networks within the identified communities.</p> <p>Provide parental competence and confidence</p> <p>Provide direct services to children</p> <p>Assist in the re-integration of children back into their families</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Barnardos</b>	<p>Barnardo's is a children's charity working with vulnerable children and their families. A range of supports are offered including early years services, assessment, therapeutic supports, family supports and provisions of DSGBV services for parents and children.</p> <p>Barnardo's has four locations across Cork in Youghal, Fermoy, Mahon and Knocknaheeny.</p> <p>Barnardo's regional office is based in Meade Street Cork, Services include beacon – Guardian ad litem service, Origins- Information and Tracing service, Post adoption service</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Childcare Committees</b>	<p>There are two child-care committees in the CYPSC area: Cork City Child Care Committee and Cork County Child Care Committee.</p> <p>The role of the childcare committee is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate the implementation of national childcare policy and programmes at a local level on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.</li> <li>Facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible early learning and care and school age childcare services</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1

## 1. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Empowering Children in Care (EPIC)</b>	Empowering Children in Care (EPIC) works with children and young people who live in care or who have experience of living in care. They provide advocacy support, and their aim is to champion the rights of care experienced children to ensure their voices inform policy and practice	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
<b>Youth Advocacy Project (YAP)</b>	The Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) Cork provides a needs-led, community based, wraparound, special care service to young people across Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Parenting programmes</b>	There are a variety of parenting programmes/information available in Cork from a range of providers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting 24 Seven (Tusla)</li> <li>• Barnardo's</li> <li>• One Family Online Courses (One Family)</li> <li>• Parents Plus Parent line</li> <li>• Springboard</li> <li>• Let's Grow Together</li> <li>• Teen Parents Support Programme, Childhood Matters</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Happy Talk – HSE, North Lee Speech and Language Therapy Early Intervention</b>	Happy Talk is a targeted universal early intervention model of care within the HSE. The Happy Talk team of speech and language therapists is based in Cork in the North Lee Speech and Language Therapy Department and delivers services across Cork City.  Happy Talk provides targeted universal interventions for children aged 0 – 6 years living in disadvantage in Cork City. Happy Talk seeks to improve the language, learning and literacy skills of young children, an identified high-risk population for speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).  Happy Talk works in Schools, Preschools, Crèches, Libraries, Public Health Nurse Clinics and Parent Toddler Groups.	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## 1.1 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - HOMELESSNESS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Good Shepherd Cork</b> Charity Organisation providing services to homeless women, children, and families.	Good Shepherd Cork provides a range of emergency accommodation and outreach services to women, children and families who are homeless or vulnerable to homelessness. Good Shepherd Cork runs a number of homeless and emergency accommodation shelters. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edel House Emergency shelter for women and children</li> <li>• Riverview Residential Centre for Teenage Girls</li> <li>• Bruac Education and development service</li> <li>• Redclyffe Family Hub</li> <li>• Baile an Aoire Long-term supported housing</li> <li>• Support and Advocacy Outreach Service</li> <li>• Supported housing for vulnerable women and their families</li> <li>• B and B Outreach Service</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Respond</b>	The Respond Housing Association is an approved housing association providing social and affordable houses and has been working throughout Ireland for over 40 years. Responds provides several services in Cork including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family homeless services</li> <li>• Family support</li> <li>• Refugee resettlement services</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Focus Ireland</b>	With an office located in Cork City Centre Focus Ireland provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aftercare services for young people leaving care</li> <li>• Social and affordable housing</li> <li>• Housing advice and information</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Clúid Housing</b>	Clúid Housing is a housing association providing cost rental housing throughout Ireland, including in Cork County.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Saint Vincent De Paul</b>	With an office located in Cork City, Saint Vincent de Paul provides Social Housing as well as Family support services. St. Vincent's House provides Emergency Accommodation for homeless men.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4



## 1.1 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - HOMELESSNESS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Peter McVerry Southwest</b>	Peter McVerry Southwest, with a regional office serving both Cork and Kerry in Cork City works with both Cork City and County Council to increase the availability of social housing to families throughout the Cork CYPSC Area.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Sophia Housing</b>	Sophia Housing provides a number of different housing related supports throughout Cork City including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported housing for families</li> <li>Supported housing for children and young people in fulltime education in conjunction with Cork ETB</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>HSE - South Social Inclusion Services</b>	Homeless Services and Asylum Seekers Health Services i Floor 2, Aras Slainte, Wilton Road, Cork plan and deliver services for homeless individuals.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Oakdene House Irish Council for Social Housing</b>	Services for people experiencing homelessness in Prosperity Square off Barrack Street, Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Mount Cara</b>	Redemption Road, Blackpool, Cork is for those who are homeless, over 65 years of age.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>O'Connell Court</b>	O'Connell Court in Doughcloyne, Togher Cross, Cork is supported accommodation for senior citizens and older homeless adults 50 years+ with mental health issues.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Cork Simon</b>	Cork Simon Community's Emergency Hostel in Anderson Quay shelter accommodates men and women over 18 years of age. The centre provides warm food, hot drinks, showers, laundry service, and can direct you to other services. They also provide Transitional, Community's Settlement and support for people who are homeless and ready to move towards independent living.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Cork City Council</b>	Cork City Council Homeless Office Housing and Community Directorate and Accommodation Placement Service (APS), Anglesea Street, Cork and Accommodation Placement Unit in City Hall will assess applicants' situation and inform them of their options. They will talk to applicant about registering as homeless and provide them with emergency accommodation where possible.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>The Foyer</b>	The Cork Foyer Accommodation and Training Centre in Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork supports young adults at risk of homelessness.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4

## 1.1 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - HOMELESSNESS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Sisters of Mercy</b>	Wellsprings provides supported accommodation for young single homeless women aged 16-23, including those leaving care.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Cuanlee Refuge</b>	Cuanlee Refuge provides safe, secure, short-term and crisis accommodation for single women and female victims of domestic violence and their children. Cuanlee accepts children up to the age of 12 (may accept women with older children on a nightly basis in an absolute emergency).	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Right of Place Second Change</b>	Right of Place Second Change, Cork offers 10 transitional apartments for former residents (and their dependents) of religious-run industrial schools, and victims of institutional child abuse. Right of Place Second Change has one apartment designed for wheelchair access. Support is offered to find long-term suitable accommodation.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Childhood Matters</b>	Childhood Matters, is a nonprofit, early intervention and prevention child and family support service, aimed at supporting and promoting positive childhood outcomes. Provision includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transitional and supported accommodation for pregnant women who are homeless. The Centre offers support regarding unplanned pregnancy and early parenting difficulties and includes a creche and a key-worker system.</li> <li>CHIPPS is a specialist attachment focussed trauma informed mental health service for children and young people in care.</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Pathways</b>	Pathways, Ballyvolane, Cork provides emergency accommodation for up to 12 weeks for adolescent boys aged 14-17 years who are out of home, including separated children seeking asylum.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Cork Co. Council Homeless Services</b>	Cork County Council Emergency Accommodation and Homeless Services are provided through the following locations on a case-by-case basis: North Cork Division, Mallow, South Cork, West Cork Cork County Council offices are based at Carrigrohane Road, Cork.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Novas</b>	Novas is a voluntary organisation and approved housing body. Novas' West Cork Tenancy Support and Sustainment Service provides support to families and single people who are homeless/at risk of homeless in West Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4

## 1.2 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DOMESTIC, SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Cuanlee</b>	Cuanlee Refuge provides safe and secure crisis accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis accommodation</li> <li>• Helpline</li> <li>• Child and Adolescent Services</li> <li>• Outreach social work</li> <li>• Domestic abuse workshops</li> <li>• Court accompaniment</li> <li>• Safety planning</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Sexual Violence Centre Cork</b>	The Sexual Violence Centre provides services to the survivors of rape, sexual assault and child sexual abuse.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Cork Sexual Assault Treatment Unit</b>	There are six Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) in Ireland and one of those is located in Cork City. They provide specialist care for women and men aged fourteen years and over who have recently been sexually assaulted or raped. The specialist team of SATU staff provide easily accessible, holistic services which address the medical, psychological and emotional needs and appropriate follow up care for victims of sexual crime, in a supportive, sensitive manner.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>An Garda Síochána</b>	An Garda Síochána works in a professional, dedicated and consistent way to try and reduce Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence throughout Ireland. Victims can come forward and make contact with An Garda Síochána for necessary support.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Women's Aid</b>	Women's Aid is a National Freephone Helpline providing support to victims of DSGBV	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>OSS Cork</b>	OSS Cork provides advice, information, advocacy and accompaniment to adult victims of domestic violence throughout Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Mná Feasa</b>	Mná Feasa in Gurrabraher, Cork provides a helpline, support group, accompaniment service to female victims of domestic violence.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4

## 1.2 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DOMESTIC, SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>West Cork Beacon</b>	Located in Bantry West Cork, this service offers free and confidential listening, information and support services for women experiencing domestic violence. They also offer An education, Training and Information Programme for professionals, community groups and schools and Therapeutic support to children and young people living with domestic violence.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Rape Crisis Network Ireland</b>	Rape Crisis Ireland offers support, information and counselling to victims of rape and domestic violence.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>YANA</b>	You Are Not Alone is a North Cork based domestic violence support service for women effected by gender or sexual based violence.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Tusla Liberty Street Services</b>	Domestic violence social work service based at Liberty Street House Cork	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>HSE Health The Sexual Health Centre</b>	The Sexual Health Centre in Cork offers professional and no biased support and services in the area of sexual health, wellbeing, sexuality and healthy relationships	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

### 1.3 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - TRAVELLER/ROMA AND MIGRANT SUPPORT

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Cork Traveller Women's Network</b>	<p>The Cork Traveller Women's Network is led by Traveller women and provides support, health and well-being promotion, advocacy, and awareness of rights among Traveller women in Cork.</p> <p>CTWN works with 4 other Traveller led organisations in Cork to provide Training on Travellers as an ethnic group with a rich culture, history and experiences. The training is targeted at service providers and aims to challenge racism and discrimination and ultimately influence service provision and policy to provide better outcomes for Travellers.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Traveller Visibility Group (TVG)</b>	<p>TVG works with Travellers in Cork city and within Cork city boundaries to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and protect Traveller culture and challenging racism and discrimination</li> <li>Enabling Traveller women, men and youths to improve their health and well-being, through information and education, accommodation support and advocacy, group work, self-care, peer-support, and drugs and alcohol addiction support.</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3
<b>Travellers North Cork</b>	TNC is a Traveller led human rights organisation working in Partnership with the settled community. Committed to promoting greater understanding of traveller culture and health needs		
<b>East Cork Travellers</b>	Aim to bring about improvements in circumstances and opportunities for Travellers in East Cork. Their mission revolves around delivering extensive support and advocacy services to the Traveller community		
<b>West Cork Travellers</b>	A Traveller led community development project working to achieve economic, cultural, health, social and political equality for the Traveller Community		

## 1.4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Southern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce</b>	The Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force was established to address issues relating to substance misuse in the region. Their role is to develop and implement The National Drug Strategy in County Cork and Kerry. They fund and support 22 services who provide a variety of interventions to those experiencing difficulties with drug and alcohol use. Support is also provided to family members. They also provide a mechanism which enables local communities to work closely with Statutory and Voluntary agencies in developing and implementing that strategy.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Cork Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce</b>	The Cork Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (CLDATF) funds twenty-one drug and alcohol projects across Cork City. The projects funded have developed over the years to meet emerging needs and the increasing prevalence of various substances within communities. Services including information and awareness raising, assessment, care planning, case management, brief interventions, holistic therapies, advocacy, onward referral, community-based counselling and pre and post treatment support are available from CLDATF funded projects.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Drugs Outreach Projects</b>	Throughout Cork there are (up to 49) Drugs Outreach projects. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackpool Hillgrove Outreach Project</li> <li>• Community Outreach Drug Awareness Project</li> <li>• Greenmount Community Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Bandon Community Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Cobh Community Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Fermoy Community Based Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Macroom Community Based Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Mallow Community Based Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Mitchelstown Community Based Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Youghal Community Based Drugs Initiative</li> <li>• Before 5 Family Centre</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Treatment Clinics and Rehabilitation</b>	Treatment Clinics and residential services operating in Cork include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuan Mhuire Treatment Centre</li> <li>• Matt Talbot Services (Residential)</li> <li>• Tabor Lodge Addiction and Housing Ltd.</li> <li>• Fellowship House</li> <li>• Link Workers</li> <li>• Renewal- Women's Residence</li> </ul>		



## 1.4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Youth Specific Services</b>	<p>There are a number of youth specific addiction services and projects in Cork. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballincollig Youth Initiative</li> <li>• Ballyphehane Action for Youth (BAY Project)</li> <li>• Carrigaline Youth Initiative</li> <li>• Cork City Club Project</li> <li>• Cork County Club Project</li> <li>• Cork Simon's Youth Homeless Drug Prevention Project</li> <li>• Douglas Area Youth Services (DAYS Project)</li> <li>• Dublin Hill/ Ballyvolane Initiative for Youth</li> <li>• Glen Neighbourhood Youth Project</li> <li>• Gurrabraher/Churchfield Community Drugs Project c/o Youth Work Ireland</li> <li>• Mayfield Youth 2000</li> <li>• YMCA Cork</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## 1.5 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Community Mental Health Teams</b>	There are 8 Community Mental Health Teams distributed throughout Cork. Community Mental Health Teams aim to support or treat people with mental health difficulties in their own home and community.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4
<b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</b>	The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is a service that provides assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties. While a broad range of services support the mental health of children and adolescents, the term 'CAMHS' is usually applied very specifically to services that provide specialist mental health treatment and care to young people up to 18 years of age through a multidisciplinary team. There are CAMHS teams operating within the 4 LHO areas in Cork.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-4
<b>Adolescent In-patient Unit</b>	Eist Linn is a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit for young people aged 13 to 17 years of age based in Cork. It consists of an inpatient unit and dedicated adjoined school. Eist Linn is part of the National Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Service. The referral pathway is through the Community CAMHS team. The catchment area includes the counties Cork, Kerry, Waterford, South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 4
<b>Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention</b>	HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention (ROSPs) work across a range of Community Health Services, Community Health Organisations (CHOs) and areas nationwide. They work on local implementation of Connecting for Life, related suicide prevention initiatives, and education and training in their areas. There is one officer operating in Cork.	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Jigsaw</b>	Jigsaw Cork is a free, non-judgemental and confidential mental health support service for young people aged 12 – 25 living, working or studying in Cork. They provide guidance and support for young people who are going through a difficult or distressing time. They also provide advice and guidance for anyone who is concerned about a young person in their life.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted Level 1 -2
<b>Pieta House</b>	Pieta provides a range of services to people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, those who engage in self-harm, and those bereaved by suicide. All of their services are provided free of charge, and no referral is needed. There is one Pieta office located in Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2

## 1.5 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Community Counselling Services</b>	<p>There are numerous community-based counselling service located throughout Cork. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDYS Counselling Services (selected locations)</li> <li>• Kinsale Youth Support Services</li> <li>• Coisceim Counselling</li> <li>• Cork Counselling Services</li> <li>• West Cork Counselling and support services</li> <li>• Barnardos Teen Counselling Cork</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2
<b>HSE - South</b>	<p>Mental Health Services in Cork North Lee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals: St. Stephens Psychiatric Hospital in Sarsfield Court, Glanmire, Co. Cork, Carraig Mór Centre, Shanakiel, Cork and St. Michael's Acute Psychiatric Unit, Mercy University Hospital, Grenville Place, Cork.</li> <li>• Day Hospitals: Slí Nua Cobh Mental Health Centre, Middleton Owenacurra Day Centre, Cunam Day Hospital, Gurteenroe, Macroom, Co. Cork, St. Mary's Day Hospital, Gurranabraher, Cork, Millfield House Blackpool, Cork and Harbour Counselling Service, Penrose Quay, Cork.</li> <li>• Hostels: St. Colman's House, Macroom, Gougane Barra House, Cork City, Millfield House, Blackpool, Cork and Owenacurra Unit, Middleton, Co. Cork.</li> </ul> <p>West Cork: Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery in Bantry General Hospital, West Cork has a strong ethos and focus on community treatment and interventions. It serves West Cork, which includes the wider areas around Skibbereen, Clonakilty/Dunmanway, and Bantry.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2
<b>Lisheen House Community Mental Health</b>	<p>A community-centred mental health charity that offers free counselling, training, and support to those who are experiencing a mental health crisis in West Cork and County Cork. Free counselling service is available to anybody (age 12+) who is experiencing a mental health crisis. Lisheen House's Head Office is in Lisheen House, Skibbereen, Co Cork and Cork Office is located in Castle Chambers, 6 Castle Street, Cork City.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2
<b>Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs</b>	<p>Both UCC and MTU have Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs in collaboration with the HSE, these bring together in one place, a range of supports which promote the mental health and wellbeing of students. Including a variety of podcasts and videos on areas of health and wellbeing.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2

## 1.5 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>ISPCC Childline Therapeutic Support Service</b>	<p>They provide one to one therapeutic support for children and young people aimed at building resilience and increasing coping capacity. They also offer Non-Violent Resistance training online to Parents/Carers and Bouncing Forward Groupwork programme for Primary school children.</p> <p>The ISPCC have a Cork children's advisory committee which provides feedback on aspects of the organisations work.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2
<b>Samaritans of Cork</b>	Samaritans in 7 Coach St, Centre, Cork has a Helpline which is open 24/7. They provide free, confidential emotional support to anyone who needs someone to talk.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -2
<b>Kinsale Your Support Service (KYSS)</b>	KYSS is a community group in Co. Cork that promotes positive mental health for young people, families and adults in the south Cork region. Working with young people and their families since 2010, KYSS adopts a person centred approach that is inclusive for all. It provides a free and confidential in-person 1:1 mental health and wellbeing support service (including mentoring, guidance and referrals to other services where necessary such as low cost counselling). KYSS' mission is to empower its communities to promote good mental health through raising awareness, providing informal education, and tailored supports to individuals and families.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -3

## 1.6 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DISABILITY-SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Childrens Disability Network Teams (CDNT)</b>	<p>The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) supports children and young people with complex needs arising from a disability, who require the supports of an interdisciplinary (one which works collaboratively) team. CDNTs operate in defined geographical areas. Children are assigned to the team that is local to their home address.</p> <p>Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Central Cork (CDNT 6) Middleton/Youghal</li> <li>• Central Cork (CDNT 8) Mayfield/Montenotte/Tivoli/Blackpool/Carrignavar/St. Patricks.</li> <li>• South East Cork City (CDNT 11) Douglas/Blackrock/Mahon/ Passage West/ Ballinlough</li> <li>• Carrigaline Kinsale Bandon (CDNT13) Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon/Crosshaven</li> <li>• East Cork City (CDNT7) Cobh/Glanmire/Riverstown/Carrigtwohill</li> <li>• North Cork City and Blarney (CDNT9) Blarney/Sunday's Well/City Centre/Fairhill/ Farranree/Gurranabraher/ Knocknaheeny.</li> <li>• West Central Cork City (CDNT 12) Ballincollig/ Bishopstown/ Macroom/ Ovens/ Wilton/ Crookstown</li> <li>• South Cork City (CDNT 14) Turners Cross/Grange/ Frankfield/ Togher/ Ballyphehane/ Greenmount/ The Lough/Lenenaghbeg.</li> <li>• West Cork (CDNT 10) Beara/ Bantry/ Skibbereen/ Clonakilty/ Drimoleague/ Roscarberry</li> <li>• North West Cork CDNT (CDNT4) Charleville/ Buttevant/ Millstreet/ Newmarket/ Kanturk</li> <li>• North East Cork CDNT (CDNT 5) Castlelyons/ Fermoy/ Mitchelstown.</li> </ul> <p>Details can be found at: <a href="https://www2.hse.ie/services/disability/childrens-services/services/find-a-cdnt/">https://www2.hse.ie/services/disability/childrens-services/services/find-a-cdnt/</a></p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -3
<b>Cork Intellectual Disability and Autism Services Area Headquarters</b>	<p>The Local Health office works with a range of voluntary services in the area to provide care , training and development for children and adults with learning or physical difficulties. The Headquarters is based in Blackpool Cork. Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Cork North and South are based in Ballincollig</p> <p>Detail can be found on the HSE website</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 -3

## 1.6 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - DISABILITY-SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>National and community information and support</b>	There are a number of national organisations providing supports and services to children, young people with disabilities as well as their families. A full list of services located in Cork is available from: <a href="http://DisabilityServices-HSE.ie">Disability Services - HSE.ie</a>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Rainbow Club Cork</b>	The Rainbow Club Cork Centre for Autism supports children, teens, young adults and their families living with autism by bridging the gap in services and activities so that they can reach their full potential. Services include, social groups, adapted sport, teen hub, sibling support, life skills and mentoring, speech and language therapy, art therapy, parent supports, counselling, arts and crafts.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
<b>The Cork City Branch of the Dyslexia Association of Ireland</b>	The Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) Cork, Clonakilty and West Cork Branch have teams of psychologists who provide assessments for both dyslexia and dyscalculia. Their vision is a dyslexia friendly County Cork where all people with dyslexia are enabled to fulfil their potential in education and all aspects of life.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>DCD Cork - DCD / Dyspraxia Support</b>	Dyspraxia Support Cork and Dyspraxia Support West Cork support children, adults and families who have Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD or Dyspraxia) and other overlapping Disorders.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>NCBI Cork, Working for People with Sight Loss</b>	The National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI) is a charitable organisation which provides support and services to people experiencing sight loss are blind or vision impaired, Vision Ireland supports, empowers, trains, and advises on all aspects of a person's life. The NCBI is based in Penrose Wharf Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in Cork, Model Farm Road, Carrigrohane, Cork.</b>	Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is the Ireland's national charity providing Guide Dogs to those who are vision impaired and Assistance Dogs to the families of children with autism.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>The Cork Deaf Association (CDA)</b>	Cork Deaf Club supports Deaf people, and its objectives are to provide a social outlet for the Deaf communities. CDA in McCurtain Street, Cork provides a Minor Hearing Aid Repairs Service and offer Irish Sign Language, Education and the Cool Youth Club. Blue Lights on the Cork City Hall is the Annual Event commemorating the International Week of Deaf People.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)</b>	The Irish Wheelchair Association offices based in Blackrock Cork is a charity which provides a wide range of services for people with physical difficulties, including help and advice, assisted living, accessibly motoring, wheelchair mobility and aids.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2

## 2. EDUCATION

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Mainstream Primary and Post-Primary schools</b>	According to the Department of Education in Cork (city and county) there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Special Schools</li> <li>• 339 Mainstream Primary Schools; of which 54 have a DEIS Status</li> <li>• 85 Post-Primary Schools; of which 22 have a DEIS Status</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Cork ETB</b>	Cork Education and Training Board (Cork ETB) provides supports and coordinates education, training and youth services in Cork.	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>National Education Psychological Service (NEPS)</b>	National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) based in Mahon Cork, provides educational psychological support to primary and post primary and special school. As of April 2024, there were 4 educational psychologists covering the Cork area.	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Tusla Education Support Services</b>	The Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) regional office for Limerick, Clare, Kerry, Tipperary and Cork is in Cork. Tusla Education support Service comprises of three strands, The Educational Welfare Service, The School Completion Programme and the Home School Community Liaison service. All three strands work collaboratively to improve the attendance, participation and retention of students in school.	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-3
<b>Alternative Learning Programmes</b>	Alternative learning programmes operating in Cork include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cork Life Centre (Cork City) an alternative education centre providing one-to-one or small group tuition for second-level students up to Leaving Certificate, including Junior Certificate and QQI qualifications. The approach is a holistic one based on attentive listening and respectful intervention with an emphasis on the social and emotional wellbeing of students, as well as providing academic support for students for whom mainstream secondary school has not been successful.</li> <li>• Youthreach operated by Cork ETB (Cork City, West Cork and North Cork). Offers young people no longer in mainstream education a viable route on to further education, training and or employment</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
<b>Local Training Initiative</b>	Local Training Initiative (LTI) Programme is a community-based training course, primarily for unemployed individuals aged between 18-35. LTIs based in Cork include: East Cork Music Programme (CDYS) and Macroom (CDYS)	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2



## 2. EDUCATION

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Early Schools Leavers Programmes</b>	<p>The school completion programme is a targeted support for Primary and post primary children and young people who have been identified as potentially at risk of early school leaving or who are out of school and have not successfully transferred to an alternative learning site. There are SCP in the following Cork Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bandon/Macroom</li> <li>• Mitchelstown/Fermoy</li> <li>• Mallow</li> <li>• Bantry/Dunmanway</li> <li>• Midleton/Cobh</li> <li>• Ballyvolane</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2-3
<b>Third Level Institutions</b>	<p>There are two main this level institutions based in Cork:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Munster Technological University (MTU)</li> </ul> <p>University College Cork</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Childcare Committee</b>	<p>There are two childcare committees in the Cork CYPSC Area. Cork City Childcare Committee and Cork County Childcare Committee Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare and Early Education Providers</li> <li>• Childcare and Early Education Practitioners</li> <li>• Parents</li> <li>• Childminders</li> <li>• Parent and Toddler Groups</li> <li>• Childcare and Early Education Students</li> <li>• Those interested in a career in or involvement with the Early Childhood Care and Education sector</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate</b>	<p>The Early Years Inspectorate is responsible for inspecting pre-schools, play groups, day nursery, crèches, day-care and similar services which cater for children aged 0-6 years.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## 2. EDUCATION

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Lets Grow Together</b>	<p>Based in Knocknaheeny the Area Based Childhood Programme aims to work in partnership with families, practitioners, communities, and national stakeholders to deliver better outcomes for children and families living in areas where poverty is most deeply entrenched.</p> <p>Programmes offered Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Speech, language and Literacy</li> <li>• Early childhood education</li> <li>• Parenting Programmes</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-3

### 3. POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>An Garda Síochána</b>	<p>Throughout the Cork CYPSC areas there are two Garda Divisions each led by a Chief Superintendent. The Chief Superintendent Cork City is based in Anglesea Street Garda Station and The Chief Superintendent Cork County is based in Bandon Garda station.</p> <p>There are five Garda Superintendents attached to each of the Divisions who have specific responsibility for Governance, Community Engagement and Crime. In Cork City there are two Superintendents based in Anglesea Street (one Crime), and one in Gurrabraher, Mayfield and Togher Garda stations. In Cork County there are Superintendents in Fermoy, Midleton, Mallow, Bandon and Macroom.</p> <p>The breakdown of stations in Garda Divisions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork City (16 stations)</li> <li>• Cork County (59 stations)</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4
<b>An Garda Síochána Protective Services Units</b>	<p>There are 3 Divisional Protective Services Units in Cork County that deliver a consistent and professional approach to the investigation of specialised crime types, including sexual crime, human trafficking, child abuse and domestic abuse. DPSUs will also focus on the provision of support for vulnerable victims of crime, including enhanced collaboration with the Child and Family Agency to safeguard children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork City – based in Anglesea Street</li> <li>• Cork West – based in Dunmanway</li> <li>• Cork North – based in Fermoy</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4
<b>An Garda Síochána Diversity Officers</b>	<p>Garda Diversity officers have received specific training to actively engage with and attend to the concerns of minority, diverse and hard to reach communities – providing reassurance, building trust, extending the accessibility of the Garda Service and working in collaboration with local Garda Victim Services Offices to prioritise victim needs. There are Garda Diversity Officers in all Divisions.</p> <p>List of Garda Diversity Officers can be found at <a href="#">Garda National Diversity Unit - Garda</a></p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4

### 3. POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>An Garda Síochána Victim Services Offices</b>	The Victim Service Offices are the central point of contact for victims of crime and trauma in each Division. They supplement victim support activity already being undertaken by investigating members of An Garda Síochána. The Victim Service Offices are open between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Victims of crime can choose between receiving contact from the Offices by phone, letter or email. The Victim Services Office for Cork County is based in Fermoy.	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-4
<b>Young Persons Probation</b>	<p><b>Young Persons Probation</b> is a specialist division of the Probation Service. They assess and manage young people as directed by the Courts, both in the community and in Oberstown. In collaboration with community based organisations they respond to the young person's needs and risks with the ultimate goal of reducing risk of re-offending and promoting safer societies.</p> <p><b>Le Chéile Mentoring</b> is a national, volunteer mentoring and family support service, which works with young people and their families, where the young person is involved in or at risk of offending. Le Cheile operates in Cork Probation Service in Cork City Centre.</p> <p><b>Extern Bail Supervision Scheme</b> offers courts an alternative option to detaining a young person who comes before them by offering them the possibility of granting bail with intensive supervision and has a service operating in Cork.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>  <b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3-4

### 3. POLICING AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Juvenile Liaison Officers</b>	<p>Garda JLO's are specially trained officers who are assigned to work with juveniles who have committed an offence and have been deemed suitable for inclusion to the Juvenile Diversion Programme. The Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) will be assigned to the child and the JLO may administer a sanction. The young person may also be placed under the supervision of the JLO for a period and the JLO will monitor the child's progress in line with the plan they have agreed upon to reduce the likelihood of the child re-offending.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána have an active role in the Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs) which are funded by the Department of Justice and Equality through the Community Programmes Unit of Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS).</p> <p>The YDPS are community based, multi-agency, youth crime prevention initiatives which primarily seek to divert young people involved in criminal/anti-social behaviour away from the criminal justice system by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development, promote civic responsibility and improve long-term employability prospects. The Juvenile Liaison Officers have a key role in the projects. The projects are primarily targeted at 12-17 year old "at risk" young people in communities where a specific need has been identified and where there is a risk of them remaining within the justice system. The projects may also work with young people who are significantly at risk of becoming involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour YDPS based in Cork include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballincollig Action Project</li> <li>• Bandon Youth Project (Foróige)</li> <li>• Douglas Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• FAYRE Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Feabhas Cobh Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• GAP Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Carrigaline Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Knocknaheeny Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• MAY Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Togher Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Mallow Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> <li>• Charleville Garda Youth Diversion Project</li> </ul>	<b>Statutory</b>	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3

#### 4. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<p><b>Local Authorities</b></p> <p><b>Cork City Council</b></p>	<p>There are two local authorities operating within the Cork CYPSC area. Both providing a range of public services including housing supports, community and welfare services, as well as recreation facilities. Services provided include social housing, libraries, parks, and playgrounds. There is also a Community Liaison Department, a Public Participation Network as well as a Sports Partnership within both local authorities.</p> <p>The Local Community Development Committees. (LCDC) have a primary responsibility for coordinating, planning, and overseeing all social inclusion and community development. There is 1 LCDC in the City Council and 3 in the County Council area. Cork City Council provides many services and activities to support children and young people. Services include:</p> <p><b>Libraries</b> are available in Ballincollig, Bishopstown, Blackpool, Blarney, City, Douglas, Mayfield, Glanmire, Hoylhill and Ballypahan. Cork City Libraries operates a home service for people who are unable to visit their local library due to illness, reduced mobility or disability. This is a city-wide service, is free of charge and wheelchair accessible.</p> <p><b>Playgrounds</b> are available across the city. These include, Fitzgerald Park, Clashduv Park, The Lough, Tory Top Park, Shalom Park, Nursery Drive Park, Loughmahon Park, Kilmore Park, Jerry O'Sullivan Park, Pophams Park, Military Cemetery Park, Glenamoy Lawn Park, Kempton Park, Bishopstown Park. There are also multi use games areas and skate parks.</p> <p><b>Amenities:</b> Cork City Council has 3 <b>public swimming pools</b> at Douglas, Bishopstown and at Churchfield.</p> <p>There are also ample <b>walks and cycleways</b> across the city.</p> <p><b>Allotment Schemes</b> are located at Churchfield Garden Allotments and at Ballincollig Regional Park. Any resident of Cork City is eligible to apply to lease a plot at for either of these allotments and plots are allocated on a first come, first served basis.</p> <p><b>Other Services:</b> The City Council also provides transport services, buildings and properties, animal welfare, emergency management, housing and planning, roads and traffic management, water and drainage and the register of electors.</p>	<p><b>Statutory</b></p>	<p>Universal &amp; Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 - 4</p>

#### 4. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Cork County Council</b>	<p>Cork County Council provides many services and activities to support children and young people. Services include:</p> <p><b>Libraries</b> are available in Charleville, Newmarket, Mitchelstown, Kanturk, Millstreet, Mallow, Fermoy, Youghal, Passage West, Ballyvourney, Cobh, Carrigaline, Macroom, Dunmanway, Bandon, Kinsale, Clonakilty, Skibbereen, Sherkin Island, Cape Clear, Skull, Castletownbere and Bantry.</p> <p><b>Walkways</b> East Cork Way on private lands, Clogheenmilcon, Crosshaven/Carrigaline Walkway, Ballyannan, Ballinacarriga Lake, Dunmanway, Belgooly, Walking Routes in Dunmanway Town, Charles Fort, Barnane Walk, Kinsale, Ballinspittle Amenity Walk, Scilly, Passage West, Claire O'Leary Walk in Bandon, Glenbrook/Monkstown, The Graham Norton Walk in Bandon</p> <p><b>Multi-functional Play Areas</b> Aghada, Newmarket - Outdoor Sport &amp; Equipment, Carrigaline - Peoples Park, Connolly Ave. Mallow, Bathview – Mallow, Bandon - Glaslyn Road - Outdoor Gym &amp; MUGA, Summer Hill – Mallow, Marmullane Park, Passage West (Park &amp; MUGA), Park Rd. – Mallow.</p> <p><b>Playgrounds</b> <b>North Cork:</b> Newmarket, Kanturk, Boherbue, Banteer, Kildorrery, Kilbrin, Charleville, Buttevant, Ballydesmond, Kilworth, Brigown, Ballinwillin, Castlelyons, Rathcormac, Liscarroll, Doneraile, Freemount, Ballyclough, Lismire, Bweeng, Lombardstown, Powerscourt, Churchtown Village, Dromina, Kilcorney, Mitchelstown, Gouldshill, Ballyhooly, Fermoy and Mallow. <b>South Cork:</b> Garryvoe, Carrigtwohill, Glounthaune, Monkstown, Carrigaline, Carrignavar, Bandon, Ballyvourney, Watergrasshill, Whitegate, Ballingeary, Glenville, Lisgoold/Leamlara, Killeagh, Whitechurch, Donoughmore, Cloyne, Crosshaven, Ringaskiddy, Ballinspittle, Mogeely, Cobh, Kinsale, Macroom, Middleton, Youghal. <b>West Cork:</b> Castletownbere, Courtmacsherry, Dunmanway, Castletownshend, Rosscarbery, Leap, Baltimore, Ballydehob, Schull, Union Hall, Glengarriff, Baltimore Community Playground, Timoleague, Drimoleague, Kilbrittain, Goleen, Bantry, Skibbereen.</p> <p><b>Cork County Council Owned and Supported Attractions</b> – Bridgetown Priory, Camden Fort Meagher, Cobh Heritage Centre, Dursey Island Cable Car, Harper's Island Wetlands, Kinsale Museum, Mallow Castle, Michael Collins House, Michael Collins Trail, Skibbereen Heritage Centre, WW1 Cork Harbour Trail, Spike Island, Youghal Clock Gate Tower, Youghal Eco Boardwalk</p> <p>Cork County Council also have a variety of <b>outdoor fitness equipment, swimming pools and skate parks</b> across the county.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 - 4



## 5. SOCIAL WELFARE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Local Development Companies (LDCs)</b>	Local Development Companies (LDCs) are multi-sectoral partnerships that deliver community and rural development, labour market activation, social inclusion, climate action and social enterprise services. There are 4 LDCs in Cork and these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG</li> <li>• Cork City Partnership</li> <li>• IRD Duhallow CLG</li> <li>• SECAD Partnership CLG</li> <li>• West Cork Development Partnership</li> <li>• Ballyhoura Development North Cork</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Intreo Offices</b>	Department of Social Protection Intreo offices (the Public Employment Service) are a single point of contact for all employment and income supports and services. There are 20 Intreo offices located throughout Cork City and County. Intreo office locations can be found on gov.ie	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Money Advice and Budgeting Services</b>	The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) is the free and confidential service for people who are having problems with money management, budgeting and debt. There are 4 MABS offices in Cork.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Citizens Advice Centres</b>	Citizens Advice is an independent organisation specialising in confidential information and advice to assist people with legal, debt, consumer, housing and other problems in Ireland. There are 9 CIC offices in throughout Cork City and County.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## 6. SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<p>There are a number of arts and culture projects based in Cork. The City and County Council both have Arts and Cultural offices responsible for the delivery of the Arts across Cork City and County.</p> <p>Helium Arts/ Arts Participation, Arts and Health, champions the social inclusion of children living with lifelong health conditions through creative expression. By organising free, bespoke art workshops nationwide including Cork, facilitated by professional artists and supported by essential medical staff, Helium Arts offers a nurturing space for creativity and emotional well-being, both in hospitals, in the community, and online.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>Crawford Art Gallery</b>	Crawford Art Gallery is National Cultural Institution, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The collection comprises over 3,500 works, ranging from eighteenth-century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations.		
<b>Cork Opera House</b>	Cork Opera House is southern Ireland's premier arts venue for the best concerts, comedy, drama, dance, family fare, and, of course, opera. Located in the heart of Cork city, the Opera House has been a Cork cultural institution for more than 165 years and strives to present and produce both indigenous and international top class acts for the people of Cork and further afield.		
<b>The Everyman Theatre</b>	The Everyman Theatre is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for theatre in Ireland and a vibrant cultural centre for Cork.		

## 6. SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Triskel Christchurch</b>	Triskel Christchurch is a vibrant cultural HUB in the heart of Cork City. The main auditorium is a multidisciplinary space housed in a fully refurbished neoclassical Georgian Church.		
<b>Firkin Crane</b>	Firkin Crane provides an inclusive and welcoming space for dance work to be developed and viewed through a year-round programme of residencies, workshops, studio rentals, community programmes, dance performances and special events. The facilities include two theatre / exhibition spaces and four professional dance studios in the Firkin Crane building as well as specially dedicated artists' accommodation in the Jack Lynch House.		
<b>The Glucksman Gallery</b>	The Glucksman Gallery is a leading museum nationally and internationally for creative learning and access to the visual arts. The impressive and versatile gallery spaces present thought-provoking exhibitions that have thrilled audiences of all ages and abilities.		
<b>The Briery Gap Theatre</b>	The Briery Gap Theatre brings artists to Macroom from further afield so that they can share not just their art, but also their knowledge and skills, leading to broader creative engagement nationally and internationally. Utilising the rich history and creative legacy of the area, including the prevalence of the Irish language to bolster our position as an important cultural venue in the Irish arts landscape.		
<b>The Youghal Mall Arts Centre</b>	The Youghal Mall Arts Centre creates a space perfect for all performing arts. The first-floor performance area has been completely renovated as a multi-purpose theatre and arts venue, and both stage and performance areas are flexible to accommodate any event, including theatre performance and dance. The venue has played host to many choral and musical societies, comedians.		
<b>The Clonakilty Arts Centre</b>	The Clonakilty Arts Centre is a fully inclusive Creative Hub; a space for the provision of the full spectrum of Creative Arts based activities within the town.		

## 6. SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Sports</b>  <b>Cork Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and Ladies Gaelic Athletic Association (LGFA)</b>  <b>Cork City FC</b>  <b>Munster Rugby Club</b>  <b>Cork Athletics</b>    <b>The Royal Cork Yacht Club</b>  <b>Naomhóga Chorcaí</b>  <b>Atlantic Sea Kayaking</b>	<p>Cork Sports Partnership undertake a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels in local communities across Cork. The Sports Partnership provides support to sports clubs and groups throughout Cork.</p> <p>Cork has a distinguished and long tradition of its people being extremely sport centric, with a strong interest in a diverse range of sports from GAA, soccer, rugby, athletics, boxing, hockey, cricket, rowing, road bowling, to name but a few. Cork is blessed with good stadia with Pairc Ui Chaoimh (GAA), Turners Cross (Soccer), Irish Independent Park (Rugby), CIT and UCC Running Tracks matched with facilities at local club level.</p> <p>As well as mainstream sporting events, other sports events throughout the year such as the Cork City Marathon, the Lee Swim, Cork City International Sports Meet and the Ocean to City An Rás Mór.</p> <p>Sailing, rowing and water sports are well catered for along the coastline of Cork and on the rivers and lakes. Currach trips (traditional handcrafted Irish fishing boats) are available for rowing on Saturday mornings in the City and Sea Kayaking is a great way to enjoy Cork Harbour or the tranquil waters of Loch Hyne, Skibbereen</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1

## 6. SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>Marina Park – a contemporary city park situated within the South Docklands and extending from Shandon Boat Club to Blackrock Harbour.</p> <p>The Glen Resource and Sports Centre – facilitates soccer, high ropes and zip wire course, splat ball, zorbing, all weather skiing and obstacle courses.</p> <p>James Kennealy Sports Centre, Knocknaheeney - a state of the art and modern facility, which includes 4 badminton courts, a full-size, multi-use indoor hall with modern gymnasium equipment and exercise/meeting room.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1

## 7. YOUTH

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Youth Services</b>	Youth work services are provided on the CETBs behalf by several voluntary youth organisations. Voluntary youth organisations operating include Foróige, YMCA, CDYS and Togher Family Resource Centre and Meitheal Mara. UBU projects not listed under Foróige, YMCA or CDYS include: UBU Matt Talbot, UBU Wellsprings, UBU Good Shepherd Services, UBU St. Kevin's School, UBU The Pod Togher (Family Resource Centre), UBU The Sexual Health Clinic, UBU Churchfield Community Trust CLG, UBU Cork Simon and UBU Badoireacht (Meitheal Mara).	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Foróige Youth Club</b>	Foróige is a youth development organisation and in cork it is operating 12 UBU funded projects throughout Cork City and County. (UBU Ballyphehane Greenmount, UBU Beara, UBU Bishopstown , UBU Carrigaline , UBU Charleville ,UBU Farranree ,UBU Linkpoint ,UBU Glanmire ,UBU Mahon , UBU Mayfield ,UBU The Glen ,UBU Togher Youth Project )	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>YMCA</b>	YMCA Cork partners with young people to provide life changing youth work in the Cork region and is operating 4 UBU funded projects throughout Cork (UBU Carberry-Clonakilty, UBU Carberry- Dunmanway, UBU Carberry-Skibbereen and UBU Cork City).	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>The Hut Youth Project – CDYS Youth Work Ireland (Gurranabraher UBU)</b>	The Hut Youth Project is based in Gurranabraher and Churchfield and works with young people aged 10 to 24 in these areas and city wide. The project provides youth groups and a one-to-one service for young people. We use Music, Art, Sports and various other methods in our group work. We give young people the opportunity to take part in social and recreational activities. We have supports also around mental Health and Sexual Health. We work collaboratively with many other services in the city to bring the appropriate services to young people.	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1

## 7. YOUTH

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services (CDYS)</b>	<p>CDYS is a leading provider of youth work, family support, education, employability and volunteering opportunities for young people.</p> <p>CDYS supports a number of diverse youth work projects including; Youth Diversion Programmes, Youth and Family Support, UBU Your Space Your Place projects, Learning and Training Initiatives, Detached Youth Work, Therapeutic Services, international youth work, Ministry and volunteer led youth clubs across the Cloyne and North Cork City area.</p> <p>CDYS operates from the following locations; Mallow, Macroom, Midleton, The Hut, Gurranabraher, Cobh, Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Charleville.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2
<b>Comhairle na nÓg</b>	<p>Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies in their area. There is a Comhairle na nÓg in the City and the County supported by Cork City Council and Cork County Council.</p>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
<b>LGBTQ+ Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UP Cork LGBTQ+ Youth Group:</b> 'UP Cork' is a Cork based youth project for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people aged 15-23 years, facilitated by CDYS</li> <li>• <b>Belong To</b> is the National LGBTQ+ youth organisation</li> <li>• <b>LGBT Pavee:</b> National organisation for the Gay Traveller and Roma community</li> <li>• <b>Cumann na nDaoine</b> Youghal, facilitates an LGBT+ Community Development project that seeks to empower, motivate and guide service providers and LGBT+ service users across County Cork.</li> <li>• <b>Cork Gay Project</b> provide information, support and resources for the gay, bi, queer and trans community</li> <li>• <b>Cork Linc</b> is a resource centre in Cork City for Lesbian and bisexual women</li> <li>• <b>Cork Gender rebels</b> is a group based in Cork City which advocates for and supports all transgender, non-binary, intersex and non-conforming individuals</li> <li>• <b>Cork LGBTQ+ Youghal Network</b> a social support network providing social events and participation in Youghal Pride by the Sea</li> </ul>	<b>Community and Voluntary</b>	Universal, Hardiker Level 1



## 7. YOUTH

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory/ Community and Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
<b>Youth Health Service - HSE</b>	<p>The HSE's Youth Health Service in Penrose House, Penrose Quay, Cork provides a broad range of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General advice and support in relation to Sexual health</li> <li>• STI screening / clinic</li> <li>• GSTI screening / clinic</li> <li>• Contraceptive clinic</li> <li>• Unplanned pregnancy support and counselling</li> <li>• Post termination medical checks and counselling</li> <li>• One to one youth work support for sexual health education and information</li> <li>• Drug and alcohol support and counselling</li> </ul> <p>Counselling for sexual health issues, sexuality, relationships and other related concerns to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<b>Statutory</b>	Universal & Targeted, Hardiker Level 1-2

## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis for Cork

### 4.1 Overview of this Section

This section outlines the needs of children, young people, and their families in Cork City and County that have been identified in the process of developing this plan. There is a particular focus on the areas that Cork CYPSC will prioritise over the next three years in their work to improve the outcomes for children, young people and families in Cork City and County.

The local needs and gaps in relation to children, young people and their families that inform this Plan, were identified through a comprehensive research and evidence gathering process undertaken in 2023 by the CYPSC with support from independent consultants. This included:

- Consultations with 1,300 people across Cork City and County, including 880 children and young people, 297 parents/ guardians and 199 people working with children, young people and families in the area
- A socio-demographic analysis and profile of Cork City County
- A mapping of services in Cork City County
- A review of Cork CYPSC's achievements and learning from its last plan

The evidence gathered was presented to and discussed by Cork CYPSC members and other key stakeholders at several strategic planning meetings. Findings were presented and discussed thematically according to the five National Outcomes for Children and Young People.<sup>30</sup> Participants analysed the evidence, including the views and recommendations of children, young people, families and service providers and over a series of meetings they collectively agreed:

- the Local Priority Areas that Cork CYPSC will focus on over the next three years,
- the objectives the CYPSC will aim to achieve within each of these priority areas, and
- the activities needed to achieve these goals and key stakeholders who will be involved.

Sections 4.2 to 4.6 below present an analysis of needs in Cork based on the evidence gathered during this process, with a particular focus on the CYPSC Local Priority Areas. Each section focuses on one National Outcome Area and answers the following questions:

- a) What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to each National Outcome Area?
- b) Are there sufficient services in relation to each Outcome Area?
- c) What are the Local Priority Areas within each Outcome Area?
- d) What did the consultations tell us in relation to each Local Priority Area?
- e) What does other data tell us in relation to each Local Priority Area?

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<sup>30</sup> The five National Outcomes are from *Young Ireland, the National Framework for Children and Young People* (2023-2028). They are: Active and Healthy, Achieving in Learning and Development, Safe and Protected from Harm, Economic Security and Opportunity, and Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World.

f) What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to each Local Priority Area?

## 4.2 Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

### What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to this Outcome?

During the consultations for the development of this plan, all stakeholders including children and young people, parents/ guardians and service providers identified mental health and wellbeing issues as areas of concern to them.

Only half of children and young people reported feeling positive about things with good mental health in the survey, and nearly a quarter (23%) said they were not feeling positive about things. In the focus groups young people also highlighted the fact that mental health and wellbeing supports were not easily accessible. Parents/ guardians also had concerns about mental health services in Cork. They also highlighted long waiting times for health and disability services generally and wanted to see shorter waiting times and more mental health supports.

*"If I had a magic wand I would...give them (young people) a mental health support system inside school"*  
(Young person, Cork)

Service providers also reported that mental health problems, stress and anxiety, as well as difficulties accessing services were among the major challenges facing children, young people and their families in Cork, particularly more marginalised groups. When asked what areas they thought should be prioritised for change, service providers said: reducing waiting times for health services, better health and social care supports for those with mental health needs and increasing early intervention and prevention work.

Other key areas of concern for children, young people and families in Cork were vaping, as well as a lack of activities for young people. When asked what the worst things were about living in Cork, the most common issues identified by children and young people were: vaping or smoking, not enough activities for young people, too much drug and alcohol use and mental health

*"If I had a magic wand I would...remove all vape shops in Cork city... how can people not get influenced when there is that many vape shops in town?"*  
(Young person, Cork)

services. In focus groups, children and young people called for better access to and more varied activities for young people, a response to vaping and more accessible mental health services in schools and elsewhere. Parents also highlighted a lack of affordable/accessible activities for young people in Cork.

It is positive to note that some young people felt that one of the best things about living in Cork was that they had a lot of sports activities and facilities. In addition, when children and young people were asked questions about their physical health, 77% of respondents reported being active or exercising regularly and 68% stated that they eat healthily on a regular basis.

### Are there sufficient services in relation to this Outcome?

Various statutory and non-statutory services that support health and wellbeing exist in Cork, as evidenced by the service mapping. However, a common issue that arose throughout the

consultations for this Plan was the fact that even if services do exist, many do not have sufficient capacity to meet demand in a timely manner.

Nearly all service providers who completed a survey during the consultations for this Plan (90%) felt there are insufficient services and supports for children and young people generally in Cork and nearly 30% were of the view that one of the biggest challenges facing young people in Cork was difficulties accessing services/supports. Eighty six percent felt there are insufficient health and social care services/availability for people with mental health needs; 79% said there are not enough health and social care services for people with disabilities; 73% said there are insufficient health and social care services for young people generally; and 65% said there are not enough medical services (e.g. doctors/dentists/hospitals) in Cork.

These views were also echoed by parents who completed surveys and took part in focus groups across the County. Parents/ guardians called for more mental health supports throughout Cork, as well as better access to services for children and young people with long-term health conditions or disabilities. Travellers also identified the need for more appropriate and specific supports in mainstream services, including health services.

In early 2024, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) highlighted serious issues in relation to access to mental health supports in Ireland to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) including the limited capacity of the health care system, long waiting lists, lack of community-based services, regional inequalities of care and the poor mental health outcomes for vulnerable groups.<sup>31</sup>

### **What are the Cork CYPSC Local Priority Areas within this Outcome?**

Cork CYPSC has committed to focussing on the following Local Priority Areas within the area of Active and Healthy for the next three years:

<b>Outcome One: Active and Healthy</b>
<b>Local Priority 1: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People</b>
<b>Local Priority 2: Wellbeing of Marginalised/Seldom Heard Groups</b>
<b>Local Priority 3: Vaping</b>

The following sections provide detailed information on the evidence and needs that informed the CYPSC decision to choose each of these Local Priority Areas, as well as the specific objectives that the Cork CYPSC has decided to work on within each Local Priority Area:

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<sup>31</sup> Source: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2024) Submission to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

## Outcome 1, Local Priority 1: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

### ***Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area***

In response to the evidence gathered from the local consultations and other data sources, Cork CYPSC has identified that 'Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People will be one of its key areas of focus within Outcome 1 for the next three years. The background and evidence that informed the decision to focus on this priority area and objective are presented below in the following sections: 'What did consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?' and 'What does other data tell us in relation to this Priority Area?'

The objective that Cork CYPSC will work to achieve within this Local Priority Area is:

***Children, young people and families are supported and empowered to improve their wellbeing and address issues which impact on their health.***

### ***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Results from the consultations show that children and young people feel that one of the biggest challenges facing them and their peers at present in Cork are: stress/worry and anxiety (22% of respondents chose this as the biggest challenge) and poor mental health (14%). In the focus groups, some young people stated that mental health issues were prevalent amongst their peers and that they struggled to get support at times. Neurodiverse young people described (amongst other challenges), a lack of holistic mental health support, over-reliance on medication, and the struggles they faced transitioning from children and adolescent services to adult services.

Young people who identified as transgender or non-binary described a lack of gender specific health care and a lack of accessible and affordable mental health supports. Some young people who in the past had suffered from disordered eating stated that accessible, understanding, and affordable support had not been available to them where they lived.

When parents/guardians were asked to identify the biggest challenges facing children and young people in Cork, nearly 40% highlighted mental health related issues (20% identified stress, worry and anxiety and 19% cited poor mental health). Service providers involved in the consultations also felt that stress, worry and anxiety as well as mental health problems were some of the most significant challenges facing children and young people in Cork at present.

In the focus groups with parents, several people described how their children had benefited from services and supports such as emotional intelligence and resilience classes in school and being provided with either calm spaces or specific therapies for support. Many parents/ guardians throughout the groups noted how there was a lack of mental health supports, some families found CAMHS was inaccessible, and most of the time parents/ guardians were left dealing with the children and young people's mental health needs without suitable or professional supports.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

The concerns raised throughout the consultation process by children and young people, parents and service providers in relation to the mental health and wellbeing are echoed by other research and data on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people nationally.

2024 research with 18 – 29 year olds by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) found that half of participants had low mental well-being (higher among females and people with a disability).<sup>32</sup> Similarly, the Government's Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) 2024 study involving 9,000 10 -17 year olds, found that 36% were at risk of depression and over 40% reported that Covid-19 restrictions had had a negative effect on their mental health and school performance.<sup>33</sup>

Recent research by BelongTo and Trinity College Dublin<sup>34</sup> found the mental health of LGBTQI+ young people under 25 and trans individuals was particularly concerning. Seventy seven percent of 14 – 18-year-olds reported suicidal thoughts (64% on average for all ages), and on average, participants had three times the level of severe or extremely severe depression and anxiety than the wider cohorts of children and young people involved in the National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland.<sup>35</sup>

Socio-demographic data also highlights the challenges being experienced by children and young people in Cork in relation to their mental health and in relation to accessing mental health services. According to the CSO Vital Statistics<sup>36</sup>, in 2022 the suicide rate was 8.9 in Cork County which is higher than the State average of 8.1. It was lower than the state average in Cork City (5.4). NSRF data<sup>37</sup> shows that in 2020, the rate of self-harm for males aged 0 to 24 years in the North Lee LHO was the highest in the country (390.4) when compared with the others LHOs.

In May 2022, there were 2,404 children in Cork awaiting a psychology treatment and 2,518 awaiting a first-time assessment for occupational therapy, according to the National Disability Services. In March 2021, there were 582 children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS in CHO9 (Cork and Kerry) which accounted for more than 24% of the national figure of 2,384.

### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Cork CYPSC is prioritising young people's mental health wellbeing over the next three years, and will work to ensure that children, young people and families in Cork are supported and empowered to improve their wellbeing and address issues which impact on their health. Some of the activities that the CYPSC will undertake to achieve this include:

<sup>32</sup> Source: National Youth Council of Ireland (2024) State of our Young Nation, A Report into the Lives of Irish 18 – 29 Year Olds; National Youth Council of Ireland.

<sup>33</sup> Source: Gavin A., Költő A., Lunney, L., Maloney R., Walker, L., Nic Gabhainn and Kelly C., (2024) Health Behaviour in School-aged Children HBSC Study 2022, Department of Health, Government of Ireland and University of Galway

<sup>34</sup> Source: Higgins A; Downes C; O'Sullivan K; de Vries J; Molloy R; Monahan M; Keogh B; Doyle L; Begley T; Corcoran P; (2024) The National Study on the Mental Health and Wellbeing of the LGBTQI+ Communities in Ireland: Key findings report. Trinity College Dublin and Belong To: Dublin

<sup>35</sup> Source: Dooley, B, O'Connor, C, Fitzgerald, A, and O'Reilly, A (2019) My World Survey 2 The National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland, Jigsaw and UCD

<sup>36</sup> Source: Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office

<sup>37</sup> Source: National Suicide Research Foundation – National Suicide Research Foundation (nsrf.ie)

- Developing a Code of Practice in collaboration with children and young people which identifies barriers to accessing health services and ways of improving user experience.
- Continued participation within the HSE Child Health Governance steering group to inform the planning, development, delivery, and monitoring of child health services.
- Continued engagement with the County Cork Interagency LGBTQI+ Network (CCILN) and promoting LGBTQI+ Awareness Week through CYPSC networks.

For further information on this objective and related targets and key stakeholders, see section 6 of this plan.

<p align="center"><b>Outcome 1, Local Priority 2:</b> <b>Wellbeing of Marginalised/ Seldom Heard Groups</b></p>
<p><b><i>Cork CYPSC objectives in relation to this Local Priority Area</i></b></p>
<p>As well as supporting the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people generally, Cork CYPSC has identified the wellbeing of three marginalised/ seldom heard groups in Cork as a key Local Priority Area for the next three years. These groups are a) homeless children and young people, b) children living with lifelong or complex health care needs and c) young Travellers.</p> <p>The CYPSC aims to support these groups in the following ways:</p> <p align="center"><b>Objective 1:</b> <b><i>Children and young people who are homeless in Cork have access to activities which promote positive physical and mental wellbeing.</i></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Objective 2:</b> <b><i>Improve the physical health, mental wellbeing and opportunities for creative play for children with lifelong/complex health care needs.</i></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Objective 3:</b> <b><i>‘The wellbeing of young Travellers is supported through increased cultural awareness among service providers and supporting the engagement and participation of Young Travellers who are accessing services.’</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>What did the consultations and other data tell us in relation to each group within this Local Priority Area?</i></b></p>
<p><b>Homeless Children and Young People</b></p> <p>Throughout the consultations for the development of this Plan, the issues of housing and homelessness were repeatedly highlighted by children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers with respondents saying it was a significant challenge impacting the lives of families in Cork.<sup>38</sup></p>

<sup>38</sup> Source: Please note housing and homelessness is also discussed under child poverty within the section below on Economic Security and Opportunity.



Some of the young people involved in the consultations who were living in either unsecure housing, emergency accommodation or in international protection accommodation, described how they had very little space or things to do, and really enjoyed activities that allowed them to leave their accommodation. It was evident that those who were provided with recreational facilities within their accommodation such as playrooms, study spaces, youth groups and sports facilities had a more positive experience than those in accommodation without any of these facilities.

Parents/ guardians involved in the consultations who were living in temporary accommodation (such as Ukrainian people living in hotels and international protection applicants) also described how a lack of activities and spaces for children impacted their children's and their own wellbeing negatively. Some mothers described the difficulty of a whole family living in one small space (such as in hotel rooms), as there is no play space nor privacy or quiet homework space for teenagers. This was causing significant stress on their family lives, and they highlighted the urgent need for more play/recreation spaces for children and young people in temporary accommodation (particularly indoor spaces).

The negative impact that homelessness has on the wellbeing of children and young people has been broadly documented. The Children's Rights Alliance (CRA) has highlighted that when children don't have adequate housing, it can have significant negative impacts on their development and wellbeing, including being associated with negative physical, mental, behavioural and learning outcomes.<sup>39</sup>

In 2023 the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) raised serious concerns about the negative effects on the rights and welfare of children residing in State provided accommodation, arguing that the vulnerability of children within the international protection process needs to be considered.<sup>40</sup> In addition, research by Focus Ireland (2022) on the experiences of families living in emergency accommodation and research by Social Justice Ireland (2021) have both highlighted the negative long-term impacts of homelessness on children and young people.<sup>41</sup> One of *Young Ireland's* key priorities is play and recreation, and planned actions include the provision of adequate play and recreation spaces, increasing the number of children and young people achieving optimum levels of physical activity, and building the capacity of local authorities to develop more vibrant, creative and sustainable places for children and young people.<sup>42</sup>

**What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this group?**

<sup>39</sup>Source: Children's Rights Alliance (2024) Report Card

<sup>40</sup> Source: Ombudsman for Children (2023) Special Report on the Safety and Welfare of Children in Direct Provision. Available at: <https://www.oco.ie/app/uploads/2023/10/OCO-Special-Report-on-Safety-and-Welfare-of-Children-in-Direct-Provision.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> Source: Social Justice Ireland (2021) Precarious Housing – the Long-Term Impact of Child and Youth Homelessness, Social Justice Ireland

<sup>42</sup> Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *Young Ireland*, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. P.66.

Over the next three years, Cork CYPSC members will work to ensure that children and young people living in homelessness in Cork have more access to activities which promote positive physical and mental wellbeing: collaborating to provide a weekly menu of activities including a youth club and teenage groups, providing individual interventions, and by consulting with children, young people and parents on these services. An impact assessment will be completed under this Objective. For more information see Section 6 of this plan.

### **Children living with Lifelong or Complex Health care Needs**

Some parents/ guardians who took part in the consultations highlighted a lack of services and supports for children with disabilities and long-term health conditions throughout the Cork area. Parents/guardians spoke about the very negative impact that a lack of supports was having on their children and on the whole family's wellbeing, particularly their own. Furthermore 11% of survey respondents stated that a lack of disability supports was one of the worst things about living in Cork.

In contrast, one parent was very happy when her two children who are neurodiverse were able to avail of specifically tailored youth groups and talked about the positive impact this had on the children's and family's quality of life. Three young people who had long-term health conditions explained in a focus group that as children they were aware of a lack of suitable activities available to them and the negative impact that a lack of supports or respite had had on their parents.

Research shows that certain groups are at greater risk of poor mental health and wellbeing, including children with chronic health conditions.<sup>43</sup> Research and policy initiatives have highlighted the importance of those living with disabilities or chronic health problems being provided with tailored care and not excluded from health care or initiatives. In 2023 the UNCRC also highlighted the need for Ireland to strengthen initiatives that promote children's right to play and to ensure that these activities are accessible for all children including girls, those with disabilities, immigrants and socioeconomically disadvantaged young people.<sup>44</sup>

A 2024 scoping study conducted by Helium Arts highlighted that young people with long-term health conditions are at risk of poorer outcomes and more child welfare concerns than other children. This can be due in part to stress and financial pressure in the family, poor mental health and isolation of carers, and a lack of opportunities for young people to build resilience. It cited figures from Census 2022 which showed that 9,789 children in non-parental care in Ireland were experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to 'a great extent' or 'a lot'. It was found that children with lifelong/chronic health conditions may not be able to access developmental opportunities that are

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<sup>43</sup> Source: Vanessa E. Cobham, et al., Systematic Review: Anxiety in Children and Adolescents with Chronic Medical Conditions, (2020) Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 59(5)

<sup>44</sup> UN (2023) Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland to the UNCRC

available for other children and recommended that Helium Arts activities are made available to all young people with chronic conditions and that a pilot of an adapted delivery model be developed.<sup>45</sup>

### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this group?***

From 2024 – 2026 Cork CYPSC will work to improve the physical health, mental wellbeing and opportunities for creative play for children with lifelong/complex health care needs in Cork. They will do this by continuing to support collaboration on and the delivery of Helium Arts programmes to children with lifelong, complex health conditions throughout Cork City and County, and by supporting the future development of a model of social prescribing pilot project in Cork. For more information see Section 6 below.

### **Young Travellers**

While some Traveller children and young people that participated in a focus group were enjoying participating in youth groups, some of the young female Travellers felt that boys had more opportunities than them generally. They didn't feel supported all the time, particularly in relation to their education. When asked what they would like to change, several girls said they would like to be able to avail of more Traveller specific supports, see more representation of the Travelling community in teaching, and for settled people to be more aware of Traveller culture and needs.

Some Traveller parents/ guardians who participated in focus groups described how their children had benefitted from education supports and reported that they had seen some prejudice dissipate between the Travelling and settled community in their area. Despite this, many felt their children were regularly being discriminated against in education settings, and that they and their children regularly faced discrimination from the settled community (particularly White Irish), as well as from service providers. Difficulties caused by bad housing conditions, a lack of access to basic services and difficulties accessing domestic violence supports and refuges were also of concern. For some these were having extremely negative impacts on their health and wellbeing. Most participants in the focus group agreed there was a need for more anti-racism and intercultural training for service providers and the settled community generally. Others called for more supports for Travellers in education and for better access to services for members of the Travelling community.

It is recognised that the Traveller community in Ireland have disproportionately high levels of poor mental health and suicide, and that young Travellers, 'remain largely invisible in mental health policy and service delivery despite the robust evidence of the disproportionate levels of mental health difficulties experienced.'<sup>46</sup> Travellers also experience disproportionately high physical health and wellbeing challenges. National mental health strategies such as Sharing the Vision and Connecting for Life, also recognise that Travellers are particularly vulnerable in terms of mental health and state

<sup>45</sup> Source: Sneddon, Helga (2024) Helium Arts: Scoping report on children living with lifelong physical health conditions within Tusla's services

<sup>46</sup> Source: Mental Health Commission, Independent Review of the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the State by the Inspector of Mental Health Services (July 2023) 110

that these needs should be addressed through the delivery of diverse and culturally competent mental health services.

Traveller representative organisations have repeatedly highlighted the health and wellbeing challenges, inequality and discrimination that is experienced by the Traveller population in Ireland.<sup>47</sup> These findings were echoed in the consultations with the Traveller community in Cork that were undertaken for the development of this Plan.

Data from Census 2022 shows that the average age of Travellers was 27, compared to 39 years for the total population and that there are more Traveller children under the age of 15 (36%) in Ireland than the general population (20%).<sup>48</sup> Research by Jigsaw (2019) with 15-24 year olds from ethnic minorities including Travellers, found that these young people showed a particular vulnerability to mental health issues, with heightened anxiety and suicide attempts than their age-matched peers.<sup>49</sup>

The National Traveller Health Action Plan (2022 – 2027) recognises the specific and additional health needs of marginalised groups within the Traveller community including children, and aims to address mental health issues for young Travellers and to address the impact of homelessness on Traveller health.<sup>50</sup> The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion strategy NTRIS II 2024 – 2028 states that the focus of future delivery will be on equal access to education, employment, health and housing, effectively fighting racism and discrimination and promoting equal participation.

### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this group?***

Over the next three years Cork CYPSC will work to support the wellbeing of young Travellers through supporting increased cultural awareness among service providers and to support the engagement and participation of Young Travellers who are accessing services.

This will include CYPSC participation in the Keeping Young Travellers Well Steering Group which will develop programmes and activities with young Traveller that give them the opportunity to have their voices heard, as well as supporting a national approach to giving children and young people a voice in collaboration with other Traveller organisations. For more information see Section 6 of this plan.

## **Outcome 1, Local Priority 3:**

### **Vaping**

#### ***Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area***

<sup>47</sup> Source: Coalition of Traveller and Roma Organisations (2024) Joint Alternative Report to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Available at: [https://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pavee-Point-Traveller-and-Roma-Centre\\_ICESCR-Ireland-Traveller-and-Roma-2024-Final.pdf](https://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pavee-Point-Traveller-and-Roma-Centre_ICESCR-Ireland-Traveller-and-Roma-2024-Final.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> Source: CSO (2022) Census of Population

<sup>49</sup> Source: Dooley, B, O'Connor, C, Fitzgerald, A, and O'Reilly, A (2019) My World Survey 2 The National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland, Jigsaw and UCD,

<sup>50</sup> Source: Department of Health (2022) National Traveller Health Action Plan (2022 – 2027)

Over the coming three years, Cork CYPSC will focus on vaping as another Local Priority Area within Outcome 1, Active and Healthy. The rationale for choosing vaping as a priority area is outlined below in the following sections: 'What did consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?' And 'What does other data tell us in relation to this Priority Area?'

The objective that the CYPSC will work to achieve within this Priority Area is:

***Children, young people and parents are supported to understand the risks of vaping.***

### ***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

The results of the consultations for this Plan show that children and young people in Cork are very aware of the availability and negative effects of vaping, they are concerned about high levels of vaping among young people, and they want vaping to be less accessible for young people.

Thirty eight percent of children and young people who completed the survey stated that one of the worst things about living in Cork was that there was too much vaping and smoking, while 24% saw it as one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people in Cork. When asked if they could change one thing in Cork what would it be, 42 (9%) children and young people said they would ban vapes, have less vape shops or do things to reduce vaping.

The issue of vaping was raised by many young people within the focus groups also, with some explaining that peers had begun vaping as a stress reliever and that it acted as a gateway substance to smoking, alcohol use and substance misuse. Some young people were aware of primary school aged children that were vaping. The factors that were increasing vape usage amongst children and young people in their view included the prevalence of vaping outlets throughout the county and the lack of regulation regarding the purchasing and use of vapes. Several young people suggested that vaping could be controlled by regulating the sale of vapes, increasing their cost and removing the multiple flavours. In both surveys and focus groups parents/guardians also raised concerns about the prevalence of substance misuse in Cork.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

According to the HBSC, in 2022 19% of 12- to 17-year-olds reported ever trying e-cigarettes (higher among girls and older children) and 13% had tried them in the previous 30 days (up from 9% in 2018).<sup>51</sup> There were limited differences across social class groups. Research by the North Dublin Drug and Alcohol Task Force with over 2,500 14 – 16 year olds in Dublin in 2022 found that 32% had tried smoking or an e-cigarette, 18% had used cannabis and 64% had tried alcohol.<sup>52</sup> It found that vaping was a prevalent risk behaviour and that attitudes to alcohol use and vaping were becoming normalised. It called for health promotion initiatives that target parental, youth and community perceptions about harmful substances.

<sup>51</sup> Gavin A., Költő A., Lunney, L., Maloney R., Walker, L., Nic Gabhainn and Kelly C., (2024) Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study 2022, Department of Health, Government of Ireland and University of Galway

<sup>52</sup> Source: NDRDATF (2022) 'Improving health outcomes by understanding the lived experiences of young people in North Dublin': North Dublin Risk and Protective Factors Planet Youth Report 1; Dublin. Ireland. Merlin Press.

The Institute of Public Health has called for measures to reduce the appeal, accessibility, and affordability of e-cigarettes to children, highlighting a growing body of evidence to suggest that e-cigarette use is harmful to health and increases the probability of subsequent tobacco use.<sup>53</sup> In addition, the Health Research Board has found that young people who vape are 3 – 5 times more likely to smoke regular cigarettes, and that nicotine can lead to cocaine addiction.<sup>54</sup>

In 2023 the UNCRC recommended that Ireland should strengthen measures to prevent and address the incidence of drug, alcohol and tobacco use by children and adolescents, including education and more information on the harm of substance use.<sup>55</sup> The HSE has produced guidelines and resources for schools on e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction. It highlights the health risks and encourages schools to make every effort to discourage young people from vaping.<sup>56</sup>

***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

In response to the concerns raised by key stakeholders in the consultations for this Plan and elsewhere in relation to vaping, Cork CYPSC is going to support children, young people and parents in Cork to understand the risks of vaping over the next 3 years.

In order to achieve this, CYPSC plans to collaborate with and promote HSE and Cork City Council campaigns, make presentations on the findings of the consultations for this Plan and produce a written submission to regulate access to and attractiveness of vaping. See section 6 of this plan for more information on activities, targets and key stakeholders.

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<sup>53</sup> Source: Louise O'Connor (2024) 'Blog: How Ireland can further regulate tobacco and nicotine inhaling products and progress tobacco endgame targets', Institute of Public Health.

<sup>54</sup> Source: Health Research Board (2022) HRB Overview Series 12: 'Alcohol and other drug use among children and young people in Ireland: prevalence, risk and protective factors, consequences, responses, and policies'.

<sup>55</sup> Source: UN (2023) Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland to the UNCRC

<sup>56</sup> Source: HSE Information and Guidance on E-Cigarettes and Vaping for Schools: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/resources/information-and-guidance-on-e-cigarettes-and-vaping-for-schools.pdf>

## 4.3 Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

### What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to this Outcome?

The consultations for the development of this Plan found that many young people in Cork City and County are feeling unhappy or under pressure in relation to their education, don't always feel supported in school, and lack information on supports and alternative education options.

When asked what the biggest challenges were facing children and young people in Cork, nearly a quarter of respondents named exam pressures/stress, 11% said it was being unhappy in school generally (including problems unrelated to learning) and 5% said it was difficulties with learning. In focus groups, young people also reported too much pressure about exams and not enough focus on their wellbeing or different ways of learning. Some said they had limited information on supports or further education options and were conscious of the need for shorter waiting times for assessments, better supports for neurodiversity, more alternative education options and methods, and more diversity and awareness among the teachers.

*"If I had a magic wand I would... put in more support and facilities for children who are struggling in school, especially children with disabilities."*  
(Young person, Cork)

On a positive note, two thirds of children and young people said they were enjoying going to school, college or further education and 63% reported that they were getting the help they needed with their learning.

Parents were a bit more positive about education matters, with nearly half of survey respondents stating that good schools or good school supports were one of the best things about living in Cork for children and young people. However they mentioned a general lack of information on education supports or alternative education options, and some reported that their children were struggling in school or reluctant to go to school and education supports were not always available to them when they needed them.

Service providers are also concerned about education matters. When the 199 survey respondents were asked what they thought were the biggest challenges facing children and young people, 14% picked school avoidance/reluctance, 12% picked education and learning needs, and 11% felt it was students being unhappy in school.

Please note, consultation findings in relation to early learning and care are in Section 4.5 within Outcome Four: Economic Security and Opportunity.

### Are there Sufficient Services in relation to this Outcome?

Although there are many statutory and private mainstream education services as well as some statutory and non-statutory alternative, further and higher education providers in Cork, several service gaps and needs have been identified relation to the theme of learning and development. These include a need for more education supports for people with additional needs and disadvantaged families; more well-being and engagement supports in schools; more school transition and completion support as well as more information on further education options.



When asked whether they agreed there were sufficient services in the area of learning and development from their experience, service providers surveyed were generally quite negative: 80% felt there were insufficient services and supports for children and young people with additional needs; 60% said there were insufficient alternative education services; over half thought there were not enough supports for young people at risk of early school leaving or enough services in primary/secondary education generally. Nearly of the 199 respondents also thought there were not enough youth clubs/projects or early years services.

When asked what services should be prioritised by decision-makers, 26% said education services of different kinds and 21% said supports for children/young people with additional needs (such as ASD/neurodiversity). Others highlighted the need for more support for young people at risk of early school leaving and more supports for the early years.

### What are the Cork CYPSC Local Priority Areas within this Outcome?

In response to the needs and gaps that were identified through this process in relation to the Outcome Area of Learning and Development, particularly in relation to wellbeing and engagement in learning, Cork CYPSC has committed to focussing on the following Local Priority Areas and objectives below for the next three years.

Achieving in Learning and Development
Local Priority 1: Wellbeing and Engagement in Learning
Local Priority 2: Parental Supports

The following sections provide detailed information on the evidence and needs that informed the CYPSC decision to choose each of these Local Priority Areas, as well as the specific objectives that the Cork CYPSC has decided to work on within each Local Priority Area

Outcome 2, Local Priority 1: Wellbeing and Engagement in Learning
<i>Cork CYPSC objectives in relation to this Local Priority Area</i>
<p>The first Local Priority Area within Outcome 2 that the CYPSC has identified is: Wellbeing and Engagement in Learning. The background and rationale for this priority area is explained below in the sections ‘What did the consultations tell us?’ and ‘What does other data tell us?’</p> <p>The CYPSC will work on four objectives over the next three years to support children and young people’s wellbeing and engagement when it comes to learning and development. These are:</p> <p><b>Objective 1:</b></p> <p><i>People working in education settings are more trauma informed and are supported to use this approach in their work.</i></p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b></p>

***Young people's successes and challenges on their journey through education are communicated to service providers and policy makers***

**Objective 3:**

***Advocate for an Education Support Team in every educational setting which can respond flexibly to the needs of children and young people.***

**Objective 4:**

***Children, young people and families are informed of transition supports that are available.***

***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

The results of the consultations show that while nearly two thirds of children and young people were enjoying going to school, college or further education, over a quarter said they were not enjoying it. 60% of the 740 children and young people who completed a survey reported feeling stressed about school/college and only 21% felt the schools in their area were good.

While some young people were positive about school and were engaged in their education, in the consultations, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, ethnic minorities, or those with disabilities were more likely to speak about being unhappy in school and were unsure if they could remain in mainstream education. Some young people felt that their needs were not being listened to or being responded to by staff making them feel further marginalised, isolated and unhappy. In addition, a fifth of the 740 young people did not feel they were getting the help they needed and 22% were not clear on where to go if they needed that help.

The challenge of school stress, school reluctance and early school leaving was raised by parents and service providers several times. Some parents talked about the difficulties they were experiencing keeping their children engaged in and attending education, or with getting them a place in a suitable school in their locality. In addition, 14% of service providers felt one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people at present was school avoidance/reluctance.

In focus groups, some young people were unaware of alternative education programs or supports that were available in their school or any agencies outside of school such as youth information centres. However, participants who were attending alternative education settings welcomed the benefits they had got from the supports that had not always been available to them in mainstream settings. They appreciated the more personal supports, practical subjects, variety in learning methods, and clear progression paths to further education and further support if needed.

Parents and service providers also highlighted the need for more funding and more alternative education options and information on same for young people in Cork. In addition, the need for a more trauma informed approach in all services was identified repeatedly by service providers who were involved in the consultations so that services were more sensitive to people's needs and experiences, including the need for more awareness around trauma and its impact among people working with children and young people, including teachers.

***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Tusla school attendance figures<sup>57</sup> show that in the years 2019-22, Cork was the second highest county in terms of school absences (for all schools), after Dublin. However, County Cork's rate of 20+plus day absences are generally slightly lower than the state average.<sup>58</sup> School attendance is generally lower in more disadvantaged communities, and statistics show that DEIS schools usually have higher rates of students who are absent for 20-plus days. Educational attainment figures show that there are clusters of Small Areas with low levels of education in Cork city and county. Cork City also records slightly lower rates of Leaving Certificate retention rates than Cork County.<sup>59</sup>

Consultations with young people as part of the development of the new national policy framework for children and young people, *Young Ireland* (2023) showed similar education findings to these local consultations with participants wanting less stress/pressure, less homework, and more support for pupils with learning difficulties, marginalised young people, and those with special educational needs. The OCO has reported that education is the sector that they get the most complaints about from the public. These can either be in relation to school or broader education issues including lack of spaces for and lack of supports for people with special educational needs (SEN).<sup>60</sup> It has repeatedly raised concerns about significant delays in assessments of needs and corresponding services for children.<sup>61</sup>

Research by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) (2024) also found that some students were unhappy about their schools' focus on academics over wellbeing and gaps in learning supports and this was contributing to lowering participants' life satisfaction levels. It also found many students are struggling academically and in terms of their well-being and social skills, including in transition periods because of the enduring impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>62</sup>

Trauma Informed Education argues that exposure to adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and toxic stress adversely affects the health, wellbeing and development of children and in turn can seriously impact outcomes in adulthood.<sup>63</sup> It promotes bringing a trauma informed approach to the school environment which would help educators to learn about trauma and how it affects children's development, learning, relationships and behaviour. It also helps to create an atmosphere in the school that supports each student, nurturing compassion, healing and resilience, and creates a sense of safety and belonging, thus improving outcomes for children and young people. Mental Health Reform (2020) has also highlighted the importance of implementing trauma-informed policy

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<sup>57</sup> [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR\\_SAR\\_2019\\_22.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> The 20-plus day absence rate in 2021-22 were the highest ever recorded, corresponding to the peak of Ireland's Covid-19 cases over winter 2021-22. In comparison, the state average for 20-plus day absences from 2014 – 2018 was 11.6% for primary and 15% for post-primary.

<sup>59</sup> Source: EDA14 - Retention Rates of Pupils in Second Level Schools - Dataset - data.gov.ie

<sup>60</sup> Source: Ombudsman for Children (2023) *Falling Behind* OCO Annual Report 2022.

<sup>61</sup> Source: Ombudsman for Children (2022) Annual Report 2022 – Education for Disabled Children

<sup>62</sup> Source: McCoy, S., E. Carroll and K. Ye (2024). 'Embracing Diversity in all its Forms': The Voluntary Secondary Sector in Irish Education, ESRI Research Series 182, Dublin: ESRI.

<sup>63</sup> Source: Trauma Informed Education (2022) Policy Brief: Trauma Informed Education: <https://traumainformededucation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Trauma-Informed-Education-1.pdf>

and practice across health and social care systems in Ireland.<sup>64</sup> Cork City is also working towards becoming a trauma sensitive city and its mission is to promote city-wide trauma awareness, sensitivity and healing with a focus on relationships.<sup>65</sup>

ESRI (2022) research on the needs of children of migrant parents, points to the need for more support for migrant-origin students at primary school, as well as their parents' language skills to help them support their child's education.<sup>66</sup> *Young Ireland* acknowledges that the government needs to ensure greater inclusion in education, especially for marginalised groups and prioritises this area in its action plan. Cork City's Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029 (LECP)<sup>67</sup> and Cork County's LECP 2024 – 2030 aim to address exclusion and educational disadvantage and promote lifelong learning.

#### **What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?**

In response to the issues that were identified in relation to young people's engagement in education and wellbeing in learning, Cork CYPSC will undertake several initiatives in this area over the coming three years:

- It will work to ensure that people working in education settings are more trauma informed and supported to use this approach in their work, by piloting and evaluating a trauma informed education module, supporting the expansion of trauma informed early years infant mental health training and supporting the Cork Trauma Sensitive City initiative.
- It will support initiatives and training that give young people a platform to have their voice heard in relation to their successes and challenges in education, including establishing a young people's champion steering group and providing a training programme for some educational settings on establishing a young people as Champions group. This work will be led out by the Cork Life Centre, giving young people in alternative education settings a platform through CYPSC to meet with policy makers regarding service improvements.
- Through engagement with key stakeholders including TESS it will also advocate for an education support team in every educational setting to respond to the needs of children and young people.
- It will also complete a scoping exercise and then showcase the programmes that are available to support children and young people's educational transitions, including supports available to people with additional needs.

For more information on these activities, including related targets and stakeholders, see Section 6 of this Plan.

<sup>64</sup> Source: <https://mentalhealthreform.ie/news/experts-highlight-importance-of-trauma-informed-policy-and-practice-to-future-of-irish-health-services/>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/cork-trauma-sensitive-city/>

<sup>66</sup> Source: ESRI (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

<sup>67</sup> Source: Cork City Council (2024) Cork City Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029

## Outcome 2, Local Priority 2: Parent Supports

### *Cork CYPSC objectives in relation to this Local Priority Area*

In the coming three years, Cork CYPSC will focus on Parental Supports as another of its Local Priority Areas within Outcome 2 Achieving in Learning and Development. Information on the background that informed the decision to focus on this priority area and objectives are presented below in the following sections: 'What did consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?' 'What does other data tell us in relation to this Priority Area?'

In the area of parent supports, the CYPSC will work on the following objectives:

#### **Objective 1:**

***Fathers are engaged and supported to support their child's well-being with a particular focus on social and emotional well-being.***

#### **Objective 2:**

***The capacity of professionals to utilise the Parent Action Leaflets is improved and increased.***

#### **Objective 3:**

***Parents have accessible and trusted information regarding parenting supports.***

### *What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?*

Findings from the consultations highlighted that children and young people from marginalised communities or minority ethnic groups are less likely to feel supported or facilitated in some education settings. This emphasises the importance of support from home to help with such challenges, although this can be difficult for parents and families who are already experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation, poverty or mental health issues themselves.

The consultations also showed that both parents/ guardians and young people rely on their peers and informal sources for their main sources of information. 65% of young people surveyed stated they relied on their parents/ guardians for information, 55% rely on friends and 51% on social media. Similarly, over half (51%) of parents/ guardians reported getting most of their information from a friend or other parents, 44% from internet searches and 39% from schools and teachers.

In focus groups several parents commented that they would not have heard about supports or services unless they heard it through word of mouth. They felt there was a lack of information sharing from services to them, and between support services and schools, leading to their children missing out on necessary services including education supports. Only a quarter of service providers who completed a survey also felt there was sufficient information on services available to families, with 52% stating there was insufficient information available. In response to these needs, CYPSC will ensure that parents/guardians have accessible and trusted information regarding parenting supports in Cork.

Some parents/guardians also talked about a lack of appropriate education assessments for children and young people, resulting in their children being unable to avail of necessary supports. Some of these parents/ guardians were having great difficulty in supporting/encouraging their children to remain in education settings or were dealing with the challenges of their children refusing to attend school. In contrast, some parents whose children were getting good support from their school or other services, praised the people involved and talked about the benefits that this was bringing to the young people involved and to the family overall.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

According to Barnardo's (2024), one of the most important ways of providing children who experience disadvantage with opportunities for positive wellbeing and development is to make sure they live in a safe place with loving adults who can parent in a positive way.<sup>68</sup>

A 2023 study by the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) highlighted that providing support to parents in the early years of their child's life can enhance their engagement in their children's lives. It found that the most effective parents' supports are those that address more than one area of need, focus on prevention, are easily accessible and include continuity between universal and targeted provision.<sup>69</sup>

An ESRI Growing Up in Ireland study (2021) also provides evidence of the important role that parents play in a young person's wellbeing and development. It found that children who have a good relationship with their father are happier, feel less anxious and are more engaged in physical activity.<sup>70</sup> In its observations in 2023, the UNCRC Committee recommended (among other things) that families in Ireland are given appropriate supports, including relevant information and that the government implement programmes that foster responsible parenthood with a particular focus on young fathers.<sup>71</sup>

The Government policy called 'Supporting Parents, A National Model of Parenting Support Services' (2022-2027) aims to create greater awareness of and access to parenting support services, as well as more inclusive, needs-led and evidence-informed parenting support services. Tusla's Parenting Support Strategy 2022-2027 also aims to provide parents with the necessary supports and resources to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

<sup>68</sup> Source: Barnardo's (2024) Parental Mental Health and the Impact on Children - Summary, Barnardo's

<sup>69</sup> Source: Leitaio (2023) in Irish Studies Review: 'Supporting parents with young children in Ireland: context and research supported interventions', Routledge. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09670882.2023.2265834>

<sup>70</sup> Source: Smyth, E. and H. Russell (2021). Fathers and children from infancy to middle childhood, ESRI Research Series 130, Dublin: ESRI, <https://doi.org/10.26504/RS130>

<sup>71</sup> Source: UN (2023) Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland to the UNCRC

### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Cork CYPSC has identified several areas it will work to improve supports for parents in Cork over the coming three years. These include:

- Exploring how to help fathers to become more engaged and supported by services so they can in turn support their child's social and emotional well-being, including researching best practice, creating a safe space, and getting feedback from fathers on what works.
- Supporting professionals to utilise the Parent Action Leaflets by providing them with training, support and mentoring and networking opportunities.
- Helping parents to have accessible and trusted information regarding parenting supports currently available in Cork by promoting and supporting a parents' hub and parent forum.

For more information on this work and key stakeholders involved, see Section 6 of this plan.



## 4.4 Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

### What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to this Outcome?

It is positive to see that the majority of the 740 children and young people who completed a survey during the consultations for this Plan felt safe in Cork generally. 70% reported feeling safe in their community (13% did not), 70% reported having safe places to play or hang out with friends, and over half stated that they did not experience discrimination bullying or unfair treatment sometimes. A fifth of young people and parents stated that living in a safe community was one of the best things about living in Cork.

Despite these positive findings, young people, parents and service providers all had concerns about bullying and discrimination, and young people and parents also want more safe spaces for young people to hang out.

A third of young people (31%) reported that they experience bullying or unfair treatment sometimes, 18% reported experiencing violence or crime sometimes and 12% felt that prejudice or hate was one of the worst things about Cork. In focus groups, some young people talked about being discriminated against based on either their gender, sexuality, age or ethnicity.

*"(If I had a magic wand...) I would make sure that children are always safe"*

Young person, Cork

Parents were also concerned about bullying: 14% of respondents said online bullying was one of the biggest challenges facing young people in Cork. Some service providers were also concerned about young people's safety highlighting concerns about online bullying, the negative impact of violence or crime (or the threat of violence) on young people.

A fifth of young people who responded to a survey didn't feel that they had enough safe spaces to hang out with their friends, and the same proportion also felt that this was one of the worst things about living in Cork. Parents who took part in the consultations also highlighted the lack of safe spaces for children and young people. Some parents highlighted the need for more security and good lighting in urban areas as they were concerned about their family's safety when out at night. While some young people talked positively about community Gardaí, some did not trust the Gardaí and felt they didn't care about them and wouldn't help them if they needed it.

### Are there sufficient services in relation to this Outcome?

While there is a recognition of the work of the Gardaí in communities around Cork, there is a general concern about a lack of services and supports in relation to the safety of children, young people and families in Cork, particularly for those who are at additional risk.

Over half of the 200 service providers who were consulted for this Plan did not think there were enough services and supports in relation to safety in Cork generally, or that there were enough supports for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system or experiencing addiction or sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). Some parents also had concerns about a lack of availability of services and supports in Cork for families in relation to DSGBV, including a lack of

suitable accommodation for victims. Organisations working in the field have repeatedly called for more supports for victims of violence including more specialist accommodation and psychological supports, better access to frontline services, improved legal systems and more comprehensive data collection.<sup>72</sup>

## What are the Cork CYPSC Local Priority Areas within this Outcome?

In response to the needs and gaps that were identified through this process in relation to the Outcome Area Four, Cork CYPSC has committed to focussing on the following Local Priority Areas and objectives for the next three years.

<b>Outcome Three Safe and Protected from Harm</b>
<b>Local Priority 1: Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence</b>
<b>Local Priority 2: Bullying</b>

Details on these priorities and the rationale for them are as follows, including what the local consultations told us in relation to them, what other data tells us and what objectives Cork CYPSC is planning to work on within each area.

<b>Outcome 3, Local Priority 1: Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)</b>
<b><i>Cork CYPSC Objectives in relation to this Local Priority Area</i></b>
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) is one of the CYPSC Local Priority Areas within Outcome 3 Safe and Protected from Harm. Information from the consultations and other data that informed this priority area is provided below. The CYPSC plans to work on the following three objectives within this priority area:
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 1:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Children, young people and parents are informed of available DSGBV services and referral pathways</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 2:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>An Empower Kidz Forum is established to provide a platform for children and young people with experience of DSGBV to have their voices heard</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 3:</b></p>

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<sup>72</sup> Source: Women's Aid (2022) Press Release 'A record high number of domestic abuse contacts with Women's Aid in 2022'. <https://www.womensaid.ie/get-informed/news-events/media-releases/a-record-high-number-of-domestic-abuse-contacts-with-womens-aid-in-2022/>

**Frontline workers in DSGBV are supported to provide effective trauma informed responses in their work through training and upskilling**

**What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?**

Both parents and young people raised concerns about a lack of support for victims of DSGBV, particularly in relation to a lack of accommodation options. Several parents, including some parents from the Traveller community discussed how a lack of affordable or suitable accommodation forced some mothers and their children to remain in homes where domestic violence was present and/or forced them to return to the family home after some time in a refuge if there were no other options.

There was also evidence of the positive benefits of suitable supports when they were provided: Some young people who had experience of DSGBV, described the benefits of a support group that they were members of, explaining that it gave them connections to other children who had a shared experience and gave them valuable coping skills. However, they did not have such a positive view of the legal and judicial system as they felt they had not had a voice in the family's hearings.

Several service providers involved in the consultations who called for the area of DSGBV supports to be improved called for: the voice of the child to be heard in family cases, more community-based early intervention programmes for families, and more supports for children and young people who have been sexually assaulted.

**What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?**

While evidence on the extent of DSGBV in Ireland is limited, organisations working with women and other victims of DSGBV have reported a large increase in presentations during and since the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as challenges in relation to accommodation for victims. The Sexual Violence Centre in Cork reported that it responded to more calls and texts in 2022 compared to in 2021. There was a notable increase in victims of stalking as well as a small increase in teenage victims of violence.<sup>73</sup> The West Cork Women Against Violence Project (WCWAV) also noted a growing number of women experiencing abuse while pregnant and the number of women experiencing homelessness because of an abusive situation.<sup>74</sup>

Research published by WCWAV in 2023 found that over half of the respondents (from West Cork) who had experienced sexual abuse as children went on to experience sexual violence as an adult too. It also found that victims experienced a lack of access to urgent and necessary supports, poorer emotional health and wellbeing, harmful coping strategies, sexual health problems and negative physical health impacts, having to leave their home school or work, as well as poverty and diminished access to justice.<sup>75</sup> The research recommended a specialist sexual violence service is

<sup>73</sup> Source: Sexual Violence Centre Cork (2023) 2022 Annual Report

<sup>74</sup> Source: West Cork Women Against Violence (2023) Annual Report 2022

<sup>75</sup> Source: Crowley, C. and Nagle M. (2023) Listen to me. Support me. Believe me. Help me. Listening to Survivors of Sexual Violence and their Supporters in West Cork, West Cork Women Against Violence Project.

established in West Cork, in addition to community-based prevention and early intervention work, as well as training for service providers.

The UNCRC Committee has called on Ireland to increase refuge accommodation, enable children to apply for protection and safety orders and have access to legal support and complaints mechanisms. It also recommended that professionals working with children in all sectors (including education and health) receive specialised training on child protection, and in identifying and effectively responding to cases of violence.<sup>76</sup>

A training links programme developed by West Cork Training Network ran for 8 months in 2023 to support the community and voluntary sector to be more informed about sexual violence and to identify and respond to needs among its service users in a trauma informed way. An evaluation found that after participating in the programme, participants had increased confidence and capacity to respond to presentations of sexual violence. It recommended that further training in trauma-informed responses to sexual violence are developed and rolled out, and that further resources are invested in the programme. Cork CYPSC will be working to support this process<sup>77</sup>

#### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Cork CYPSC plans to work on several activities over the course of this Plan to improve outcomes for children and young people affected by DSGBV. These include:

- Ensuring that children, young people and parents are informed of DSGBV services that are available and referral pathways to these services, through mapping of services and communications about these on social media.
- Establishing an Empower Kidz Forum to provide a platform for children and young people in Cork with experience of DSGBV to have their voices heard, and support children and young people to share their views so that they can influence policy and practice.
- Supporting frontline workers in DSGBV in Cork to provide effective trauma informed responses in their work through training and upskilling, including setting up a Training Network.

### **Outcome 3, Local Priority 2: Bullying**

#### **Cork CYPSC Objectives in relation to this Local Priority Area**

Bullying is the second Local Priority Area within Outcome 3 Safe and Protected from Harm. Information from the consultations and other data that informed this priority area is provided below. The CYPSC plans to work on the following objective within this priority area:

***Children, young people and parents in Cork have more awareness of anti-bullying strategies and resources.***

<sup>76</sup> Source: UN (2023) Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland to the UNCRC

<sup>77</sup> Source: Crowley, C., (2024) West Cork Training Network – Training Links Evaluation, West Cork Training Network

### ***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

A third of the children and young people who completed a survey reported that they experienced bullying, discrimination and unfair treatment sometimes. Both in-person and online bullying were of concern to participants, and higher proportions of children and young people who identified as transgender or non-binary or were from an ethnic minority reported experiencing discrimination, bullying or unfair treatment compared to others. When asked what the biggest challenges were facing children and young people in Cork, 14% of young people said bullying (either online or in-person).

Some young people in the focus groups also described experiencing bullying both inside and outside of school as well as online in the past. Several young people expressed worry about social media and the negativity that can be associated with it, including the potential for bullying and breaches of privacy online.

Children and young people from ethnic minorities (including young Travellers and young people living in international protection accommodation identifying as Black or Black Irish) who took part in focus groups, mentioned feeling discriminated against or not always feeling safe more frequently than white people involved in the focus groups. Some young people who identified as non-binary, trans-gender or other also described facing transphobia regularly in their daily lives and the negative impact this had on their overall well-being.

Parents were also concerned about bullying. Nearly a quarter of the 213 parents/ guardians who took part in the research stated that bullying (both online and in person) was one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people in Cork. In focus groups, some parents/ guardians talked about the fact that their children had experienced bullying and violence in school. One parent described the negative impact being excluded by others was having on her child's well-being. One parent/ guardian felt that the teachers in their child's school were dismissive of the bullying experienced by their child. Some parents/ guardians called for more education about the negative impact of bullying, zero tolerance of bullying in schools and anti-bullying sessions in schools.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

The findings of these consultations that are outlined above, are in line with national data on bullying. The latest HBSC survey that was carried out in 2022, shows that just under 30% of young people experienced bullying in recent months. This is similar to 2018 figures, however nationally there was an increase in cyberbullying from 2018 (15%) to 2022 (18%).

Girls, younger children and children from lower social class groups were found to be more likely to report being cyberbullied.<sup>78</sup> Research by CyberSafeKids (2023) with 5,000 young people also found

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<sup>78</sup> Source: Gavin A., Költő A., Lunney, L., Maloney R., Walker, L., Nic Gabhainn and Kelly C., (2024) Health Behaviour in School-aged Children HBSC Study 2022, Department of Health, Government of Ireland and University of Galway

that 40% of 12–16-year-olds and 25% of 8 - 12 year olds had experienced online bullying in the past year.

In 2022 the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission highlighted that children were experiencing dangerous levels of bullying in school, other youth settings and online and that this was a serious public health concern. They warned that high levels of identity-based bullying experienced by children from ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ children, and children with disabilities would have long term negative mental and psychosocial effects and that anti-bullying policies lacked an intersectional approach.<sup>79</sup>

BelongTo and TCD (2024) research with nearly 3,000 members of the LGBTQI+ community in Ireland (43% of whom were aged 14 – 25 years) found that 49% of research participants had experienced homophobic, bi-phobic or transphobic bullying in school and 62% reported that LGBTQI+ bullying was not actively addressed within their school. In addition, research by DCU's Anti-Bullying Centre (2022) reported that some Traveller pupils have found teacher behaviour was 'demeaning and made them feel unwanted and excluded' and that reports of bullying were not always investigated.<sup>80</sup>

There have been many calls for action on bullying that takes places within educational settings in Ireland, including counselling in schools, mandatory teacher training modules on bullying and cyber-bullying, and the role out of anti-bullying programmes<sup>81</sup> to all schools.<sup>82</sup> The BelongTo and TCD (2024) research recommends that the government implements Cineáltas: the Action Plan on Bullying, supports a national public awareness campaign, invests in LGBTQI+ inclusive community-based mental health supports and also expands supports in educational settings, youth services and community groups. Cork CYPSC plans to work to expand resources in educational settings – see next section 'What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on'.

### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

To improve outcomes for children, young people and families impacted by or at risk of bullying, Cork CYPSC is going to support the roll out and promotion of the ISPCC Shield Training to Primary Schools to support them to proactively manage bullying in Cork City and County, as well as collating available training and resources and promote them through CYPSC networks and website. For more information on the activities, targets and key stakeholders related to these activities see Section 6 below.

<sup>79</sup> Source: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2022) Ireland and the Rights of the Child, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Ireland's combined fifth and sixth periodic reports

<sup>80</sup> Source: Dupont, M. (2022) A study into the effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Procedures on Traveller and Roma pupils' experiences in the school system: DCU Anti-Bullying Centre (ABC), Dublin City University

<sup>81</sup> It recommended the FUSE programme developed by DCU's Anti-Bullying Centre as a model of good practice.

<sup>82</sup> Source: Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2021) School Bullying and the Impact on Mental Health

## 4.5 Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

### What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to this Outcome?

Consultations for the development of this Plan highlighted several issues in Cork in relation to the theme of economic security and opportunity. Key themes and challenges that came up repeatedly were housing and homelessness, the cost of living/poverty, challenges for parents to enter the workforce due to lack of available/affordable childcare, and transport issues.

When stakeholders were asked what the biggest challenges facing young people in Cork were in their view, 10% of children and young people, 17% of parents and 9% of service providers said, money worries/cost of living. When asked what the worst things about living in Cork were, 17% of young people and 14% of parents picked 'lack of housing'. Furthermore, 17% of service providers were of the view that housing/homelessness was one of the biggest challenges for children and young people in Cork.

*"If I had a magic wand I would... wish for everyone to have enough money to get what they need."*

Young person, Cork

There were mixed views on transport options in Cork. In some of the focus groups in rural areas, young people described that public transport options were poor or unaffordable where they lived and that this limited their opportunities to engage in activities, meet friends or access employment. When asked what needed to change in Cork, the economic security related issues that young people called for included: more housing, better financial supports and more transport options in the area.

Many parents/guardians in focus groups talked about the lack of childcare services/spaces in their area and the negative impact that this was having on their employment opportunities, careers and income levels. Many also highlighted lack of or disjointed public transport, making it difficult for them to bring children to appointments or services, as well as the rising cost of living and the negative impact this was having on them and their families.

### Are there sufficient services in relation to this Outcome?

The housing crisis and the lack of affordable and available housing is well documented all over the country and not only in Cork. Poor housing and the cost of living are contributing factors to the level of poverty experienced by the youth population especially children. Other factors contributing to high levels of disadvantage in part of Cork include barriers or a lack of access to quality childcare, education, employment and opportunity. A variety of local statutory and community and voluntary services throughout Cork are supporting children, young people and their families with economic issues, including helping them access income supports, find housing or access employment.

Despite this ongoing work, a lack of affordable services and supports for people struggling with economic issues was identified through the consultation process. When service providers were asked whether they agreed there were enough supports or services in a variety of areas, 61% did not agree there were sufficient childcare services, 35% did not think there was enough employment and training supports (32% felt there was enough), and nearly half of respondents (46%) were of the view there were insufficient financial supports/services.



## What are the Cork CYPSC Local Priority Areas within this Outcome?

In response to the 'Economic security and Opportunity' related needs and gaps that have been identified in the process of developing this Plan, Cork CYPSC has committed to focussing on the following Local Priorities and objectives for the next three years. The rationale and background for these priorities and objectives is provided in the sections below.

<b>Economic Security and Opportunity</b>
<b>Local Priority 1: Child Poverty</b>
<b>Local Priority 2: Immigrants including children, young people and families living in International Protection Accommodation</b>

<b>Outcome 4, Local Priority 1: Child Poverty</b>
<b><i>Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area</i></b>
<p>The first Local Priority Area that Cork CYPSC will focus on within Outcome 4 is Child Poverty. The background to and rationale for this focus is provided below. The CYPSC will work to achieve the following objectives within this priority area. These are explained further below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 1</b> <b><i>The impact of poverty on lone parents is alleviated</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 2</b> <b><i>The coordination and effectiveness of Interagency responses in relation to homelessness is improved</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective 3</b> <b><i>The My Place to Play mat resource is accessed by families living in homelessness</i></b></p>
<b><i>What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?</i></b>
<p>Despite the fact that 70% of the young people who completed a survey to inform this plan reported that they or their family had enough money to pay for things they needed, economic security concerns and the high cost of living also evident in these consultations:</p> <p>Twelve percent of young people who completed a survey thought their families did not have enough money to pay for things, 10% felt that money worries was one of the biggest challenges facing young people in Cork and only a quarter thought there was enough help for people or families with money worries (and nearly 40% unsure). In the focus groups, several children and young people said that their family had some money worries. These mainly related to a lack of housing or finding affordable housing; daily costs such as medical bills, utility, and food bills as well as activities for children and young people; the cost of special events/times of year such as Christmas.</p>

Feedback from parents echoed these findings indicating they were experiencing financial problems. Seventeen percent of survey respondents felt that money worries/the cost of living was one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people in Cork, and 14% said money worries and the cost of living were some of the worst things about living in Cork. Several parents/ guardians in the focus groups discussed the rising cost of living including increasing rents and the increasing cost of their children's activities and sports.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

The issues and needs that were raised by stakeholders in relation to cost of living, poverty and a lack of housing and homelessness in Cork are echoed locally and nationally through data and research.

The Pobal HP Deprivation data shows that some areas in Cork City are among the most disadvantaged in the country and also have high proportions of youth population. As of 2022, there were 13 SAs classified as extremely disadvantaged in the Cork CYPSC Area. Twelve out of 13 of these were in Cork City<sup>83</sup> and one was in Charleville. As of February 2024, there were 1,367 young people aged 25 years and under signing on the Live Register in Cork City and County, representing 10% of the total live register claimants in the area. The rate was highest in Cobh and Cork City at 12% and the lowest rates were in Skibbereen, Kinsale and Bandon. In Cork City there is a high reliance on the private housing sector resulting in long waiting lists for social housing and leaving some families living in emergency accommodation.

In 2023 the UNCRC Committee raised serious concerns about the large number of children living in poverty, food insecurity and homelessness in Ireland. National HBSC research published in 2024 found that nearly a fifth of young people had gone to bed hungry as a result of a lack of food and that children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds reported more negative health outcomes.<sup>84</sup> Research by the National Youth Council of Ireland (2024) found that 29% of 18 – 22 year olds in Ireland had skipped meals due to cost and 10% of 18 – 29 year olds had taken out a loan to cover regular/monthly expenses.<sup>85</sup> Furthermore, research by Barnardo's in 2022 found that 1/5 of adults had skipped meals or reduced portion size to ensure children had enough to eat.<sup>86</sup>

The CRA (2023) has highlighted that certain groups are at higher risk of poverty, including lone parents, ethnic minorities, those at risk of homelessness and parents with a disability. Among other things, it has called for child poverty proofing, better standards of living for people living in

<sup>83</sup> Knocknaheeny, Blackpool, The Glen, Gurrabraher and Mayfield (Pobal HP Deprivation Index)

<sup>84</sup> Source: Gavin A., Költő A., Lunney, L., Maloney R., Walker, L., Nic Gabhainn and Kelly C., (2024) Health Behaviour in School-aged Children HBSC Study 2022, Department of Health, Government of Ireland and University of Galway

<sup>85</sup> Source: National Youth Council of Ireland (2024) State of our Young Nation, A Report into the Lives of Irish 18 – 29 Year Olds; National Youth Council of Ireland.

<sup>86</sup> Source: Amarach (2022) Food Poverty the Impact on Vulnerable Children and Families, Barnardo's

emergency accommodation, and protection for families experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.<sup>87</sup>

Barnardo's' 2024 Cost of Living research found that lone parents were far more likely to experience poverty and cut back on food than two parent families (30% compared to 17% of two parent families).<sup>88</sup> Consultations were held with lone parents in Cork as part of the development of Cork City's Local Economic and Community Plan (2024 – 2029). It identified barriers to inclusion in city life for lone parents, such as a lack of affordable housing and accessible childcare and that amenities were needed to support lone parents and their children.

One of *Young Ireland's* key areas of focus is child poverty, and the Roadmap for Social Inclusion (2020-2025) aims to reduce the number of people who are in consistent poverty and increase the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged in society.

#### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

To improve outcomes for children, young people and families experiencing poverty, Cork CYPSC is going to work on the following areas over the next three years:

- It will focus on reducing the impact that poverty has on lone parents, working with the Cork City Partnership supporting the development and sustainability of a series of lone parent supports.
- It plans to improve the coordination and effectiveness of responses to homelessness, by reestablishing the Cork CYPSC homelessness support group and highlighting and supporting research and homelessness initiatives in Cork.
- Continue to roll out the 'My Place to Play' resource to families living in homelessness and confined spaces.

Further details on these activities and related targets and key stakeholders are provided in Section 6 of the plan below.

### **Outcome 4, Local Priority 2:**

#### **Immigrants, including Children, Young People and Families Living in International Protection Accommodation**

##### ***Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area***

The second Local Priority Area that Cork CYPSC will focus on within Outcome 4 is immigrants living in international protection accommodation (including children, young people and families). The background to and rationale for this area of focus is provided below. The CYPSC will work to achieve the following objective within this priority area: *Immigrants and those living in international protection accommodation, have enhanced opportunities for community engagement, integration and employment/training.*

<sup>87</sup> Source: Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Press Release: 'A 'Child Poverty' Budget is not possible without targeted payments to support children feeling tightest grip of poverty'.

<sup>88</sup> Source: Barnardo's (2024) Cost of Living Crisis: Impact on Children 2024, Barnardo's

### ***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Children and young people who took part in focus groups and were living in international protection temporary accommodation, described cramped accommodation, often their whole families in one room, with no privacy or space to study, hang out with friends or take part in activities. In addition, some migrant young people held important roles within their homes helping with younger siblings and household duties which meant that they had even less opportunities to take part in recreational activities.

Some parents living in international protection accommodation or other congregated settings who were involved in focus groups were very concerned about the impact that living in one room for years at a time was having on the whole family. This was particularly challenging in accommodation centres where there were no communal spaces either indoors or outdoors for children to play or hang out.

In contrast to this, parents who were in accommodation which had communal spaces were very glad their children had the opportunity to socialise and take part in group activities. One of the focus groups was carried out with children and young people who were living in international protection accommodation and had been given the opportunity to participate in a music group. The children and young people were really enjoying it, particularly the opportunity it gave them to meet and socialise with other young people.

Other findings from the consultations include that children and young people from ethnic minorities were more likely than white young people to report that their family did not have enough money to pay for things. Feedback from parents echoed these sentiments, with some speaking about the fact that while there were clubs and activities available in the evenings in the wider community, the cost of these and the requirement to have transport was prohibitive for them.

Some refugees with the right to work were particularly concerned about a lack of affordable afterschool activities or childcare once the school day finished. This was due to the negative impact this was having on the children and on the family generally, as it prevented them from working full time, increasing their income and leaving the temporary accommodation in time.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Census 2022 data shows the proportion of the population in Cork whose birthplace is outside Ireland was 18%, slightly lower than the state average (20%). Cork City has a higher proportion of people born outside Ireland (20%) compared to Cork County (16%). As of February 2024, 100,901 people had arrived in Ireland from the Ukraine since May 2022<sup>89</sup>, 9% of whom were residing in Cork<sup>90</sup>. As of January 2024, there were 12 international protection accommodation Centres in Cork housing

<sup>89</sup> <https://data.cso.ie/table/UA05>

<sup>90</sup> based on the allocation of PPS numbers

518 International Protection Applicants, which equated to 9% of the total children in the state living in international protection accommodation.

The number of people living in international protection accommodation is increasing due to inward migration as well as a lack of affordable private accommodation which is preventing people with permission to leave international protection accommodation from getting their own accommodation. One of the results of this situation is an increasing cohort people who don't qualify for homeless supports but who are experiencing hidden homelessness and many negative outcomes.<sup>91</sup>

Various children's and immigrant rights organisations regionally and nationally have criticised the international protection system and the impact it is having on people and have called for it to be replaced with a not-for-profit and/or community accommodation model. Research by the ERSI in 2022 recommended that migrant origin children are given increased opportunities to engage in social activities, particularly in team sports, as it would be beneficial for integration and foster a positive self-image.<sup>92</sup>

Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre in Cork has highlighted that the isolated geographic location of some international protection centres in the county (particularly those with the largest number of children and young people) is resulting in significant barriers for residents in accessing services as well as barriers for children and young people in accessing in-person youth services and other opportunities for integration.<sup>93</sup> It has also highlighted the need for more awareness among service providers in Cork about the barriers that migrant young people face in accessing services and entitlements such as: homelessness, poverty, discrimination, trauma, mental health problems and culturally inappropriate services.<sup>94</sup>

Cork Migrant Centre has also highlighted the psychosocial vulnerabilities of migrant families (including young people) living in international protection centres in Cork, particularly the mental health risks associated with pre and post migration. They have called for dedicated mental health services, tailor made support services such as culturally relevant parenting programmes to support parenting bi-cultural children and dedicated 'safe/brave spaces' for young people to support their wellbeing recovery.

*Young Ireland* acknowledges that young people from minority ethnic backgrounds face additional challenges and require extra supports, and that when a person faces one form of disadvantage it

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<sup>91</sup> Source: Children's Rights Alliance (2024) Report Card 2024

<sup>92</sup> Source: Economic and Social Research Institute (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

<sup>93</sup> Source: Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre (2023) Submission to DCEDIY to inform a national strategy for migrant integration.

<sup>94</sup> Source: Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre (2023) Submission to the Action Plan for Youth Services.

can make other negative outcomes more likely. It commits to focussing on the needs of disadvantaged groups, as does Cork City's LECP (2024-2029).<sup>95</sup>

***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

In response to the issues raised in relation to the additional challenges facing people living in temporary accommodation in Cork, CYPSC will support immigrants and those living in international protection accommodation, to have enhanced opportunities for community engagement, integration and employment and training.

To achieve this, members plan to develop a structured programme of activities for children and young people living in international protection accommodation in Cork with partners, and to align with local authority integration teams and PPFS to signpost people to services and supports. For more information on these activities and related targets and key stakeholders who will work on this, see Section 6 below.

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<sup>95</sup> Source: Cork City Council (2024) Cork Local Economic and Social Plan 2024 – 2029, Cork: Cork City Council.

## 4.6 Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

### What did children, young people, families and service providers tell us generally in relation to this Outcome?

The consultations carried out for the purpose of the plan found that children and young people were generally positive about their level of connection with others in their lives, however some children, young people and parents belonging to minority ethnic groups described facing racism, discrimination or unfair treatment in Cork, and others talked about wanting to have their voices heard more by those in power.

*"If I had a magic wand I would... make sure all young people's voices are heard and it changes things."*

Young person, Cork

When asked what the best things were about living in Cork, nearly 40% of young people who completed a survey said 'good friends and relationships', nearly 30% said it was being near family members, and 26% felt it was the fact that Cork is a nice community/environment to live in. It is also positive to see that 86% of young people reported having good friends, and 83% reported having good relationships with their parents/guardians.

Some children and young people felt Cork was less welcoming. Over 10% of the survey respondents felt that prejudice was one of the worst things about living in Cork and 7% of respondents wanted to see more inclusion of people who are different or from minority backgrounds.

When asked what the biggest challenges facing children and young people were in their view, 18% of young survey respondents chose 'body image or pressure to look a certain way' and 11% highlighted the negative effects of social media. The impact of social media was also discussed in some focus groups with parents/ guardians where participants raised concerns in relation to the negative impact of it on their children, including on their friendships, their body image and their ability to socialise with others in person.

Parents/guardian's views on these matters echoed the young people, with over 30% of parents/guardians identifying that some of the best things about living in Cork for children and young people were a happy family, having a nice community to live in and good friends and relationships. However, parents were also concerned about the negative effects of social media, with 27% of survey respondents calling it one of the biggest challenges for children and young people at present. Parents also talked about the need for more community spaces for children and young people to socialise and participate in activities, so they are less reliant on technology and social media for entertainment and interaction.

Service providers who completed surveys were also concerned about the impact of social media, with 18% stating that this was one of the biggest challenges facing young people. However more service providers were concerned about family problems or stresses, as 25% identified this as one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people in Cork in their view, and 10% wanted to see parenting/family supports and services being improved.



## Are there sufficient services in relation to this Outcome?

During the consultations for this plan, 72% of service providers who responded to the survey did not think there were enough places for young people to spend their free time in Cork (only 10% thought there was enough and 19% didn't know). In addition, three quarters of respondents thought there were not enough youth clubs/projects for young people in Cork.

Nearly 50% of service providers thought there were insufficient services in relation to gender identity and sexuality, 15% thought these services were sufficient and 40% were unsure. Finally, 39% of services providers who answered this question felt there were not enough services for refugees and international protection applicants and 42% thought there were insufficient services and supports for migrant workers (45% were unsure and 14% felt they were sufficient).

## What are the Cork CYPSC Local Priority Areas within this Outcome?

In response to the needs and gaps that have been identified in this national outcome area of 'Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World', Cork CYPSC has committed to focussing on the following Local Priorities and objectives for the next three years:

Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World	
<b>Local Priority 1:</b>	
<b>Embedding the voice of children and young people in decision -making and the development of policy and practice</b>	
<b>Local Priority 2:</b>	
<b>Youth Led Anti-Racism</b>	

<b>Outcome 5, Local Priority 1:</b> <b>Embedding the voice of children and young people in decision-making and the development of policy and practice</b>	
<b><i>Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area</i></b>	
<p>The first Local Priority Area within Outcome 5 is about embedding the voice of children and young people in decision-making and the development of policy and practice. Within this priority area, Cork CYPSC is going to work towards achieving the following goal:</p> <p><b><i>A culture of meaningful participation of children and young people in Cork City and County on issues that impact their lives is promoted and supported.</i></b></p>	
<b><i>What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?</i></b>	
<p>Two thirds of the 740 children and young people who were consulted for the development of this Plan felt like they have an influence over decisions or changes that affect their lives, however nearly 30% felt they did not (or were unsure). Just over half of young respondents felt listened to by adults most of the time but a quarter did not feel listened to.</p> <p>When young people were asked what one thing would make things better in Cork, several said it would be if young people had more of a voice regarding decision-making and if their opinion were</p>	

heard. Children and young people in focus groups echoed the survey findings, describing how they felt their voices were not being heard regarding decision-making at a local or national level and that this was frustrating.

Several service providers raised the need to improve children and young people's participation in and influence over decision-making in Cork. Suggestions included: Creating a series of 'listening' workshops in a safe space outside of school for children and young people from seldom heard communities; and ensuring that children learn about their rights to participation and decision-making in school as a part of the curriculum and culture of the educational system.

#### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

According to the 2018 HBSC survey<sup>96</sup> 37% of children reported that students at their school participate in making the school rules in the southwest of Ireland. This was greater than the state average of 32.6%. Research by Young Social Innovators (2021) with 1,090 16 – 24 years olds found that 78% would like a greater say in the policies and plans that will impact on their future and 53% believed young people should be allowed to vote at 16.<sup>97</sup>

Academic research in 2017 into children and young people's experiences of participating in their communities in Ireland found that young people are engaged in a wide range of activities, however they have limited opportunities for participation in decisions affecting them.<sup>98</sup> It recommended that participation initiatives for children and young people should be accessible, meaningful, adapted to the needs and profile of participants and should not be tokenistic.

In 2024, DCEDIY published a report exploring approaches and methods to involving babies and young children in participation in decision-making. It highlighted that young children have the capacity to participate in decision-making if consultations are adapted appropriately and if they focus on ensuring 'participation with purpose'.<sup>99</sup> In addition, the Irish report of an EU project called IMMERSE looking at children's integration in educational settings recommended that participation channels be adapted to migrant contexts to enable meaningful participation.<sup>100</sup>

The Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-making: Action Plan (2024-2028) commits to establishing and improving mechanisms for the participation of seldom heard and vulnerable children and young people.<sup>101</sup> The government's Community Engagement in Local

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<sup>96</sup>Source: <https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16>

<sup>97</sup> Source: Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2022) GenZindex Future Outlook.

<sup>98</sup> Source: Forde, C.; Horgan, D.; Martin, S. Dr; and Parkes, A (2017) "Children and Young People's Participation in the Community in Ireland: Experiences and Issues," Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies: Vol. 17: Iss. 1, Article 2.

<sup>99</sup> Source: O'Donnell, A. (2024) Report of Two Pilot Studies Exploring Approaches and Methods to Involve Babies, Toddlers, and Young Children in Participation in Decision-making, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

<sup>100</sup> Source: O'Riordan, J., Martin, S., Horgan, D., Maier, R. (2017) National recommendation paper – Ireland, Immerse.

<sup>101</sup> Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2024) Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-making, Action Plan 2024 - 2028

Planning and Decision-Making guide states that any public participation should be genuine, purposeful, planned, clear, inclusive, collaborative, accountable, accessible and fit for purpose.<sup>102</sup>

In its submission to the development of the Cork County Development Plan, Cork CYPSC called for the County to take a strong stance on the inclusion of seldom heard voices, particularly those who are more marginalised, or may experience racism and social exclusion. A Cork CYPSC (2016) scoping report on social and emotional wellbeing highlighted the importance of children and young people having meaningful opportunities for participation, and positive impact that this can have on confidence and self-esteem, as well as better-quality relationships with peers and family. It recommended several ways that Cork CYPSC and others could ensure the participation of children and young people including things like discussions/interviews, voting, music or drama workshops, peer research projects and participation through social media.<sup>103</sup>

#### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

In order to support and promote a culture of meaningful participation of children and young people in Cork City and County, Cork CYPSC plans to support participation projects in Cork schools; provide training for teachers on meaningful participation strategies; provide support for Cork's Child Friendly City project and develop a Cork CYPSC engagement plan to enable children and young people to participate in and feedback on the CYPSC. For more information on related targets and key stakeholders, see Section 6 below.

### **Outcome 5, Local Priority 2:**

#### **Youth-led Anti Racism**

#### ***Cork CYPSC objective in relation to this Local Priority Area***

Within Outcome 5, Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World, Cork CYPSC has identified youth-led anti-racism work as a second Local Priority Area. The background and rationale to this is provided in the sections below on what the consultations and other data tell us in relation to this priority area. The three objectives that the CYPSC will work to achieve over the next three years in relation to the area of anti-racism are:

##### **Objective 1**

***Policy makers/ organisations engage with young people to implement anti racism policy and practice.***

##### **Objective 2**

***Teachers are trained in the use of an anti-racist tool kit***

##### **Objective 3**

***Organisations in Cork are supported to respond to racist messaging***

<sup>102</sup> Source: Department of Rural and Community Development, Pobal, Community Work Ireland and the Irish Local Development Network (2023) *A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

<sup>103</sup> Source: Cleary, M. (2016) CYPSC: Social and Emotional Wellbeing, An outline report on social and emotional well-being as it relates to children and young people, Cork CYPSC.

### ***What did the consultations tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

12% (nearly 90) of the children and young people who completed a survey identified prejudice and hate as one of the worst things about living in Cork, and 7% wanted to see more inclusion of people who are different or from minority backgrounds. Further analysis found that greater proportions of ethnic minorities had experienced discrimination compared to white Irish young people. The highest proportion of young people that reported experiencing discrimination or bullying were Black or Black Irish (60%), followed by those with a Mixed Background (41%) and Asian or Asian Irish (40%).

Some of the young people in focus groups who belonged to ethnic minority groups also reported experiencing racism or discrimination in Cork. Some were aware of far-right sentiment growing online and felt it was gaining traction amongst young boys and men. Some young people living in international protection accommodation were aware of negative misinformation online, and from parents of classmates. They also reported that teachers in schools were not always sensitive to the circumstances of young people who were seeking international protection. Parents also talked about anti-immigrant misinformation growing online and a few participants reported that their children were being treated negatively in school due to English not being their first language.

One focus group in Cork City that was made up of primarily Black or Black Irish young people who were participating in an anti-racism youth led group talked about feeling a lot more positive about their lives in Cork since taking part in the group. They also felt that it was having a positive impact on their overall well-being, and they felt more included and less discriminated against.

In focus groups with the Traveller community, both young people and parents talked about prejudice and discrimination that Travellers experience in various settings including in schools and shops, as well as systemic racism. They talked about the need for the government and schools to improve inter-cultural awareness and for more acceptance of Traveller culture among the rest of the population including among both teachers and students in schools.

### ***What does other data tell us in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

Research published by the ESRI in March 2024 found that attitudes towards immigration and refugees are largely positive, both compared with other countries and compared to previous data. However, it found that some attitudes became less positive in the latter half of 2023 and that more people than previously feel that immigration is one of the top issues facing Ireland at present.<sup>104</sup>

A monitoring tool (ireport.ie) for racist incidents in Ireland recorded 600 reports about racism from the public in 2022 and increasing reports of criminal offences against people. People who identified as Black African, Black Irish or Black-Other were more likely to report incidents of crime and most reports of discrimination came from people of Black African, Black Irish or Black-Other

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<sup>104</sup> Source: Laurence, J., F. McGinnity and K. Murphy (2024). Attitudes towards immigration and refugees in Ireland: Understanding recent trends and drivers, Jointly published Reports 5, Dublin: ESRI and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

backgrounds. Perpetrators of racist crimes or racist incidents were over twice as likely to be adults (73%) than young people (29%).<sup>105</sup>

A European project which looked at children's integration in education found that, in Ireland, migrant-background children feel high levels of belonging trust their teachers and receive support from friends and peers. However, it also found evidence that migrant and ethnic minority young people commonly experience bullying, racism and ethnic stereotyping in Irish schools. To improve integration and levels of belonging among migrant young people, it recommends that racism within educational settings and across communities should be addressed.<sup>106</sup>

According to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), 65% of Travellers reported experiencing discrimination in Ireland; one of the highest reported rates within the six European countries it surveyed.<sup>107</sup> Pavee Point has stated that persistent racism and discrimination faced by Travellers makes them among the most marginalised groups in Ireland.<sup>108</sup> Furthermore, in 2017 the ESRI found that Travellers are almost 10 times more likely to experience discrimination in seeking work compared to non-Travellers and that they are 22 times more likely to experience discrimination in accessing private services.

In 2023 the UNCRC called on the government to take all measures necessary to prevent and combat the persistent discrimination, racism and inequality faced by people of African descent, Traveller and Roma communities, immigrants and others.<sup>109</sup> The government is currently developing a new national strategy for migrant integration, and it recently published a new National Action Plan Against Racism 2023 – 2027 with actions aiming to 'create a more inclusive Ireland, where everyone feels safe to live their own lives.'<sup>110</sup> Cork City's draft LECP (2023 – 2029) aims to demonstrate a commitment to anti-discrimination and recommends a consultative approach to help deepen the evidence base available to public bodies.

#### ***What is Cork CYPSC planning to work on in relation to this Local Priority Area?***

In response to the needs identified and issues raised during the development of this plan in relation to racism and discrimination, Cork CYPSC will work on several goals and activities. It will:

- Support young people to engage with policy makers and service providers at an annual youth-led anti racism summit in Cork, encouraging organisations to make pledges in support of an anti-racism strategy.

<sup>105</sup> Source: Michael, L. Dr, Reynolds, D, and Omid, N. Dr. (2022) Reports of Racism in Ireland, data from iReport.ie

<sup>106</sup> Source: O'Riordan, J., Martin, S., Horgan, D., Maier, R. ( National recommendation paper – Ireland, Immerse.

<sup>107</sup> Source: Coalition of Traveller and Roma Organisations (2024) Joint Alternative Report to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>108</sup> Source: Coalition of Traveller and Roma Organisations (2024) Joint Alternative Report to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Available at: [https://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pavee-Point-Traveller-and-Roma-Centre\\_ICESCR-Ireland-Traveller-and-Roma-2024-Final.pdf](https://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pavee-Point-Traveller-and-Roma-Centre_ICESCR-Ireland-Traveller-and-Roma-2024-Final.pdf)

<sup>109</sup> Source: UN (2024) Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Ireland to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<sup>110</sup> Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/d157a-minister-obrien-announces-publication-of-irelands-national-action-plan-against-racism-2023-2027/>

- Support young people to develop a series of anti-racism resources including an anti-racism toolkit for schools and train teachers in the use of the toolkit.
- Work with Kerry CYPSC to develop a regional communications strategy that supports organisations to deal with racist messaging.

For further information on the relevant targets, activities and key stakeholders see Section 6 of the plan below.

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

Below is a summary of Cork CYPSC Local Priority Themes, categorised by the five *Young Ireland* National Outcome Areas for children and young people. These have been informed by and decided on based on the findings derived from conducting demographic profiling; service mapping; local consultations; assessments of needs and strategic planning in the process of developing this Plan. Further details on these are provided in Sections 2 to 4 above.

The specific objectives, targets, indicators and related activities that will be carried out under each priority area are outlined below in Section 6 of this Plan. The strategic planning meetings with Cork CYPSC members also discussed internal matters related to Cork CYPSC and change management, which resulted in the identification of several priority areas within the category of Change Management.

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Themes
Active and Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People</li> <li>• Wellbeing of Marginalised/Seldom Heard Groups</li> <li>• Vaping</li> </ul>
Achieving in Learning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellbeing and Engagement in Learning</li> <li>• Parental Supports</li> </ul>
Safe and Protected from Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence</li> <li>• Bullying</li> </ul>
Economic Security and Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Poverty</li> <li>• Immigrants including children, young people and families living in International Protection Accommodation</li> </ul>
Connected, Respected, and Contributing to their World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding the voice of children and young people in decision-making and the development of policy and practice</li> <li>• Youth Led Anti-racism</li> </ul>
Change Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Frontline Practitioners</li> <li>• Governance and Communications</li> <li>• Support Inclusion and access for parents to attend events</li> </ul>



## **Section 6: Cork CYPSC Action Plan for 2024 – 2026**

This section details the objectives and activities that are planned by Cork CYPSC for each of the five National Outcomes for Children and Young People. Each National Outcome Area is presented by Local Priority Area and accompanied by objectives, targets, indicators, activities, timeframe for completion, key stakeholders and links to other Plans.

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People</b>	<b>Children, young people and families are supported and empowered to improve their wellbeing and address issues which impact on their health.</b>	Active and Healthy subgroup established.	5 meetings per year	-Set up an 'Active and Healthy' subgroup of CYPSC.	Q4 2024	<b>Lead:</b> Tusla, Healthy Cities	Healthy Cities Action Plan	<i>Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World</i>  <i>Listen to Children and young people Ensure Quality services</i>
		No. of Information sessions	1x targeted Information session annually	-Subgroup to identify and plan an information campaign to promote Active Citizenship and target key thematic areas to disseminate Information.	Q3 2025	<b>Partners</b> ETB HSE City Council Tusla TVG Cork Migrant Centre Let's grow together. Healthy Promoting Schools NYCI Child Friendly Cities	Stronger Together – The HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022-2027	
		Code of Practice developed to advocate for youth focused health services.	1x Code of Practice	-Develop a Code of Practice in collaboration with children and young people which identifies the barriers to accessing health services and ways of improving service user experience.	Q4 2025		National Healthy Childhood Programme	
		Attendance at Child Health Governance SG Meetings	80% attendance at Child Health Governance SC	CYPSC continued participation within the HSE Child Health Governance steering group to continue to work on alignment of plans and engagement with service users, to inform the planning, development, delivery, and monitoring of child health services.	ongoing		Healthy Weight for Children HSE Action Plan 2021 - 2023	

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
		<p>No. of County LGBTQ Interagency meetings</p> <p>Information has been shared through CYPSC network</p>	<p>4 Meetings annually</p> <p>All projects collated and promoted across the County.</p>	<p>CYPSC to continue to engage with the County Cork Interagency LGBTQI+ Network (CCILN) To empower, motivate and guide service providers and LGBTQ+ service users across County Cork. Raising awareness, promoting and sharing LGBTQI+ information which supports wellbeing and to ensure young LGBTQI+ are consulted.</p> <p>Promote LGBTQI+ Awareness Week through CYPSC networks.</p>		<p><b>Lead:</b> Cumann na Daoine</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> County Council Gay Men's Project Linc County and City Libraries FRCs CDYS</p>	<p>Seeding the County A Needs Assessment of LGBTQ+ People Living in the County Cumann na Daoine and East Cork</p> <p>Thriving Lives a Strategic plan for LGBTQ+ Inclusion and development in County Cork 2022 - 2027</p> <p>National LGBTQ+ Inclusion strategy 2019 - 2021</p>	<p><i>Outcome 3 Safe and Protected and Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World</i></p>

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Wellbeing of Marginalised /Seldom Heard Groups</b>	<b>Children and young people who are homeless in Cork have access to activities which promote positive physical and mental wellbeing.</b>	<p>No. of activities offered on a weekly basis</p> <p>No. of children and young people who engage in activities</p> <p>Children, young people and parents report improved wellbeing in evaluation</p>	<p>5 weekly activities offered</p> <p>90 children and young people engage in weekly activities.</p> <p>X1 Annual Consultation with children, young people and parents</p> <p>X 1 Impact assessment and evaluation</p>	<p>Using the Healthy Ireland Fund to target supports to children and families living in Homelessness.</p> <p>The 'Youth club Pod' Project will provide a weekly Menu of activities to include Youth club age 4-13yrs and teenage groups</p> <p>Specialised/targeted groups to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast club</li> <li>• Gym and coffee group</li> <li>• Parent and Toddler group</li> <li>• Individual 'wraparound' interventions.</li> </ul> <p>with a focus on health fitness and well-being and in line with the Healthy Ireland Framework.</p> <p>Children, young people and parents will be consulted on the service.</p>	<p>2024 – 2026</p> <p>Q2 - 4</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Good Shepherds Cork and Springboard</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Local Authority Foróige City Child Care</p>	<p>Southwest Region Action plan Homeless services (Cork City/County/ Kerry County Council</p> <p>Healthy Ireland Strategic Actions 2021 - 2025</p>	Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Improve the physical health, mental wellbeing and opportunities for creative play for children with lifelong/complex health care needs</b>	<p>No. of programmes offered: Outpatients, Community, Online Helium Arts Scoping Exercise</p> <p>Strengthened referral/ signposting links with PPFS, CFSN</p>	<p>900 outpatient 100 Community 20 online X1 Pilot Project developed between Helium and Cork Steering group</p> <p>10-15% of referrals/ signposting using the CFSN networks (currently it is about 5%)</p>	<p>CYPSC will continue to engage with the Helium arts Steering group Support Helium Arts to deliver programmes to children with lifelong, complex health conditions throughout Cork City and County.</p> <p>The steering group works together to identify how Helium Arts can work together with Tusla to be more jointly effective in supporting better outcomes for children, particularly for children living with lifelong condition</p> <p>The Helium arts Steering group to support the future roll out of a Model of Social Prescribing Pilot project in Cork.</p> <p>Steering group collaboration with Tusla/PPFS to be more jointly effective in supporting better outcomes for children living with lifelong conditions.</p>	<p>Scoping Planning and resourcing pilot Q2 2024</p> <p>Pilot in 2025 Review and sustain 2026</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Helium Arts Steering group</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Togher Family Centre Initiative  Local Authority Arts Offices  HSE Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare</p>	Helium Arts Strategy and Scoping Report on children living with lifelong physical health conditions within Tusla's services (Helium Arts 2024)	Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Wellbeing of young Travellers is supported through increased cultural awareness among service providers, supporting the engagement and participation of Young Travellers who access services</b>	No of Subgroup meetings	5 meetings per year with 3 Young Travellers attending the subgroup.	Keeping Young Travellers Well (KYTW) Steering Group will engage with Young Travellers to identify and respond to their needs, building capacity of young Travellers to be involved in CYPSC.	2024 – 2026 Q1- 4	<b>Lead: TVG</b> <b>Partners</b> NYP PPFS NYCI Travellers Women's Network Tusla ETB TNC  Tusla National Steering group	National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy	Outcome 3 Safe and Protected and Outcome 5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
		No of Young Travellers engaging	30 Young Travellers engaging in Programmes.	The steering group will develop programmes and activities with young Travellers that will afford them the opportunity to have their voices heard.			National Traveller Health Plan 2022-2027	
		No of Traveller Cultural Awareness training workshops	Roll out 3 Traveller Cultural Awareness Training (TCAT) trainings per year.	KYTW steering group will coordinate and support the roll out of Traveller Cultural Awareness Training (TCAT) across Cork City and County with the CFSN networks to promote Traveller Cultural awareness in all agencies in Cork.			Cork/Kerry Traveller Health Implementation Plan Missing on the Tobar 2022-2028	
		No of staff trained	60 front line staff trained in TCAT.	Representation on behalf of CYPSC on the Tusla Traveller Child and Youth Participation a subgroup of the National Tusla Traveller Youth Advisory group to support a national approach to give children and young people a voice in collaboration with Traveller organisations and initiatives working with Traveller children and young people.			National Traveller and Roma Inclusion strategy 2024 - 2028	

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Vaping</b>	<b>Children, young people and parents are supported to understand the risks of vaping.</b>	No. of Information sources available to CYP and families  Submission to Government re regulation	Dissemination of Information/ resources on anti-vaping  X 1 submission to Government	-Promote the HSE anti vaping resources/Campaigns. HSE Quit4YouthProgramme  Cork CYPSC presentation to Health Promotion team on the findings of the consultations  -Collaborate with Cork City Council 'Not around us.'  -Written submission to regulate access and attractiveness of Vaping.	Q3 2024 - 2026	<b>Lead responsibility:</b> HSE Health Promotion  <b>Partners:</b> Local Authority Tusla/ CFSN's Healthy Cities	<i>Cork City Council 'Not around us'</i> Local Authority LECP  Tobacco Free Ireland Policy – DOH HSE Tobacco Free prog 2022 - 2025	Outcome 3 safe and Protected



## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 2: Achieving in 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) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Wellbeing and Engagement in Learning</b>	<b>People working in education settings are more trauma informed and are supported to use this approach in their work.</b>	No. of services that take part in the training and also sign up to the City Council Trauma Informed pledge	80% of CYPSC members complete online training and all organisations sign the TI Pledge.  3 schools in City and County per year	CYPSC to support the Trauma Sensitive City Initiative including promoting completion of Trauma Informed (TI) training, signing of the City Council TI pledge and signposting.  Roll out a pilot of the trauma Informed education module and evaluate afterwards.  Promote the expansion of Let's Grow Together Trauma Informed Early Years Infant mental health training.	Q2 - 2025    Q4 2025	<b>Lead:</b> TESS City Council Tusla ETB  <b>Partners:</b> City Council SCP Let's grow together	We are Cork. Our Vision for a trauma Sensitive City City Council 2022 - 2025	Outcome 1 Healthy and Active
	<b>Young people's successes and challenges on their journey through education are communicated to service providers and policy makers</b>	No of young people trained as champions  No. of workshops provided	8 young people trained as champions who are reflective of a broad range of education.  Training workshops provided	Establish the Young People's Champion steering group  Provide a training programme targeting specific educational settings to establish a young people as Champions, group to give a platform for their voices to be heard and to feed into CYPSC/ policy makers	Q4 2025	<b>Lead:</b> Cork Life Centre  <b>Partners:</b> HSE; Tusla; CDY's, Child Friendly Cities, Cork Migrant Centre, TESS, ETB		

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 2: Achieving in 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) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Advocate for an Education Support Team in every educational setting which can respond flexibly to the needs of children and young people.</b>	Delivery of CYPSC submission	x 1 CYPSC submission to the Department of Education	Engagement and progression with the Department of Education on CYPSC In liaison with TESS.	Q2 2025	<b>Lead:</b> TESS; Tusla  <b>Partners:</b> CYPSC committee	Addressing the Participation and Retention of children in Education - TESS	Outcome 1
	<b>Children, young people and families are informed of transition supports that are available.</b>	List is in place and available widely.  Event to highlight supports	List of supports available on information hub and shared with services in Cork  x1 Showcase event annually	Complete a cross sectoral scoping exercise of available programmes to support children and young people's educational transitions including supports available to those with additional needs and showcase same.  Showcase event themes by transition e.g. ECCE to primary, primary to secondary, JC to LC, LC to PLC/Work/Apprenticeship.	Q3 2025	<b>Lead:</b> TESS ETB  <b>Partners:</b> Healthy Cities, Cork Life Centre, IPPN NAPD	Dept of Education 2021 Guidance to support effective management of Transition from early learning to Primary school	Outcome 1

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 2: Achieving in 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) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
Parental Supports	Fathers are engaged and supported to support their child's well-being with a particular focus on social and emotional well-being.	Workshop takes place  Number of fathers invited.  No. of fathers engaged.  No. of children impacted	X1 parent workshop with fathers (Year 1)  Tangible feedback from fathers about what assists them in their role as a parent. 10 Fathers engaging  15 children impacted	Gather information about what has been done with fathers and what feedback has been given by fathers to date.  Deliver x1 parent workshop with fathers only to determine its applicability with the role of fathers. Consider how, where and when.  Link with men or fathers' groups (men's sheds) Agree plan next steps of a targeted approach with parents. Create a safe space for fathers to participate without judgement	Q4 2024    Q1 2025	<b>Lead:</b> Barnardo's Supporting Parents Subgroup  <b>Partners:</b> Let's Grow Together PPFS Springboard HSE Tusla Fostering	Tusla Parenting Support Strategy 2022 - 2027	Outcome 1
	The capacity of professionals to utilise the Parent Action Leaflets is improved and increased.	No of parent workshops    No of Practitioners trained	20 parent workshops delivered annually by those who have completed the Train the Trainer Workshop  30 Practitioners trained	Supporting Parents subgroup resource worker to provide facilitator training, support and mentoring. Gather and collation of data from the workshops provided to parents as well as children impacted. Link with Info and Research group to support evaluation. Year 2 and 3 deliver a Networking event for facilitators and parents	Q4 2024 – 2026    Q3 2025 Q3 2026	<b>Lead:</b> Barnardo's <b>Partners:</b> Youghal Family Initiative County Child Care Committee PPFS Springboard Let's Grow Together HSE		Outcome 1

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Outcome 2: Achieving in 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) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Parents have accessible and trusted information regarding parenting supports</b>	A Cork Parent Hub established  No of Parent Forum meeting	1x Parent Hub established in Cork  4 parent Forum meetings facilitated: 2 in person 2 online	Hub to be developed and managed by PPFS and promoted by the supporting parents sub-group. Supporting Parents subgroup members to promote and support parents to engage with the PPFS Parent Forum initiative.	Q4 2025	<b>Lead:</b> Tusla PPFS  <b>Partners:</b> Supporting Parents Subgroup	Tusla Parenting Strategy	Outcome 1

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

### 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) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence</b>	<b>Children, young people and parents are informed of available DSGBV services and referral pathways.</b>	All services are mapped.  One source with links to supports/ services	100% services mapped and accessible.	Mapping of all DSGBV services completed. Communicate info via: -Social media (Instagram, Tik Tok) -QR code  Identification of Dedicated, funded supports including administration	Q3 2025	<b>Lead:</b> Barnardo's  <b>Partners:</b> Satu, Tusla ISPCC West Cork Beacon, CMC UCC, MTU	Third National Strategy on Domestic, sexual and Gender based violence 2022 - 2026	Outcome 1
	<b>An Empower Kidz Forum is established to provide a platform for children and young people with experience of DSGBV to have their voices heard.</b>	Establishment of the forum  No. of young people involved	Forum established  10 children engaging in the forum	Set up a Cork Empower Kidz forum which links in with the CYPSC Safe and Protected subgroup.  Support the young people involved to engage with the forum and share their views	Q3 2024	<b>Lead:</b> Barnardo's TLC Kidz  <b>Partners:</b> Safe and Protected subgroup	Barnardo's Cork TLC Kidz evaluation report 2023	Outcome 1
	<b>Frontline workers in DSGBV are supported to provide effective trauma informed responses in their work through training and upskilling</b>	No. of organisations training workshops offered to  No. of annual TLC/Empower Kidz events	Suite of training offered to frontline providers in 15 organisations  Annual TLC/Empower Kidz events	Apply for The Wheel 'Training Links' grant for Community and Voluntary organisations to set up a Training Network.  Roll out of an annual TLC/Empower Kidz Event	Q1 2025 Q2 2024 apply to the Wheel. Q4 Set up Training Network	<b>Lead:</b> Barnardo's  <b>Partners:</b> Safe and Protected subgroup	Barnardo's Empower Kids participation study 2023	Outcome 1 and 5

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

### 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) +/or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Bullying</b>	<b>Children, young people and parents in Cork have more awareness of anti-bullying strategies and resources.</b>	<p>The ISPCC Shield Programme self-evaluation toolkit has been promoted</p> <p>No of resources available and accessible</p>	<p>5 Primary schools per annum</p> <p>80% CYPSC members</p> <p>X 1 presentation to CYPSC on Shield prog</p> <p>Collate resources</p>	<p>Support the roll out and promotion of the ISPCC Shield Training to Primary Schools to support their self-evaluation and proactively manage bullying in Cork City and County</p> <p>Collate available training and resources and promote through CYPSC networks and website</p>	Q4 2024, 2025, 2026	<p><b>Lead:</b> ISPCC</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Safe and protected Subgroup</p>	ISPCC Anti Bullying Programme evaluation 2022	Outcome 1

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### 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) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
Child Poverty	The impact of poverty on lone parents is alleviated.	Steering group established  Suite of supports for lone parents are available  Evaluation completed	X1 steering group established Plan written.  20 Lone Parents engaging and accessing services  X1 Evaluation report completed.	Cork City Partnership will be supported in the development and sustainability of a series of lone parent supports.  New Lone Parent Support Group in Gurrabraher, set up May 2024. This group provides support to women who are parenting alone. We will complete an evaluation to include the voice of lone Parents  Development of a new Lone Parent Support Group in Ballincollig.	Q4 2026	<b>Lead:</b> Cork City Partnership  <b>Partners:</b> Togher Family Centre, Let's Grow Together, Tusla PPFS, University College Cork, Munster Technological University	Ireland's National Plan under the EU child guarantee	Outcome 1 Outcome 5
	The coordination and effectiveness of interagency responses in relation to homelessness is improved.	Committee re-structured  No of agencies engaging in Homeless subgroup  No. of meetings per year	Re-structured committee on Youth homelessness incorporating all current groups with 10 organisations meeting 4 times per year	-Re- establish the Cork CYPSC homelessness subgroup.  -Highlight and support initiatives to deliver to families living in, or at risk of homelessness.  -Support the dissemination of research on the joint GSC/Springboard Pod model for potential expansion to other geographical areas in Cork.	Q3 2024	<b>Lead:</b> Tusla <b>Partners:</b> Local Authority, Third level Ins, Springboard, Novas, Cork Simon Foyer, Tusla Liberty street, ETB, AGS, Good Shepherd, Cork	Youth Homeless Strategy 2023 – 2025 department of Housing	Outcome 1 Active and Healthy and Outcome 3 Safe and Protected



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### Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>My place to play mat resource is accessed by families living in homelessness</b>	No. of families accessing resources	50+ families receive the MPTP resource annually	-Continue to roll out the 'My Place to Play' resource to families in homelessness and living in confined spaces.  Support the national evaluation of MPTP resource.	Q4 2026	<b>Lead:</b> Cork City Child Care Committee <b>Partners:</b> PPFS County Child Care Committee		
<b>Immigrants including children, young people and families living in International Protection Accommodation</b>	<b>Immigrants and those living in international protection accommodation, have enhanced opportunities for community engagement, integration, and employment/training</b>	No. of programmes developed.  No of Children and Young people engaging in services	8 programmes engaging with over 300 CYP and Families  300+ children and young people  Clear signposting structure	-Structured programme of activities developed, implemented and reviewed using the DCEDIY International Protection Support Service Funding to cover City and County  -Align with the Local Authority Integration Teams and PPFS to signpost to services and supports.	Q4 2024	<b>Lead:</b> Nasc and Cork Migrant Centre  <b>Partners:</b> Partnerships CDYS Kasi City and County Council LAIT Tusla PPFS		<i>Safe and protected</i>  <i>Outcome 5 Connected Respected and Contributing to their world</i>

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

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

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Embedding the voice of children and young people in decision-making and the development of policy and practice</b>	<b>A culture of meaningful participation of children and young people in Cork City and County on issues that impact their lives is promoted and supported.</b>	No of Teachers trained in the Lundy Model of Participation	7 Teachers receive briefing and training in the Lundy Model from Little Island NS	Participation project in Little Island N.S. developing a space in the school/learning environment that is accessible to all children in the school. To allow the children in the school to create and lead the development of the project.	Q4 2024	<b>Lead:</b> Little Island NS  <b>Partners:</b> ISPCC City Child Care Committee PPFS, Wallaroo Playschool, Barnardo's, Lets Grow together,	<i>Tusla Child and Youth Participation strategy 2019 - 2023</i>	<i>Outcome 1 Active and Healthy</i>
		World Children's Day event	X1 World Childrens Day event	Plan a World Childrens day event with the whole school based on the Lundy model on the theme Investing in Childrens Futures	Q4 2024			<i>Quality Services</i>
		No of Children engaged in Presenting World Childrens Day Event		Written Report and guidance on the process of supporting training for teachers in Participation Practice in Schools	Q2 2025			
		Child friendly City plan developed.	X1 Participation worker recruited for Cork Friendly Cities to develop Plan.	Support the delivery of a child friendly city strategic plan through the What Works Funding to recruit a Child Friendly Cities development worker who will engage with children and young people.	Worker recruited Q2 2024 Plan developed Q2 2025	<b>Lead:</b> <i>Let's Grow Together</i>  <b>Partners</b> <i>Cork Child Friendly Cities Steering group.</i>		

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

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

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- or Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>A culture of meaningful participation of children and young people in Cork City and County on issues that impact their lives is promoted and supported.</b>	No. of Children and Young People engaged in CYPSC          Attendance at Comhairle Steering Group Meetings	20 young people engaged in CYPSC structures.          6 meetings annually	Develop an engagement plan with dedicated resources to enable children and young people to participate in CYPSC, ensure feedback process from YP is embedded in all CYPSC subgroups and practice.   Cork CYPSC to continue to sit on the Children in Care Steering group which promotes the voice of children in care.   CYPSC Co-ordinator to continue to represent Cork CYPSC on the City and County Comhairle steering groups.	<i>Ongoing from Q3 2024 – 2026</i>          Q4 2026	<b>Lead</b> CYPSC Co-ordinator <b>Partners:</b> Child Friendly City Steering group TVG CMC CDYS Comhairle na nOg  <b>Lead:</b> City and County Council Comhairle Steering group members		

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

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

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Youth-led Anti Racism</b>	<b>Policy makers/ organisations engage with young people to implement anti racism policy and practice</b>	Annual Youth Led Summit Held  No. of YP engaging  No. of organisations attending  Organisations attending that make an anti-racism Pledge.	1 x YL Summit annually  60 YP engaging  80 service providers attending summit.  75% of organisations attending Summit make a Pledge and inform CYPSC/ summit organisers.	<i>Support the Annual Youth Led Anti racism summit supporting Young People to engage with Policy makers and service providers to embed Anti Racist Policy and Practice</i>  <i>During the Summit Organisations will be asked to make Pledges in support of an Anti-racism Strategy. Strategy developed for CYPSC members.</i>	Q2 2024 2025 2026	<b>Lead:</b> Cork Migrant Centre  <b>Partners:</b> TVG CYPSC anti racism subgroup: UCC Tusla MTU EIL City Council	NAPAR	<i>Outcome 1 Active and Healthy and Outcome 3 Safe and Protected</i>  <i>Quality Services</i>
	<b>Teachers are trained in the use of an anti-racist tool kit</b>	Workshop to teachers to deliver AR toolkit.  No. of schools targeted No. of teachers trained	<i>Workshops delivered</i>  <i>3 schools targeted</i> <i>6 teachers trained each year</i>	<i>Youth led anti racism toolkit rolled out to schools- pilot. Young people supported to develop a series of resources.</i>	Q 4 2025	<b>Lead:</b> Cork Migrant Centre  <b>Partners:</b> CYPSC anti racist subgroup	<i>National Action Plan Against Racism</i>	<i>Safe and Protected</i>  <i>Quality Services</i>

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 – 2026

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

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Organisations in Cork are supported to respond to Anti migrant sentiment</b>	Communication Strategy developed	<i>1 Regional Communication Strategy</i>	<i>Cork and Kerry CYPSC to develop a Regional Communication Strategy to support organisations to deal with anti-migrant and racist messaging</i>	<i>Q4 2024</i>	<b>Lead:</b> Kerry and Cork CYPSC  <b>Partners:</b> Cork CYPSC anti racist subgroup	<i>National Action Plan Against Racism</i>	<i>Safe and Protected</i>  <i>Quality Services</i>

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) +/-or Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Supporting Frontline Practitioners</b>	<b>A supportive Community of Practice is created which provides opportunities for frontline practitioners to reflect and build on interagency relationships.</b>	CYPSC hosts Practitioner reflective sessions	X 5 practitioner sessions	CYPSC members will host a series of mornings which give stakeholders a space to meet, reflect on, support each other and share practice.	2024 Q3 2025 Q2 and Q4 2026 Q2 and Q4	<b>Lead:</b> CYPSC Committee  <b>Partners:</b> LCDC CFSN Cand V partners		Cross government and interagency collaboration and coordination
	<b>People working with children, young people and families are more trauma Informed and supported to use this approach in their work.</b>	Trauma Informed Training Opportunities provided	20 organisations complete the TI training	CYPSC to support the Trauma Sensitive City Initiative including promoting completion of the TI training, signing of the pledge and signposting.		<b>Lead:</b> City Council  <b>Partners:</b> Tusla ETB	Cork City Council Trauma Sensitive Cities Strategy 2022 - 2025	Quality Services

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### 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) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
<b>Governance and Communications</b>	<b>Cork CYPSC has a robust governance and communication structure for the effective implementation of the plan</b>	<p>Governance subgroup established</p> <p>Review and Evaluation Process established</p>	<p>X 1 Governance group meeting twice annually</p> <p>6 monthly review of CYPP</p>	<p>1. Governance sub-group is set up and Chairperson put in place</p> <p>-Terms of reference drafted and agreed to include:</p> <p>-Decision-making processes and structures are recorded and communicated to all CYPSC members including sub-groups. This will include processes around membership, finances, voice of YP and communication strategy</p> <p>CYPSC Sub-Groups are reviewed to enable them to meet objectives in the Plan and ensure they are aligned with 5 national outcomes</p> <p>-Sub-groups are set up/re-named/re-structured</p> <p>-Chairperson of each put in place</p> <p>-Work currently ongoing in current sub-groups becomes part of the work of these wider sub-groups as relevant.</p> <p>Regular reporting and evaluation. Information and Research group to lead on Review and evaluation</p> <p>National CYPSC reporting schedule is completed. Including Annual Programme of Work, mid- year and annual progress reports</p>	Q3 2025	<p><b>Lead:</b> City Child Care Committee</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> HSE ISPCC County Council CDYS</p>		Cross Government and Interagency collaboration and Coordination



## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### 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) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>Cork CYPSC engages in the CYPSC review to highlight strengths and need for resources to enable it to successfully meet its internal and external objectives</b>	CYPSC member engagement in Review Process	90% Survey completion by CYPSC members	All CYPSC members engage in the CYPSC review process.	Q4 2024	<b>Lead:</b> CYPSC members		Quality Services
	<b>Children, young people and families have a clear understanding and awareness of Cork CYPSC</b>	Awareness of CYPSC among CYP and families has increased.	CYPSC communication strategy  Youth Friendly version of CYPP developed	-Source funding for help with external communications  -Graphic Harvested and facilitated sessions with Comhairle na nOg and other YP to Develop a Youth Friendly version of the plan.	Q2 2025	<b>Lead:</b> CYPSC Co-ordinator  <b>Partners:</b> Comhairle na nOg/ YMCA Let's Grow Together Cork Life Centre Cork Migrant Centre		Quality services
<b>Inclusion</b>	<b>The provision of 'Play Spaces' is embedded in CYPSC practice to ensure</b>	Guidance document  No. of providers who have signed	Guidance document developed  100% of CYPSC	-Cork CYPSC to develop a guidance document/ policy/procedure to support organisations to prioritise the provision of 'play spaces' as a model of best practice	Q2 2025	<b>Lead:</b> City Child Care Committee CYPSC committee.		Cross government and interagency collaboration and coordination

## Action Plan for Cork Children and Young People's Services Committee CYPP 2024 - 2026

### 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) +/- Transformational Goal(s)
	<b>inclusion/equality of access of all parents</b>	guidance document	members signed up to guidance document	Cork CYPSC events to be costed to include provision of play spaces and encourage all members to include this in their own event scheduling funding permitting.		<b>Partners:</b> Tusla. County Child Care Committee City Council		

## Section 7: Monitoring and Evaluation

This section outlines how this plan will be monitored and reviewed locally by Cork CYPSC members over the three years. This will be done in accordance with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework.<sup>111</sup>

Cork CYPSC will monitor and review its work regularly throughout the period 2024 – 2026 by undertaking the following activities:

- Regular review of progress in relation to each objective, considering progress towards targets and completion of planned activities via midyear progress update
- Annual review processes with CYPSC Main Committee and other members as relevant
- The Chairperson of each sub-group will prepare and present a progress report at each CYPSC meeting, detailing successes on the implementation Plan and highlighting any concerns or barriers.
- Cork CYPSC will engage with children, young people and families to monitor and review the development of the plan.

Cork CYPSC has submitted this three-year Children and Young People's Plan to the National CYPSC office to undergo a quality assurance process. This rigorous monitoring and review process ensures compliance with national standards.

The CYPSC will produce an annual programme of work outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved by the CYPSC for each year. It will provide a high-level overview of what and how Cork CYPSC will deliver against each of the agreed local priorities and objectives.

Cork CYPSC will produce a mid-year progress update to the national office for CYPSC. The mid-term progress report, which is primarily a monitoring tool, will be utilised locally by the CYPSC to determine whether actions in the three-year plan are on schedule and will highlight to national level structures any issues or challenges being experienced in Cork.

Cork CYPSC will complete an Annual Progress Report on its activities, achievements and impact to the National office for CYPSC. The Annual Progress Report will be utilised locally by the CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability, learning and decision-making and it will enable Cork CYPSC to be responsive to emerging local needs as well as national policy imperatives.

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<sup>111</sup> Source: [https://www.cypsc.ie/\\_fileupload/Documents/Resources/About%20Us/CYPSC-PR-Framework-JUNE-2017.pdf](https://www.cypsc.ie/_fileupload/Documents/Resources/About%20Us/CYPSC-PR-Framework-JUNE-2017.pdf)

## Section 8: Appendices

### Appendix 1: Early Learning and Care

Challenges for families regarding accessing early learning and care came up as an issue several times during the consultations for this Plan. While this is not a Local Priority Area for Cork CYPSC's new plan, the CYPSC is planning to respond to this need by promoting the provision of play spaces at CYPSC and member organisations' events, reduce barriers to participation for parents and promote inclusion and equal access. For more information on these activities, please see the Change Management Section of Section 6 of the plan.

Below is a summary of what the Cork consultations and other data tell us relation to early learning and care for background information.

#### **What did the Consultations tell us in relation to Early Learning and Care?**

A lack of accessible, affordable and sufficient childcare repeatedly came up as a barrier to employment and economic security for parents in Cork City and County. Twenty three percent of the parents/guardians that filled out the survey said there are not enough childcare supports in Cork for parents, with more parents/guardians in Cork City suburbs (27%) and North Lee (28%) stating that they did not have enough childcare support compared to the other areas. More parents or guardians that identified as being of non-Irish white background (30%) stated that there was not enough childcare, compared to white Irish respondents (23%).

During the focus groups parents described childcare as unaffordable and inaccessible (particularly for babies and children under three years), with some parents/guardians describing that they must drive great distances of up to one hour to access childcare for their young children. Others stated that a lack of childcare was preventing them from accessing employment or had forced them to give up work. Some parents called for paid maternity leave to be extended to match the age at which creches will take young children. They described being faced with the problem of having to return to work when paid maternity leave ran out, as they could not afford to take unpaid leave, but childcare providers were not taking their babies at such a young age. They described the stress that this situation was causing, particularly for parents from other places who do not have other family (such as grandparents) nearby who could fill in the gap.

The services providers who highlighted the need for the childcare situation in Cork to be improved, called for better funding and longer opening hours, tax relief on childcare and more affordable childcare for working families, and sufficient pay for childcare workers to support recruitment and retention and ensure the provision of quality early learning and care environments.

#### **What does other data tell us in relation to Early Learning and Care?**

The Economic and Social Research Institute (2024) among others, have highlighted that women's ability to work and participate in the labour market is a key component of gender equality. New research has found that gender plays a role in access to employment in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the gendered nature of care responsibilities makes it more difficult for women to access high quality employment. It also found that having young children or being a lone parent reduces labour market participation and that women are more likely to be lower paid and to work

part time than men. The report states that 'access to affordable early childhood care and education remains a key issue as well as expanding after-school care for parents with older children.'<sup>112</sup>

Many other organisations have highlighted the barriers to employment for women caused by a lack of childcare in recent years. Business organisations have highlighted the gender pay gap, the negative impact of the 'motherhood penalty' on women's careers and the challenges it creates for employers in terms of recruitment and retention. The Irish Business and Employers Confederation has called for more affordable quality childcare and more spaces for young children in creches, as well as change about how society comprehends the role of women and men in the family and care-giving responsibilities.<sup>113</sup>

The National Women's Council of Ireland (2023) has called for a public, not-for-profit childcare model to be introduced in Ireland, advocating that this would be the best way to increase women's equal participation in society.<sup>114</sup> The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2024) also recently called on the Government to transition to a public model of childcare, and an increase spending on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme.<sup>115</sup> The Children's Rights Alliance (2023) has also called for more equality of access to early years provision and for the establishment of a DEIS style model of provision.<sup>116</sup>

Women and marginalised groups face additional challenges when it comes to gender equality and labour market participation. IHREC (2024) has called for the development of programmes to support people with disabilities, immigrants and members of the Traveller and Roma community to enter the labour market, and for institutional discrimination and structural barriers to labour market access to be addressed through integrated childcare and transport supports."<sup>117</sup>

In 2023, the UNCRC Committee also called on the Irish Government to increase access to affordable childcare for working parents, especially for those experiencing disadvantage; to increase funding for childcare generally; to move towards a publicly funded model, and to ensure that early childhood education and mainstream schools are inclusive for all children with disabilities.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> Source: Hingre, G., H. Russell, F. McGinnity and E. Smyth (2024). Gender and labour market inclusion on the island of Ireland, ESRI Research Series 176, Dublin: ESRI

<sup>113</sup> Source: IBEC (2022) Motherhood penalty – IBEC Exchange <https://www.ibec.ie/influencing-for-business/diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-and-inclusion-blog/2022/10/27/motherhood-penalty---ibec-engage>

<sup>114</sup> Source: National Women's Council of Ireland (2023) Call to deliver public childcare as part of Budget 2024: [https://www.nwci.ie/learn/article/call\\_to\\_deliver\\_public\\_childcare\\_as\\_part\\_of\\_budget\\_2024](https://www.nwci.ie/learn/article/call_to_deliver_public_childcare_as_part_of_budget_2024)

<sup>115</sup> Source: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2024) Submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, p. 25

<sup>116</sup> Source: <https://childrensrights.ie/press-release/budget-2024-delivers-key-universal-measures-for-children-but-targeted-interventions-on-income-dont-go-far-enough-for-low-income-families/>

<sup>117</sup> Source: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2024) Submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, p. 20

<sup>118</sup> Source: UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023)

The Government's 10-year strategy *First Five A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019 - 2028*, aims to improve affordability, accessibility and quality of early learning and care in Ireland.<sup>119</sup> Childcare provision is included in the National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework highlights the important role that childcare provision plays in supporting future labour force participation and in sustaining employment and economic growth.

Locally in Cork, the County Development Plan (2022) states that providing childcare facilities is, 'integral to national economic and social wellbeing as it allows for a wider participation in the workforce and the economy which would otherwise be precluded'.<sup>120</sup> The County LECP (2024 – 2030) will work to support the provision of supports that reduce barriers to employment increase the provision and development of community-based child and family services and facilities'.<sup>121</sup> The Cork City Development Plan<sup>122</sup> also acknowledges the need to provide more childcare and education to keep pace with growth, to provide for the needs of children and to allow for labour force participation. It requires that childcare should be addressed in all new development proposals and that large employment development will be required to provide childcare facilities.<sup>123</sup>

### **What is CYPSC going to do in this area?**

In response to these needs, Cork CYPSC plans to explore the possibility and cost of providing supervised play spaces for children at its events, in order to reduce barriers to parents participating in CYPSC events. Cork CYPSC will also develop a guidance document/policy to support organisations to prioritise the provision of 'play spaces' as a model of best practice and encourage organisations to sign up.

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<sup>119</sup> Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019) *First Five, a Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families (2019 to 2028)*

<sup>120</sup> Source: Cork County Council (2022) *Cork County Development Plan*: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2022-06/volume-1-main-policy-material.pdf>, p. 130

<sup>121</sup> Source: Cork County Council (2024) *Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2030*.

<sup>122</sup> Source: Cork City Council (2024) *Cork City Development Plan 2022 – 2028*: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/cork-city-development-plan/>

<sup>123</sup> Source: Cork City Council – *Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2029 Draft Goals*. <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/local-economic-community-plan/>

## **Appendix 2: Cork CYPSC Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose and Mandate**

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

### **Remit**

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

### **Functions of the Cork CYPSC**

Cork CYPSC will develop and implement a 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in County Donegal. The CYPP will be informed by the CYPSC member agencies, have a specific regard for the voice of children and young people and be linked to all members agencies service plans. The CYPP outlines Cork CYPSC priorities and includes:

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

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

CYPSC Members will consider the wider knowledge and experience of the committee in relation to identifying local need and effective, evidence informed responses, to inform their organisations priorities, actions and services going forward. (This approach is informed by Commitment G68 of 'Better Outcomes, Better Futures', which commits to: 'Use intelligence from Children and Young Peoples Services Committees in relation in local need and priorities to inform the allocation of national and local funding streams') Where funding opportunities arise, the best

placed CYPSC member Agency will make the application and act as lead agency for that piece of work.

Membership In selecting the membership of Cork CYPSC, every effort will be made to ensure there is an appropriate skill mix and range of expertise/experience. Membership of the Cork CYPSC will be sufficiently flexible to ensure that as the work of the Cork CYPSC develops the required range of representatives across all associated agencies and sectors are invited to attend. It is important that membership is drawn from the most senior rank possible from each agency and stakeholder group.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The key responsibilities of the Chairperson are as follows:

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

The key responsibilities of the Vice Chairperson are as follows:

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

The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Co-ordinator are as follows:

- Support the establishment and development of the Cork CYPSC and its sub-groups
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the Cork CYPSC
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation Cork CYPSC's 3-year CYPP
- Foster and develop relationships with key personnel including CYPSC members, Subcommittee members, CYPSC working groups and other external stakeholders, agencies and service providers.
- Assist the overall committee and sub committees to implement the 3-year work plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in 'Young Ireland'.

The key responsibilities of the Cork CYPSC Members are as follows:

- All members of the Cork CYPSC are expected to fulfil their role by actively contributing to the proceedings of the CYPSC and by always maintaining a strong link between the CYPSC and their respective organisations.



- Fully participate in the development and implementation of the Cork Children and Young Peoples Plan.
- Actively engage in the workings of CYPSC, the Sub-Committees and their respective working groups on an on-going basis
- Drive the implementation of the CYPSC's objectives and work plan within their respective organisations, within CYPSC and Sub/Working groups
- Report, as required to CYPSC on implementation progress of the CYPSC objectives within their respective organisation
- Keep Cork CYPSC informed of all relevant policy and/or operational decisions within their respective organisations

## Meetings

- Where possible, all meetings will be chaired by the County Manager Tusla. If the CYPSC Chair is not available, the Vice Chair will chair the Meeting
- A meeting quorum will be 6 members of Cork CYPSC
- Decisions made by consensus i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice. If not possible, CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision.
- Meetings will be held 6 times a year. Dates will be decided by Cork CYPSC at the beginning of each year.
- Meetings will have a maximum duration of 2 hours. Specific pieces of work such as CYPP planning events or Presentations to CYPSC where a greater time commitment is required will be discussed and decided by the CYPSC in advance as required.
- Meeting agendas and supporting documents will be prepared by the CYPSC Chairperson and Co-ordinator and circulated 1 week prior to each CYPSC meeting.
- In the event that administrative support cannot be accessed from among the CYPSC Membership organisations, Minutes will be taken by members of the Cork CYPSC on a rotating basis, decided at the previous meeting.
- Typed minutes will be emailed to the CYPSC Co-ordinator within one week of each meeting for filing and circulation. The Co-ordinator will supply a template for CYPSC Minutes.
- Each CYPSC member will supply a written report to the CYPSC members on the progress of the Sub-committees and/or Working groups they represent.

## Sub-committees

Cork CYPSC will establish sub committees aligned to the national outcomes in *Young Ireland* as follows:

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



Each Sub-committee will consist of a mix of operational and strategic staff. It is envisaged that all Sub-committee members will discuss potential actions of the CYPSC internally within their respective organisations. Each Sub-committee will agree a Terms of Reference and develop a 3-year action plan to guide their work and to feed into the Children and Young Peoples Plan, supported by the CYPSC Co-ordinator.

As a standing item at each CYPSC meeting; the Chairperson or representative of each sub-committee will provide a written progress update and will in turn, relay information from the CYPSC meeting to their respective sub-committee.

Subcommittees may also develop working groups to address specific issues or areas of work and will ensure that working group members are informed of developments of Cork CYPSC. Working groups will also provide a progress report to their Sub-committee as a standing item.

It is envisaged that the Working groups will also play a leading role in managing the future implementation of their respective action plans with relevant input from CYPSC members as required.

### **Branding of CYPSC Events**

All events or pieces of work undertaken by Cork CYPSC should be branded with the CYPSC logo. The CYPSC logo represents all stakeholder organisations. To facilitate a lead organisation funding the work / activity, the logo of the lead organisation will be added. The criteria stipulated by the funding body will be followed and the relevant logo/branding given prominence.

### **Reporting Mechanism**

Cork CYPSC will submit a progress report to the National Co-ordinator three times a year. This report will be informed by Cork CYPSC membership and compiled by the CYPSC Co-ordinator.

### **Review and Evaluation**

Cork CYPSC, led by the Chairperson, will undertake an annual review and evaluation of its performance, based on the goals and targets as outlined in the Cork Children and Young People's Plan.