



Dublin City North CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan

2024 – 2026



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Contents

Contacts	3
Foreword by Chairperson	4
Acknowledgements	5
List of Tables and Graphs	6
Section 1: Introduction	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Children and Young People’s Services Committees • Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees • Who We Are • Review of DCN’s Previous Plan and S.W.O.T. Analysis • How this Plan was Developed 	
Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Dublin City North	24
Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Dublin City North	50
Section 4: Local Needs Analysis for Dublin City North	61
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Consultations’ Key Findings • Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical, and mental wellbeing • Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development • Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm • Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity • Outcome 5: Connected, respected, and contributing to our world 	
Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Dublin City North	121
Section 6: Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People’s Services Committee	122
Section 7: Monitoring and Review	137
Section 8: Appendices	138
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 8.1: Overview of Consultation Findings Localised by Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) Area in the DCN area • Appendix 8.2: Focus Group Themes by CFSN and Age • Appendix 8.3: Survey Summary by CFSN and Respondent • Appendix 8.4: DCN CYPSC Terms of Reference 	

Contacts

Dublin City North (DCN) Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

Please contact:

National CYPSC Office in Tusla Child and Family Agency:



cypsc@tusla.ie



www.cypsc.ie



National CYPSC : [@CypscIrl](https://www.instagram.com/CypscIrl)

Foreword by Chairperson

I am delighted to welcome our second 3-year Dublin City North CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan (2024-2026). This plan is the product of intensive analysis through consultations with over 900 children, young people, parents and service providers, alongside analysis of available socio-demographic and economic data and an audit of services. This comprehensive process helped us to develop a robust and resilient plan which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people across the area.

Dublin City North is a dynamic, vibrant, and active community, home to 100,308 children and young people (0-24 years), over a quarter of the total population (28.7%). It is an ethnically rich population with over 20% identifying differently to White Irish, demonstrating a richness in cultural diversity. Our area is well served by a mix of statutory, community and voluntary services that work towards improving outcomes for children and young People, and families in various ways. Importantly, children and young people in our consultations have reported doing well overall in many areas, reporting overall good health, support, learning and connectedness.

However, there are challenges that need to be addressed. By far the biggest concern for children and young people and parents in our consultation was mental health, particularly anxiety and stress, coupled with the pressures of cost of living and money worries. Services report challenges to meet the level of need for children and families with staffing and funding pressures, resulting in difficulty to respond to children and young people's needs in a timely way. This was especially noted in relation to access to mental health and disability services. The increase in severely deprived pockets in Dublin City North, contrasted with areas of high affluence, illustrates an area of diverse need in a city that is one of the most densely populated in the state. The impact of Covid on children's mental health and education; an increase in families experiencing homelessness; displaced children and young people as a result of war, persecution or serious harm seeking refuge in both Ireland and Dublin City North require continued and focussed responses from services.

With all this said, building and strengthening interagency relationships is a key priority for our CYPSC, to support not only those needs of our children and young people, but to support organisations in providing their services in the most effective way possible. With your contributions, we have formulated a plan which we believe is focussed, flexible and responds to the core priorities highlighted by our children and young people and parents. We are fortunate to work in an area that is interagency led and it is our hope and our ambition, to continue to work in partnership to build brighter futures for our children and young people.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the Dublin City North CYPSC Main Committee, Subgroups and Research Advisory Group for all their support in completing this process.

Deborah Talbot,
Chairperson, Dublin City North CYPSC
Interim Area Manager, Tusla Dublin North City

Acknowledgements

Dublin City North CYPSC would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped develop this Children and Young People's Plan.

To Aoife Collins and Aoife Dowling who tirelessly worked with us to ensure a robust consultation and data gathering process to draw together this report.

To all the local service providers and individuals who not only participated in our surveys, strategic planning meeting consultations, but who also encouraged and supported parents, children's and young people's voices to be heard through our surveys and focus groups.

To our Dublin City North CYPSC Research Advisory Group made up of Tusla Child and Family Agency, Tusla Education Support Services, Barnardos, Marino Institute and City of Dublin Youth Services who guided, advised and consulted on the research process on behalf of the Main CYPSC Committee.

To the Dublin City North CYPSC Main Committee and Subgroups for your perseverance, advice and participation in this process.

To Cliodhna Mahony, for her excellent coordination and oversight of the research and development process and plan.

And finally, this plan would not have been possible without the contributions, and voice of over 700 children, young people, and parents who took part in surveys and focus groups. Thank you for your participation, your honesty and time, and we hope that the plan will go some way towards helping support better outcomes for you and your families.

List of Maps, Tables and Graphs

Map 1.1 Locations of Focus Groups for Development of CYPP February/March 2023

Map 2.1 Dublin City North CYPSC Area. Source: OpenStreet Map

Map 2.2 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) in the DCN area. Source: Open Street Map

Map 2.3 Population change by Electoral Division, 2016 to 2022. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.4 Population Density per sq km in Census 2022. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.5 Population born outside of Ireland. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.6 Population aged between 0 and 17 years. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.7 Pobal HP Deprivation Index by Small Area. Source: Pobal 2016

Map 2.8 Pobal HP Deprivation Index by Small Area. Source: Pobal 2022

Map 2.8 Total Population with a disability. Source: Census 2016

Figure 1.2 Local Priority Areas in DCN CYPSC 2018-2020 CYPP

Figure 1.3 Image of Small Selection of DCN CYPSC Achievements

Figure 3.1 Hardiker Model.

Table 1.1 Members of Dublin City North CYPSC as of September 2023

Table 1.2 Summary of DCN CYPSC Activities 2018 - 2022

Table 1.3 DCN CYPSC 2023 S.W.O.T. Analysis

Table 1.4 Process of the consultations and strategic planning to inform the DCN CYPP

Table 1.5 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the DCN CYPSC CYPP 2023 - 2025

Table 1.6 Breakdown of children and young people that participated in the focus groups in Feb '23

Table 1.7 Breakdown of children and young people that responded to the survey in Q1 2023

Table 1.8 Breakdown of parents that responded to the survey in Q1 2023

Table 1.9 Agencies and services represented at workshop in May 2023

Table 1.10 Agencies and services that responded to the online survey in Q1 2023

Table 1.11 Agencies and service represented at the strategic planning sessions.

Table 2.1 Summary Indicator Table. Various Sources

Table 2.2 Total Population Dublin City North 2011 to 2022. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.3 CFSN Breakdown of Children and Young People by Age. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.3a CFSN Breakdown of Children and Young People by % of Total Population. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.4 Accommodation allocated to arrivals from Ukraine (State). Source: CSO 2023

Table 2.5 Accommodation allocated to arrivals from Ukraine (Dublin). Source: DCEDIY, 2023

Table 2.6 Pobal HP Deprivation Index. Source: Pobal 2022

Table 2.7 Housing Tenure: Owner Occupied and Rented. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.8 Housing Vacancy by CFSN. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.9 DCN Electoral Divisions with Highest Percentages of Disability 0-14 and 15-24 years. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.10 Education Attainment (Over 15 years of age) in DCN. Source: Census 2022

Table 2.11 Recorded criminal offences by Type, 2022. Source: An Garda Siochana and CSO 2023

Table 4.1 Challenges faced by children and young people according to children and young people by CFSN.

Table 4.2 Challenges faced by children and young people according to parents by CFSN.

Table 4.3 Health related findings of the focus groups with children and young people.

Table 4.4: Proportion of parents in each CFSN who stated that certain health related areas needed to be improved.

Table 4.5 Summary of Learning and Development related findings of the focus groups with children and young people

Table 4.6: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups around safety and protection from harm

Table 4.7: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups around economic security

Table 4.8: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups around connected/respected

Table 4.9: Summary of responses from parents in focus groups around connected/respected

Table 4.10: Parental support needs by CFSN area according to parents/guardians

Graph 2.1 Population Change. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.2 Birthplace by CFSN area. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.3 Ethnicity Breakdown DCN. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.4 Population in DCN and State by Age Profile. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.5 Mothers by Age Group. Source: CSO Vital Statistics 2022

Graph 2.6 CFSN Key Comparator by Age Breakdown. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.7 Population aged 0 to 17 years by CFSN Area, compared to State and Dublin City. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.8 Families in DCN with Children Under and Over 15 Years of Age. Source: Census 2022.

Graph 2.9 Breakdown of Family Type in DCN. Source: Census 2022.

Graph 2.10 Type of Family by One-Parent or Couples for Children Under 15 years. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.11 Rates of self-harm. Source: NSRF 2021

Graph 2.12 Young people (24 years and under) accessing treatment for drugs and alcohol (2019 to 2021).

Graph 2.13 Young people (24 years and under) accessing treatment by substance (2021). Source: HRB 2023

Graph 2.14: Type of Childcare Provision by Age. Source: Census 2022

Graph 2.15: Young people (24 years and under) signing on the Live Register. Source: Department of Social Protection and CSO 2023

Graph 4. 1 Challenges faced by children and young people in DCN

Graph 4.2 Challenges faced by children and young people according to parents and guardians in DCN

Graph 4.3 Areas that should be improved according to parents and guardians

Graph 4.4: Biggest challenges facing service providers' services

Graph 4.5 Service/supports that needs to be improved the most in DCN according to service providers

Graph 4.6 Areas that should be prioritised by decision makers according to service providers

Graph 4.6: Responses of children and young people who responded to these health-related survey questions

Graph 4.7: Responses of children and young people who responded to these health-related survey questions

Graph 4.8. Age distribution of children and young people who reported feeling physically well and healthy in DCN

Graph 4.9 Responses of children and young people who responded to these learning and development survey questions

Graph 4.10: Responses of children and young people who responded to these survey questions

Graph 4.11: Young people's levels of confidence in relation to economic security questions

Graph 4.12: Children and young people's responses to 'Connected/respected' related questions

Section 1: Introduction

This Children and Young People's Plan outlines how Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) will work to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families in the area over three years from 2024 – 2026.

The Plan has been developed through a process of data gathering and research on the current reality in the Dublin City North area, in addition to consultations and strategic planning sessions with CYPSC members and other key stakeholders. These sessions identified needs, gaps and the area's vision for children, young people, and their families for the coming three years and what actions the CYPSC could undertake to help them to thrive and reach more of their potential.

The research that informed this Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) included a socio demographic analysis, service review and consultations with over 900 key stakeholders in the DCN area, including children, young people, parents/guardians, service providers and others working with children and young people. For more information on how this Plan was developed, see Section 1.5 below.

1.1 About Children and Young People's Services Committees

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are key interagency structures established by Government to plan and coordinate services for children and young people (aged 0-24) and families in every county in Ireland. CYPSC's are led by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and are delivered through Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

The purpose of the CYPSC is to ensure effective inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in its area. CYPSC bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people and all major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. They provide a forum for inter-agency working, joint planning and collaboration among existing services as well as increased co-ordination of activities, identification of needs and the development of interventions at a local level.

The CYPSC work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, Ireland's National Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020* (BOBF).

These national outcomes are that children and young people:

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

Every CYPSC works to achieve the five national outcomes outlined above 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 area policies, strategies, and priorities
- Ensuring effective collaboration and interagency working among services working with children and young people in an area, including strengthening collective decision making and supporting the implementation of inter-agency 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.

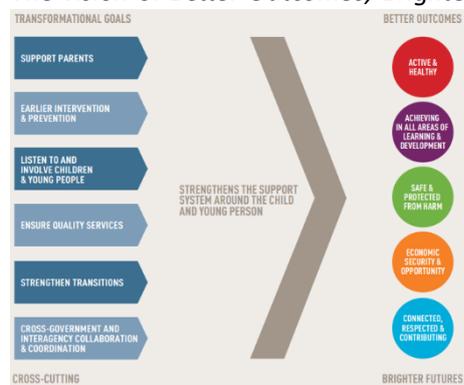
Every CYPSC develops and implements a 3-year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP), which outlines that committee’s priorities and action plan. Each CYPP is informed by CYPSC members and the voice of children, young people, and families. All Children and Young People’s Plans must include:

- a socio-demographic profile of the area
- an audit of services for children and young people in the area
- an analysis of the needs of children and young people living in the area
- a summary of Local Area Priorities
- a detailed action plan mapping the actions that are planned in the various priority areas.

1.2 Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees

CYPSC’s were first set up in 2007 by the then Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, now the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. There are now 27 CYPSC’s in Ireland and 5 CYPSC’s in the Dublin area (including Dublin City North CYPSC), working to achieve the vision, aspirations and desired outcomes of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.

The vision of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* is for,



‘Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.’¹

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) also highlights the importance of interagency working to achieve this vision and gives CYPSC a key role in this regard. The five national outcomes are also underpinned by six transformational

¹ Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2014) *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*. Available at: [gov.ie - Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 (www.gov.ie))

In 2019, the then Department of Children and Youth Affairs published, *'Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024'* which provided a vision and a road map for the future development of the CYPSC. *Shared Vision*, identified CYPSC's main focus and vision for the 2019 – 2024 period as:

*'Building on the positive work to date, to strengthen the CYPSC infrastructure and use the evidence base to create the optimum circumstances to identify local and national priorities for improving the lives of children, young people and their families in their local communities.'*²

It set out ten key high-level actions for the CYPSC initiative over that period. These were: strengthened Leadership, collaboration, building capacity, resourcing, planning, and reporting, data and evidence, communications, participation of children and young people, joint commissioning, and evaluation.

CYPSC's around the country are linked, to varying degrees, with other collaborative policy making structures in their counties such as Child and Family Support Networks and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC). Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) are made up of local services in an area that help children and families and aim to support families to access services as easily as possible in their own area. LCDCs are local authority led and aim to bring a more coordinated approach to local and community development activity.

Effective information sharing, networking and information sharing between these various committees and their member organisations provides opportunities for increased joined up thinking and planning, more effective needs identification, and more co-ordinated policy making and service delivery at a local, area, and national level.

1.3 Who we Are

Dublin City North (DCN) CYPSC was established in 2014 and a CYPSC Coordinator has been in place since 2016. DCN CYPSC has an inter-agency membership comprising statutory, community and voluntary services in the area. The current members of the DCN CYPSC Main Committee are:

Agency	Representative
Chair: Tusla, Child and Family Agency	Deborah Talbot
Deputy Chair: Dublin City Council	TBC
Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN)	Aoife Ní Bhreacháin
Health Service Executive (Mental Health)	TBC
Health Service Executive (Social Inclusion)	Brian Kirwan
Health Service Executive (Disability)	Maebh Reynolds
An Garda Síochána	Sgt Fiona Savidge, JLO
Northside Partnership	Paul Rogers
Tusla Education Support Services	Janet Colgan
Daughters of Charity	Catherine Sheerin
Barnardos	Clodagh Carroll
Young People at Risk (YPAR)	Pat Gates
Tusla Child and Family Agency (Dublin North City PPFS)	Teresa Nyland
Tusla Child and Family Agency (Dublin North PPFS)	Grainne Kinsella

² Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2019) *About CYPSC, Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019 – 2024*. Available at: [SVNS Summary Doc FINAL.pdf \(cypsc.ie\)](#)

Dublin City Childcare Committee	Aoife Boland
Hill Street Family Resource Centre	Eileen Smith
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Wesleigh O’Hagan
City of Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB)	Mark Harding
Marino Institute of Further Education	Miriam Colum

Table 1.1: Members of Dublin City North CYPSC as of September 2023

DCN Subgroups/Working Groups

Throughout the course of its previous plan and interim plans, there were six thematic subgroups and more working groups, comprising frontline practitioners and managers with expertise in the relevant Outcome area.

A full progress report of the first plan can be found [here](#).

1.4 Review of DCN’s Previous Plan and S.W.O.T. Analysis

From 2018 – 2020, approximately 60 organisations and projects in the Dublin City North area worked together to implement DCN CYPSC three-year Plan (2018 – 2020). The Plan covered the 5 National Outcome Areas, while focussing on specific local priority areas within those themes (see Figure 1.2 below).

Local Priority Areas 2018 - 2020

The key priority areas in DCN’s 2018 – 2020 Children’s and Young People’s Plan were:

Outcome Areas		Local Priority Areas
	Active and Healthy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health and Wellbeing 2. Drugs and Alcohol 3. Sexual Health 4. Physical and Weight Health
	Learning and Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Emotional Health and Wellbeing (6-12 years) (Finglas North A Pilot Model) 6. Supporting school attendance 7. Children and families experiencing homelessness
	Safe and Protected from Harm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Parent and family supports and programmes 9. Child and Family Support Networks and Meitheal 10. Domestic Violence and Child to Parent Violence 11. Complex and High Need Cases
	Economic Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Lone Parent Jobless Households 13. Youth employment and education (2020) 14. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET’s)
	Connected and Respected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Building child and youth participation practice. 16. Participation of Children and Young People.

Change Management/ Cross-Collaboration	Local Priority Areas
Initiatives to support the on-going drive for better outcomes for children and young people.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senior Personnel Commitment and Membership 2. Dublin's North East Inner City Initiative 3. Outcomes for Children, National Data and Information Hub 4. Dublin CYPSC Directory of Children and Young People's Services 5. Advocacy Role to Strengthen Service Provision 6. Development of a Critical Incident Protocol

Figure 1.2: Local Priority Areas in DCN CYPSC 2018 -2020 CYPP

The six inter-agency thematic subgroups/working groups worked collaboratively to implement the Plan, undertaking a wide range of activities and programmes (many in partnership or in collaboration with each other) and all overseen by the main CYPSC committee. The full list of activities that the DCN CYPSC undertook in the implementation of its first CYPP can be seen in *DCN CYPSC Progress Report (2018 - 2020)*³.

DCN CYPSC Key Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities 2018 - 2020



Figure 1.3 Image of a small selection of DCN CYPSC Achievements in recent years

In 2021, DCN conducted a review of its first 3-Year Children and Young People's Plan at an online meeting of 40 members from subgroups and the main CYPSC committee. The event was independently facilitated and invited participants to reflect on DCN CYPSC achievements and challenges over the period, as well as potential ways forward.

Throughout the review, there was recognition of the work that CYPSC has accomplished with and for children and young people in the area through interagency collaboration. The review also highlighted the need for CYPSC to further work towards greater equality and access to services, particularly those services with long waiting lists; to increase its impact in the early years sector; to increase

³ DCN CYPSC Progress Report (2018 – 2020) is available at: [FINAL FOR PUBLICATION REPORT CYPSC PROGRESS.pdf](#)

attention to specific populations such as new communities; and to increase opportunities to engage the voice of children and young people.

DCN CYPSC Achievements 2018 - 2022

When the first plan was completed in 2020, DCN CYPSC developed annual work plans for 2021 and 2022 while awaiting new Census data. Throughout this period and despite the challenges of Covid-19 lockdowns, DCN CYPSC and its partners continued to support children, young people, and families through a range of projects both long and short-term. This work included targeted support for children living in direct provision, Covid-19 responses, and the Summer of Play programme. This work was supported by funding provided by Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Integration and Youth (DCEIDY) through the CYPSC-BOBF Programme Fund and Ukraine Fund, Tusla Child and Family Agency, and Healthy Ireland. Table 1.3 below summarises some of these key activities. For more details, please see [DCN CYPSC Progress Report 2021](#)⁴.

Summary Key Activities 2018-2022

- Established Annual Mental Wellbeing Campaigns since 2019 to encourage and promote information, awareness and strategies to enhance mental resilience.
- Expanded, and enhanced a youth wellbeing and counselling project from Dublin North East to Cabra (under a pilot “Mind-It” and subsequently incorporated into the Listen Project) with Sphere17 Regional Youth Service and Cabra for Youth. Included an [independent review](#) which concluded that community and in particular the development of early intervention school-based counselling was very effective in supporting young people’s mental health.
- Increased capacity of responding to problem substance use through delivery of SAOR – the HSE National Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) Project for Alcohol and Substance Use.
- Collaborated at national level to expand the national roll out of the My Place to Play initiative for babies living in homeless and IPAS settings.
- Built sustainable infrastructure for physical literacy programmes for young girls through Fun Direction Coaching programme, sited in after-school, homeless and IPAS settings.
- Increased young women’s physical fitness and engagement with sports in collaboration with youth services from across the Dublin City North area.
- Created a one-stop-shop online resource to sign post an array of services through the www.dublincypscdirectory.ie, increasing awareness and accessibility of services for children, young people, and families. A collaboration with all 5 Dublin-based CYPSC’s. A review is ongoing in 2023.
- Increased practitioner skills in suicide prevention through collaboration with HSE Connecting for Life.
- Enhanced sensory and regulation spaces for children and young people in youth services, International Protection accommodation and domestic abuse refuge settings.
- Focussed support for children living in Finglas North and Finglas West in collaboration with Barnardos and Finglas West Family Resource Centre. This has resulted in an improved services infrastructure in the area; upskilled workforce through interagency trainings; development of participatory research to evidence need and implement actions (3 publications funded by DCN CYPSC); child-friendly play areas and street markings, targeted Traveller responses, mindfulness programmes, and nutrition supports.
- Covid responses included [Life in Lockdown 2020](#) Report to understand the impact of Covid-19 on young people (12-17 years) living in Dublin City (collaboration with Dublin City

⁴ DCN CYPSC Progress Overview 2021 is available at: [Dublin City North Final Progress Report 2021.pdf \(cypsc.ie\)](#)

South CYPSC and Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg; Play Day supports for Early Intervention Units; Mental Resilience Workshops for Managers and Staff; development of Domestic Abuse Resource Pack; and training to frontline staff to “Recognise, Respond and Refer”.

- Established accredited QQI Level 3 training in Personal Effectiveness, for Young People in Care or Transitioning from Care.
- Early Years and School Attendance Campaigns developed for targeted areas including Dublin North East and Ballymun “Every School Day Counts” and “20-Day Challenge”.
- Led and support local interagency Critical Incident Responses to support children, families and communities impacted by violent incidents.
- Ukraine and IPAS responses including the co-development of Tusla Contact Centres to support and signpost children, young people and families to local services, and increasing initiatives to facilitate social integration and inclusion.
 - Established interagency response group to support displaced Ukrainians arriving to DCN CYPSC area.
 - Co-developed and continue to support three Community Contact Centres with Tusla for displaced Ukrainians and International Protection residents, as a point of contact for local signposting and supports for children, young people and families.
 - Developed information video in Ukrainian to promote information on Community Contact Centres.
 - Enhanced supports and initiatives locally to support children’s integration and inclusion including recreational, social and educational initiatives.
 - Increased skills via Intercultural Awareness training for practitioners supporting Ukrainian or other communities in the local area.
- Disability Supports -Empowering Parents Programme to support parents with children who have developmental delays or disability, and a capacity building knowledge and information course for frontline practitioners working with families of children with developmental delay or disability.
- Annual support for youth services across the 7 CFSN areas to engage young people in various programmes such as 2-year programme for sexual health; 3 year programme for physical activity and young women in sport; and anti-racism and anti-violence programmes.

Table 1.2: Summary of DCN activities for the period 2018 and 2022

2023 Review: SWOT Analysis of DCN CYPSC

As part of the development of this Plan DCN CYPSC undertook a S.W.O.T. analysis in early 2023. The aim of this process was to further inform the development of the next three-year Plan by getting more clarity on the current reality both internally and externally in relation to the context and environment within which DCN CYPSC is working. This process identified several strengths, weaknesses/areas for development, opportunities, and threats (see summary in table 1.4 below.)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated good model of interagency working and projects. • Mandate via DCEDIY, BOBF policy and support via Tusla Child and Family Agency • Demonstrated resilience and versatility throughout changing contexts (e.g., Covid19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of youth representation (although youth voice incorporated) • Limited channels to raise and respond to systemic barriers. • Resources • Need for more statutory membership on main Committee
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding streams and recognition of CYPSC • Child Care Act Review – mandated footing possible • Create wider communication channels and networks by implementing agreed pathways with Prevention, Partnership, and Family Support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown outcome of Child Care Act Review • Limited resources and data to meet needs and potential new role under the Child Care Act Review • Tracking long term outcomes.

Table 1.3: DCN CYPSC 2023 S.W.O.T. Analysis

1.5 How this Plan was developed

Dublin City North’s Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) was developed over an eight-month period between November 2022 and June 2023. It involved the following stages and steps:

1. **Desk research** including a review of policy and relevant literature and a review of the DCN CYPSC Workplan 2018-2020
2. **A review of services** in DCN across all priority action areas
3. Completion of a **socio-demographic profile**
4. **Consultations** with over 900 stakeholders in the DCN CYPSC area, including children and young people, parents/guardians and service providers/agency representatives using surveys, focus groups and in-person consultation workshops.
5. **Strategic Planning Workshops** with CYPSC members and other key stakeholders. Over the course of these two meetings the findings of the socio-demographics and results of the consultation process with children, young people, their families, and agencies were presented, and stakeholders were then facilitated to discuss and identify local priorities, key objectives and actions for the CYPP.

The following three sections will outline:

- i. The process of both the consultation and strategic planning sessions used to inform the CYPP.
- ii. The summary responses of children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers that took part in the consultation and;
- iii. Finally outline members of the DCN CYPSC who attended the strategic planning sessions.

Process used to inform and develop the CYPP

Date	Process	Stakeholders Consulted	Process and Outputs
First quarter 2023	<p>Survey Consultations: Following an initial pilot, 3 x online surveys were carried out via an online survey platform and disseminated amongst community groups and schools via CYPSC members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people (total n=262), • Parents/guardians (total n= 267) • Service providers and others working with young people (total n=155) 	<p>Among other things, survey respondents (including young people, parents/guardians, and local service providers) were asked to identify the biggest challenges for children and young people in the area in their view. They were also asked what they thought needs to be changed, improved or prioritised to help children, young people and their families in the DCN CYPSC area to have better outcomes and reach more of their potential.</p>
Feb. 2023	<p>Focus Group Consultations:</p> <p>15 focus groups were carried out over a three-day period with groups of children and parents facilitated by pre-schools, schools and youth organisations in the area.</p> <p>Focus groups were piloted before they were undertaken. Feedback was taken on board and methodologies were adapted where needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people (total n= 182) • Parents (total n=5) 	<p>All focus group participants were facilitated to have an open discussion about what they liked and disliked about living in the area, and what they would like to change or improve to make life better for children and young people and their families in the area.</p>
March 2023	<p>Strategic Planning Process:</p> <p>Two day long in-person strategic planning workshops with CYPSC members to identify priorities and actions for the CYPP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of DCN CYPSC main committee and subgroups (total n=33) 	<p>This was an interactive, participatory two-day process, whereby CYPSC main committee and sub group members came together in person to review the results of the consultations and emerging needs in the area, identify key priority areas for the CYPP and then collectively brainstorm and vote on potential actions in these priority areas.</p>
May 2023	<p>Key Stakeholder In-person Consultation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers and other reps of agencies working with children and 	<p>This workshop presented key socioeconomic data on the area to attendees, followed by a participatory</p>

	Day long in-person Consultation Workshop with key stakeholders to engage them and get their input on the development of the Plan	young people in the area (total n=57)	facilitated process whereby key stakeholders discussed and identified: 1) the most vulnerable children and young people in the area along with their needs; and 2) stakeholders' vision for children, young people and their families in the DCN CYPSC area by 2026 and what they thought should be achieved. Afterwards proceedings and emerging themes were written up and presented back to CYPSC members during the strategic planning process.
--	--	---------------------------------------	---

Table 1.4: Process of the consultations and strategic planning to inform the DCN CYPP

Distribution of children, young people, their families and service providers consulted with in DCN to inform the development of CYPP

Overall 928 children and young people, parents or guardians and service providers took part in the consultation process to inform the development of the DCN CYPSC CYPP. Table 1.5 outlines the number of participants that responded to survey, took part in focus groups and attended a consultation event.

Stakeholder Category Consulted	Number of Survey respondents	Number of Focus Group Participants	Number of service providers that attended the Consultation	Totals
Children and Young People	262	182		444
Parents/Guardians	267	5		272
Service Providers/ People working with C and YP	155		57	212
Overall Total				928

Table 1.5 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the DCN CYPSC CYPP 2023 - 2025

The three surveys that were conducted as part of this research were online, anonymous and optional. They were distributed through the CYPSC Committee member organisations and a wider network of organisations, schools and youth groups in a random, snowballing method. Some areas were represented more than others due to the varying levels of distribution and varying levels of uptake in participation in different areas and among different target groups.

Consultations with Children and Young People – Focus Groups and Online Survey

Children and young people were consulted with through 14 focus groups and an online survey. Map 1.1 outlines the distribution of the focus groups carried out throughout the DCN area.



Map 1.1 Locations of the focus groups carried out in February/March 2023

Following a pilot carried out in January 2023, 182 children and young people participated in focus groups throughout the DCN area in February/March 2023. Participants included very young children, children in primary school, young people in second level education, older young people in youth/alternative education groups and two targeted groups (substance misuse and a Traveller group). The distribution of these groups is outlined in the table below (Table 1.6).

	Ballymun	Cabra	Dublin Bay North	NEIC	NWIC	Finglas	Dublin North East
Early Years (3-5)	17	16		17		10	12
6 to 12 years			8		12	20	
12 – 17 years		8	10	5			
18 – 24 years	4						25
Targeted Groups			8				10

Table 1.6 Breakdown of children and young people that participated in the focus groups in Feb '23

An online survey was distributed throughout DCN in Q1 2023. Table 1.7 outlines the distribution of gender, age and the location of children and young people that responded to the online survey.

Age			
12 years and under	n= 85	or	32.4%
13 to 17 years	n= 117	or	44.7%
18 years and over	n= 52	or	19.8%
didn't say	n= 8	or	3.1%
Gender			
Female	n= 134	or	51.1%
Male	n= 101	or	38.5%
Prefer not to say	n= 7	or	2.7%
Non-Binary	n= 4	or	1.5%
Transgender	n= 8	or	3.1%
Did not state	n= 8	or	3.1%
CFSN			
Finglas	n= 39	or	14.9%
Cabra	n= 34	or	13.0%
North East Inner City	n= 46	or	17.6%
Dublin North East	n= 76	or	29.0%
Ballymun	n= 33	or	12.6%
Dublin Bay North	n= 17	or	6.5%
North West Inner City	n= 3	or	1.1%
Don't know	n= 6	or	2.3%
Did not state	n= 8	or	3.1%
Ethnicity			
White Irish	n= 217	or	82.8%
Other	n= 8	or	3.1%
Other White	n= 14	or	5.3%
White Irish Traveller	n= 4	or	1.5%
Black or Black Irish	n= 6	or	2.3%
Asian or Asian Irish	n= 4	or	1.5%
Did not state	n= 9	or	3.4%
Disability or Long-term health condition			
Yes	n= 50	or	19.1%
No	n= 204	or	77.9%
Did not state	n= 8	or	3.1%

Table 1.7 Breakdown of children and young people that responded to the survey in Q1 2023

Consultations with Parents and Guardians – Focus Group and Online Survey

Parents and guardians were consulted with through an online survey and a focus group. An online survey was distributed throughout DCN for parents and guardians in Q1 2023 and was completed by 267 parents/guardians. Table 1.8 outlines the distribution of gender, age, ethnicity, and location (by Child and Family Support Network CFSN area) of the parents that responded to the survey.

The focus group was carried out with 5 parents. It was planned that a higher number of parents were to participate in the focus group however several parents were unable to attend on the day. However, the researchers were satisfied with the distribution of demographics across the small group.

Age			
less than 24 years	n=	9	or 3.4%
25 to 34	n=	56	or 21.0%
35 to 44	n=	130	or 48.7%
45 to 54	n=	58	or 21.7%
over 55	n=	10	or 3.7%
didn't say	n=	4	or 1.5%
Gender			
Female	n=	228	or 85.4%
Male	n=	31	or 11.6%
Prefer not to say	n=	2	or 0.7%
Transgender	n=	1	or 0.4%
didn't say	n=	5	or 1.9%
CFSN			
North East Inner City	n=	89	or 33.3%
Cabra	n=	32	or 12.0%
Ballymun	n=	19	or 7.1%
Dublin Bay North	n=	59	or 22.1%
Finglas	n=	25	or 9.4%
Dublin North East	n=	36	or 13.5%
North West Inner City	n=	3	or 1.1%
didn't say	n=	4	or 1.5%
Ethnicity			
Any other White Background	n=	31	or 11.6%
White Irish	n=	181	or 67.8%
Other	n=	16	or 6.0%
None of the above	n=	3	or 1.1%
Asian or Asian Irish	n=	23	or 8.6%
Black or Black Irish	n=	8	or 3.0%
White Irish Traveller	n=	1	or 0.4%
didn't say	n=	4	or 1.5%

Marital Status			
Co-habiting	n=	42	or 15.7%
Other (please specify)	n=	3	or 1.1%
Married	n=	158	or 59.2%
One-parent family	n=	52	or 19.5%
Separated or divorced	n=	9	or 3.4%
didn't say	n=	3	or 1.1%
Stage of Children			
Early years	n=	69	or 25.8%
In pre-school/montessori	n=	56	or 21.0%
Primary school	n=	186	or 69.7%
Secondary school	n=	71	or 26.6%
Finished school	n=	26	or 9.7%
Doing a course after school	n=	23	or 8.6%
Other (please specify)	n=	1	or 0.4%
Employment Status			
Working full-time	n=	103	or 38.6%
Working part-time	n=	65	or 24.3%
Retired	n=	4	or 1.5%
In education or training	n=	4	or 1.5%
Looking after family	n=	50	or 18.7%
Receiving social welfare	n=	27	or 10.1%
None of the above	n=	9	or 3.4%
Volunteering	n=	2	or 0.7%
didn't say	n=	3	or 1.1%

Table 1.8 Breakdown of parents that responded to the survey in Q1 2023

Consultations with Service Providers –Online Survey and In-person Consultation

Service providers were consulted with through an online survey and a one-day consultation workshop. This workshop was attended by 57 people from organisations working with children, young people and their families, and was made up of 34 community, voluntary and statutory services/agencies. The services that were represented are outlined in Table 1.9 below.

This workshop presented key socio-economic data on the area to attendees, followed by a participatory facilitated process whereby key stakeholders discussed and identified:

- 1) the most vulnerable children and young people in the area along with their needs; and
- 2) stakeholders' vision for children, young people and their families in the DCN area by 2026 and what they thought should be achieved. Afterwards proceedings and emerging themes were written up and presented back to CYPSC members during the strategic planning process.

Agencies and Services in attendance at workshop	
Finglas Youth Resource Centre	HSE
Aoibhneas DVA refuge	HSE Social Inclusion -Addiction Service CHO9
Aosog Child And Family Project	Kinship Care Ireland- hosted by Treoir
Barnardos FWFR	LCSP
Better Finglas	LYCS Early Years Education Service
Better Finglas, Barnardos	Marino College
Bonnybrook Early Education Centre	NEPS
CDETB Foundations Project	Parentline
City of Dublin Youth Services	Peter McVerry Trust
Company	Snug Counselling and Information Service
Crosscare	St Mary's Early Years Service Daughters of Charity Community Services
Daughters of Charity	Talbot Centre
DSP	TESS
Dublin Northwest Partnership	Tús Nua Artane Coolock FRC
Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland	Tusla Child & Family Agency
Focus Ireland	Tusla Education Support Service
Foroige - The HAY Project	YPAR

Table 1.9 Agencies and service represented at workshop in May 2023

In Q1 2023 an online survey was distributed to services and agencies working with children, young people and their families in the DCN Area and 155 people working in the field completed it. Table 1.10 outlines the services and agencies that responded to the survey by service type and the CFSN that they provided services in.

Service Type			
Health supports	n=	19	or 12.3%
Social and family supports	n=	57	or 36.8%
Support with parenting	n=	48	or 31.0%
Financial supports for families	n=	0	or 0.0%
Homelessness/Housing services	n=	4	or 2.6%
Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services	n=	4	or 2.6%
Traveller or Roma services	n=	5	or 3.2%
Migrant services	n=	1	or 0.6%
Educational support services	n=	36	or 23.2%
Early Years Services	n=	28	or 18.1%
Policing and Youth Justice	n=	3	or 1.9%
Drug and alcohol services	n=	7	or 4.5%
Mental health supports (including counselling)	n=	25	or 16.1%
Disability services	n=	8	or 5.2%
Employment services	n=	4	or 2.6%
Social inclusion services	n=	7	or 4.5%
Legal services	n=	0	or 0.0%
Youth clubs	n=	7	or 4.5%
Youth projects	n=	20	or 12.9%
Advocacy	n=	13	or 8.4%
Other	n=	25	or 16.1%
CFSN			
Ballymun	n=	42	or 27.1%
Finglas	n=	28	or 18.1%
Cabra	n=	24	or 15.5%
North East Inner City	n=	45	or 29.0%
North West Inner City	n=	12	or 7.7%
Dublin City Bay	n=	16	or 10.3%
Dublin North East	n=	22	or 14.2%
All areas above	n=	18	or 11.6%
Other	n=	10	or 6.5%

Table 1.10 Agencies and service that responded to the online survey in Q1 2023

Services that selected 'Other' as a service type included child protection services, schools, afterschool services and arts projects.

Strategic Planning Process

Two full-day in-person strategic planning workshops were attended by 57 people working with children, young people and their families, made up of 34 community, voluntary and statutory services/agencies who are members of DCN CYPSC main committee or sub-groups. The organisations that were represented are outlined in Table 1.9 below.

This was an interactive, participatory two-day process, whereby CYPSC main committee and subgroup members came together in person to review the results of the consultations and emerging needs in the area, identify key priority areas for the CYPP and then collectively brainstorm and vote on potential actions in these priority areas.

Agencies and Services in attendance at the strategic planning session	
DoCCFS	Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
Northside Partnership	Ellenfield CC
Marino Institute of Education	Cabra For Youth CLG
Ballymun Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	Early Learning Initiative, NCI
Preparing for Life / Northside Partnership	Our Lady of Consolation School
Daughters of Charity Child & Family Service	Foroige - HAY YDP
Barnardos	HSE CHO DNCC
Ballymun Anseo School Completion Programme	HSE
New Communities Partnership	CDETB Foundations Project
Tusla	HSE
Hill Street FRC	Tusla
BRYR (Ballymun Regional Youth Resource)	City of Dublin Youth Services
Dublin Northwest Partnership	NYP1 Tusla
YPAR	Tusla Child and Family Agency
The Child and Family Agency	Sphere17 RYS
HSE Mental Health Services	Local Community Safety Partnership
Youngballymun	

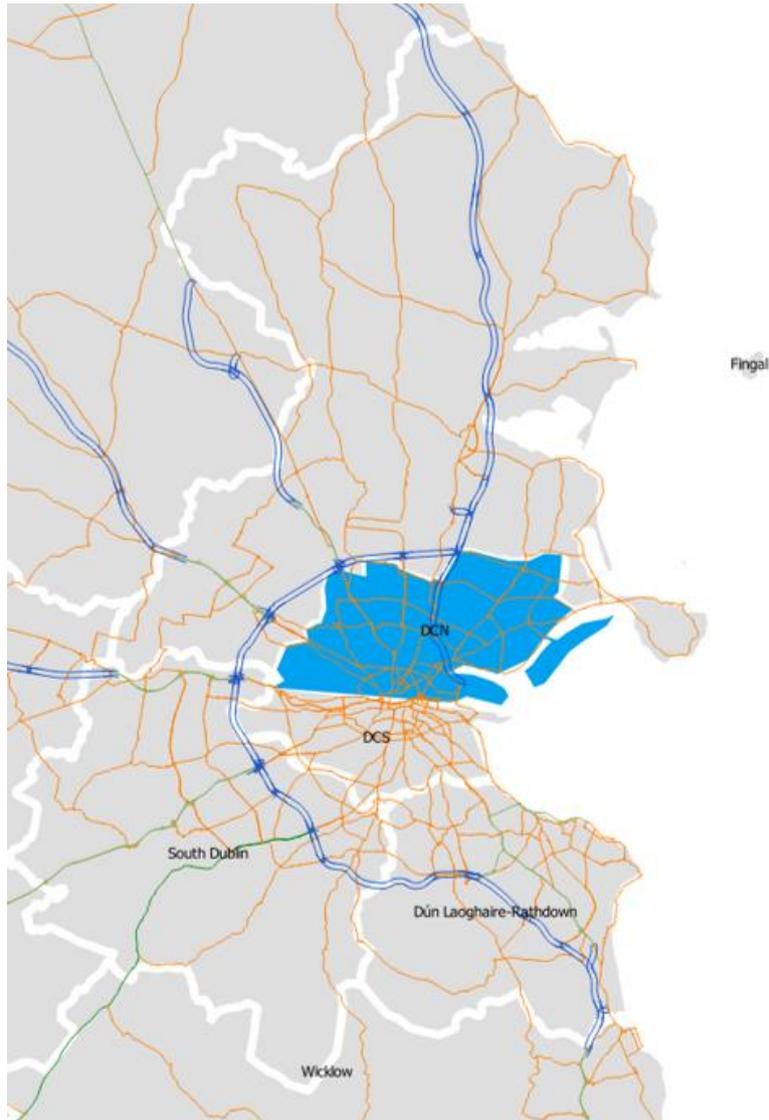
Table 1.11 Agencies and service represented at the strategic planning sessions

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of DCN

2.1 Overview

The Dublin Area (Co. Dublin) comprises the four constituent city/county council administrative areas of Dublin City, South Dublin County, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County and Fingal County. The Area occupies an area of some 921 km² (92,100 hectares). There are five CYPSC areas in total that align with the four administrative areas. The Dublin City Council administrative area is divided into Dublin City South and Dublin City North CYPSC Areas (Map 1).

The Dublin City North (DCN) administrative area stretches from Finglas to Clontarf and from Arran Quay to Darndale. Map 2.2 further divides the DCN CYPSC area into Tusla Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN), to facilitate localised data for those networks which make up the DCN Area.



Map 2.1 Dublin City North CYPSC Area. Source: OpenStreet Map



Map 2.2 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) in the DCN area. Source: OpenStreet Map

2.2 Demographics

This section outlines the current key socio-economic and demographic data available at the time of writing (June 2023). DCN CYPSC will issue an updated socio demographic profile with updated deprivation indices in 2024(⁵Evidence Baseline report 2024 available).The composite data of DCN CYPSC is further broken down into Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) of which there are 7, that naturally make up the geographical boundaries of the DCN CYPSC area. The breakdown of data in this way, is designed to help service planning at a local network level, as well as for the broader DCN CYPSC to understand the key differences between these network and plan forward for service delivery and initiatives, and to identify key stakeholders in these local areas that may be able to support further initiatives.

Summary Indicator Table

Indicator	District of Measurement	Local Measure	National Measure
Child and youth population (0-24 years). Source: Census 2022	DCN	100,308	1,657,058
Child population (0-17 years). Source: Census 2022	DCN	65,097	1,218,567
Young adult population (18 – 24 years). Source: Census 2016	DCN	35,211	438,491
Infant mortality (<1 year) 2020 Source: https://data.cso.ie/table/VSA94	Dublin City	3.4 per 1,000	3.1 per 1,000
Child mortality (0 to 24 years) Source: https://data.cso.ie/table/VSA07 (2022)	Dublin City	1 - 4 years: 1 death 5-9 years: 3 deaths 10-14 years: no deaths 15-19 years: 8 deaths 20-24 years: 6 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
Ethnicity other than White Irish (% and no. of children and young people (0-24 years). Source: Census 2016	Dublin City	White Irish Traveller: 0.8% or 1,156	White Irish Traveller: 1.2% or 18,018

⁵ [Evidence Baseline Report 2024 available here](#)

		Other White Background: 8.8% or 13,526 Black or Black Irish: 1.8% or 2,680 Asian or Asian Irish: 4.7% or 7,052 Other: 2% or 3,024	Other White Background: 7.8% or 121,851 Black or Black Irish: 2.2% or 34,707 Asian or Asian Irish: 2.6% or 39,930 Other: 2% or 32,492
Family structure. Source: Census 2022	DCN	Total Families with children under 15 years: 21,111 Lone Parents with children under 15 years: 5,524 or 26%	Total Families with children under 15 years: 765,037 Lone Parents with children under 15 years: 139,490 or 18%
Parental education level. Source: Census 2016	Dublin City	6,112 or 7.8% of mothers with no formal or primary education only	48,040 or 4.8% of mothers with no formal or primary education only
Children and Young People with a Disability) with a disability. Source: Census 2022	Dublin City	0-14 years: 5217 or 9.54% 15-24 years: 8189 or 18%	0-14 years 98,799 or 9.8% 15-24 years 117,146 or 18.2%

Table 2.1 Summary Indicator Table

Census 2022 data released highlighted some key trends in DCN.

- The highest proportions of population change are in Dublin's Inner City and the lowest in Fingal.
- The North East Inner City is the most densely populated area.
- There are far greater proportions of population born outside of Ireland in the inner-city areas
- The highest proportions of youth population in DCN are mainly concentrated in Darndale, Belmayne, Ballymun and Finglas however there are still extremely high actual numbers of children and young people in the North East Inner City.

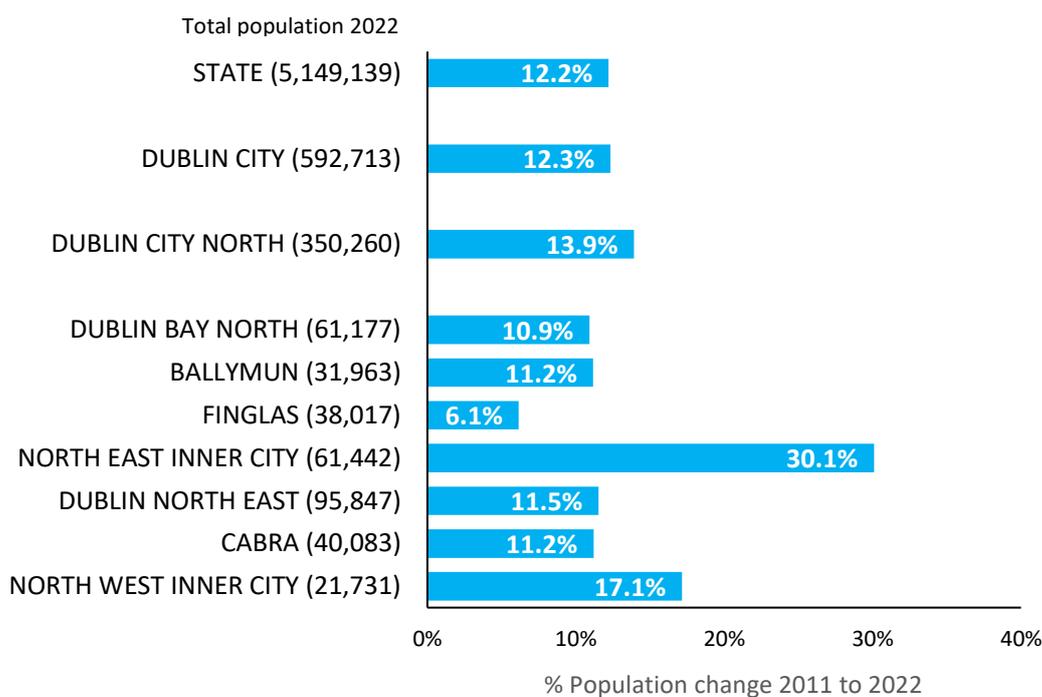
Population change

Since 2011, the population of Dublin City North has grown by 42,765 or 13.9%. As of April 2022, the total population of DCN stood at 350,260 (Table 2.1)

Census year	Dublin City North Total Population
2011	307,495
2016	325,385
2022	350,260

Table 2.2 Total Population Dublin City North 2011 to 2022. Source: Census 2022

Population changes between **2011 and 2022** across the Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) varies significantly as can be seen in Graph 2.1. Finglas saw only a 6% population change while the North East Inner City (NEIC) saw a population increase of over 30%. Some of these increases in the NEIC can be explained by the influx over the last 10 years of large corporates and businesses, in parallel to high numbers of homeless and migrant families.



Graph 2.1 Population Change. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.3 on shows the distribution of population change across the CFSNs. Areas with the highest proportions are evident in Ballymun, Dublin North East and the Finglas while the areas with the highest concentrations of population increase are in the inner-city areas.

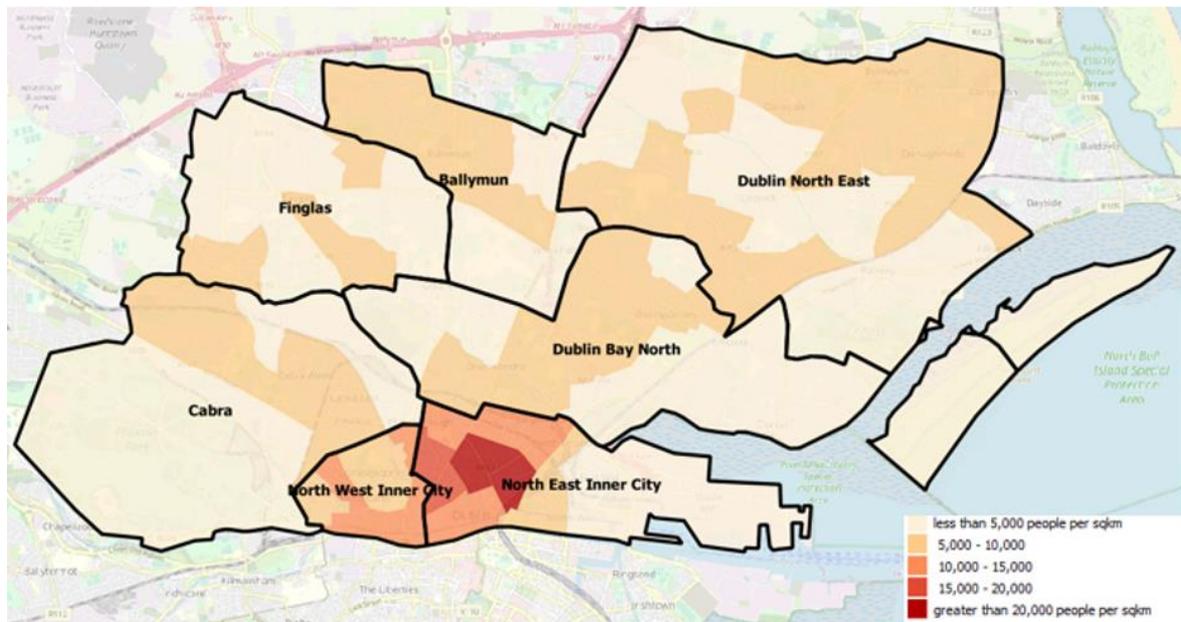


Map 2.3 Population change by Electoral Division, 2016 to 2022. Source: Census 2022

Population Density

Population density measures the number of persons occupying a geographical area in proportion to the size of that area. According to Census 2022, and subject to change, the population density in DCN was 4,682 people per square kilometre. This figure is significantly greater than the national average of 73 people per square kilometre.

Population density by Electoral Division is mapped at Electoral Division (ED level) in Map 2.4 below.

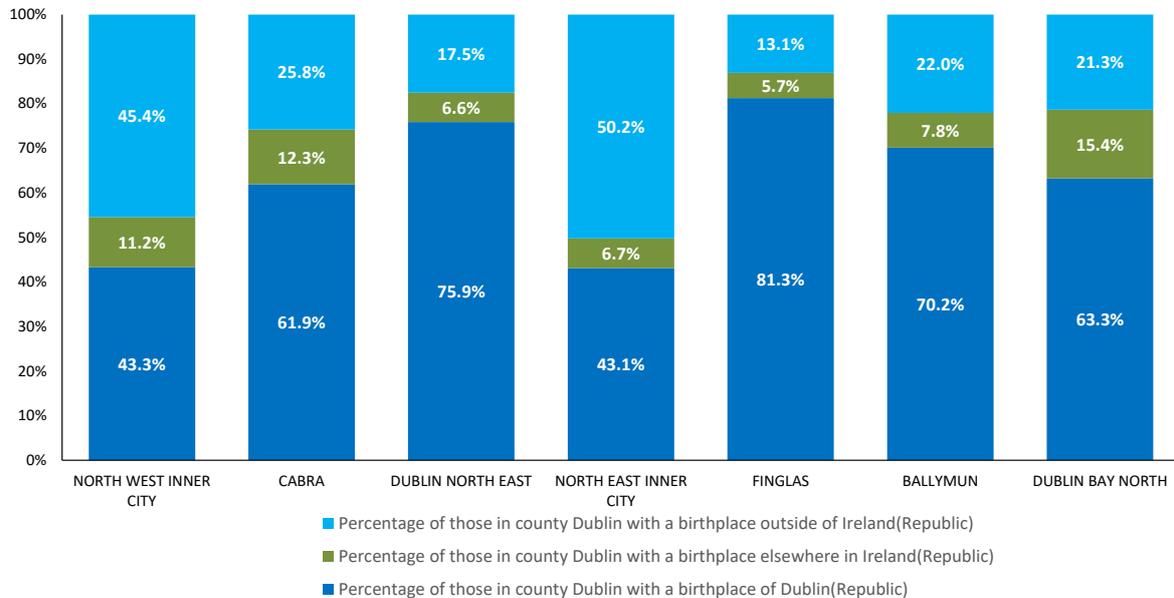


Map 2.4 Population Density per sq km in Census 2022. Source: Census 2022

There is a clear distribution of the population density throughout DCN. The most densely populated areas are in the inner city in the Rotunda and Mountjoy EDs (which has not changed since 2016 census) while the less densely populated areas are evident throughout Cabra, Finglas, Ballymun, Dublin Bay North and Dublin North East.

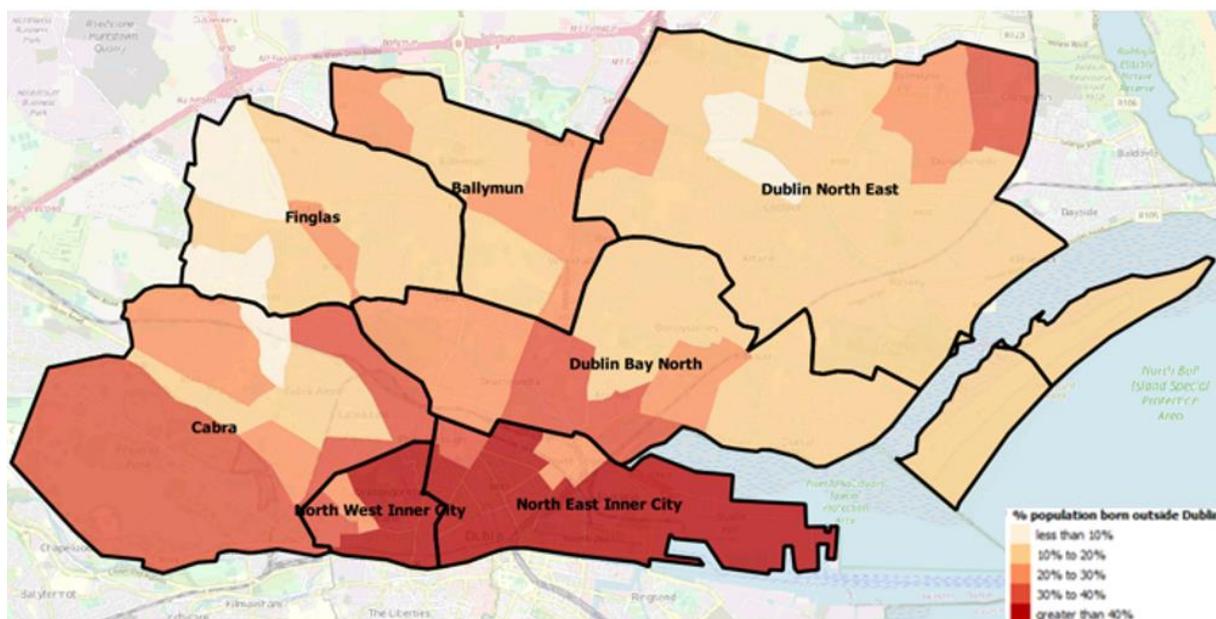
Population born outside of Ireland

Preliminary data released from Census 2022 and subject to change outlines the number and percentage of the population at ED level with a birthplace outside of Ireland, a birth place elsewhere in Ireland (not in Dublin) and a birthplace of Dublin. Graph 2 shows the data aggregated to CFSN levels and Map 2.5 shows the distribution of population born outside of Dublin by ED.



Graph 2.2 Birthplace by CFSN area. Source: Census 2022

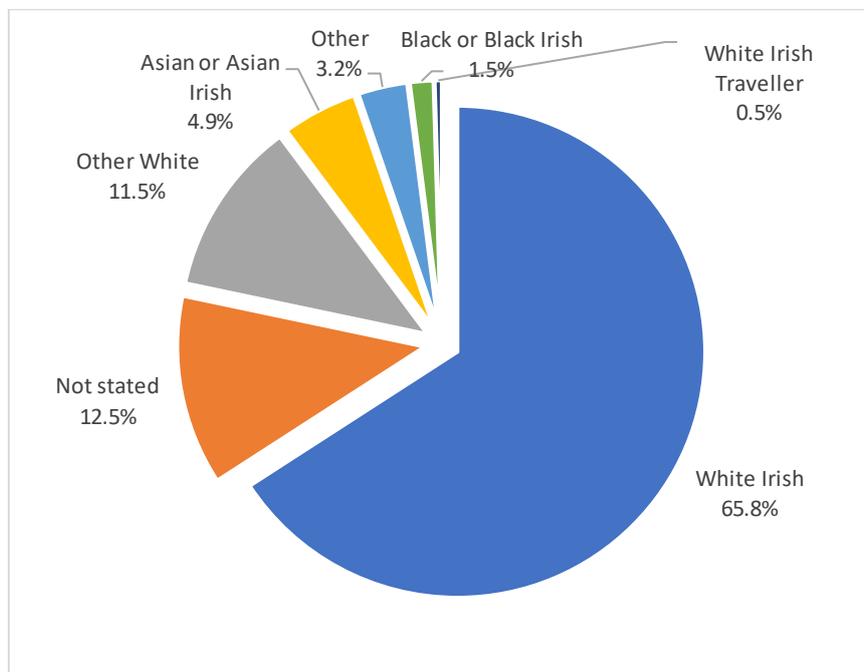
As can be seen in Graph 2.2 the highest proportions of population born in Dublin are evident in Finglas, Dublin North East and Ballymun, while the North East and West Inner Cities have the highest proportions of population born outside of Ireland.



Map 2.5 Population born outside of Ireland. Source: Census 2022

Map 2.5 shows a clear geographic distribution of the EDs of the highest proportions population born outside of Ireland in the inner city while the lowest populations to the north and east of the area.

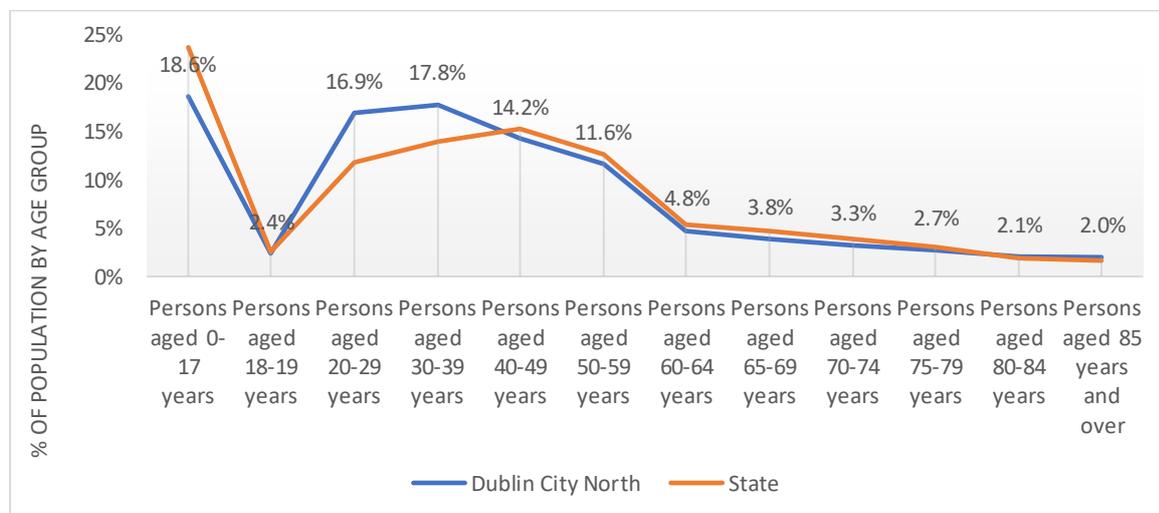
The ethnic breakdown of Dublin City North shows, as similar to Census 2016, the majority identifying as White Irish (65.8%, a decline of almost 9% since 2016 census). Nationally the figure in 2022 was 77% White Irish. However, a higher percentage of “Not Stated” in DCN (12% in 2022, vs just 5.3% in 2016) leaves some open interpretation. White Irish Traveller remains unchanged, with Asian or Asian Irish increasing by just over 1%. The trends and graph below show an increasing diversity in Dublin City North.



Graph 2.3 Ethnicity in Dublin City North, Census 2022

Age Profile

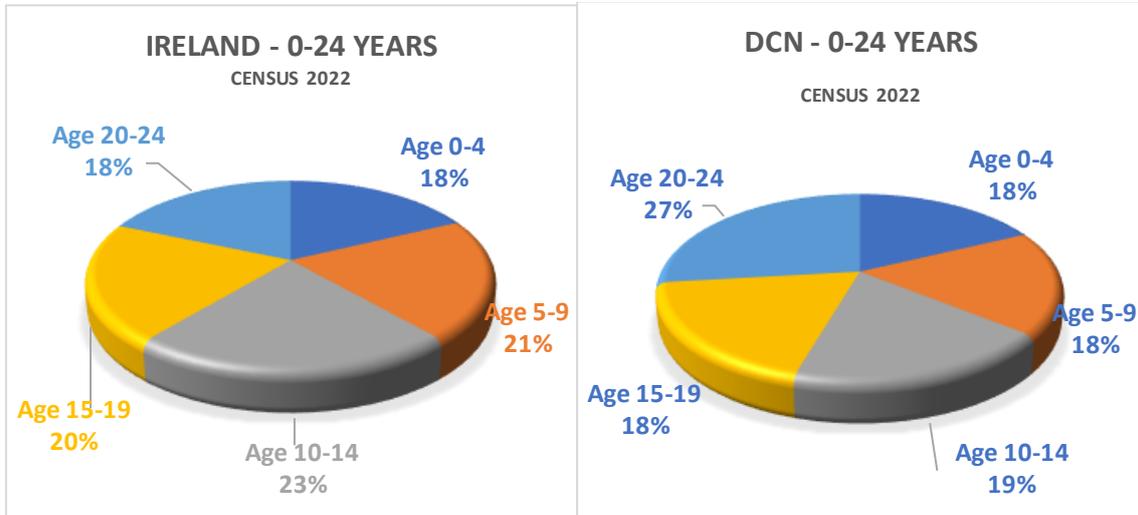
When compared with the State, there are far greater proportions of young people aged 20 to 29 years and 30 to 39 years in DCN than the rest of the state. This would be expected in a city such as Dublin as due to the location of third level institutions and large employers.



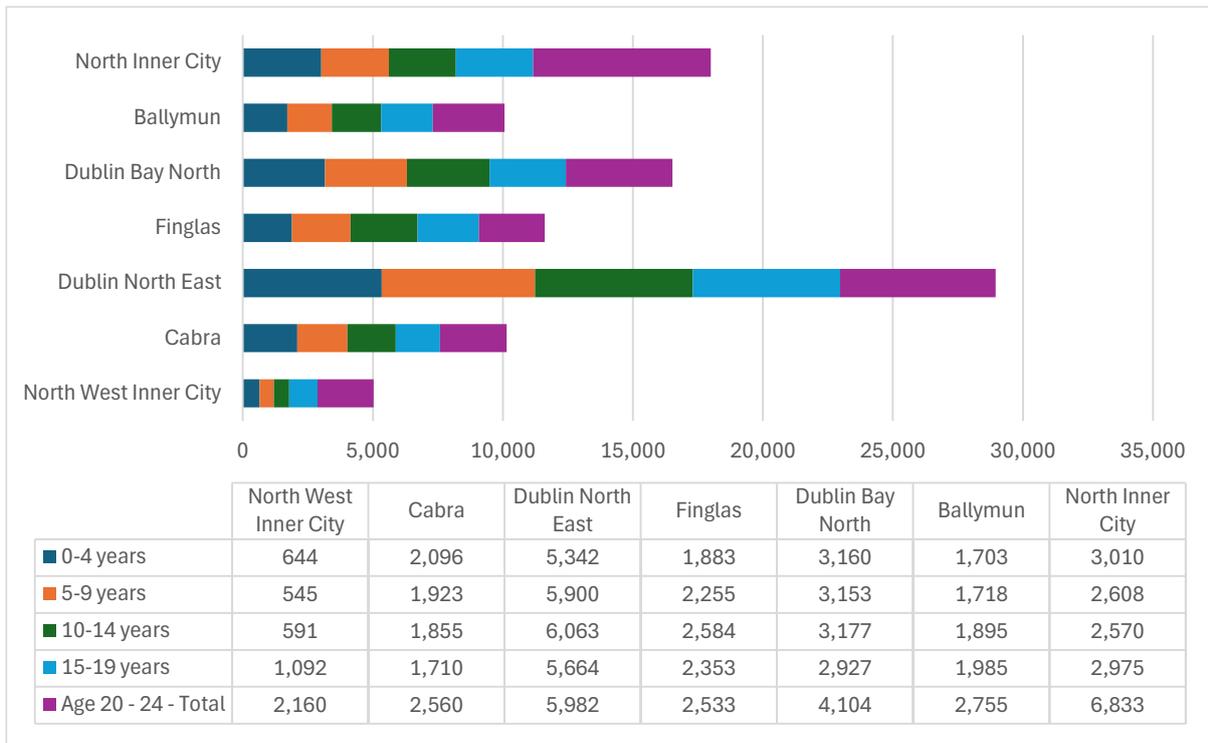
Graph 2.4 Population in DCN and State by Age Profile. Source: Census 2022

The total number of 0-24 year old children and young people living in Dublin City North is 100,308 (Census 2022) vs 95,679 in 2016. This represents an increase of 0.05% overall. The breakdown of ages by CFSN area can be seen below in Graph 2.5

When the child and youth population (0-24 years) in Dublin City North is compared to the state, DCN has a significantly higher population of 20-24 years, and lower in all other age categories except for 0-4 years, which is equal at 18%.



Graph 2.5 Breakdown of Children and Young People (0-24 years) in DCN and State. Source: Census, 2022



Graph 2.6 CFSN Key Comparison by Age Breakdown. Source: Census 2022

CFSN/Age	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total 0- 24
North West Inner City	644	545	591	1,092	2,160	5,032
Cabra	2,096	1,923	1,855	1,710	2,560	10,144
Dublin North East	5,342	5,900	6,063	5,664	5,982	28,951
Finglas	1,883	2,255	2,584	2,353	2,533	11,608
Dublin Bay North	3,160	3,153	3,177	2,927	4,104	16,521
Ballymun	1,703	1,718	1,895	1,985	2,755	10,056
North Inner City	3,010	2,608	2,570	2,975	6,833	17,996
North West Inner City	644	545	591	1,092	2,160	5,032

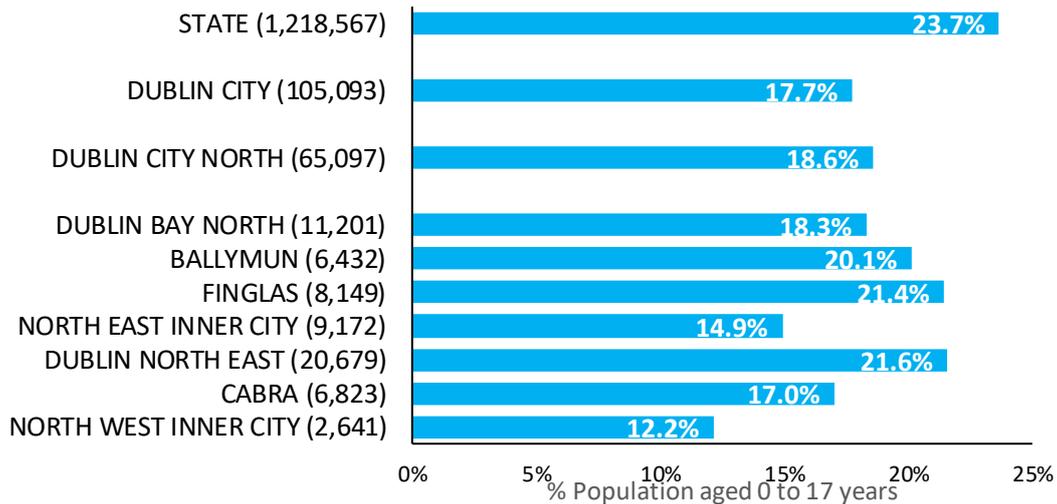
Table 2.3 CFSN Key Comparator by Age, census 2022

On average, 28.5% of the total population of each CFSN is made up of children and young people 0-24 years. The ED with the highest proportion of 0-24 year olds was found in Priorswood B (38.69%)

CFSN	Total 0-24	Total Population	% 0-24 Years of Total Population
North West Inner City	5,032	18,644	27%
Cabra	10,144	40,083	25%
Dublin North East	28,951	95,847	30%
Finglas	11,608	38,017	31%
Dublin Bay North	16,521	61,177	27%
Ballymun	10,056	31,963	31%
North Inner City	17,996	64,529	28%
North West Inner City	5,032	18,644	27%

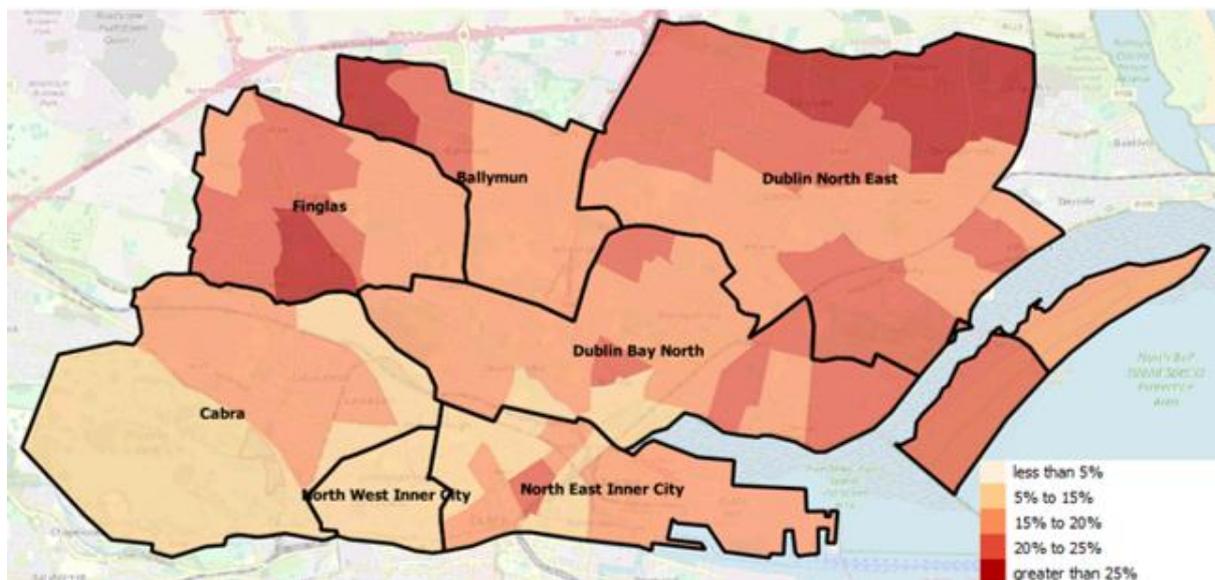
Table 2.3a Population Distribution of 0-24 years and Total Population across CFSNs (Census, 2022)

Further analysis was carried out on proportions of the population aged 0 to 17 years at ED level. This information was aggregated to CFSN level and can be viewed in Graph 2.7 as well as mapped at ED level (Map 2.6) on the following page. Despite there being a low overall proportion of youth population compared to the rest of the population there is a significant actual number of children and young people in the DCN area. In total 65,097 (0-17 years) are distributed throughout DCN, in comparison to 61,966 in the 2016 Census, representing an increase of 3,131 or 0.05%. This figure represents over 5% of the total children and young people aged 0 to 17 years in the state.



Graph 2.7 Population aged 0 to 17 years by CFSN area. Source: Census 2022

CFSNs with the highest proportions of children and young people (0-17 years) are in areas on the periphery of the city such as Ballymun, Finglas and Dublin North East.



Map 2.6 Population aged between 0 and 17 years. Source: Census 2022

In map 2.6 there is a clear spatial distribution of the youth population, except for Mountjoy A in the North East Inner City, whereby the EDs with the highest concentrations of youth population are in the periphery of Dublin City North, in areas such as Darndale, Belmayne, Ballymun and Finglas. Some EDs in these areas have a significant youth population aged 0 to 17 years that greatly exceeds the national average.

Like Census 2016, the 3 Electoral Districts with the highest number of children (0-17 years) according to Census 2022 were located in the CFSNs of Dublin North East and Cabra:

- Grange A (3,285); Ashtown A (2,408); and Grange B (1,893).

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

Dublin City North CYPSC area has been a hub for many transient populations, including homeless, International Protection Support Service (IPSS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) accommodation. In particular, the North East Inner City and surrounds of the inner city have seen an increase in local hotels being used in the form of emergency accommodation. Over 47 nationalities are represented across the IPSS accommodations, demonstrating a wide breadth of cultures.

Children in International Protection Support Service (IPSS) or Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's)

International Protection

At the time of writing (June 2023), Dublin houses the majority of IPSS children when compared to other counties (982 or 21.7%) followed by Donegal (511 or 11.3%).

Between May 2022 and May 2023, there was an estimated increase in occupancy of children by 67.77%.

- **National** IPSS figures as of 18th June 2023 indicates there were 21,495 occupants in International Protection Support Services accommodation (IPAS) in Ireland, over double the number recorded in March 2022 (10,447). Of these 4,589 (21%) of these were children.
- In **Dublin County** there were 7,775 people in IPSS accommodation as of 18th June 2023⁶. This number changes every day due to frequent arrivals and departures.
- In **Dublin City North CYPSC** Area as of June 30th, 2023, there were 371 children 0-17 years recorded as living in International Protection accommodation across 11 emergency accommodation centres and one reception centre. (Tusla/DCEDIY, 2023)

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

There has been a 5.7-fold increase of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection⁷ allocated accommodation in the State between April 2022 and June 2023.

State Accommodation allocated to BOTP's		
	14 th April 2022	29 th June 2023
Emergency accommodation	1,271	1,968
Independent accommodation	51	11,358
Serviced accommodation	10,500	54,026
Total	11,822	67,352

Table 2.4 Accommodation allocated to arrivals from Ukraine. Source: CSO 2023

<https://ws.cso.ie/public/api.restful/PxStatData.Cube/API/ReadDataset/UA33/XLSX/2007/en>

⁶ Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023)

⁷ Temporary Protection is a government policy set out by EU law to give immediate and temporary protection with rights and entitlements to Ukrainians fleeing war. <https://help.unhcr.org/ireland/ukraine-situation/temporary-protection/>

As of June 30th 2023, estimates show 7,480 BOTPs were allocated emergency or serviced accommodation in Dublin across the four Local Authority areas. Just over 40% of these were residing in Dublin City, and 21.6% residing in Dublin City North Area. Children and young people accounted for over 30% of those allocated accommodation in the Dublin City North Area. The figures in Dublin City have fluctuated in the last year due to capacity of hotels and emergency accommodation, summer and student accommodation, and the variable level of arrivals and departures.

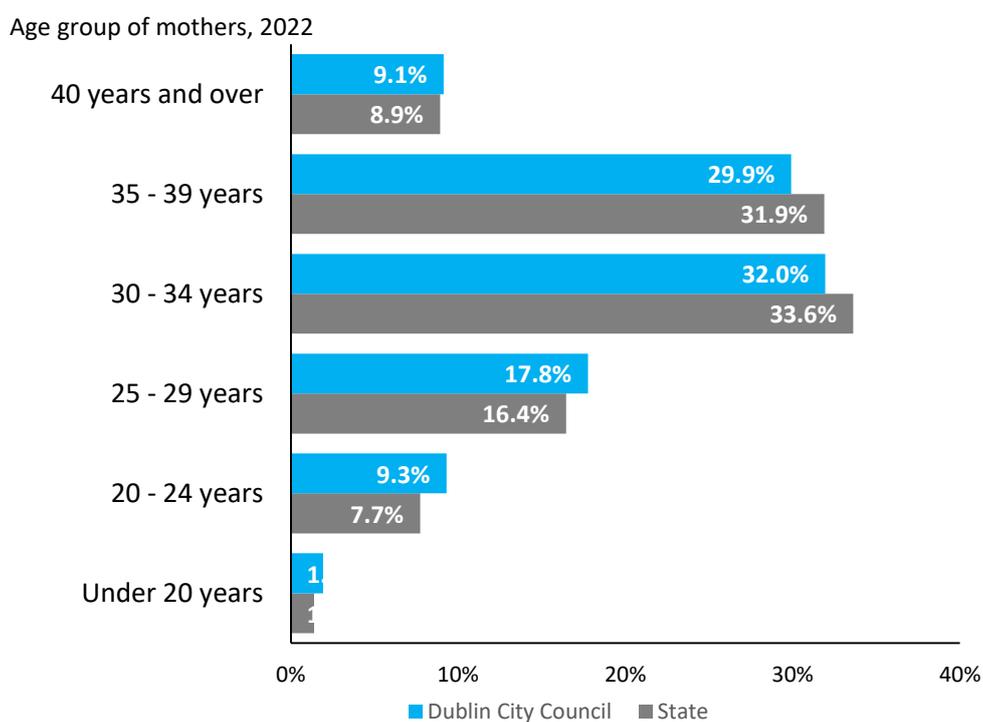
Tusla Child and Family Agency is responsible for Separated Children Seeking International protection for IPSS and BOTPs. There has been a total of 316 referrals to the Unaccompanied Minors Social Work Team across the country (April 2022 to May 2023) of which 237 Ukrainian Unaccompanied Minors were taken into Care or accommodated.

Accommodation allocated in Dublin to BOTPs (arrivals from Ukraine)			
June 30 th 2023	Dublin	Dublin City	Dublin City North
Emergency or serviced accommodation	7,480	3,103	1,616
Children 0-17 years	1,977 (26.4%)	793 (25.5%)	353 (21.8%)
Young People 18-24 years	722 (9.6%)	299 (9.6%)	171 (10.6%)
Total Number of Children and Young People	2,699 (36%)	1,092 (35%)	524 (32.4%)

Table 2.5 Accommodation allocated in Dublin to arrivals from Ukraine on June 30th 2023

2.4 Births and mothers

- In 2022, The highest number of births registered was in Dublin City with 6,967 (12% of total live births in the country)
- In 2022, Dublin City had a higher share of younger mothers when compared with the rest of the country (Graph 2.6)



Graph 2.5 Mothers by age-group. Source: CSO Vital Statistics

- In 2020, according to the Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO)⁸ 40.5% (or 5,074) of mothers were exclusively breastfeeding their babies. This was lower than the State average of 44.2% of mothers breastfeeding exclusively.
- In 2020, according to the Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO) 6% of babies born in Dublin City weighed under 2,500 grammes, this was higher than the State average of 5.8%.
- According to Census 2016, 8,755 or 11.6% of mothers with children aged 0 to 17 years with no formal or primary education only. This was 3% higher than the State average of 8.5%.
- According to the HRB, 98.2% newborns visited by a public health nurse⁹ within 72 hours in Dublin North Central in 2021 (State 97.8%)
- According to the HRB, 40.1% children reaching ten months within the reporting period who have had their developmental check before reaching 10 months in Dublin North Central 40.1% in 2021 (State 59.8%)

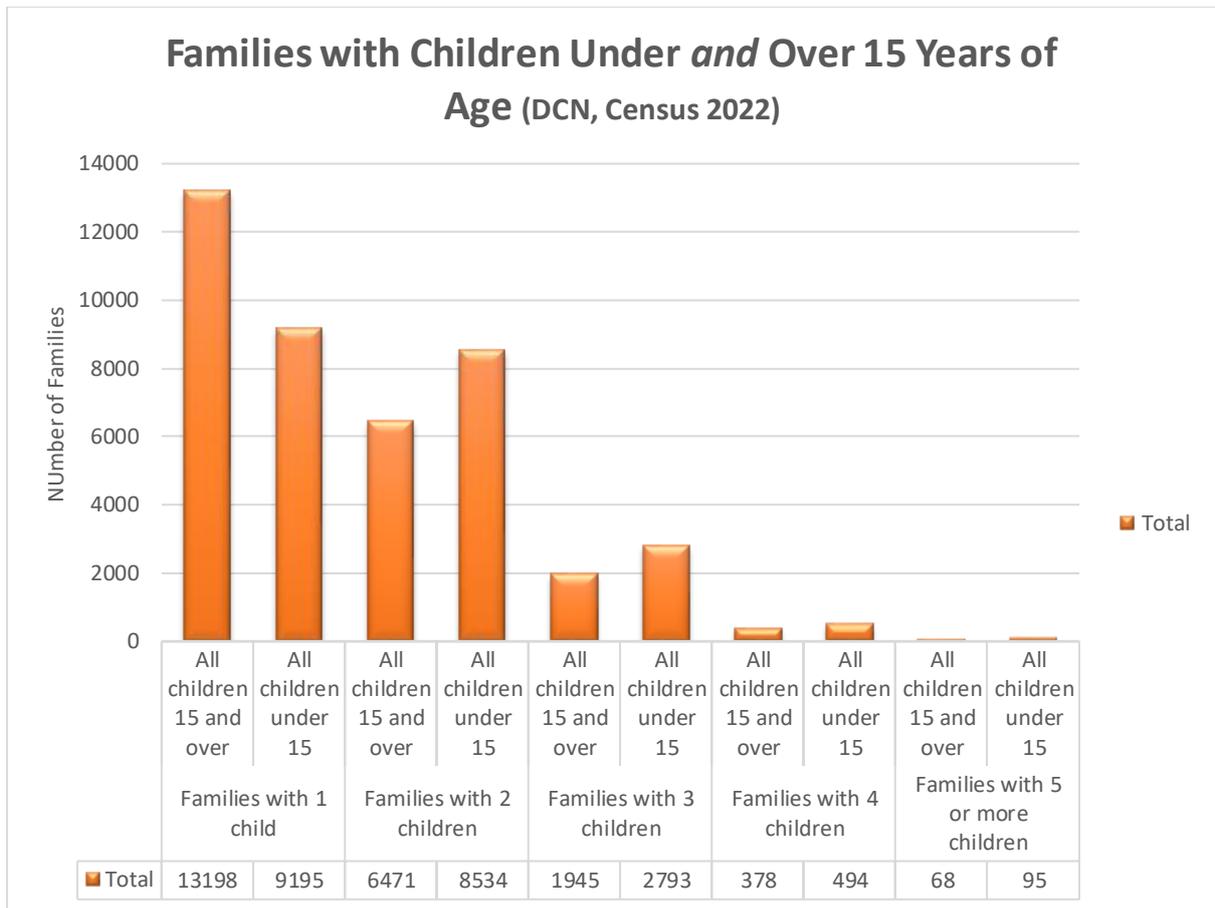
2.5 Family Structure

As of April 2022, there were 76,995 families in the DCN CYPSC Area. There is a slight decline on the number of families with children both over and under the age of 15 years (43,171 in 2022 vs 44,604 in 2016). In total there are 21,111 families with children under the age of 15; and 22,060 families with children over the age of 15 as can be seen in the below graph.

The Electoral Division with the highest number of families with children both under 15 (1,232), and over 15 years (838), is Grange A (Dublin North East CFSN) – a statistic that has remained unchanged since the previous census. Ashtown A (Cabra CFSN) was a close second with 1,030 families with children under 15, and 754 families with children over 15 years of age. Most families with children had 1 child, followed by 2 children, in line with state averages.

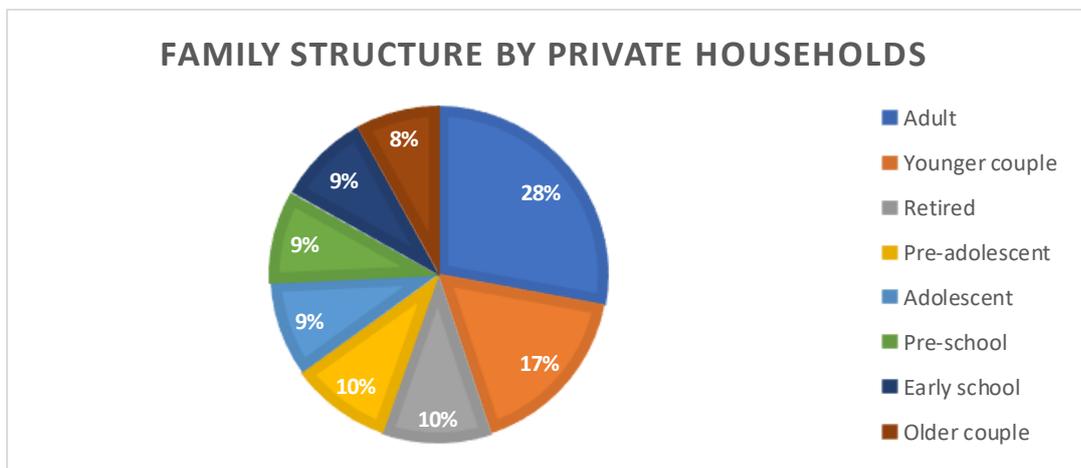
⁸ [Layout 1 \(hpo.ie\)](#)

⁹ Source: [Latest data \(hrb.ie\)](#)



Graph 2.8 Families in DCN with Children Under and Over 15 Years of Age. Source: Census 2022

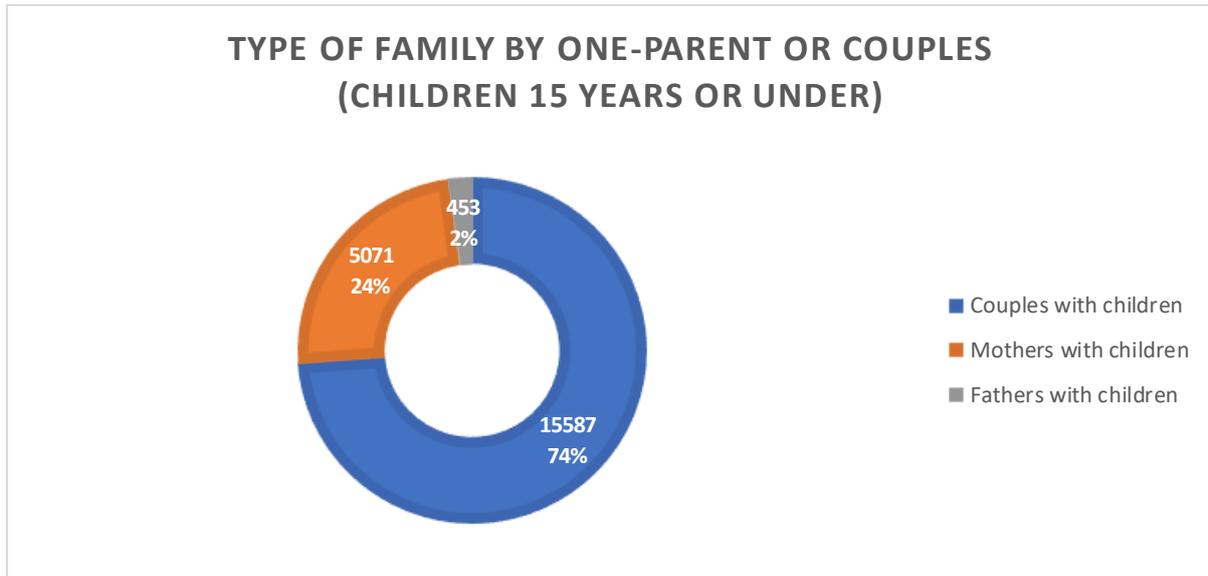
The family cycle represented in the graph below, highlights that the majority are adult families, where the oldest child is aged 20 years or over. This follows the 20–24-year-old age category being the most represented age group in Dublin City North. DCN contains a higher percentage of Younger Couples (17%) when compared to the state (9%), and in other categories is generally similar in its composition. This information highlights how family type are predominantly adults living with their parents, followed by pre-family and pre-school children.



Graph 2.9 Breakdown of family type in DCN. Source Census 2022

2.6 Lone Parents

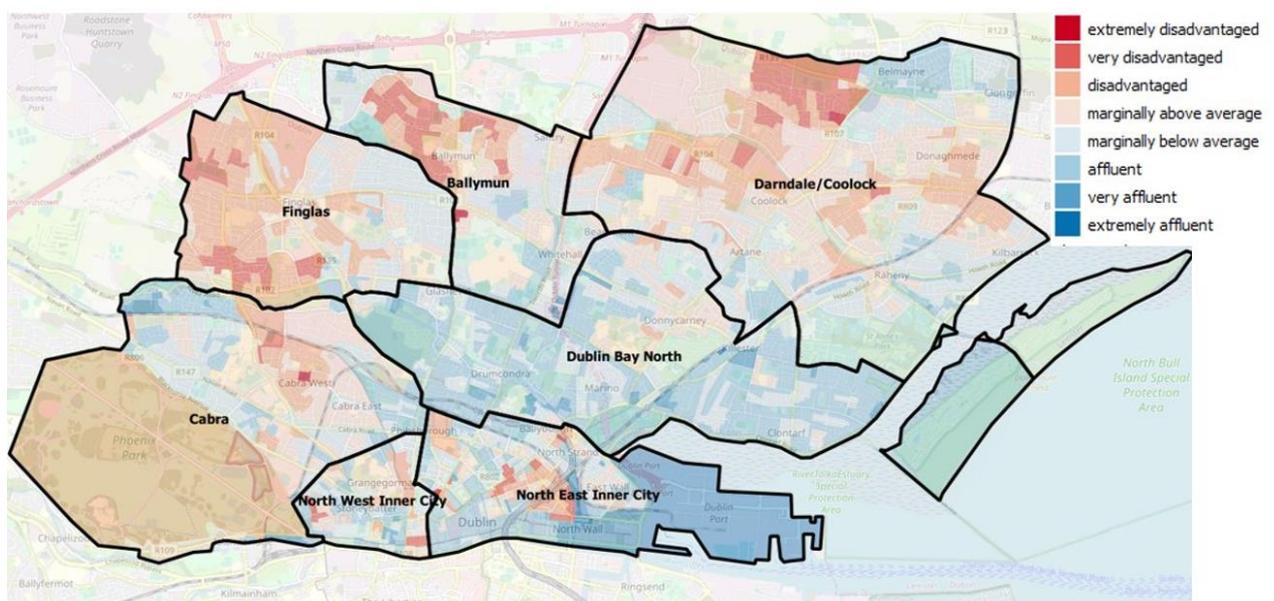
Census 2022 illustrates there were 21,111 families with children aged under 15 years in DCN. Further analysis of this figure shows that 26% of these families are one-parent families, while couples (74%) continue to be the predominant type of family with children under the age of 15.



Graph 2.10 Type of Family by One-Parent or Couples for Children Under 15 years. Source: Census 2022

2.7 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

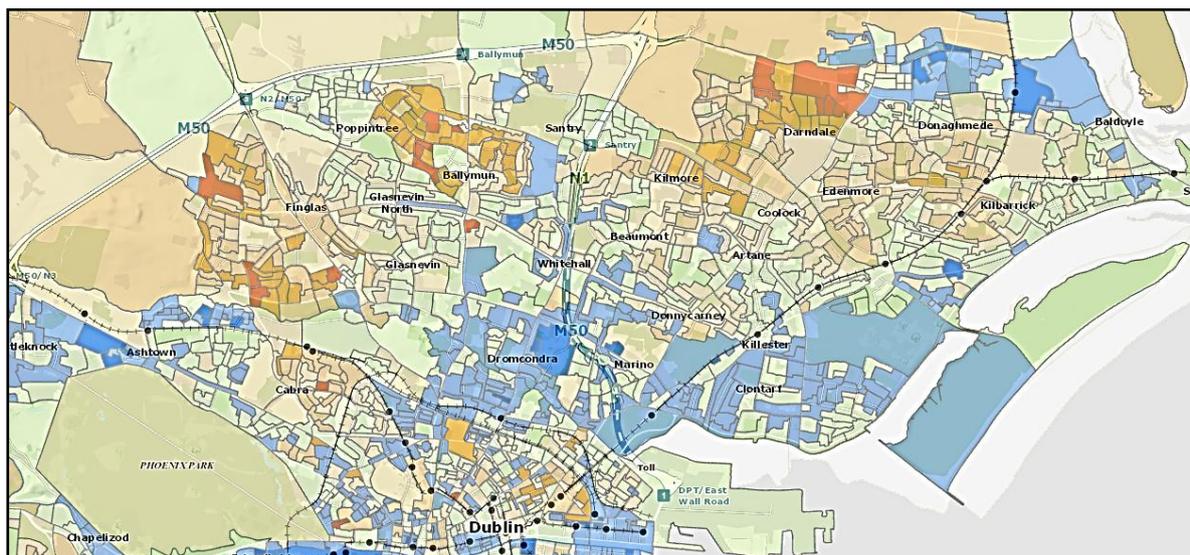
The 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at the level of 18,488 Small Areas (SAs) in 2016 in Ireland based on the Relative Index Scores for 2016. Within the DCN area there is a clear distribution of the most affluent areas in the east of the North East Inner City and Dublin Bay North. The CFSNs of Finglas, Ballymun and Cabra also have a very distinct pattern of clusters of affluent SAs adjacent to significantly disadvantaged areas (Map 2.7).



Map 2.7 Pobal HP Deprivation Index by Small Area. Source: Pobal 2016

In comparison to 2016, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022, mapped above, shows that while the distribution of affluence and deprivation are broadly mirrored by location, the level of both measures

have become more disparate. In 2016, there were 4 Small Areas noted as Extremely Disadvantaged. In 2022, this rose to 14 Small Areas. The highest deprivation score was found in Ballymun B.



Map 2.8 Pobal HP Deprivation Index by Small Area. Source: Pobal 2022

Small Area ID	Electoral Division	Pobal HP Deprivation	Categorisation
268016008/02	Ballymun B	-44.16	Extremely Disadvantaged
268068003	Finglas South C	-41.7	Extremely Disadvantaged
268067011	Finglas South B	-39.61	Extremely Disadvantaged
268119007	Priorswood C	-36.15	Extremely Disadvantaged
268122203	Priorswood B	-35.37	Extremely Disadvantaged
268068001	Finglas South C	-34.95	Extremely Disadvantaged
268063011	Finglas North A	-34.58	Extremely Disadvantaged
268119006	Priorswood C	-34.47	Extremely Disadvantaged
268034009	Cabra West B	-33.75	Extremely Disadvantaged
268016007	Ballymun B	-32.87	Extremely Disadvantaged
268119010	Priorswood C	-31.39	Extremely Disadvantaged
268122002	Priorswood B	-30.92	Extremely Disadvantaged
268004004	Arran Quay D	-30.55	Extremely Disadvantaged
268081014	Inns Quay B	-30.07	Extremely Disadvantaged

Table 2.6 Small Areas Categorised as Extremely Disadvantaged. Source: Census 2022

2.8 Housing Tenure

The number of private households in permanent housing units rose from 1,697,665 in 2016 to 1,836,728 in 2022 in Ireland, representing a 7.5% increase since 2016. In DCN, the number of permanent households have increased since 2016, from 112,531 in 2016 to 129,003 in 2022, representing a 12.7% increase. The data in the graph below outlines the DCN housing occupancy in comparison to Ireland. The primary tenure in the State is Owned Outright, followed by Owned with a Mortgage. In contrast, Dublin City North “renter” tenure represents 41% of all households in comparison to 28% renter in the State. The highest numbers of “ownership” were found in Grange A, followed by Ashtown A, Clontarf East B and Grace Park. The highest number of “rental” status was found in the North East Inner City (North Dock B, North City, Mountjoy B). Rental specifically from Local Authority, the highest numbers were found in Ballymun (C, B, and D) and Priorswood C.

Housing Tenure 2022	DCN	State
Owned outright	29%	37%
Rented from private landlord	27%	18%
Owned with mortgage or loan	23%	29%
Rented from Local Authority	12%	8%
Not stated	6%	4%
Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body	2%	2%
Occupied free of rent	1%	2%

Table 2.7 Housing Tenure: Owner Occupied and Rented. Source: Census 2022

2.9 Housing Vacancy and Homelessness

According to the latest vacancy rates released from Census 2022, and subject to change, there are in total 141,450 housing units (house, flat/apartment) in Dublin City North. Of these 8,696 are vacant. This equates to a vacancy rate of 6.1%, 2% lower than the State average. Table 2.9 below outlines the total housing stock by CFSN in the DCN Area.

CFSN	Housing Stock	Vacant Dwellings	Vacancy Rate
North West Inner City	9,586	767	8.0%
Cabra	17,432	955	5.5%
Dublin North East	36,366	1,649	4.5%
North East Inner City	24,291	2,091	8.6%
Finglas	14,884	811	5.4%
Ballymun	12,614	619	4.9%
Dublin Bay North	26,277	1,804	6.9%

Table 2.8 Housing Vacancy by CFSN. Source: Census 2022

As outlined in the table above the lowest vacancy rates (i.e., the least amount of available housing) are in the areas outside of the inner city, while the highest vacancy rates are in the North West and East Inner City areas.

As of 2021, there were 9,178 households with children in need of housing in the Dublin Area (Social Housing Waiting List).

Family homelessness in the Dublin area reduced between 2019 and 2021, but increased from mid-2021, while single homelessness (number of households in emergency accommodation) has continued to increase overall since 2016 (Dublin Area Homeless Executive, 2022).

In the week ending 30th April 2023, there were 8,665 adults accessing local authority managed emergency accommodation in Ireland, and 6,288 of these were in the Dublin area (of which 2,283 were female and 4,005 were male). In terms of nationality of these adults in the Dublin area, 54% (3,407) were Irish, 25% (1,592) were from the EEA/UK, and 21% (1,289) were from Rest of World.

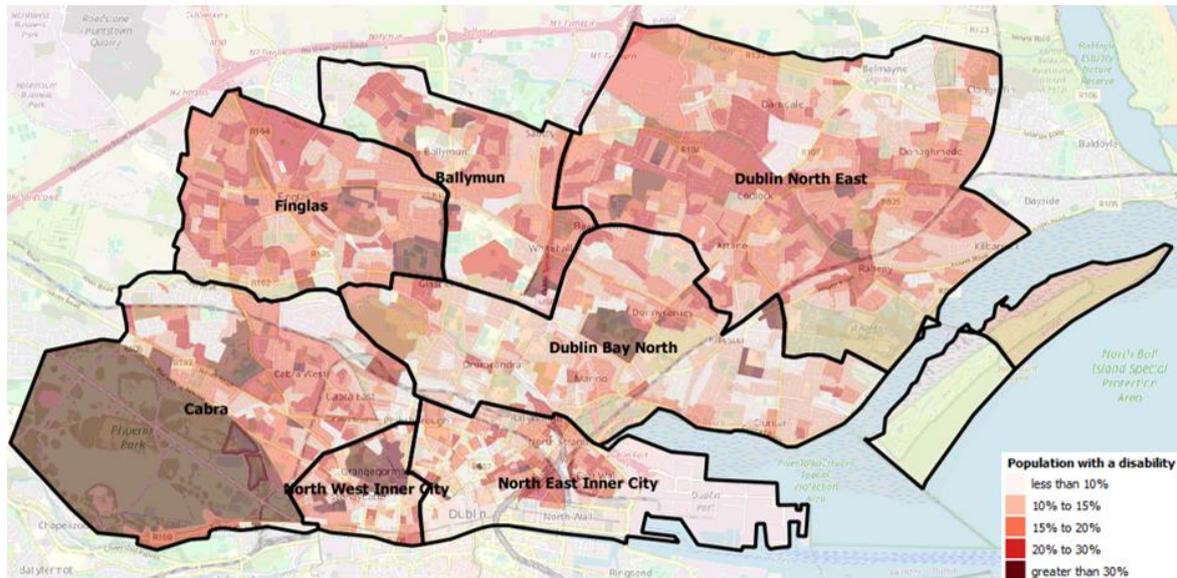
In the same period (week ending 30th April 2023), there were 1,263 families accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin area (the highest proportion in the country) which included 2,722 child dependents (out of 3,594 nationally) and 2,610 adults.¹⁰

In contrast, between January and October 2021, there were 528 homeless families were registered across the whole Dublin area, of which 311 families (59%) were accommodated within CHO9 and 279 families were accommodated in Dublin North City Centre (CDI YPAR, 2022).

¹⁰ Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (April 2022) Monthly Homelessness Report

2.10 Children with a disability

In April 2016, there were 6,660 children in Dublin City with a disability. This figure equated to a rate of 67.5 per 1,000 children. Map 2.7 shows the distribution of the total population with a disability in the DCN area.



Map 2.9 Total Population with a disability. Source: Census 2016

Areas with the highest proportions are evident in the North West Inner City, Cabra, Dublin Bay North and Dublin North East.

In 2022, the census indicates that 9.54% of the 0-14 year population in DCN has a disability (greater or lesser extent), while the 15-24 year age group represents 18%. This is broadly in line with state figures. The highest rates of disability are found below

Age range	Electoral Division (Top 6 with highest percentages)	No.	%	Age range	Electoral Division (Top 6 with highest percentages)	No.	%
0 - 14 years	Priorswood D, Dublin City	83	16.9	15 - 24 years	Cabra West C, Dublin City	99	27.2
0 - 14 years	Finglas South C, Dublin City	76	16.6	15 - 24 years	Arran Quay E, Dublin City	86	26.4
0 - 14 years	Cabra West B, Dublin City	62	16.2	15 - 24 years	Whitehall B, Dublin City	135	24.2
0 - 14 years	Cabra West D, Dublin City	60	15.3	15 - 24 years	Beaumont C, Dublin City	83	23.8
0 - 14 years	Edenmore, Dublin City	63	15.1	15 - 24 years	Edenmore, Dublin City	74	23.7
0 - 14 years	Kilmore C, Dublin City	34	15.1	15 - 24 years	Ballygall D, Dublin City	64	23.3

Table 2.9 DCN Electoral Divisions with Highest Percentages of Disability 0-14 and 15-24 years. Source: Census 2022

As of 2021 and according to the National Ability Support System, there were 1,405 children in the Dublin area registered as having an intellectual disability. This equated to a rate of 4.6 per 1,000 children and was higher than the State rate of 3.8.

As of 2021 and according to the National Ability Support System, there were 856 children in the Dublin area registered as having a physical disability. This equated to a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 children and was higher than the State rate of 2.5.

According to the HSE¹¹, as of July 2022 in CHO 9, of which DCN is in, there were 2,159 children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact from the HSE regarding disability services.

According to the same document there are in the LHO of Dublin North Central:

- 359 Number of 0-17 years and 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment with Speech and Language Therapy
- 163 Number of 0-17 years and 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment with Physiotherapy
- 236 Number of 0-17 years and 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment with Occupational Therapy

2.11 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Waiting Lists

According to the latest Parliamentary Questions¹² (PQs) there has been a significant increase on the number of children and young people waiting to access CAMH services from 2,755 in December 2020 to 4,434 at end February 2023.

In 2021, information on the waiting lists for CAMH services was made available at HSE Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Level¹³ of which there are 9. DCN is within CHO Area 9 and was made available by PQ¹⁴. In March 2021, there were 259 children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS in CHO9 which accounted for more than 10% of the national figure of 2,384.

2.12 Rates of self-harm in men and women aged 25 years and under

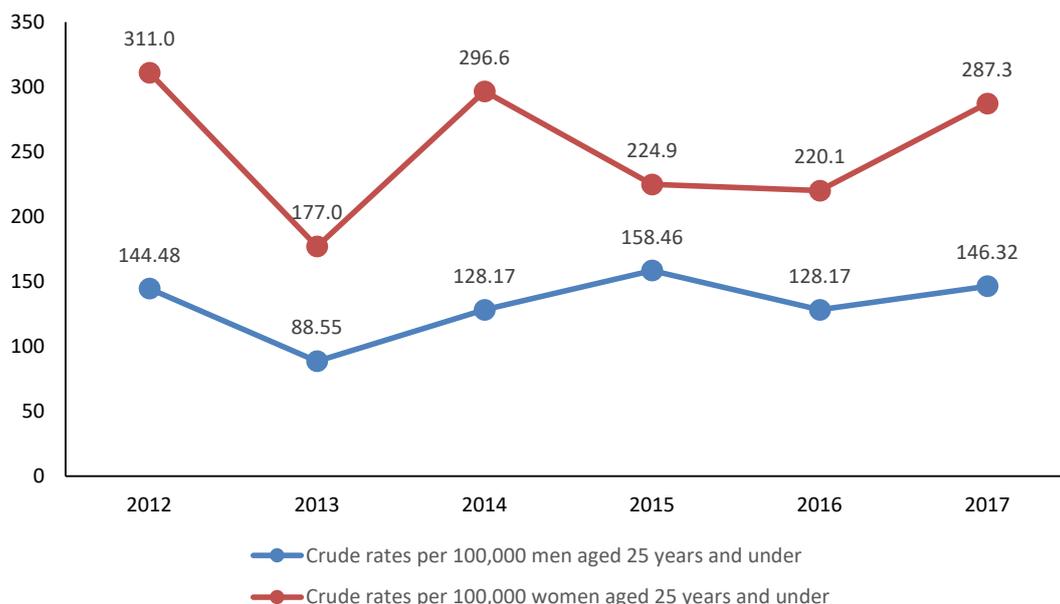
According to the latest data from the National Suicide Research Foundation the Dublin North Central Local Health Office (LHO) had the 9th highest rate of self-harm in women aged 25 years and under when compared to the other 32 LHOs in the country. The graph on the following page outlines the change over a five-year period and compared it to the rate in men also. In 2017, the rate of self-harm in men in Dublin North Central was the 5th highest compared with the other LHOs in the same time period.

¹¹ Source: [National Disability Services \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/national-disability-services)

¹² Source: [Mental Health Services – Thursday, 20 Apr 2023 – Parliamentary Questions \(33rd Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas](https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/parliamentary_questions/2023/04/20/mental-health-services-thursday-20-apr-2023)

¹³ Community Healthcare Services are the broad range of services that are provided outside of the acute hospital system and includes Primary Care, Social Care, Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing Services. These services are delivered through the HSE and its funded agencies to people in local communities, as close as possible to people's homes. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/cho-faq.pdf>

¹⁴ Source: [pq-47739-21-mark-ward.pdf \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/cho-faq.pdf)



Graph 2.11 Rates of self-harm. Source: NSRF 2021

Graph 2.11 above charts the changes in the rate of self-harm amongst males and females in the Dublin North Central LHO between 2012 and 2017.

2.13 Suicide

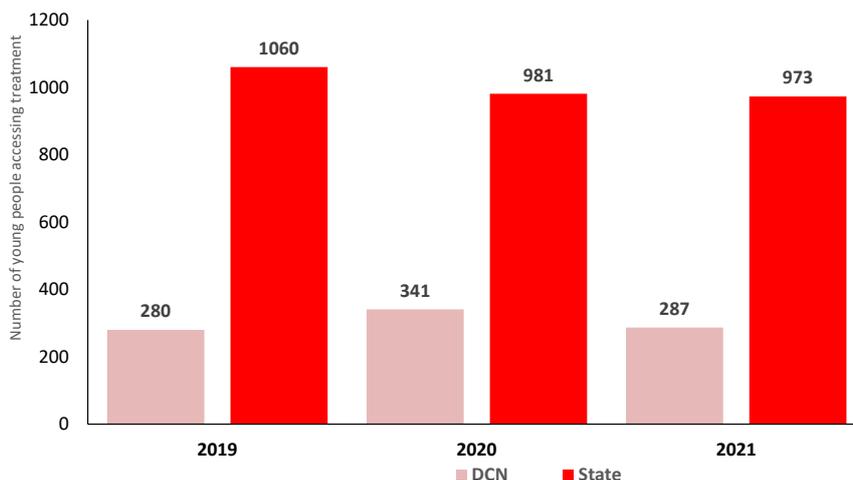
According to the CSO Vital Statistics¹⁵, in 2021 there was a suicide rate of 5.4 in Dublin City. This rate was lower than the State rate of 8.0.

2.14 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 Board¹⁶. The information is released at Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce area (LDATF) of which there are four (Dublin North East, Ballymun, North Inner City and Finglas/Cabra) in the DCN CYPSC area. In 2021, 287 children and young people residing in the DCN area accessed treatment for drugs and alcohol use. This figure accounted for over a fifth of the total children and young people that accessed treatment in the state (Graph 2.8).

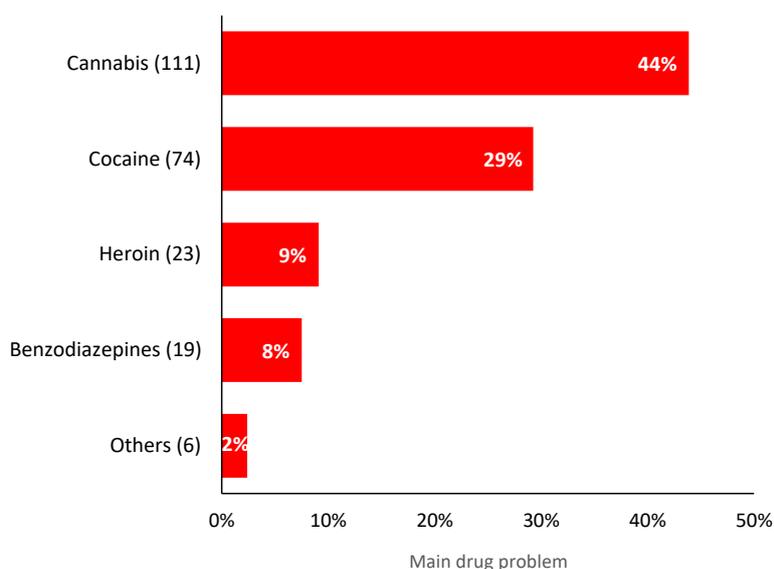
¹⁵ Source: [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2021 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

¹⁶ Source: [Latest data \(hrb.ie\)](#)



Graph 2.12 Young people (24 years and under) accessing treatment for drugs and alcohol (2019 to 2021).
Source: HRB 2023

Analysis was also carried out on the type of drugs that children and young people identified as their substance of use when accessing treatment.



Graph 2.13 Young people (24 years and under) accessing treatment by substance (2021). Source: HRB 2023

In 2021 in the DCN area 44% of children young people identified cannabis as their main substance, followed by cocaine and heroin.

2.15 Education

Educational Attainment

According to Census 2022, 26,181 of the DCN population (over 15 years) had No Formal or Primary Only education. The top 3 CSO Electoral Divisions with the highest number of *No Formal Education* for both males and females was Ballymun C (173); Mountjoy A (171) and Grange A (149). From the chart below, Upper Secondary is the highest percentage of completed education for both sexes; with

just a 1% difference in an Honours Bachelors Degree or professional qualification for males and females, illustrated in Table 2.11 below. When age of education ceased is compared between DCN and the State, both are broadly similar, the main difference being a higher percentage who didn't respond to the question (31% DCN vs 26.5% State)

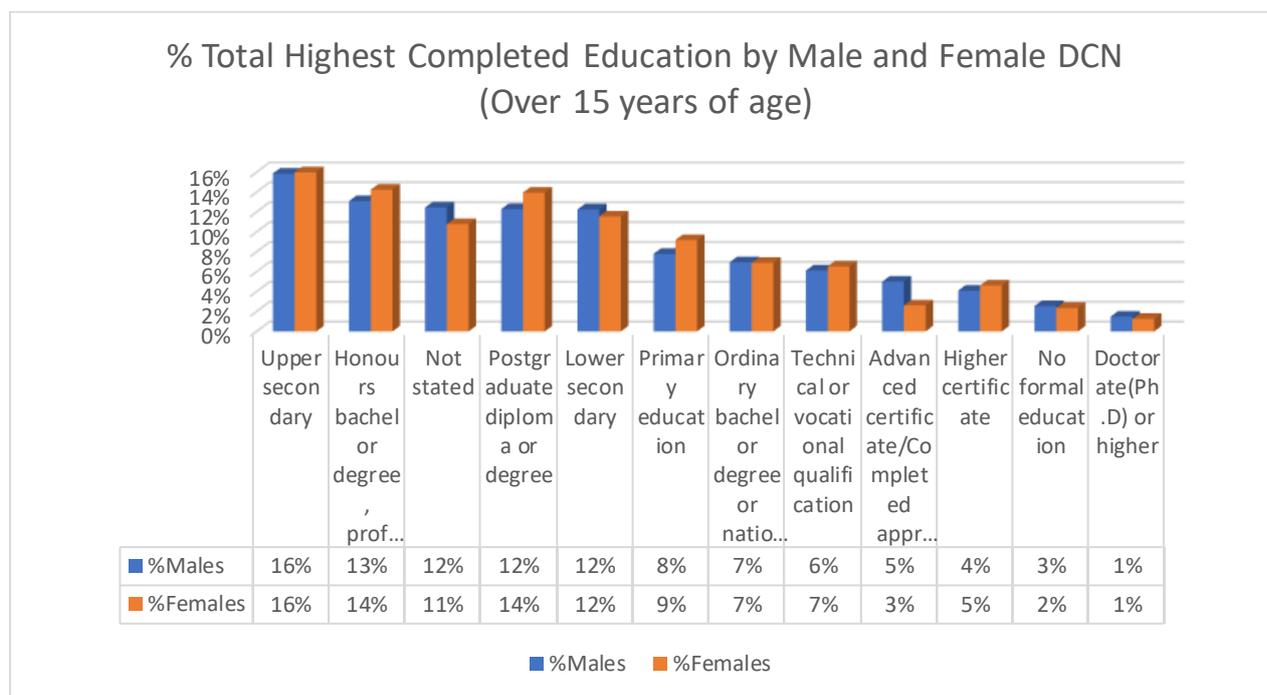


Table 2.11 Education Attainment over 15 years in DCN. Source: Census 2022

Early Learning and Childcare Services

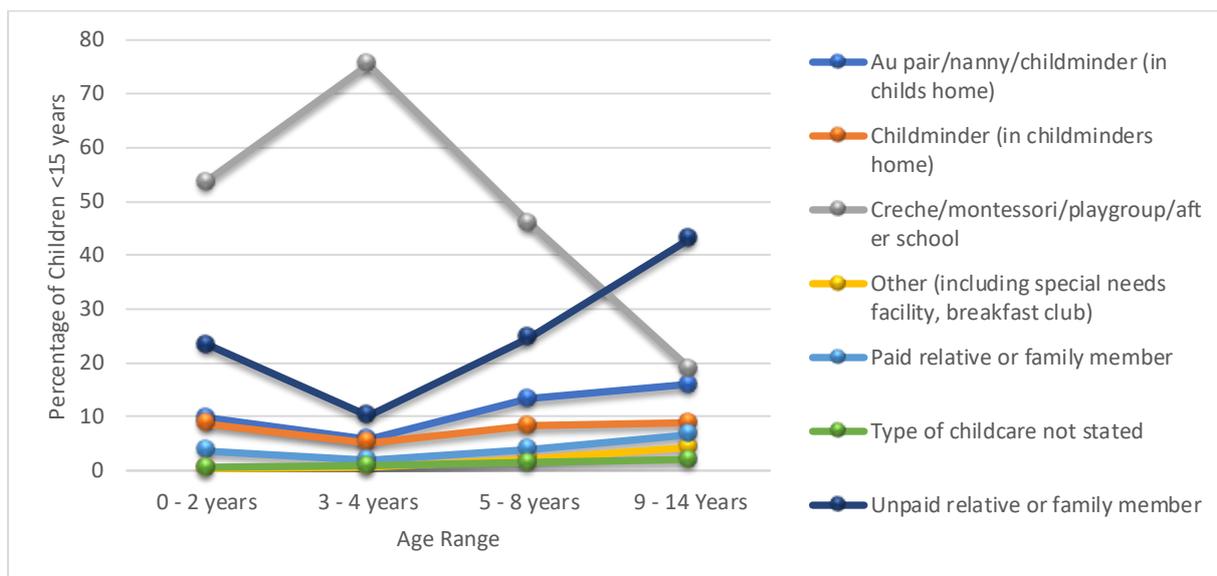
According to the Pobal Early Years report in 2020/21¹⁷, the latest report available

- Staff working in childcare in Dublin City were amongst the highest paid in the country
- €213.85 was the average weekly fee for childcare in Dublin City, one of the highest in the country
- There were 8,263 childcare places in Dublin City of which 20% were vacant
- The demand for baby places was the highest – for every two babies enrolled in services, approximately three are placed on a waiting list (154%) nationally. By comparison, this figure was 84% in 2018/19.

According to Census 2022, childcare provision varied by age in Dublin City, with a significant majority (75%) at age 3 -4 years enrolled in creche, Montessori, playgroup or similar.¹⁸ The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme (which provides free care and education for pre-school children for 3 hours a day, 5 days a week, 38 weeks of the year) has been a significant enabler for childcare provision at this age. However, at 0-2 years of age, just over half (53%) are enrolled in this type of childcare, with the next most popular type of childcare provided by an “unpaid relative or family member”. In some cases, this may be due to the cost of childcare (Dublin City being one of the highest costs in the state), or availability of baby places in the area (notably one of the most in-demand childcare services in the state).

¹⁷ Source: [Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020 2021 \(pobal.ie\)](https://www.pobal.ie/en/early-years-sector-profile-report-2020-2021)

¹⁸ Source: https://ws.cso.ie/public/api.restful/PxStat.Data.Cube_API.ReadDataset/F3050/XLSX/2007/en



Graph 2.14 Type of Childcare by Age in Dublin City, Census 2022

Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Retention

Leaving certificate retention rates are published by the Department of Education on an annual basis. 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 and is not available for the DCN area.

In 2015, 5,066 young people began secondary school in Dublin City. Of these 97.5% completed their Junior Certificate and **by 2021 90.3% had completed their Leaving Certificate**. This figure equated to a Leaving Certificate retention rate of 90.3% in Dublin City. Compared with other administrative counties, this was the 6th lowest rate in the country (Longford was the lowest at 87.2% and Sligo the highest at 95%). The Dublin City retention rate of 90.3% represented a nearly 1% increase on the 2020 retention rate of 89.5%.

School absenteeism

In June 2023, Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) released the School Attendance and School Absence Report for the period 2019 – 2022¹⁹. The data is divided across 3 time periods: 2019 -2020; 2020-21; and 2021-22.

Dublin **Primary Schools** had the highest percentage of days lost and 20-plus day absences in the period 2019-20, and 2020 – 21 when compared to the rest of the state. More starkly, Dublin Primary School percentage of students who lost 20-plus days across the three school years, increased from 7.7% in 2019-20 school year to 45.5% in the period 2021-22, the second highest in the state (only just slightly below Offaly at 46.1%). This trend of more 20-plus day absences is noted across all

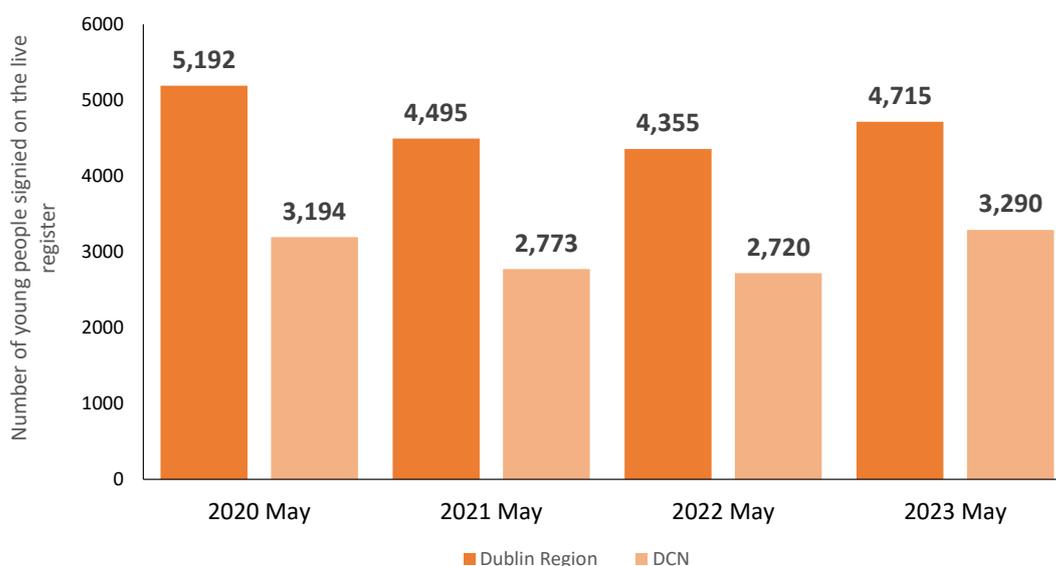
¹⁹ https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf

counties, with the state average in 2019-20 at 5% and by 2021-22, it had increased to 39%, with Urban DEIS ²⁰ schools fairs worse than Non-DEIS schools across all parameters.

Dublin **Post -Primary Schools** fairs a little better, although when recorded expulsions are accounted for, Dublin had the highest percentages at 12, 18, and 27% for each of the 3 time periods. Dublin Post-Primary schools had a higher than state average of 20-plus days lost in 2019-20 (10.4% state vs 11.4% Dublin) . By 2021-22, this almost tripled to 28.1% in Dublin, just below the state average of 28%. The highest percentage pf 20-plus day absences was found in Mayo.

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 five Department of Social Protection offices in the DCN area, they are: Ballymun, Coolock, Finglas, Kilbarrack and Navan Road.



Graph 2.15: Young people (24 years and under) signing on the Live Register. Source: Department of Social Protection and CSO 2023

As of May 2023, there were 3,290 young people aged 25 years and under signing on the Live Register in the DCN area. This accounted for nearly 70% of the total young people signing on the live register in the Dublin Area (Figure 2.3).

²⁰ DEIS is a Department of Education programme that stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools and provides system for reviewing deprivation and disadvantage to support educational inclusion and accessibility.

2.17 Crime

Information on the number of offences recorded by An Garda Síochána is published by the CSO on an annual basis by Garda station level of which there are 12 in the DCN area (Ballymun, Bridewell, Cabra, Clontarf, Coolock, Finglas, Fitzgibbon Street, Mountjoy, O’Connell Street, Raheny, Santry and Store Street). As of June 2023, this information is classified as *under reservation* by the CSO and should be used with caution.

In 2022, a total of 26,020 offences were recorded across Garda stations in the DCN area. This figure equated to 12.5% of the total offences committed across the state. Table 2.7 below outlines the number of offences committed by type in DCN and the State.

	2022		
	DCN	STATE	DCN as a % of the State
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	1,815	23,693	7.7%
Dangerous or negligent acts	475	8,226	5.8%
Kidnapping and related offences	15	179	8.4%
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	352	2,066	17.0%
Burglary and related offences	929	9,453	9.8%
Theft and related offences	8,601	65,986	13.0%
Fraud, deception and related offences	1,095	11,569	9.5%
Controlled drug offences	1,808	17,321	10.4%
Weapons and Explosives Offences	355	2,609	13.6%
Damage to property and to the environment	2,172	21,630	10.0%
Public order and other social code offences	3,867	31,188	12.4%
Offences against government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	4,536	13,722	33.1%
Total offences	26,020	207,642	12.5%

Table 2.11 Recorded criminal offences by Type, 2022. Source: An Garda Síochána and CSO 2023

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 Dublin City North, there are 11 GYDP’s.

The latest published data available is for the period 2019 of which the Dublin area received 6,472 referrals to the programme. This represented an increase of 18% since the previous year.

2.18 Tusla Referrals and Children in Care

Tusla Social Work collects data on child protection referrals, children in care and a number of other metrics. *For the purposes of this report, data could only be extracted by Tusla region. As DCN CYPSC includes the totality of Dublin North City Tusla region (comprising 6 CFSNs), but only part of another Tusla region, Dublin North (i.e. Dublin North East CFSN), it was not possible to extract data from Tusla Dublin North region for the Dublin North East CFSN, as data is not aggregated to local level or CFSN on the Tusla data monitoring system.*

According to the Tusla Data Hub²¹, in Q1 2021, there were 1,244 referrals recorded in Tusla Dublin North City, this area does not include Dublin North East (and therefore excludes the Darndale/Coolock CFSN within DCN CYPSC area). . Of those:

²¹ [Tusla Data Hub - Performance and Activity Data](#)

- 51.7% were for welfare issues (State = 53.5%)
- 10.3% were for physical abuse (State = 9.6%)
- 4.8% were for sexual abuse (State = 5.9%)
- 21.9% were for emotional abuse (State = 15.1%)
- 6.0% were for neglect (State = 5.1%)

As of Q1 2021, there were 470 children in the care of Tusla in Dublin North City. Of those:

- 14.3% were 0 - 4 years (State = 12.3%)
- 23.6% were 5 - 9 years (State = 27.0%)
- 35.3% were 10 - 14 years (State = 35.7%)
- 26.8% were 15 - 17 years (State = 25.0%)

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Young People in DCN Area

The listing of categorised services below is based on a desktop review of those services located in or near Dublin City North. This is not an exhaustive list of individual services, rather a broad profile of services existing in the area. Services are listed or grouped into broad categories (as below) and are further categorised as either Community and Voluntary Services (C/V) or Statutory (S) Services.

1. **Health, Social and Family Supports** including services for homelessness; domestic, sexual and gender-based violence; and Traveller, Roma and migrants
2. **Education and Support** including schools, adult education, and third level institutions
3. **Early year's Prevention and Intervention** services including crèches, Montessori's, early childhood development, and support services such as ABCs
4. **Youth clubs, Projects and Resources** including special interest groups for supports
5. **Policing and Youth Justice** including probation, prison, and Garda Youth Diversion Programmes
6. **Drug and Alcohol services** including prevention, intervention and harm reduction services
7. **Mental Health** supports including child and adolescent multidisciplinary teams, bereavement and community supports
8. **Disability specific interventions** including autism spectrum disorder, early intervention, intellectual disability, and physical and sensory
9. **Employment, Social Inclusion and Legal** including Local Area Partnerships, employment services, and legal aid.

These services can be understood as being universal or targeted services, and associated levels of intervention are best illustrated by the Hardiker Model, and have been categorised as such in the listing.

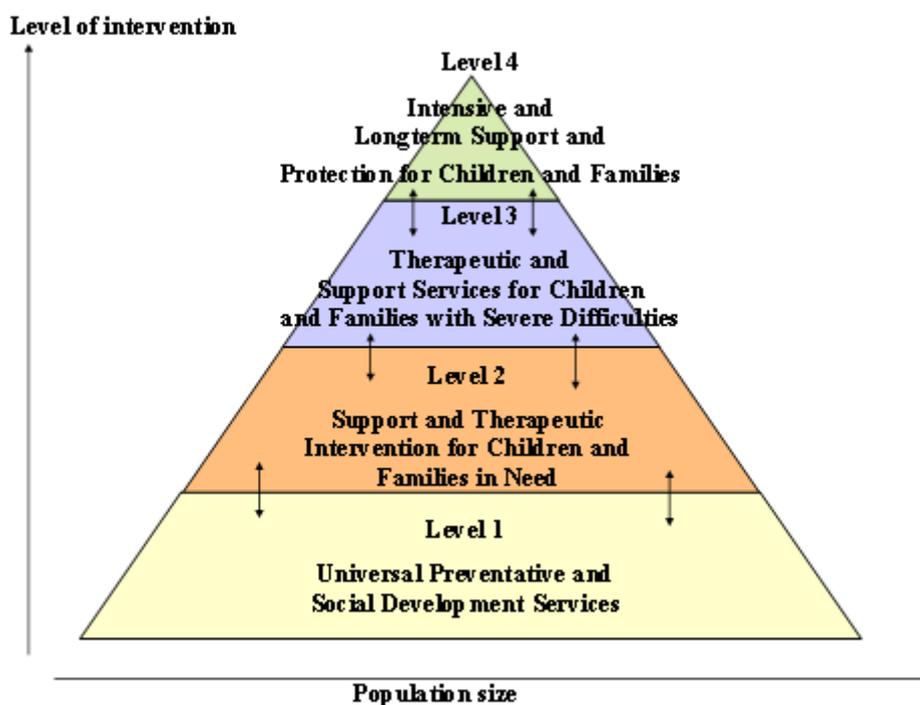


Figure 3.1: Hardiker Model

Overview of Services available in Dublin City North CYPSC Area

1. Health, Social, and Family Supports			
Name of Service	Description	Category	Intervention
Barnardos	A children's charity working with children and their families. Includes family support work, intensive home-based supports; early years; teen parent support programme; post adoption and bereavement services; child and family focussed programmes; and Initial Assessments (with Tusla).	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1-3
Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services	A not-for-profit public service organisation providing a range of supportive and therapeutic services to children and families. Includes early years services; Initial Assessment services with Tusla and therapeutic supports; family supports; and Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services.	C/V	Universal and Targeted 3and4
Dublin City Council (Local Authority)	A range of social, housing, community and welfare services including homelessness supports; Traveller accommodation and supports; social supports; sports and playground facilities including the Sports and Wellbeing Partnership; cultural and library services. (55 Playgrounds and parks; 11 Libraries and mobile library service; 4 community, youth and sports centres;)	S	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Empowering Young People in Care (EPIC)	Works with and for children and young people who are currently living in care or who have experience of living in care.	C/V	Targeted 3
Extern	Providing intensive, and home-based support services for young people to decrease the risk of their placement breaking down and to assist young people to return home if necessary.	C/V	Targeted 3
Family Resource Centres (FRC)	4 x Family Resource Centres under the National FRC Forum, supported and funded by Tusla Child and Family Agency (Finglas West, Ballymun, North East Inner City; and Artane Coolock). Providing a range of community, family, and child supports including education, training, information, and advice; counselling and support; and personal and group development.	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1and2
Health Service Executive	Offering a range of public primary care and health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Local Health Offices (Dublin North Central and Dublin North West (part of)). • 4 Primary Health Care Centres – Ballymun, Finglas, Navan Road, Summerhill (D1), and Grangegorman. • 5 hospitals - Children's Health Ireland Temple Street; Rotunda; Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital; Mater Hospital; and Beaumont Hospital). Includes emergency departments, eye, dental, dietician, GPs and family doctors, GP out of hours; treatment, rehabilitation, public health nurses, and more specialised services through speech and language therapy, and psychology services. 	S	Universal and Targeted 1-4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 injury clinic (D7). • 7 Community Health Networks – Coolock, Kilbarrack, Finglas, Ballymun, Cabra, North Inner City, and Clontarf 		
Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)	7 CDNT’s (Cabra/Grangegorman, Finglas, Ballymun, North inner City, Coolock, Kilbarrack and Clontarf) with direct contact referral points. Provides specialised support and services for children who have a disability/developmental delay and complex health needs associated with their disability. The CDNT supports a child's development, wellbeing and participation in family and community life. Partnership between HSE, Central Remedial Clinic, Daughters of Charity; and St. Michael’s House.	S	Targeted 2-3
Community and National Disability Information and Support	National organisations such as Irish Autism Action, Irish Society for Autism, ASPIRE; Chime; Aslam; Disability multiple local community and private services including education, family support, programmes, respite, and supportive services noted throughout DCN.	C/V	Targeted 2
Tusla Child and Family Agency	The state agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. Main services include Child Protection and Welfare; Alternative Care; Birth Information Tracing and Adoption; Family Support; Children’s Services Regulation; Education Support Service; and Domestic, Sexual and gender-Based Violence Unit. Also includes 2 x Tusla Family Resource Centres providing a range of adult education activities, group activities for children, programmes for the older population, specialised programmes and meeting space for the local community groups	S	Universal and Targeted 1 - 4
Youth Advocacy Project (YAP)	Providing intensive, focused supports to young people, families, and children in partnership with Tusla Child and Family Agency, HSE and Irish Youth justice. The programmes can be provided to a range of client groups including young people at risk of care or custody, young people with mild learning difficulties, mental health issues, drug misuse or those in custody moving back to the community.	C/V	Targeted 3
Homelessness			
Dublin Simon Community	Provides access to a range of homeless supports including housing, outreach, detox, employability and education services and prevention.	C/V	Targeted 2-4
Dublin Area Homeless Executive	Responsible for co-ordinating services for homeless people in Dublin, provides information on how to access homeless support services in Dublin.	Mix	Targeted 4
Focus Ireland	Provides a range of preventative and support services for children and families at risk of or currently homeless. Supported housing also provided in certain sites.	C/V	Targeted 2- 4
DePaul Ireland	Homelessness and housing support for adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness; addiction and criminal justice support offered. Case Management Team in Ballymun (D9), 3 services in D7; 3 in D1; and 1 in D11	C/V	Targeted 2-4

Crosscare	Provides a range of youth, homeless, housing and welfare supports; Information and Advocacy services for migrants, refugees and emigrants; community cafes and food poverty support. across DCN. (3 Youth services (D1, 2x D11 (incl GYDP); 4 homeless services from low to high support needs and a family hub in D3; Teen Counselling service in D11; Aftercare hub in D7.	C/V	Targeted 2-4
Peter McVerry Trust	Provides a range of homeless, prevention, housing, drug treatment, and under 18's residential services. Operates family hub in Glasnevin.	C/V	Targeted 2-4
Respond Housing Association	A housing association providing a range of support, development, and housing services. One estate located in Finglas, and a family hub in D 3.	C/V	Targeted 3-4
Threshold	Provides advice and advocacy; housing and support to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Based in D7.	C/V	Targeted 2-3
Safety net	Providing primary care GP and Nursing services to homeless families in emergency accommodation. Based in D7.	C/V	Targeted 3
Salvation Army	Provides a range of support services for children, young people and families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, and marginalisation.	C/V	Targeted 3-4
Capuchin Day Centre	A homeless service providing food, clothing, and family facilities.	C/V	Targeted 2
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Charity organisation working with people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. 2 locations in D1 including area office and Community and Family Resource Centre.	C/V	Targeted 2
Sophia Housing	Charity providing housing with support for people who have experienced homelessness. 1 location in D1.	C/V	Targeted 3-4
Novas	Approved Tier 3 housing body, providing homes to families and single adults working in partnership with Dublin City Council.	C/V	Targeted 3-4
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services			
Men's Aid	Located in Meath - The only dedicated support service for male <i>victims</i> of domestic abuse and their families in Ireland providing helpline, support, one-to-one support, legal clinic, counselling and training.	C/V	Targeted 3
Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children	Providing outreach, information and advice, helpline, court accompaniment service and a refuge accommodation.	C/V	Targeted 3 - 4
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	National organisation offering a wide range of services to any person affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or childhood sexual abuse. Services include 24 helpline, webchat, one to one counselling, awareness raising and policy work	C/V	Targeted 3
Dublin Safer Families (Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services)	A Gender, Sexual, Domestic Abuse/ Violence and Coercive Control Service within the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service. Works with parents and children to increase family safety, and prevent and stop	C/V	Targeted 3 - 4

	violence. Initially we meet both parents separately and then possibly together once safety has been discussed.		
CARI	A voluntary organisation providing child centred specialised therapy and support to children, families and groups affected by child sexual abuse, regardless of means (D9)	C/V	Targeted 3
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Treatment Service	Irish Family Planning Association offers. free specialised medical care and counselling to women and girls who have experienced FGM.	C/V	Targeted 3
Men's Networking Resource Centre	Provides services to support disadvantaged men, women and families equally with a focus on disadvantaged, homeless and unemployed people in three ways: pre-counselling and advisory services. Drop-in Centre; and Supervised Access / Visitation for Separated Parents D11)	C/V	Targeted 2 - 3
Men's Development Network	Co-located in Dublin 1, providing one-to-one, developmental, parenting, behaviour change group work, training, phonenumber support and awareness raising. While not solely a DSGBV programme, it does provide the Men Ending Domestic Abuse Programme for men, who have been violent or abusive within their intimate partner relationships.	C/V	Targeted 2-3
MOVE Ireland (Men Overcoming Violence)	Voluntary organisation which works to address domestic violence against women. With contact points in Dublin and other areas in Ireland. Provides a combination of group support and intervention work through CHOICES programme coupled with individual sessions. Support also offered to ex-partner or partner.	C/V	Targeted 3
Northside Interagency Project (NIAP, Temple Street)	A multi-disciplinary community-based treatment programme to young people, male and female, between the ages of 13 and 18 years who have sexually abused and to their parents and carers.	C/V	Targeted 3
Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) Rotunda Hospital	SATU provides an easily accessible, holistic service for women and men who have experienced sexual crime. A SATU is a safe place to go if you have been raped or sexually assaulted. Medical examination and forensic evaluation for victims of sexual violence. D1.	S	Targeted 3
Sonas Domestic Abuse Charity Limited	A range of outreach, advice, education, support, refuge and housing services for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse.	C/V	Targeted 3-4
Women's Aid	Provide supports to women and children experiencing domestic violence, including 24-hour helpline, one to one support, court accompaniment, referral and law support. Outreach locations in D9 and D1.	C/V	Targeted 3 - 4
Pavee Point -Traveller DSGBV Project	A dedicated Traveller Women's Awareness Worker (TWAW) works with local service providers and Traveller organisations and community. The TWAW is not a specialist domestic or sexual violence outreach worker but can support Traveller women by listening, believing and referring to specialist services.	C/V	Targeted 2-3
AkiDwA	National network of migrant women with awareness raising, training and advocating for migrant women affected in particular by Female Genital Mutilation. Their work also focusses on domestic violence, forced marriages and trafficking.	C/V	Targeted 2-3

<i>Traveller, Roma and Migrants Specific</i>			
Travellers / Roma Support	6 services directly working for and with Traveller and/or Roma Population in DCN. Including Exchange House, Finglas Traveller Development Group, Pavee Point, Finglas Traveller Development Group, St, Margaret's Travellers Community Association, and TravAct. Range of services including, education, training, inclusion, advocacy, personal development, healthcare, etc.	C/V	Targeted 2-3
New Communities Partnership	An independent national network providing family support, advice, education, training, and drop-in clinics. D 1.	C/V	Targeted 2
International Protection Support Service	Balseskin Reception Centre, located in Finglas (D11), acts as the transitioning accommodation unit for refugees and asylum seekers in DCN. Family support, education, legal and welfare, healthcare services provided onsite. In 2023, 10 known hotels providing emergency accommodation for families in the International Protection system.	C/V	Targeted 4
SPIRASI	Specialist support and intervention for victims of torture including therapy; assessment; referral; healthcare; outreach; education, etc.	C/V	Targeted 3
Jesuit Refugee Service	Several direct support services to refugees, including language support, a school's integration programme and psychosocial support. JRS also visit asylum-seekers in Direct Provision, run information sessions and advocate for more just immigration policies.	C/V	Targeted 2-4
Crosscare Migrant Project	Providing information and advocacy support to Irish emigrants and people who have moved to Ireland.	C/V	Targeted 2
Migrants Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)	Provides information, advocacy and assistance on social welfare entitlements. The resource centre offers a frontline drop-in service, and a phone and email service to assist with queries nationally. Located in D1	C/V	Targeted 2

2. Education and Support Services

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Community Educational Supports	Multiple programmes available throughout DCN provided by a range of youth services, afterschool programmes, transition programmes, educational and family supports, homework clubs	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1and 2
City of Dublin Educational Training Board	Provides a range of educational and support services including a range of accredited and non-accredited courses, second level schools (x7), adult, further and alternative education options including Youthreach (x5), training centres (x1); Local Training Initiatives; prison educational services; and educational courses for homeless families. Coordinates the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALTs) for Ukraine students seeking a school placement.	S	Universal and Targeted 1-3

Community Training Centres (CTCs)	Six CTCs provide training, education and employment related services for young people (16-21 years) in a friendly and informal manner (2xD1; 2x D9; 1 xD11; 1 x D17)	C/V	Targeted 2
DCU in the Community	In partnership with Dublin City Council, providing an outreach centre in Ballymun to provide educational opportunities to local people in North Dublin to increase participation levels and to promote equality in third level education.	S	Universal 1
Primary and Post-Primary Schools	125 Primary Schools. 18 Special Schools including 3 Youth Encounter Projects (10-16 years) 46 Post Primary schools	S	Universal 1
Youthreach (Education Training Board)	For young people (15 – 20 years) who have left school without formal qualifications, Youthreach programme has opportunities for basic education, personal development, vocational training and work experience. Four centres in DCN – Ballymun, Cabra, North Great Georges Street, and Coolock.	S	Targeted 2
National Educational Psychological Service	National Educational Psychological Services (in Dublin City North across 6 teams) work with both primary and post-primary schools and are concerned with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools.	S	Targeted 2
National Council for Special Education	Supporting the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs arising from disabilities. Local service delivered via 8 Special Education Needs Organisers located in either Dublin 1 or Dublin 15 to cover North Dublin.	S	Targeted 2
Tusla Education Support Service including School Completion Projects/Home School Liaison Service	The statutory and school support services of the Child and Family Agency's Educational Support Services work together collaboratively and cohesively with schools and other relevant services to secure better educational outcomes for children and young people. Provides 12.6 x Educational Welfare Officers and 2 Senior EWO in DCN including specialised posts under National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy and a post specialising in supporting families in Homeless Accommodation. Further EWO supports are provided on a national basis for Reduced School Days and for children in IPAS accommodation. 183 primary and secondary schools in DCN alongside 15 School Completion Projects, and Home School Community Liaison Coordinators.	S	Targeted 2-3
Third Level Institutions	Dublin City University (D9x2, D11); Technological University of Dublin (D1x2, D7); Marino Institute of Education (D9); Private third level including National College of Ireland (D1); Dorset College (D1)	S and Private	Universal 1

3. Early Years Prevention and Intervention

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Area Based Childhood Initiatives	Five ABCs located in DCN (D1; D7; D9; D11; D13 and17) providing a range of early intervention programmes for children and parents. Tailored area-specific programmes are developed to ensure early prevention and intervention services meet the need in the local community. Includes programmes such as baby play and toddler groups; ante- to post-natal services; parent and in-home family support; and parenting programmes.	S	Universal and targeted 1 and 2
Early Learning and Care Services	Early Learning and Care services provide a range of day, sessional and respite services to children under the age of 6. Including 169 Private services; 91 community services and 2 registered childminders.	C/V	Universal 1
Dublin City Childcare Committee	Dublin City-wide service to develop, support and enhance early childhood services within the remit of Dublin City.	S	Universal 1

4. Youth Clubs and Projects / Resources

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Youth Services	66 Youth Services ²² offering a range of universal activities, skills building, and events for children for 10-24 years. (D1 x 10; D3 x9: D5 x 14; D7 x 8; D9 x 9; D11 x 10; D13 x 4; D17 x2)	C/V	Universal 1
Youth Projects	There are 35 youth projects ¹ identified in DCN, including Foróige services ²³ . Youth projects typically offer a broad range of groups, health and social supports, information, and activities for 10 years up to 24 years (D1 x 9; D3 x 2; D5 x 4; D7 x 3; D9 x 1; D11 x 4; D13 x 1; D17 x 2). Foróige services (9) provide a range of juniors and seniors clubs.	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1-3.
LGBTi+	Local projects and programmes established in youth services, and other Dublin based support and advocacy groups such as Outhouse, BelongTo and Transgender Equality Network of Ireland have been established, alongside helplines and online support.	C/V	Targeted 2and3

²² City of Dublin Youth Service. Youth Clubs and Projects. <http://www.cdysb.ie/clubs.aspx>

²³ <https://www.foroige.ie/foroige-map>

5. Policing and Youth Justice

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs)	Community based educational, recreational, skills building interventions for children under 18 at risk of criminal behaviour. 11 GYDPs (4 x Dublin 1; 3 x Dublin 5; 3 x Dublin 11; 1 x Dublin 7; and 1 x Dublin 17).	S	Targeted 2
An Garda Síochána	12 Garda Stations across DCN providing a range of safe and secure services to residents and the communities. Services operating from Garda Stations include but not limited to Juvenile Liaison Officers, Community Gardaí, Prison services etc. (D9x2; D7 x2; D3x1; D5 x2; D11 x1; D1 x4)	S	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Young Persons Probation	The Young Persons' Probation (YPP) Service is a special division of the Probation Service which works with young people aged 12 to 18 who come before the courts. The YPP promotes community-based sanctions and restorative justice) to reduce re-offending. Four locations serving DCN including Ballymun, Finglas, Haymarket (HQ), and Donaghmede.	S	Targeted 3-4
Prison Services	Two prisons including Mountjoy (including Dóchas Women's Centre) and Arbour Hill (D7).	S	Targeted 4
Detention	Oberstown Childrens Detention Centre located in Lusk, provides care, education, training and other programmes for young people under 18 years of age, with the aim of reintegrating them back into the community, capable of making a positive and productive contribution to society. Two educational centres on the campus cater for all the young people who are detained here. Located directly in Fingal CYPSC catchment, but a major point of referral for all Dublin districts.	S	Targeted 4

6. Drug and Alcohol Services

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
HSE Addiction and Social Inclusion	HSE Social Inclusion and Addiction Services provide and support a range of services for youth, families, and those impacted by drug and alcohol use. Services include a range of education, stabilisation, rehabilitation, treatment, detox, counselling, health and specialist support services. (9 x Finglas; 31 x North Inner City; 7 x Kilbarrack; 6 x Ballymun; 19 x Cabra; 13 x Coolock)	S	Variety
Hospitals	St Vincent's Hospital (including St. Josephs Adolescent Inpatient Unit in D3); Mater University Hospital psychiatric services >18 years (D7); and Beaumont Hospital (St. Michaels Ward for opiate addiction) >18 years (D9)	S	Targeted 3-4
Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces	Responsible for the implementation of National Drug and Alcohol Strategy at local level; provides information, education, funding, responses and support for addiction related issues. 4 x LDATFs located in Dublin City North (Ballymun, Dublin North East, North Inner City, and Finglas/Cabra).	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1-2

Residential / Detox	Rutland Centre (18+) (Dublin South); Keltoi (18+) (Phoenix Park); Cuan Mhuire (Cork, Kildare, Galway, Limerick and Down). Peter McVerry Residential Detoxification (Dublin 1). Access to Residential detox beds available at several centres throughout the country as needed from HSE.	Mix	Targeted 3-4
Satellite Clinics	5 x HSE satellite clinics (Coolock, Bonnybrook, Kilbarrack, Donnycarney, and Edenmore) providing treatment outreach services in the community to drug users 18+, including nurses, GPs, methadone maintenance and prescribing.	S	Targeted 3
Youth Specific Treatment Under 18's (incl Dual Diagnosis)	HSE Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth (SASSY) - community-based service providing support to young people under 18 years of age, resident in Dublin North City and County for whom drug use or alcohol use is having a significant negative impact on their daily lives. Located in Dublin 7. Collaboration with CAMHS where mental health may be of concern.	S	Targeted 2 - 3
Community Drug and Alcohol Supports	Approximately 18 community-based services providing addiction information, prevention, training, support, intervention, and aftercare services for under 18's across DCN. Over 30 services when over 18's are included.	C/V	Targeted 2 - 3

7. Mental Health Supports

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams (x 4 in DCN) provides assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties. Locations include North East City, North Inner City, Darndale and Ballymun.	S	Targeted 3
Community Mental Health Support	17 services providing free counselling, support, information and referral to adults experiencing mental health difficulties.	C/V	Targeted 2 - 3
Youth Community Mental Health Support	12 community-based free services specifically dedicated to youth counselling/support and for young people experiencing mental health difficulties; plus 1 dual diagnosis service; 1 consultant psychiatrist, plus multiple variations of family support therapy; youth services support; volunteer counselling, support groups etc.	Mix	Targeted 2-3
Traveller Mental Health	4 dedicated points of contact/organisations providing support for Travellers (not specifically youth).	C/V	Targeted 2and3
Bereavement Services	8 services with dedicated specific focus on bereavement counselling and support	C/V	Targeted

			2 - 3
Youth specific Hospitals and Inpatient	St. Patricks University Hospital (D8) with a satellite clinic for community psychiatry located in D11; St. Vincent's Hospital (adolescents 16-18 years), day patient, D3; and Temple Street Children's University Hospital, Mental health SW and psychology);	S	Targeted 3-4
Online and Support / Information text/ Helplines	Multiple national helplines include LGBT Ireland, Gender Identity Family Support Line, BelongTo Youth Services, Samaritans, Childline, Pieta, BodyWhys, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Text lines includes SpunOut and Jigsaw Dublin City	C/V	Targeted 2 - 3

8. Employment, Social Inclusion and Legal

Name of Organisation	Description	Category	Intervention
Local Area Partnerships	Northside; Dublin North West; and Dublin City Community Co-operative. Providing a range of employment, education, training and support services to communities, including Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1& 2
Intreo Local Employment Services - Department of Social Protection	6 Intreo offices located across DCN Area D1, D5, D9, D11, D17. Employment Services supports access to the labour market for jobseekers at local, regional and national level and assists employers who are seeking to fill job vacancies.	S	Targeted 2
Innovate Dublin	Social Enterprise set up to Support communities to create new solutions that result in sustainable improvements. Includes Youth Academy	C/V	Targeted 2
Local Employment Supports	6 Job clubs established in DCN for those wishing to enhance skills and knowledge for returning to / engaging in work plus EmployAbility Service (D9) and Irish National Organisation Service for the Unemployed.	C/V	Universal and Targeted 1&2
Money Advice and Budgeting	5 MABS offices to provide support for people seeking free, impartial money and budgeting advice, for those impacted by problem debt. Located in Ballymun, Finglas, Inner City, and Coolock. (including Traveller specific MABS in Finglas).	S	Universal and Targeted 1&2
Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC)	FLAC is an independent human rights organisation dedicated to the realisation of equal access to justice for all. 5 locations including Dublin City Centre, Finglas, Coolock, Raheny and Ballymun. Also includes an LGBTQI FLAC.	C/V	Targeted 2
Legal Aid Board	State funded body responsible for provision of civil legal aid and advice, family mediation and vulnerable witness related services and for the administration of a number of ad hoc legal aid schemes. 3 main offices – 2 in Dublin 7 (including International Protection and Human Trafficking) , and 1 in Dublin 1	S	Targeted 2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis for DCN Area

This section sets out the needs of children, young people, and their families in the DCN area as well as the priority areas and actions that have been agreed by CYPSC members for DCN CYPSC CYPP, to respond to these needs. This needs analysis is informed by socio-economic data, service mapping for the area, and results of consultations with 444 children and young people, 272 parents/guardians' and 212 service providers working with children and young people in the DCN area in Spring 2023.

The key points and questions that are addressed in this needs analysis are:

- What are the overall results of the consultations in the DCN area with children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers and others working with children and young people?
- How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation to each of the five National outcomes for children and young people in Ireland?
- What did the consultations tell us in relation to each of the outcome areas?
- Are there sufficient services in relation to each of the outcome areas?
- What are DCN CYPSC priority area and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within each of the outcome areas?

This section is broken down as follows:

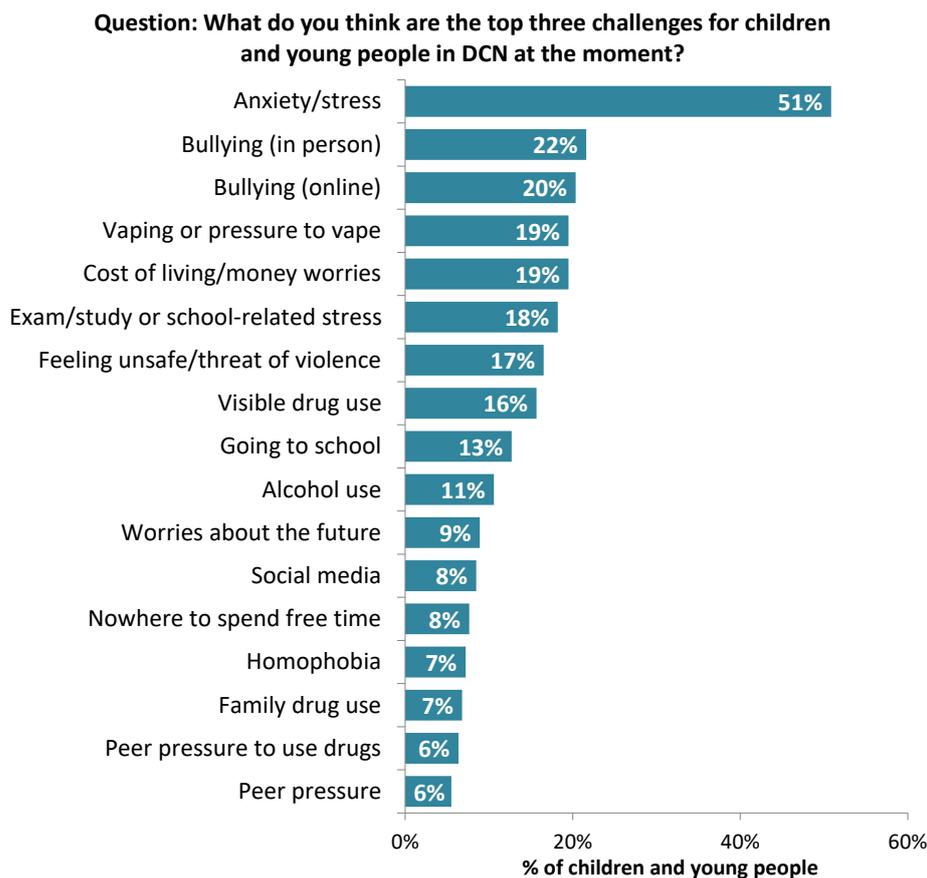
- Section 4.1 provides an overview of the views of the children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers including findings broken down by Child and Family Support Network (CFSN)
- Sections 4.2 – 4.6 summarise the needs of children, young people and their families in DCN thematically according to five National outcome areas as well as the priority areas and actions that have been agreed for DCN CYPSC CYPP.
- For more localised breakdowns of the results of the consultations, please see the Appendices where a summary of the key consultation findings broken down by CFSN area is provided.

4.1 Overview of Results of Consultations with Stakeholders in DCN

Consultations with Children and Young People

Below is a summary of some of the key overall findings from these consultations with children and young people. Please note, further details on the responses of children and young people in relation to the specific BOBF outcome areas are provided in Sections 4.2 – 4.7 below.

Children and young people were asked what they thought the biggest challenges that faced children and young people in DCN were. By far the highest challenge facing children and young people was in their view anxiety and stress (51% of respondents). This was followed by bullying in-person (22%), bullying online (20%), cost of living vaping or pressure to vape at 19%. See graph 4.1 below.



Graph 4.1 Challenges faced by children and young people in DCN

Further analysis was carried out on this data and the breakdown of the top three challenges identified by children and young people by CFSN area is set out in the table below. With the exception of the North West Inner City anxiety and stress was identified as the most significant challenge throughout the DCN area.

North East Inner City	Cabra	Ballymun	Dublin Bay North	Finglas	Dublin North East	North West Inner City
Anxiety/stress	Anxiety/stress	Anxiety/stress	Anxiety/stress	Anxiety/stress	Anxiety/stress	Social media
Cost of living/money worries	Vaping or pressure to vape	Going to school	Exam/study or school-related stress	Exam/study or school-related stress	Bullying (in person)	Anxiety/stress
Bullying (online)	Bullying (in person)	Feeling unsafe/threat of violence	Feeling unsafe/threat of violence	Vaping or pressure to vape	Exam/study or school-related stress	Bullying (online)

Table 4.1 Challenges faced by children and young people according to children and young people by CFSN

In the survey young people were asked what changes or improvements would make DCN a better place for children and young people to live in. Their responses are summarised thematically below.



Emerging themes from the focus groups included that:

- Early years participants enjoyed spending time with their families and activities such as going to the park and swimming pool, they didn't like scary things and going to bed, and they wanted more playtime and toys.
- Primary school age children like seeing their friends and going to activities, they didn't like homework and they wanted more activities and social groups.
- Young people enjoyed going to youth groups and trips away, they did not like having nothing to do and limited education choices and wanted more space and places dedicated to young people.

Appendix 8.2 provides an expanded summary of the emerging themes from the focus groups with children and young people, broken down by CFSN and by stage/group. This gives insight into the differing priorities at different ages and gives a more bespoke outlook into geographical themes where children and young people were residing.

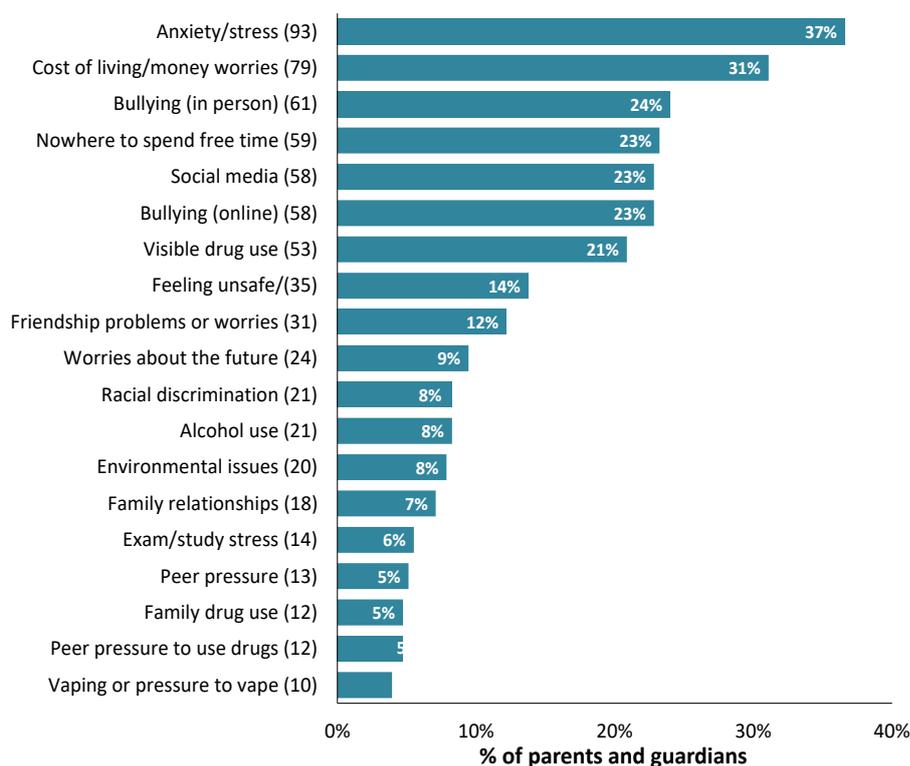
Consultations with Parents and Guardians

In Spring 2023, 267 parents and guardians living in the Dublin City North area responded to an online survey and five parents took part in a focus group as part of the research for the development of this Plan.

Below is a summary of some of the key overall findings from these consultations with parents and guardians. Please note, further details on the responses of parents and guardians in relation to the five National Outcomes are provided in Sections 4.2 – 4.7 below.

Parents were asked what they thought were the top three challenges facing children and young people in DCN now. Like younger respondents, parents and guardians who completed the survey also felt anxiety/stress was the biggest challenge facing children and young people in DCN (37%), followed by cost of living and money worries (31%), bullying (in person) (24%), having nowhere to spend their free time (23%) and social media (23%).

Question: Parents and guardians - What do you think are the top three challenges for children and young people in DCN at the moment?



Graph 4.2 Challenges faced by children and young people according to parents and guardians in DCN.

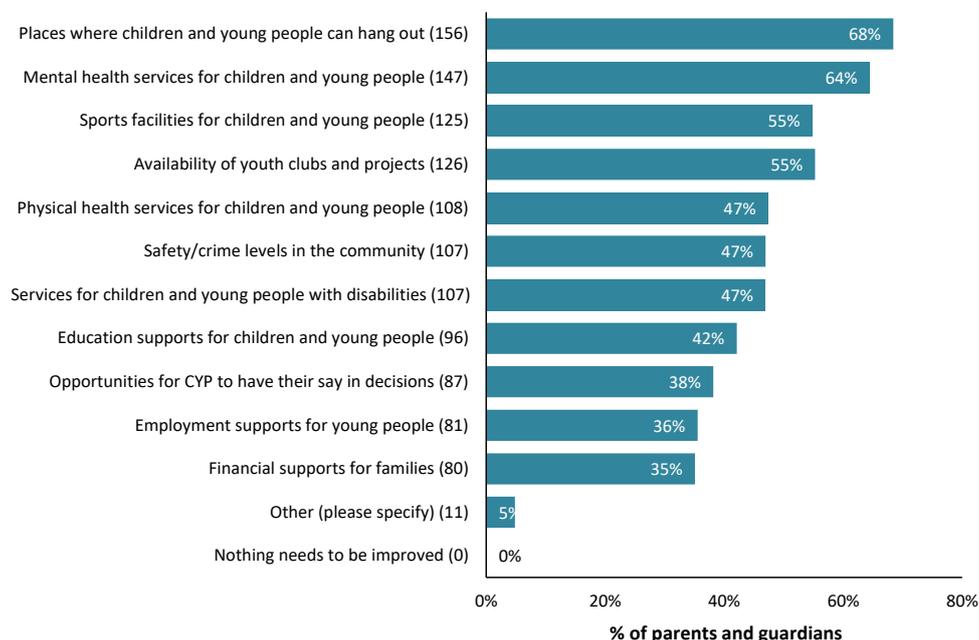
Further analysis was carried out on this data and the breakdown of the top three challenges identified by parents and guardians by CFSN area is set out in the table below.

North East Inner City	Cabra	Ballymun	Dublin Bay North	Finglas	Dublin North East	North West Inner City
Cost of living/ money worries	Anxiety/ stress	Anxiety/ stress	Anxiety/ stress	Anxiety/ stress	Anxiety/ stress	Visible drug use
Visible drug use	Nowhere to spend free time	Visible drug use	Bullying (online)	Bullying (in person)	Cost of living/ money worries	Peer pressure to use drugs
Anxiety/stress	Bullying (in-person)	Bullying (online)	Social media	Cost of living/ money worries	Bullying (in-person)	Cost of living/ money worries

Table 4.2 Challenges faced by children and young people according to parents by CFSN

Except for the North East Inner City that identified cost of living and money worries as the top challenges and the North West Inner City that identified visible drug issue, across the other CFSNs anxiety and stress was identified as the top challenge.

Areas that should be improved according to parents and guardians



Graph 4.3 Areas that should be improved according to parents and guardians

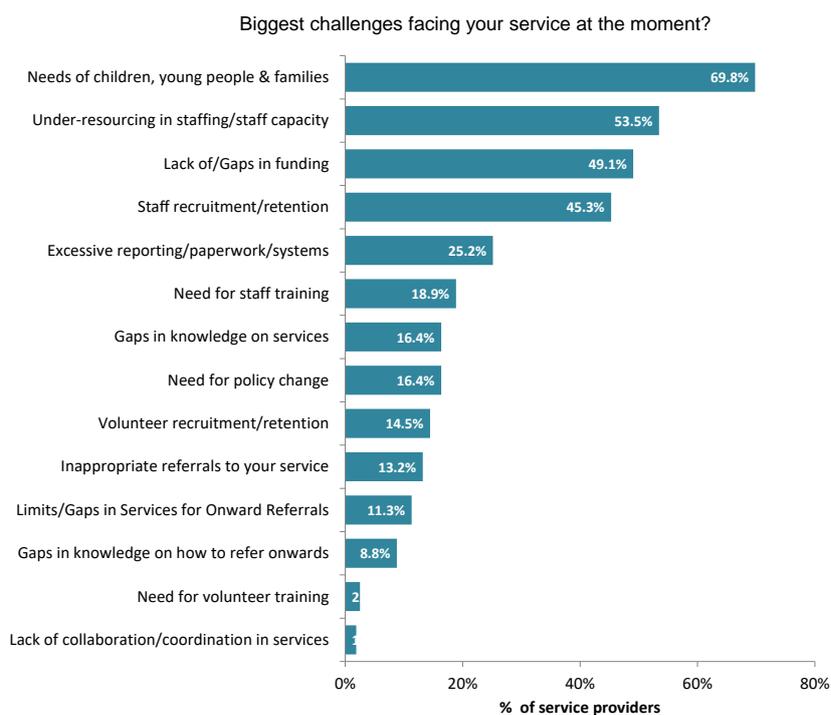
Parents highlighted (Graph 4.3) areas that need to be most improved in DCN. Most parents identified places where children and young people hang out followed by mental health services for children and young people followed by sports facilities for children and young people.

Consultations with Service Providers and Others Working with Children and Young People in the DCN Area

In Spring 2023, 155 service providers and others working with children and young people in the Dublin City North area responded to an online survey and ninety people took part in consultations and discussions for the development of this Plan.

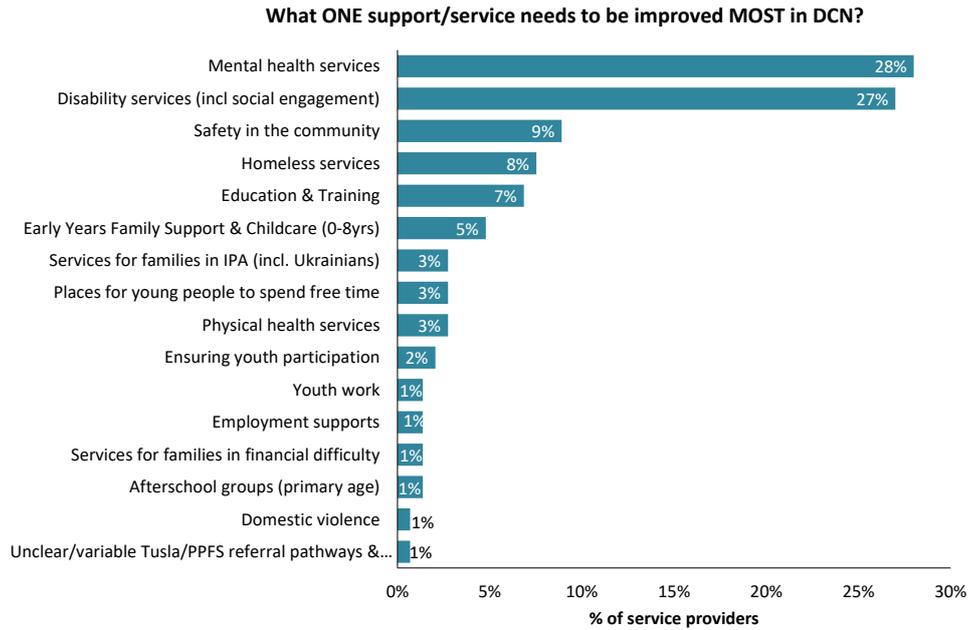
Below is a summary of some of the key overall findings from these consultations with service providers. Please note, further details on the responses of service providers in relation to the specific BOBF outcome areas are provided in Sections 4.2 – 4.7 below.

Services providers were asked what they thought the top three challenges facing their services were. By far service providers identified the level and type of need children, young people and their families in DCN required, followed by under-resourcing in staffing and lack of or gaps in funding (Graph 4.4).



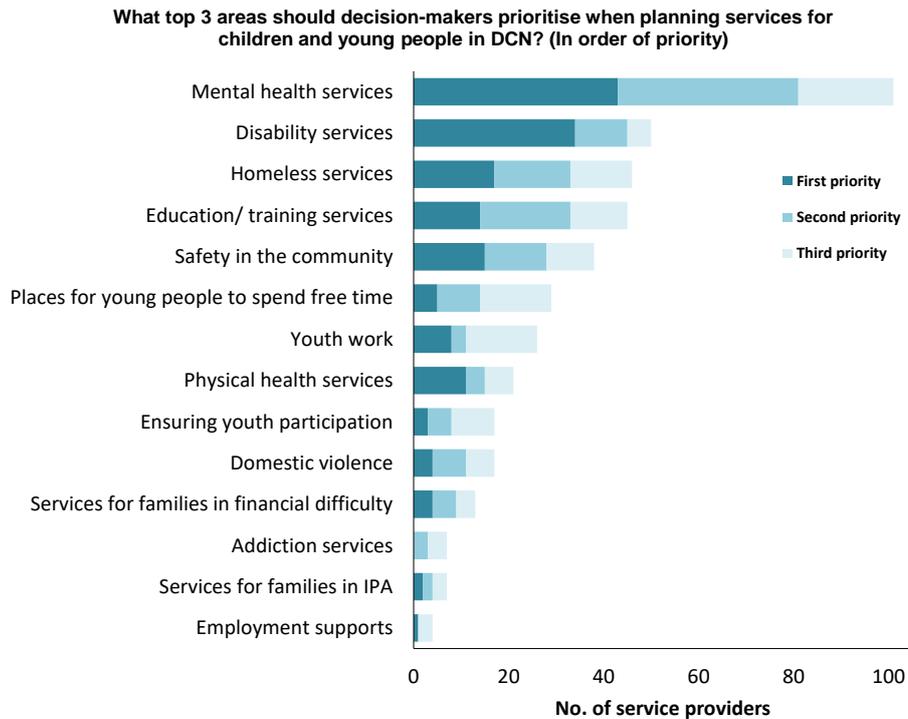
Graph 4.4: Biggest challenges facing service providers' services

Service providers were also asked which one support or service needed to be improved the most in DCN. Over a quarter of service providers said it was mental health services, followed by disability services and safety in the community (Graph 4.5).



Graph 4.5 Service/supports that needs to be improved the most in DCN according to service providers

Service providers were also asked what the top three areas that decision-makers should prioritise when planning services for children, young people and their families in DCN. As illustrated in graph 4.6 below, mental health services were identified as the most in need of prioritisation by service providers, followed by disability services, homeless services and education services.



Graph 4.6 Areas that should be prioritised by decision makers according to service providers

Please note, more detailed information and breakdowns on the findings of the consultations that were conducted for this plan are provided thematically in Sections 4.2 to 4.6 below.

Finally, to provide more localised information, Appendix 8.3 provides a summary overview of the responses of all stakeholders to some of the key questions, displayed by CFSN area.

More detailed localised responses and findings also provided in Appendix 8.1 at the end of this plan.

4.2 Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

This section addresses the following questions:

1. How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation to Outcome 1: Healthy and Active, Physical and Mental Wellbeing?
2. What did the consultations tell us in relation to this outcome area?
3. Are there sufficient services in relation to this outcome area?
4. What are the DCN CYPSC priority areas and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within this outcome area?

How are children doing in the area of Active and Healthy?

- In 2018, 50.1% of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week in the Dublin area (State = 51.1%).²⁴
- In 2018, 81.9% of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week in the Dublin area (State = 78.2%).²⁵
- In 2018, 6.5% of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day in the Dublin area (State = 6.7%).²⁶
- In April 2016, there were 6,660 children in Dublin City with a disability. This figure equated to a rate of 67.5 per 1,000 children.²⁷
- As of 2021, there were 1,405 children in the Dublin area registered as having an intellectual disability according to the National Ability Support System. This equated to a rate of 4.6 per 1,000 children and was higher than the State rate of 3.8 per 1000.²⁸
- As of 2021 there were 856 children in the Dublin area registered as having a physical disability according to the National Ability Support System. This equated to a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 children and was higher than the State rate of 2.5 per 1000.²⁹
- According to the HSE³⁰, as of July 2022 in CHO 9, of which DCN is in, there were 2,159 children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact from the HSE regarding disability services.
- In response to a parliamentary question in April 2023, the Minister of State at the Department of Health stated that demand for CAMHS services nationally increased by 33% between 2020 and 2021, and the number of children and young people waiting to access CAMHS services nationally increased from 2,755 in December 2020 to 4,434 at end February 2023. The Minister also noted that CAMHS access is prioritised based on clinical assessment, and in 2022 almost 93% of urgent referrals were responded to in three days.³¹
- According to the CSO Vital Statistics, in 2021 there was a suicide rate of 5.4 in Dublin City. This rate was lower than the State rate of 8.0.³²

²⁴ Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey, (2018), Health Promotion Research Centre

²⁵ Source: HBSC Survey (2018)

²⁶ Source: HBSC Survey (2018)

²⁷ Source: Census (2016)

²⁸ Source: National Ability Support System (2021)

²⁹ Source: National Ability Support System (2021)

³⁰ Source: National Disability Services (hse.ie)

³¹ Source: Parliamentary Questions: Mental Health Services – Thursday, 20 Apr 2023 – Parliamentary Questions (33rd Dáil) – Houses of the Oireachtas

³² Source: Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2021 - CSO - Central Statistics Office

- The State of the Nations Children notes that in 2019, Dublin North East HSE area had the highest rate per 100,000 of children and young people presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm.³³
- In 2021, 287 children and young people residing in the DCN area accessed treatment for drugs and alcohol use. This figure accounted for over a fifth of the total children and young people that accessed treatment in the State.³⁴ 44% of children young people identified cannabis as their main substance, followed by cocaine and heroin.³⁵

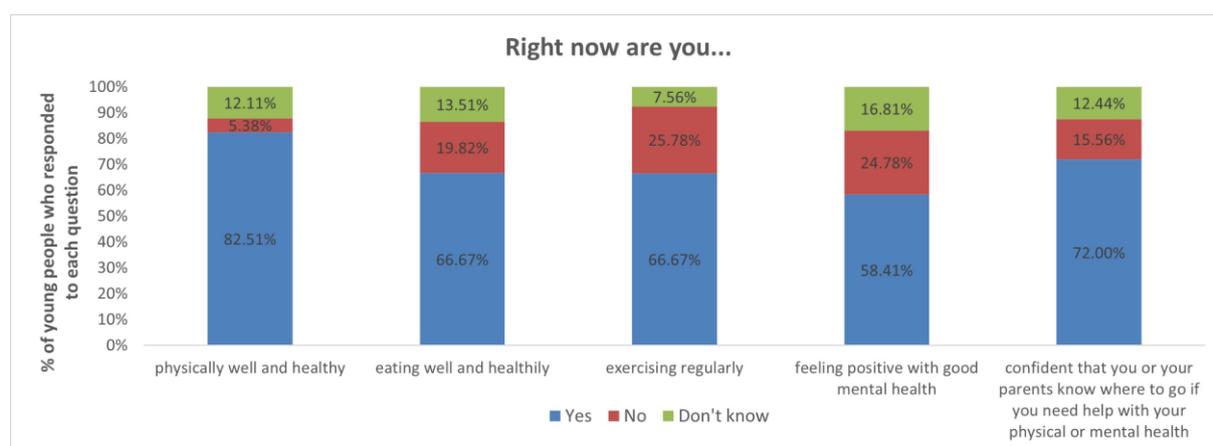
What did the consultations tell us in the area of Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing?

Consultations with Children and Young People

Two hundred and fifty-five children and young people from the DCN area responded to the survey. Of these:

- 58.4% (n=132) reported feeling positive with good mental health, 24.8% (n=56) said they were not feeling positive with good mental health and 16.8% didn't know.
- 82.5% (n=184) said they were feeling physically well and healthy and 5.4% said they were not (12% didn't know).
- 72% (n=162) said they were confident that they or their parents know where to go if they need help with their physical or mental health and 15.6% were not confident about this.
- 66.7% (n=148) reported that they were eating well and healthily, 19.8% said they were not eating well and healthily and 13.5% didn't know.
- 66.7% (n=150) said they were exercising regularly and 25.8% said they were not.
- 20% (n=51) reported having a disability or health condition that requires ongoing treatment, 72.6% said they didn't and 7.5% preferred not to say.

Graph 4.7 below illustrates the responses of the children and young people who responded to these health and wellbeing related survey questions.



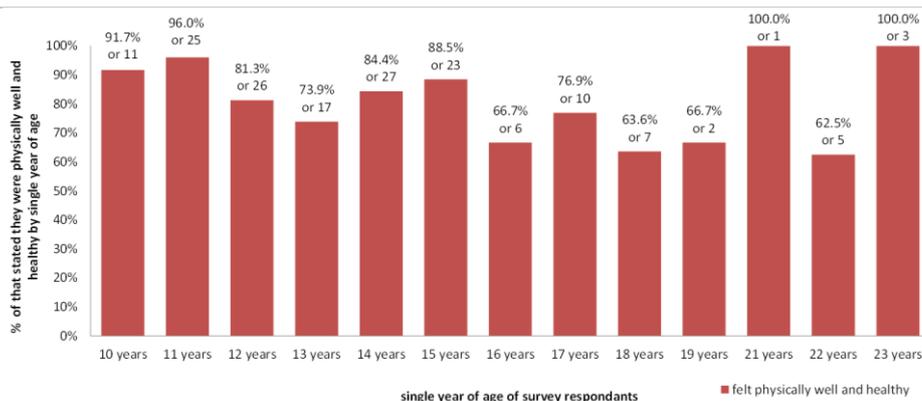
Graph 4.7: Responses of children and young people who responded to these health-related survey questions

The graph below shows the proportion of children and young people by single year or age that identified that they felt physically well and healthy.

³³ Source: Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

³⁴ Source: Health Research Board (2023)

³⁵ Source: Health Research Board (2023)



Graph 4.8. Age distribution of children and young people who reported feeling physically well and healthy in survey

Of the children and young people who said they did not feel positive with good with positive mental health, over 70% were aged between 13 and 24. The breakdown is as follows:

- 12.9% of were aged less than 12 years
- 30.8% of were aged 13-17 years
- 40.7% of were aged between 18 and 24 years.

The most significant health related challenges for children and young people in their own opinions were:

- Anxiety and stress: 50% of respondents (n=120)
- Vaping or pressure to vape: 20% of respondents (n=46)
- Alcohol use: 10% of respondents (n=25)

Of the 117 children and young people that stated the anxiety and stress was a challenge:

- 59% were females
- 35.9% were males
- 5.1% were trans-gender or non-binary

Of the children and young people that identified that they had a disability or long-term health condition over half stated that anxiety and stress was one of their biggest challenges.

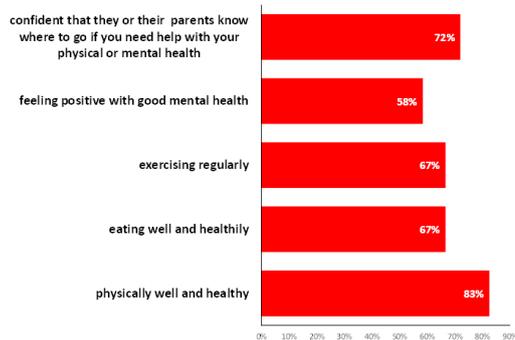
In the survey the children and young people were asked, 'If you had a magic wand what one thing would you change to make life better for young people in the northside of Dublin?' Those who responded with health-related areas that they wanted to change or improve in the area said things such as: more gyms for young people, more playgrounds, more clubs for sports, more open indoor areas, reducing or stopping drugs in the area, putting young people under less pressure, and being able to access mental health services when they needed them.

"(One thing I would like to change is) for adults and governments to focus more on teens because these are the years where our life starts to begin but all they do is just stress up about exams (and) make our mental health worse and worse while they should be helping young people focus on how good life is and how we can achieve something if we want to."

Young person in DCN area

Summary of some health-related results from children and young people’s survey:

Children and young people who responded to the survey stated that they were:



20% (n=51) of young people that took part in the survey stated they had a disability or health condition that requires on-going treatment

Most significant challenges for children & young people in their view:

- 50% (n=120) said anxiety and stress
- 20% (n=46) said vaping or pressure to vape
- 10% (n=25) said alcohol use

20 young people described the following areas related to this theme when asked what they would like to change/improve in DCN:

- Gyms for young people
- More playgrounds
- Clubs for sports
- More open indoor areas
- Get rid of drugs
- Access to mental health services when needed

Fourteen focus groups were carried out throughout the DCN area, and 182 children and young people participated in them. Participants were asked to talk about what they liked, did not like and what they wanted in the DCN area.

- Early years children in focus groups said that they liked parks and swimming, they did not like vegetables or going to bed and they wanted new playgrounds.
- Primary school aged children in focus groups said they liked parks and activities outside of school, they did not like hospitals or brushing their teeth, they wanted more activities after school.
- Older young people in focus groups said they liked sports and in-school mental health supports, they did not like when services are not good quality, drug-use, boredom, lack of amenities and not enough mental health services and they wanted more mental health services in school and activities for older young people.

Table 4.5 below provides a summary of the health-related findings from the focus groups.

	Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football pitches • Playgrounds • Parks • Swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables • No swimming pool close by • Going to bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new playground • To play more
Primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks • Activities outside of school • Playing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushing teeth or hair • Needles or hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More activities after school • Jump-zone
Youth services and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports • In-school mental health support • Drugs to make them feel better/something to do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are not good quality • Waiting lists too long • Drug use & dealing • Boredom & lack of amenities for young people (teens) • Little options outside of drug use • Not enough MHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More MHS in school • More activities after school particularly for older young people • Cleaner/functioning parks /playgrounds to play in

Table 4.5 Health related findings of the focus groups with children and young people

Consultations with Parents/Guardians

Parents and guardians who took part in the survey were asked for their views on the biggest challenges facing children and young people in the area in their view. The top three mentioned by parents/guardians were:

- Anxiety/stress: 37% of respondents (n=93)
- Worries about the future: 9% of respondents (n=24)
- Alcohol use: 8% (n=21).

Higher proportions of parents with older children (those that were doing courses after school, finished school and at secondary school) identified anxiety and stress as a major challenge for young people, compared to parents of younger children (with children in primary schools, pre-school and early years).

“(One thing that would make life better for children, young people and families is to) teach children resilience and have support for children around mental health issues instead of enabling mental health issues.”

Parent in DCN area

The top health-related things that need to be improved the most in DCN according to parents and guardians were:

- Mental health services for children and young people: 64% (n=147)
- Sports facilities for children and young people: 55% (n=125)
- Physical health services for children and young people: 47% (n=108)
- Services for children and young people with disabilities: 47% (n=107)

Further analysis was carried out on the proportion of parents that stated that mental health services, sports facilities and services for children and young people with disabilities needs to be improved in each CFSN area. These are illustrated in table 4.6 below.

CFSN Area	Proportion of parents who responded from each CFSN that stated these areas needed to be improved			
	Mental health services for c and y.p.	Sports facilities for c and y.p.	Physical health services for c and y.p.	Services for c and y.p. with disabilities
North East Inner City	42.7%	56.2%	33.7%	33.7%
Finglas	68.0%	44%	40.0%	36%
Dublin North East	61.1%	44%	38.9%	47.2%
Ballymun	68.4%	42.1%	57.9%	47.4%
Dublin Bay North	52.5%	42.4%	37.3%	37.3%
Cabra	56.3%	37.5%	43.8%	37.5%
North West Inner City	66.7%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

Table 4.6: Proportion of parents in each CFSN who stated that certain health related areas needed to be improved

In focus group discussions, parents repeatedly talked about the difficulties caused by the fact that some services for their children were very inaccessible, with long waiting lists or a lack of response from services when they contacted them.

Parents wanted easier and faster access to services for their children, not to have to chase services repeatedly to get a response. Parents who had engaged with Meitheal were positive about the way it provides a coordinated approach to best support a child or young person, however they noted that they had to work hard to get their child accepted into a Meitheal.

“Early intervention services need shorter waiting lists. My son is currently on a 4-year waiting list to receive early intervention services. He will be 7 by the time he gets to the top of the list and as a result the early intervention window will have been missed.”

Parent in DCN area

One parent complained that when her child finally got into CAMHS she did not feel that the service was effective for their child. Another talked about a lack of co-ordination between services and explained that she had effectively created her own ‘Meitheal’ by getting all the relevant services to meet with her at the same time so they could talk to each other about her child’s needs.

Parents who lived near sports and other accessible amenities (e.g., parks, swimming pools) were positive about these, however those that did not have these in their locality talked about the need for more low cost facilities for young people to keep them off the streets where they were more likely to get involved in drugs and anti-social behaviour. Parents also talked about the negative impact of Covid on children, young people and adults and were also very unhappy about the impact and smell of drugs and drug dealing in the local area and wanted something to be done to reduce drug use in the area.

Consultations with Service Providers/Stakeholders

Service providers who responded to the survey stated that there were insufficient services in the areas of:

- Mental health/bereavement/suicide: 85% of respondents
- Accessing health services: 83% of respondents
- Young people with intellectual disabilities: 77% of respondents

Health related areas that need to be improved the most in DCN according to them were:

- Mental health services: 28% of respondents
- Disability services: 27% of respondents
- Physical health services: 3% of respondents

Health related services that need to be prioritised by decision-makers in their view were:

- Mental health services (71% gave this their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority)
- Disability services (35% gave this their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority)

Service providers were also asked how services could be improved and they stated that:

- Mental health services could be improved by increasing access to services, improving the services themselves, more staff and funding as well as a more coordinated approach
- Disability services could be improved by cutting waiting times; and more staff, more services and supports in disability services among other things
- Addiction services could be improved by more outreach and positive action

Ways that service providers suggested the area of health services could be improved in DCN are summarised below:

How could the area of **mental health services** be improved?

Access to services	56
Improved MHS	10
Staffing	10
Funding	5
Coordinated approach	3
Information sharing	3
Family supports	2
Prevention & Early Intervention	2
Consultation	1
Restructuring	1

"More services available in the area"

"Timely provision of assessments and intervention otherwise difficulties intensify causing long term problems."

"Greater access to therapeutic supports for young people and adults"

"Provide in school mental health professionals."

"To employ more therapists in CAMHS and primary Care service as the list is too long, its so dangerous and worrying."

Ways that service providers suggested the area of disability services could be improved in DCN are summarised below:

How could the area of **disability services** be improved?

Waiting times	19
Staffing	7
Services	6
Supports	5
Information sharing	4
Support	4
Funding	3
Resources	2
Socila outlets	2
Accessible Services	1
Support for older young people	1

"More investment and staffing in early intervention"

"Have better, more funded, easier accessibility to these services with a shorter wait time"

"Social outlets for children with disabilities"

"Employ social care workers to take on the role of keyworkers for families and children"

"There is a chronic understaffing issue and recruitment crisis within the children's disability teams."

Are there sufficient services in the area of Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing?

This area of services covers a wide variety of services including general health (e.g. primary care); drug and alcohol services, disability services, mental health, social inclusion etc and it is estimated that when all are combined, there are approximately 500 services (including individual practitioners such as GP's). There are over 30 mental health related services, including community supports and bereavement counselling, and HSE CAMHS. In addition, there are 7 Children's Disability Network Teams serving the area, and multiple range of national and community supports and information services. In general, health promoting and health related services are well represented in the area. It is the capacity of some of these services to meet the demand that is limited (particularly state services).

What are the DCN CYPSC Priorities and Actions in the area of Active and Healthy Physical and Mental Wellbeing?

The following are the DCN CYPSC key priorities within the theme of ‘Healthy and Active, Physical and Mental Wellbeing’. These have been informed by the priority needs that emerged from the needs analysis and been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including CYPSC members.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Disability/Delayed Development

The following are the actions that have been identified by DCN CYPSC to undertake within these priority areas. The specific timelines and indicators for these actions to be carried out are outlined in Section 6 of this Plan.

Actions in DCN’s CYPP re Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Children and young people have increased access to evidence informed models and programmes expanded and embedded in schools and community as accessible, early intervention response.
- Promote and increase accessibility to wellbeing awareness/ methodologies through targeted campaigns.

Actions in DCN’s CYPP re Disability/Delayed Development

- Referral pathways and contact points to and through disability services are clearly communicated.
- Children and young people with disabilities /developmental delay and their parents are supported with a range of complementary evidence-informed programmes and community social and recreational supports.
- Services are trained in understanding of and responding to disabilities / developmental delays and neurodiversity.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which Ireland ratified in 1992 states that children have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health possible and the right to have access to health services, and that the State is obliged to take steps to combat disease and develop preventative healthcare. The Irish government published ‘Sharing the Vision, A Mental Health Policy for Everyone’ in 2022. The vision of this policy is (among other things), that ‘The mental health system should deliver a range of integrated activities to promote positive mental health in the community and it should intervene early when problems develop’.³⁶ Connecting for Life (2015–2020)³⁷, the national strategy aimed at reducing the loss of life by suicide and self-harm notes that mental health challenges are present for up to 90% of people who die by suicide.

³⁶ Department of Health (2022) Sharing the Vision, A Mental Health Policy. p16.

³⁷ Department of Health (2015) Connecting for Life, Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015 to 2024

Health and in particular mental health came up repeatedly as an area of concern for all stakeholders in the development of this Plan. Children, young people and parents all identified anxiety and stress as the biggest challenge for children and young people in the DCN area and many talked about the challenges and delays they experienced accessing mental health services in their community. Among other things, the impact of long waiting times for assessment or treatment was a concern for many including service providers due to the potential worsening of conditions and missing windows for early intervention in addition to cost, lack of capacity/staffing in services and other challenges that reduced the accessibility of services.

Fifty percent of the 255 children and young people who responded to the survey for this research felt that anxiety and stress were the biggest health related issues for young people in their area. Nearly 60% of these were female, 36% were male and 5% were trans-gender or non-binary. In addition, a quarter of children and young people reported that they did not feel positive about things or feel they had good mental health.

Parents talked about the negative impact that Covid-19 lockdowns had had on their children, with young people more isolated and less likely to socialise with others than previously, and some feeling socially anxious, down and refusing to go to school.

In addition to this, both parents and service providers reported that mental health services were the service or support most in need of improvement in the area, and most service providers indicated that mental health services should be prioritised by decision-makers when it comes to planning services for children and young people in DCN. Both service providers and parents talked about the challenges families were experiencing accessing mental health services in the area, with long waiting lists, difficulties getting in touch with services and a lack of co-ordination being reported.

In contrast to this it is positive to see that over 80% of the children and young people who completed the survey reported feeling physically well and healthy and 67% reported that they were eating well and healthily. This compares favourably to other research in the area. In 2018, 50.1% of children reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week in the Dublin area (state average was 51.1%), and 81.9% of children reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week in the Dublin area (State = 78.2%).³⁸

While most young people felt confident their parents knew where to go if they had problems with their physical or mental health, some older young people in focus groups reported difficulties in accessing those services due to long waiting times. They didn't like services that were not effective or suitable for them and wanted mental health services to be available to them more easily when they needed them, including in schools. Service providers said that mental health services in the area could be improved through better accessibility to and effectiveness of those services, including shorter waiting times (for more timely assessments and interventions so issues don't intensify over time), increased funding and staffing, and mental health services in schools.

These experiences are echoed by national and local statistics and other research. From 2019 to 2020, the number of children (under 18) in receipt of clinical psychology services in Ireland increased by 154%, and the number of children in need of services increased by a half (52%) during this time³⁹. From 2020 to 2021, demand for CAMHS services nationally increased by 33%, and the number of children and young people waiting to access CAMHS services nationally increased from 2,755 in December 2020 to 4,434 at end

³⁸ Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey (2018), Health Promotion Research Centre

³⁹ DCEDIY (2023) Statistical Spotlight 10: The Mental Health of Children and Young People in Ireland

February 2023⁴⁰. The State of the Nations Children notes that in 2019, Dublin North East HSE area had the highest rate per 100,000 of children and young people presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm.⁴¹

The extent of mental health issues among young people in Ireland has been well documented. Previous research reports and data in the DCN area and nationally have highlighted mental health as a major concern for young people in addition to the need for more accessible mental health services with shorter waiting times.

The *Life in Lockdown* research published by DCN and Dublin City South CYPSC in 2020 found that periods of lockdown had a negative impact on the health of young people in the locality, with 91% of the 12–17 year-olds involved in the research feeling sad some or most of the time since Covid-19 and 72% felt nervous and lonely some or most of the time since Covid-19. Young people involved wanted counselling in schools and face-to-face counselling⁴². Jigsaw's My World survey found that the biggest stressors in CH09 were school, exams and homework, and 9% of males and females reported a suicide attempt compared to 6% nationally.⁴³

Nationally, the Growing up in Ireland special Covid study found that 6% of 22 year olds and 13% of 12 year olds reported that they had missed out on mental health support services because of the pandemic and over half of 15 – 24 year olds reported that their mental health had worsened since the beginning of Covid restrictions in Ireland.⁴⁴ Research funded by the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, showed how young people were negatively impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic by missing out on significant events in their lives and losing contact with friends⁴⁵, and the negative impact of social media on depression and anxiety has been discussed⁴⁶. Jigsaw (2019) talked about mental health stressors reaching their highest in the late teens and recent research by Young Social Innovators with over 1,000 16 – 24-year-olds found that nearly 70% of them believe the biggest issue facing young people today is depression or anxiety.⁴⁷

Cannon et al (2013) recommend prevention and early intervention as well as accessible school age support.⁴⁸ The National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report⁴⁹ stresses the vital role that schools must play in promoting mental health awareness and providing information on referral pathways for young people in need. A 2022 review of a pilot local counselling initiative in the DCN area called the 'Mind-It Project', which ran in both community and school settings, found that there was a clear need for local, accessible, early-intervention mental health supports for young people in the area. Prior to this initiative there was a lack of or limited choice in the availability of low cost or free counselling support for young people aged 12+ in the local area, with cost, waiting times, locations and eligibility issues key barriers to accessing existing services for families. Demand for the service in school settings exceeded availability and the project was praised for the positive impact it had on young people's mental health and how valuable it was to have a free counselling service in the locality (both in youth groups and schools) where young people are on a day-to-day basis. In May 2023, the government announced the establishment of a pilot

⁴⁰ Parliamentary Questions: Mental Health Services – Thursday, 20 Apr 2023 – Parliamentary Questions (33rd Dáil) – Houses of the Oireachtas

⁴¹ Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

⁴² DCN and DCS CYPSC (2020) Life in Lockdown 2020

⁴³ Jigsaw My World Survey

⁴⁴ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2021) Growing Up in Ireland Key findings from the special COVID-19 survey

⁴⁵ Office of the Ombudsman (2022)

⁴⁶ Coyne S. et al (2019) 'Does Time Spent Using Social Media Impact Mental Health?: An Eight Year Longitudinal Study'

⁴⁷ Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2022) GenZ index Future Outlook

⁴⁸ Cannon M, Coughlan H, Clarke M, Harley M, Kelleher I (2013): The Mental Health of Young People in Ireland: A report of the Psychiatric Epidemiology Research across the Lifespan (PERL) Group. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

⁴⁹ Department of Health (2017) National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report 2017

programme of counselling and mental health supports in a series of primary schools from September 2023 with the first schools based in counties Cavan, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, and Tipperary. Further locations will be included in the pilot in the future.⁵⁰

In its recent Concluding Observations on Ireland's implementation of the UNCRC in April 2023, the UN Committee recommended (among other things) that Ireland ensures the availability of therapeutic mental health services and programmes for children, provides comprehensive mental health promotion, screening for mental health issues and early intervention services in schools at all levels and in communities; invests in preventive measures that address the underlying causes of suicide and poor mental health among children, and ensures that children's perspectives are included in the development of response services. In addition, it recommends progressing the Traveller and Roma mental health action plans; and development of a designated mental health support service for children of minority ethnic groups.⁵¹

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that children and young people in DCN have increased access to evidence informed models, expanded and embedded in schools and community as accessible, early intervention response; and to promoting and increasing accessibility to wellbeing awareness/ methodologies through targeted campaigns.

Disability/Delayed Development

Article 23 of the UNCRC states that children with a physical disability or learning difficulties, have the right to special care, education and training designed to help them to achieve the greatest possible self-reliance and to lead a full and active life.⁵² In addition, Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2018. The Irish government's National Disability Inclusion Strategy (2017 – 2022) provides a framework to support progress on implementing its obligations under the UNCRPD. The strategy was reviewed in 2020 and has 125 actions across 8 themes. Two of the goals of the strategy are that people with disabilities (including young people) are supported to reach their full potential and that, 'children and adults with disabilities have timely access to assessment and early intervention, and the therapy, rehabilitation or mental health services they require.'⁵³

Based on census 2016 data, 7% of children in Ireland have a disability and there were 6,660 children in Dublin City with a disability in April 2016. This figure equated to a rate of 67.5 per 1,000 children.⁵⁴ Three percent of students in Ireland are considered to have a 'special need'.⁵⁵ As of 2021, there were 1,405 children in the Dublin area registered as having an intellectual disability (a rate of 4.6 per 1000 which is higher than the national rate of 3.8 per 1000) and there were 856 children in the Dublin area registered as having a physical disability (a rate of 2.8 per 1000 which is higher than the national rate of 2.5 per 1000).⁵⁶

Twenty percent of the children and young people who responded to the survey for this research identified that they had a disability or long-term health condition. Over half of these stated that anxiety and stress was one of the biggest challenges facing children and young people in their view.

⁵⁰ <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/90147-minister-for-education-announces-establishment-of-5-million-pilot-programme-of-counselling-and-mental-health-supports-for-primary/>

⁵¹ UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023) Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzfnf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNv6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tItQs>

⁵² United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

⁵³ Department of Justice and Equality (2017) National Disability Inclusion Strategy, p. 6

⁵⁴ Census (2016)

⁵⁵ Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card 2023

⁵⁶ National Ability Support System (2021)

Throughout the consultations with parents and service providers the area of disability supports, services and waiting lists were highlighted. There were frustrations about long waiting times and a lack of assessments and as well as limited supports while waiting for assessments and services for their children and young people. Nearly half of parents and guardians involved in the survey felt that disability services need to be improved in the area. Higher proportions of parents in Ballymun and Cabra stated that disability services needed to be improved compared with parents/guardians in other CFSNs.

Lack of information and delays in getting responses to enquiries was also an issue. Some parents were unsure about things like what services were available to them, referral pathways and waiting list status and reported often waiting a long time to get a response from services. Some relied on information from friends/other parents when it came to working out what services their children could access.

Service providers concurred with this noting how their ability to provide services was being severely impacted by staff shortages. Other local level services reported having to respond to increasing levels of children and young people either requiring assessments or presenting with a diagnosis and not being able to access any necessary supports and services.

The findings of this research are echoed by local statistics and research. According to the HSE, as of July 2022 in CHO 9, (which DCN is in), there were 2,159 children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact from the HSE regarding disability services.⁵⁷ Local data provided by HSE Disability Services (July 2023) notes that in the DCN area, 1,367 children were receiving a service, while 685 children were waiting for an initial contact. The majority of children waiting was registered in the Finglas area.⁵⁸ Under the Disability Act 2005, people with a disability are entitled to an Assessment of Need and the EPSEN Act 2004 also provides for an assessment of special educational needs for children in the context of education settings. However, in its recent Report Card 2023, the Children Rights Alliance (CRA) has pointed out that, under the Disability Act there is a requirement for the assessment of the need for services, not an assessment of the need itself. It states that there has been a fourfold increase in demand for Assessments of need over the past 11 years. In December 2022 there were 9,836 children waiting for more than 12 months for an assessment of need and at the start of June 2022 there were 1,464 assessments of need overdue for completion⁵⁹.

In 2022, the Economic and Social Research Institute found that children with special educational needs were 5% less likely to be in school than those without such needs, and that students aged 9 who identified with special educational needs were twice as likely to leave school early.⁶⁰ The Children Rights Alliance, a membership body representing the children and youth sector, has recommended that among other things, the government puts in place a plan for additional school supports to support children with special educational needs.⁶¹

The UNCRC's recent review of Ireland's implementation of the UNCRC recommended (among other things) that the Government reduce the waiting times for assessments and diagnoses, with a view to ensuring their prompt access to the necessary services and support, including by urgently addressing the shortage of staff and qualified experts; ensure children with disabilities have access to early detection and early intervention programmes; ensure the right of children with disabilities to be heard in all decisions that

⁵⁷ National Disability Services (HSE) <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/personal/pq/pq/2022-pq-responses/june-2022/pq-35155-22-sean-sherlock.pdf>

⁵⁸ HSE Disability Services CHO Dublin North City and County. Email July 7th 2023.

⁵⁹ Childrens Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card 2023

⁶⁰ Economic and Social Research Institute, 'Cumulative disadvantage in post-school plans and pathways among those identified with special educational needs in Irish primary schools' as reported in Children's Rights Alliance (2023)

⁶¹ Childrens Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card 2023, p.97

affect them and undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat discrimination against children with disabilities.

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that referral pathways and contact points to and through disability services are clearly communicated; children and young people with disabilities /developmental delay and their parents are supported with a range of complementary evidence-informed programmes and community social and recreational supports in the area and services in the area are trained in understanding of, and responding to disabilities/developmental delays and neurodiversity.

4.3 Outcome 2: Achieving in All Areas of Learning and Development

This section addresses the following questions:

1. How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation to Outcome 2: Achieving in All Areas of Learning and Development?
2. What did the consultations in DCN tell us in relation to this outcome area?
3. Are there sufficient services in DCN in this outcome area?
4. What are DCN CYPSC priority areas and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within this outcome area?

How are Children and Young People in DCN CYPSC Area doing in relation to Learning and Development?

- In 2015, 5,066 young people began secondary school in Dublin City. Of these 97.5% completed their Junior Certificate and by 2021 90.3% had completed their Leaving Certificate. This figure equated to a Leaving Certificate retention rate of 90.3% in Dublin City. Compared with other administrative counties, this was the 6th lowest rate in the country.⁶²
- In the 2017-2018 school year, Dublin City had the highest percentage of 20-day absences from primary school (15.6%), matched only by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Fingal, and was 4.3% higher than the national average of 11.3%.⁶³
- A special cross-tabulation from Census 2016, shows that over 80% of Travellers had ceased education before they were 17 years old.⁶⁴
- By the end of the 22/23 school year, 15,625 Ukrainian pupils had been enrolled in schools across Ireland. 10,141 of these were in primary schools and 5,484 were in secondary schools. Of these, 1,204 primary school students and 687 post-primary students were located in County Dublin.⁶⁵
- As of April 2016, there were 18,769 children aged 0 to 4 years in Dublin City North.⁶⁶
- According to Pobal there are 432 childcare providers in Dublin City as of 2020/21. Of these 289 are private and 143 are community providers.⁶⁷
- In 2020/21 €213.85 was the average weekly fee for childcare in Dublin City, one of the highest in the country (Pobal 2022).⁶⁸
- In 2020/21 there were 8,263 childcare places in Dublin City of which 20% were vacant (Pobal 2022).⁶⁹ Data on waiting lists is unreliable at present.

⁶² Examination Statistics (cso.ie)

⁶³ Research and Statistics Tusla - Child and Family Agency

⁶⁴ Data (cso.ie)

⁶⁵ Department of Education circular July 2023, available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/3410a-department-of-education-confirms-15625-ukrainian-pupils-enrolled-in-irish-schools-at-end-of-school-year-2022-2023>

⁶⁶ data.cso.ie

⁶⁷ Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021 - Pobal

⁶⁸ Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021 - Pobal

⁶⁹ Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021 - Pobal

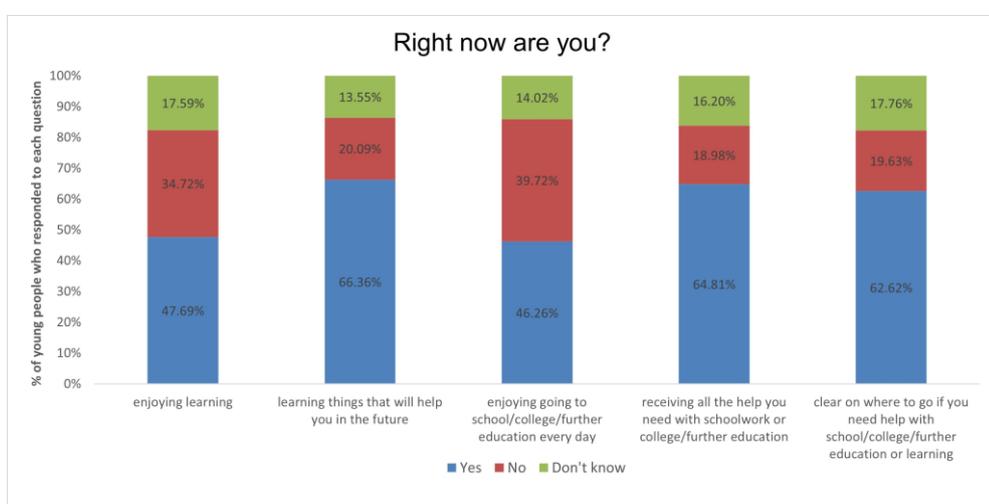
What did the Consultations tell us in the area of Learning and Development?

Consultations with Children and Young People

Of the 255 children and young people who filled out the survey:

- Less than half (46%) said they enjoyed going to school and college/further education every day and less than half (48%) said they were enjoying learning. 40% said they didn't enjoy going to school and college/further education, and 35% said they were not enjoying learning.
- 65% said they were receiving all the help they need with schoolwork or college/further education work and 19% said they were not.
- 63% were clear on where to go if they need help with school/ college/ further education or learning but just under 20% were not.
- 66% felt they were learning things that will help them in the future and 20% did not feel they were learning things that would help them in the future.

Graph 4.9 below illustrates the responses of the children and young people who responded to these learning and development related survey questions.



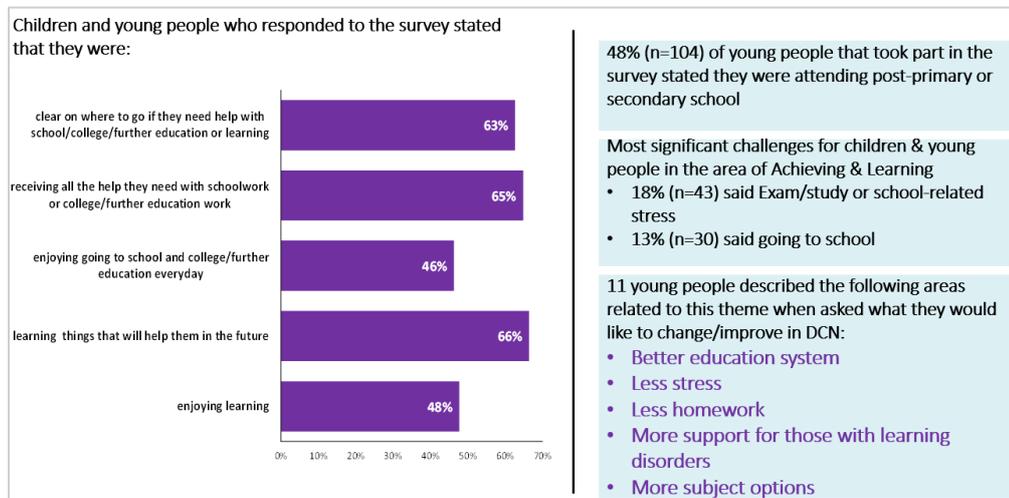
Graph 4.9 Responses of children and young people who responded to these learning and development survey questions

The most significant learning and development related challenges for children and young people in their view were:

- Exam/study or school-related stress: 18% of respondents
- Going to school: 13% of respondents
- Of the total children and young people that identified exam related stress as a challenge 65.9% were females and 34.1% were males.
- More males than females stated that they did not enjoy learning (27.6% of total females compared to 32.7% of total males).
- More females than males stated that they were not receiving enough help with their schoolwork or college/further education (17.9% of total females compared to 12.9% of total males).
- 70% of the traveller children and young people said they did not enjoy going to school/ college/further education every day.

Children and young people were asked in the survey, ‘If you had a magic wand what one thing would you change to make life better for young people in the northside of Dublin?’ Those who responded with learning and development related areas that they wanted to change or improve in the area said things such as: having a better education system with more options in subject choices including life skills, less stress, less homework and more support for those with learning disorders.

The box below provides a summary of responses from children and young people to the survey in the area of learning and development.



Fourteen focus groups were carried out throughout the DCN area, and 182 children and young people participated in them. Participants were asked to talk about what they liked, did not like and what they wanted in the DCN area.

- Young people in focus groups were mixed in terms of their perception of school but many talked about things they felt should be changed, such as less homework so they had more time to see their friends or do activities for their health after school, less strict teachers who worried less about uniforms and more about students’ wellbeing, less exam pressures and more diversity in subjects that prepare them for adulthood such as life skills.
- Early years children in focus groups said they liked school and messy play; they didn’t like not being able to talk in class and they wanted more playtime.
- Primary school aged children in focus groups said they liked going to school and sensory rooms, they did not like Irish, homework and competitions, and they wanted no homework, more breaks, and better activities in school
- Some older young people in focus groups reported liking school, but others did not. Young people in alternative education settings liked having access to an alternative to mainstream school such as a School Completion Program and friendly tutors there.
- Some older young people also wanted supports for parents with low education levels, more subject choice in school and more incentives to attend school.

“ (One thing I would like to change is) things in school that help me read and learn new skills for everyone not just after I have been told I have dyspraxia and dyslexia.”

Young person in DCN area

Table 4.7 below provides a summary of the health-related findings from the focus groups.

Things children and young people liked, disliked & wanted in this theme:

	Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Messy play Making soup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No talking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More playtime
Primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going to school Sensory rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Homework Teachers being strict Singing in the choir Competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No homework More breaks/freedom Be able to eat indoors Better things to do in school
Youth services and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoyed school No homework* Access to the SCP Tutors in school Getting to see friends Local library Access to different activities (chess, archery, languages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework Uniforms Teachers not caring/too strict Not enough time for activities after school Not trusting/listening to YP Single sex schools Penalties for being late 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for parents with low education levels Teachers to ask WHY you did it – not what you did More choice (subjects and options) More incentives to come to school

*Traveller group

Table 4.7 Summary of Learning and Development related findings of the focus groups with children and young people

Consultations with Parents/Guardians

The most significant learning and development related challenges for children and young people according to parent/guardians were exam/study or school related stress (6% of all respondents) and going to school (2% of respondents).

"(We need) more educational facilities for kids who find school boring,"
Parent in DCN area

The main areas that should be improved in their view were education supports for children and young people and childcare/afterschool care provision in the area.

42% of parents who responded to the survey felt that education supports for children and young people should be improved. 46.2% of these were parents whose children had finished school, 44% had children in secondary school and 35% of these were parents of primary school children. The following outlines the proportion of parents in each CFSN that stated that education supports needed to be improved:

- Ballymun: 47.4% of parents and guardians
- North East Inner City: 43.4% of parents and guardians
- Dublin North East: 38.9% of parents and guardians
- North West Inner City: 33.3% of parents and guardians
- Dublin Bay North: 27.1% of parents and guardians
- Cabra: 25% of parents and guardians

Parents in focus groups described the challenges of keeping their children and young people engaged in school and the need for more flexibility from schools around providing educational supports for young people to learn from home if they are not able/willing to attend school. One parent in a focus group praised the online supports her child was getting to enable him to learn from home when he couldn't attend school in person due to mental health issues.

"Educate them on the ongoing social issues such as drugs and alcohol, inclusion of refugees in our area and tolerance of all people."
Parent in DCN area

Some parents described how there was a high need for **more childcare and afterschool services**. These parents were primarily located in the North East Inner City, Dublin Bay North and the North West Inner City as well as working full or part-time. These parents described how a lack of suitable childcare and afterschool services hindered their ability to work or to seek employment.

"I think the childcare sector is crippling parents, there is just no options for some parents that want to work, some people have no option other than to give up work."

Parent in DCN area

"We need more support in Dublin 7. I cannot go back to work because there are no childcare available, this is unfair for women."

Parent in DCN area

"(One thing that would make life better for children, young people and families is) afterschool clubs to pick children up from school so kids of working parents can avail."

Parent in DCN area

Consultations with Service Providers/Stakeholders

Service providers who responded to the survey stated that there were insufficient services in:

- Education services for additional needs (87% of respondents)
- Early intervention/prevention (72%)
- Supports for risk of early school leaving (61%)
- After school activities (58%)

31% of service providers said that education and training services should be prioritised by decision makers planning services for children and young people (31% gave it their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority when asked to pick top three areas).

Service providers were asked to identify one support/service that they think needs to be improved the most in DCN. The top three areas (within the theme of learning and development) that service providers identified were:

- Education and training (7% said this is the area that needs to be improved the most)
- Early years family support and childcare (5% said this is the area that needs to be improved the most)
- Afterschool groups (primary aged) (1% said this is the area that needs to be improved the most)

"Early intervention, wraparound supports and alternative education options for children not attending school or at risk of not attending (are needed)."

Service Provider in DCN area

Nearly half of the early years services that completed the survey stated that staff retention and recruitment as well as lack of gaps and/or funding were the biggest challenges facing their services.

Ways that service providers suggested the area of learning and development could be improved in DCN are summarised below:

How could the area of **learning and development** supports & services be improved?

More Alternative Education Options for teens	3		
More Early Years Services & Learning	2	<i>"There are a lot of young people disengaging in education, specifically second level"</i>	<i>"More and more young people presenting with anxiety issues which is directly affecting their education leading to school refusal."</i>
More Early School Leaving Prevention	2		
English Language Supports (for students & schools)	2		
Afterschool services	2		
Support for children at risk outside of school	1		
Educate parents about importance of early years education	1	<i>"Establish Early Years Education in the old Magdalene Laundry site"</i>	<i>"Early intervention, wraparound supports and alternative education options for children not attending school or at risk of not attending."</i>
More Transition supports (primary to secondary)	1		
Stop reduced timetables – YP become vulnerable to exploitation (e.g. drug dealers)	1	<i>"Funding structures make working with younger age children (0-2) impossible"</i>	
Educational Assessments for all	1		

Are there sufficient services in the area of Learning and Development?

- As of 2023, there are over 500 education/learning related services in DCN, including community education supports, the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, primary and post-primary schools, National Education Psychology Service, TESS, Education Welfare Service and third level institutions, as well as early learning education and care services.
- There are gaps in education support services, childcare and after school activities with children, young people, parents and service providers calling for these areas to be prioritised.
- In particular, there is a capacity issue with current services being able to serve the numbers of children and young people needing the services (e.g., baby places in creches, and gaps in 6-10 year old after-school provision).

What are the DCN CYPSC Priorities and Actions in the area of Learning and Development?

The following are the DCN CYPSC key priorities within Outcome Area 2: 'Learning and Development'. These have been informed by the priority needs that emerged from the needs analysis and been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including CYPSC members.

Educational Engagement and Retention Early Learning and Care

The following are the actions that have been identified by DCN CYPSC to undertake within these priority areas. The specific timelines and indicators for these actions to be carried out are outlined in Section 6 of this Plan.

Actions in Educational Engagement and Retention

- Children and young people are supported to attend and engage in education through a trauma-informed approach.

- Young people have increased awareness of progression pathways from second to third level/further education and training.

Actions in Early Learning and Care

- Advocate for additional spaces for very young children in early years settings.
- Promote early learning initiatives and responses that encourage play, social and recreational development.

Educational Engagement and Retention

Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) provides that all children have the right to quality education, to enable children to maximise their ability and participate fully in their society. The Irish Government’s vision is that Ireland has an education system where every child and young person feels valued and is actively supported and nurtured to reach their full potential, and it acknowledges that, ‘in helping every student to reach their full potential, the education system is contributing to social and economic development and to the cohesion and well-being of an inclusive society.’⁷⁰

In 2015, 5,066 young people began secondary school in Dublin City. Of these 97.5% completed their Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate retention rate was 90.3%, which is the 6th lowest rate in the country.⁷¹ The Annual Attendance Report (Tusla, 2023) for the period 2021-22 shows that Dublin Primary Schools had the second highest “20-plus days” reported absences at 45.5% (vs the state average of 39%). At Post-Primary level, Dublin experienced the highest percentages of expulsions, increasing from 12% in 2019-20 to 27% by 2021-22 based on data received from schools.⁷² During, and post-Covid, the figures demonstrate upward trends in the percentage of days lost and absences, indicating a need to ensure engagement and retention strategies are in place.

Department of Education figures show that by the end of the 2022/23 school year, 15,625 Ukrainian pupils had enrolled in schools across Ireland. 10,141 of these were in primary schools and 5,484 were in secondary schools. Of these, 1,204 primary school students and 687 post-primary students were located in County Dublin.⁷³

The area of learning and development, educational engagement and retention emerged as an area of considerable concern for young people, parents and service providers in the consultations carried out in the DCN area. Less than half of the children and young people that completed the survey for this research reported that they were enjoying going to school, college or further education and less than half were enjoying learning. Males were less likely to not enjoy learning when compared with females, while females felt they were not receiving enough support in school. Young people in focus groups were mixed in terms of their perception of school but many talked about things they felt should be changed, such as less homework so they had more time to see their friends or do activities for their health after school, less strict teachers who worried less about uniforms and more about students’ wellbeing, less exam pressures and more diversity in subjects that prepare them for adulthood such as life skills.

⁷⁰ Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2021) Statement of Strategy 2021 - 2023

⁷¹ Examination Statistics (data.cso.ie)

⁷² Tusla Education Support Service (2023) School Attendance Data and Absence Reports 2019-2022
https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/AAR_SAR_2019_22.pdf

⁷³ Department of Education circular July 2023, available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/3410a-department-of-education-confirms-15625-ukrainian-pupils-enrolled-in-irish-schools-at-end-of-school-year-2022-2023>

Both service providers and parents raised the issue of school retention, and how it had become more of an issue during and post Covid-19. Service providers were observing an increase in the number of young people out of school temporarily, leaving school early or on reduced school timetables. Parents in focus groups described the challenges of keeping their children and young people engaged in school and the need for more flexibility from schools around providing educational supports for young people to learn from home if they are not able/willing to attend school.

Over forty percent (46.2%) of parents who took part in the survey highlighted the need for more educational supports for their children, 46.2% of these were parents whose children had finished school, 44% had children in secondary school and 35% of these were parents of primary school children. More parents in Ballymun and the North East Inner City felt there was a need for educational supports compared with the parents in other CFSN areas in DCN.

Data obtained from Census 2016 showed how, at a national level, Travellers are more likely to cease education at either 14,15 and 16 years old when compared with the whole population and that over 80% of Travellers had ceased education before they were 17 years old.⁷⁴ Pavee Point⁷⁵ state that Travellers are less like to have positive experiences in mainstream education when compared with the rest of the population. The experience and attainment of Traveller and Roma children at school is of particular concern to the Childrens Rights Alliance and it recommends that the government does more to tackle educational disadvantage among minority groups, conduct independent evaluations of work already done and ensure solutions aimed at improving the experience of Traveller and Roma children in schools are co-created by the communities.⁷⁶ The government has recently launched a public consultation strategy to inform a new Traveller and Roma Education Strategy.

Migrant children and young people living in IPAS are also more likely to be at an educational disadvantage due to language barriers and a lack of support according to the ESRI,⁷⁷ and children and young people living in poverty including those living in congregated settings were less likely than other children and young people to have access to digital/online learning during Covid-19 school closures. During the Covid pandemic, research on the experiences of 12 to 17-year-olds in Dublin found that young people needed better access to computers/laptops/tablets. While 91% of young people had access to a phone, only 65% had access to a desk or table and 71% had access to a computer, laptop or tablet.⁷⁸

The 2022 ESRI research on the children of migrant parents' points to the need for more support for migrant-origin students at primary level, including: enhanced support for DEIS Urban Band 1 schools; and provision of continuous English language support, with ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of this language support in meeting children's needs. In addition, they argue, enhancing the English language skills of migrant parents would facilitate both their children's language development and learning, as well as migrant parents' liaison with schools.⁷⁹

Service providers involved in the research for this plan also noted how there is a need for more translation services and language supports to ensure that all children are provided with opportunity to fully participate in education. Service providers working with minority communities stated that to encourage children and young people to remain engaged in education and training more support should also be provided to their parents and guardians, such as translation and literacy supports.

⁷⁴ <https://data.cso.ie/>

⁷⁵ PaveePoint Education leaflet http://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Education_Leaflet.pdf

⁷⁶ Childrens Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card 2023

⁷⁷ ESRI (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

⁷⁸ DCN and DCS CYPSC (2020) Life in Lockdown 2020

⁷⁹ ESRI (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

The UN has recently raised concerns about educational engagement and retention in Ireland. In its recent Concluding Recommendations on Ireland's implementation of the UNCRC, the Committee called on the State to (among other things) to, strengthen measures for ensuring the equal access of children in disadvantaged groups, including Roma and Traveller children, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children with disabilities and socioeconomically disadvantaged children, to quality education; improve educational outcomes for Roma and Traveller children, collect disaggregated data on attendance and completion rates by ethnic origin, socioeconomic background and residence status and use of reduced timetables. It also recommended ensuring that parents of refugee children have information on how to register their children in school and that such children have access to quality multilingual and intercultural education, including through appropriate materials and educational technologies, multilingual teachers who are trained on cultural inclusiveness and trauma, and transportation to participate in afterschool activities;⁸⁰

In response to the needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that children and young people in DCN are supported to attend and engage in education through a trauma-informed approach; and to increasing awareness among young people of progression pathways from second to third level/further education and training.

Early Learning and Care

The early childhood period is a crucial time in a child's life and a formative time in their development. High quality early education and care has been shown to provide important benefits to young children. In the Government's 10-year strategy *First Five*, which aims to improve the lives of babies, young children and families, it acknowledges that a good balance of learning and care promotes children's overall well-being, supports good physical and mental health, positive learning and socio-emotional outcomes and positive self-image and identity. Among other things, the strategy seeks to improve affordability, accessibility and quality of Early Learning and Care in Ireland and it requires CYPSC to support inter-agency collaboration to improve outcomes for this population.⁸¹

The Children's Rights Alliance has praised recent government progress in reforming the childcare system including the commitment to invest €1bn in Budget 2023 five years ahead of schedule. However, it highlights European Commission research which found that in Ireland, the participation rate of children from low-income families in formal childcare was less than a quarter of that of their high-income peers and states that further work is needed to unlock the potential that early year's services have in addressing child poverty and disadvantage.⁸²

The OECD has found that if early childhood education and care is not sufficiently subsidised, fewer children from disadvantaged backgrounds participate in it. Recent research by the ESRI on the children of migrants in Ireland has echoed this and highlights the importance of facilitating access to quality early learning and care for migrant-origin children, as participation in early learning and care at age three is lower for them than for Irish origin children.⁸³

In its recent assessment of Ireland's implementation of the rights in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN recommended that there is increased access to affordable childcare for parents engaged in the labour market, especially those experiencing disadvantage. It also recommended that the government increase the level

⁸⁰ UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023) Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzfnf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNV6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tItQs>

⁸¹ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019) *First Five, a Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families* (2019 to 2028)

⁸² Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card

⁸³ Economic and Social Research Institute (2022) *Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?*

of funding allocated to childcare and move towards a publicly funded model, and that it ensures inclusive education in early childhood education and mainstream schools for all children with disabilities.⁸⁴

According to Pobal, there were 432 childcare providers in Dublin City as of 2020/21. Of these 289 were private and 143 were community providers.⁸⁵ In 2020/21 €213.85 was the average weekly fee for childcare in Dublin City, one of the highest in the country as well as the highest staff costs (Pobal 2022).⁸⁶

Findings from the parents surveyed in DCN for the development of this plan showed that there is a strong need for more affordable early-years services and childcare provision throughout the area. Some parents talked about not being able to access suitable childcare, early years services and afterschool places and the negative impact that this was having on their ability to seek and retain employment. Feedback from the focus groups with children and young people was that both early years and primary school aged children wanted more playtimes and less homework within the settings. Primary aged children described how they enjoyed being in school, particularly meeting their friends and playtime, while early years described enjoying messy play during the school time and opportunities for free play.

Half of the early years services who responded to the survey in this consultation described how staff retention was one of their biggest issues. In consultations service providers spoke about the challenges on their services in terms of capacity, staffing and rising costs and were keen that the field of early 'learning' would be recognised as early 'education' as it was about more than learning in their view.

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to advocating for additional provision for early years children (0-2) and promoting early learning initiatives and responses that encourage play, social and recreational development.

⁸⁴ Childrens Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card

⁸⁵ Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021. <https://www.pobal.ie/annual-early-years-sector-profile-report-2020-2021/>

⁸⁶ Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021. <https://www.pobal.ie/annual-early-years-sector-profile-report-2020-2021/>

4.4 Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

This section addresses the following questions:

1. How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation to Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm?
2. What did the consultations in DCN tell us in relation to this outcome area?
3. Are there sufficient services in DCN in this outcome area?
4. What are DCN CYPSC priority areas and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within this outcome area?

How are children and young people in DCN CYPSC area doing in relation to the area of Safety and Protection from Harm?

- In 2022, a total of 26,020 offences were recorded across Garda stations in the DCN area, 12.5% of the total offences committed across the state⁸⁷.
- In Q4 2021, there were 1,244 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla recorded in Dublin North City. This is a rate of 27.7 per 1,000 which is an increase on the rate of 18.9 in Q4 2019. The rate of 27.7 is higher than the national rate of 16.4 per 1000 for all Tusla areas in Q4 2021.⁸⁸
- As of Q1 2021, there were 470 children in the care of Tusla in Dublin North City.⁸⁹
- In 2018, 94.4% of children reported feeling safe in the area where they live in the Dublin area (State = 90.2%)⁹⁰.
- In November 2022 incident counts collated from Pulse on the 11th of November 2022 (and are not associated with any time period) were released via a parliamentary question. In DMR North Central the total number of Domestic Calls was 1,698 of these 517 resulted in Domestic Incident Charges and 91 were Breaches of Orders Charges⁹¹.
- As of 18th June 2023, there were 4,589 children in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) in Ireland and 7,775 people (of all ages) in IPAS accommodation in the Dublin area⁹².
- In November 2022, there were 2,314 Ukrainian refugees in Dublin City North, including 647 children and young people aged 18 or younger and 163 aged 19-24 years⁹³.

What did the consultations tell us in relation to the area of Safety and Protection from Harm?

Consultations with Children and Young People

Of the children and young people who filled out the survey:

⁸⁷ Data (cso.ie)

⁸⁸ Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

⁸⁹ Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

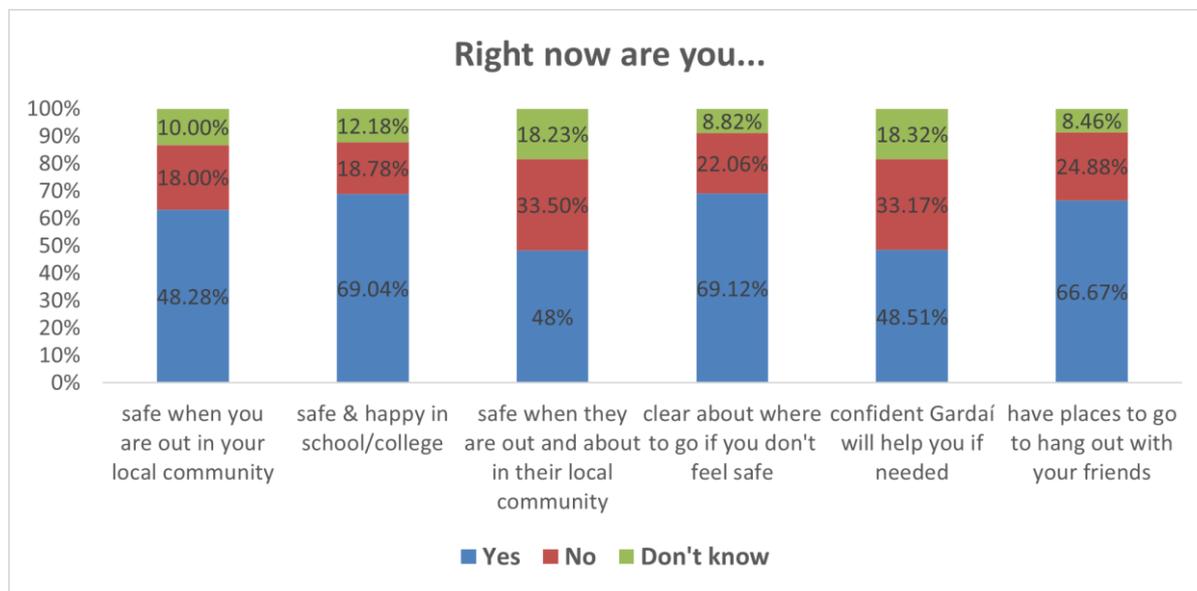
⁹⁰ Health Research Board (2023)

⁹¹ Parliamentary Questions (2022) Domestic Violence – Tuesday, 15 Nov 2022 – Parliamentary Questions (33rd Dáil) – Houses of the Oireachtas

⁹² Data (cso.ie)

⁹³ Data (cso.ie)

- Less than half (48%) reported feeling safe when they are out in their local community and over one third (34%) said they did not feel safe when out in their local community
- 49% were confident Gardaí will help them if they need it and 33% were not
- 69% reported feeling safe and happy in school/college and 19% did not feel safe and happy in school/college
- 69% were clear about where to go if they don't feel safe and 22% were not clear.
- 66% had places to go to hang out with friends, 25% said they didn't and 8% didn't know.



Graph 4.10: Responses of children and young people who responded to these survey questions

Of the total children and young people that took part in the survey stated that they did not feel safe in their local area. Of these, over a quarter (26.5%) were aged less than 12 years, over half (51.5%) were aged 13 to 17 years and 22% were aged 18 to 24 years.

In terms of location of those who didn't not feel safe, the following are the proportions of children and young people in each CFSN area who stated they did not feel safe in their local community:

- Finglas: 43.6% of children and young people
 - Ballymun: 30.3% of children and young people
 - Cabra: 29.4% of children and young people
 - Dublin North East: 26.3% of children and young people
 - North East Inner City: 21.7% of children and young people
 - Dublin Bay North: 0% of children and young people
 - North West Inner City: 0% of children and young people
- Higher proportions of respondents who identified as Black or Black Irish and White Irish Travellers said they did not feel safe or happy in school compared to White Irish.
 - More Other White or White Irish felt unsafe in the local community than White Irish Travellers or Black or Black Irish.
 - Half of White Irish Travellers did not feel confident Gardaí would help if they needed it.

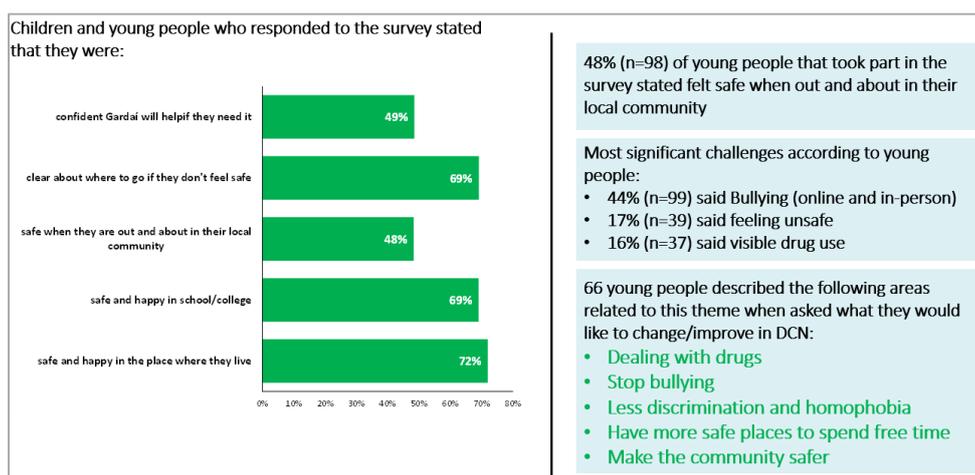
Children and young people reported that the biggest challenges for children and young people in the area of safety and protection from harm were:

- Bullying (reported by over 40% of children and young people):
 - In-person: 22% of respondents

- Bullying on-line: 20% of respondents
- Feeling unsafe/threat of violence: 17% of respondents
- Visible drug use: 16% of respondents
- Homophobia: 7% of respondents
- Family drug use: 7% of respondents

Children and young people were asked in the survey, 'If you had a magic wand what one thing would you change to make life better for young people in the northside of Dublin?' Things they would change that related to safety included things such as: dealing with/stopping drugs, stopping bullying, less discrimination and homophobia, making communities safer, and for young people to have more safe places to spend their free time.

The box below provides a summary of responses to the survey from children and young people in the area of safety and protection from harm.



Twenty five percent of the children and young people said they did not have places to go to hang out with friends. In relation to the location of those respondents, the following list gives the proportion of children and young people in each CFSN area who stated that they had no place to hang out with their friends in the survey:

- North West Inner City: 33.3% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- Cabra: 26.5% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- Dublin North East: 26.3% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- Finglas 20.5% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- Ballymun: 12.1% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- North East Inner City: 10.9% of the respondents in this CFSN area
- Dublin Bay North: 11.8% of the respondents in this CFSN area

Fourteen focus groups with children and young people were carried out throughout the DCN area (including early years, primary years, secondary school pupils and older young people and targeted groups). Participants were asked to talk about what they liked, did not like and what they wanted in the DCN area.

- Many children and young people who took part in focus groups in more disadvantaged parts of DCN talked about issues related to safety and crime and wanted safer communities with less drug dealing and violence and a more visible/active Gardaí presence

- Early years children in focus groups said they liked spending time with friends, and they did not like roundabouts and people not being friendly.
- Primary school aged children in focus groups said they did not like kidnappers, traffic, racial attacks and unsafe parks such as those where older young people were vaping, doing drugs or driving motorbikes.
- Older young people in focus groups said they liked safe spaces such as youth clubs/groups and places where they felt at home and were not being discriminated against and when Gardaí patrolled in their area. They did not like a perceived lack of protection from the Gardaí not being visible on the streets or feared, prevalent crime and drug use in their area, feeling unsafe, discrimination and negative influences on young people from adults regarding race. They wanted supports to make their localities safer including more street lighting, more visible Garda presence and safer roads and parks. They also wanted to reduce drug-dealing and threats of violence and they wanted to feel like there were other options for them besides drug dealing to make an income in the area.

Table 4.8 below provides a summary of responses from children and young people in the focus groups in the area of safety and protection from harm.

	Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending time with family and friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundabouts • Broken toys • People not being friendly • Hitting 	
Primary schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidnappers, scammers, strangers and bullies • Traffic • Parks • Racial attacks 	
Youth services and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places where they feel safe: e.g. youth groups/clubs & places they are not discriminated against (e.g. at the pool hall) • Some Gardaí • When Gardaí patrol in their areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalent drug use, crime & violence in locality • Not feeling safe in locality/city • Parents having to protect them • Gardaí not patrolling or feared enough & Gardaí not trusted. • Young children influenced by parents to be racist • Pizza company not delivering to area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer localities & environments for c & yd • Less drug dealing & crime • Less threats of violence • More street lighting • Safer roads (e.g. put dirt tracks in parks to take joy riders off roads and parks where young people are)

Table 4.8: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups in the area of safety and protection from harm

Consultations with Parents/Guardians

The most significant challenges for children and young people in this area according to parents and guardians were:

- Bullying (reported by nearly 50% of parents/guardians)
 - In-person bullying: 24% of respondents
 - Online bullying: 23% of respondents
- Having nowhere for young people to spend free time (23%)
- Feeling unsafe and threat of violence: 14% of respondents
- Racial discrimination: 8% of respondents
- Family drug use: 5% of respondents
- Homophobic attacks: 3% of respondents

"(One thing that would make life better for children, young people and families is) less drugs and violence in public places, it's become too normalised."

Parent in DCN area

Forty seven percent (47%) of parents who filled out the survey said safety/crime levels in the community should be improved. The following outlines the proportion of parents in each CFSN area who stated that safety and crime levels should be improved in their areas:

- North West Inner City: 66.7% of parents and guardians

- Ballymun: 57.9% of parents and guardians
- North East Inner City: 42.7% of parents and guardians
- Dublin North East: 38.9% of parents and guardians
- Dublin Bay North: 37.3% of parents and guardians
- Cabra: 28.1% of parents and guardians
- Finglas: 28.0% of parents and guardians

Parents in focus groups liked having a sense of community spirit in their area and the way families supported each other in times of need. They didn't like discrimination against poorer communities in the way that services (including housing provision for refugees) are planned and delivered, the prevalence of drug use, violence and crime in the area and the Government system which they felt was rotten and poorer communities are being forgotten. Parents wanted people to protest against the government rather than at individual properties/hotels (re immigration), safer environments for them and their children, more visible Gardaí in the community and more outreach from services.

Of the total number of parents that took part in the survey, 23% stated that one of the most significant challenges for children and young people in the area in their view was having nowhere for young people to spend free time with friends. In addition, 68% of parents felt that places where children and young people can hang out should be improved in the area and 55% said the availability of youth clubs and projects should be improved.

"I live in Donnycarney, the local park has a good playground, but it is quite small. I would love to see this improved because there isn't many other places to bring kids that is within walking distance. Although there is a football pitch, I would love to see more for older kids to do in the park too, maybe like the exercise equipment that's in other parks. Also more park benches, flowers and trees."

Parent in DCN area

The following outlines what proportion of parents in each CFSN area stated that having nowhere to spend free time is a challenge for children and young people in their view:

- Cabra: 34.4% of the parents and guardians who responded from this CFSN area
- North West Inner City: 33.3% of the parents and guardians
- Dublin North East: 25% of the parents and guardians
- North East Inner City: 21.3% of the parents and guardians
- Ballymun: 21.1% of the parents and guardians
- Finglas: 16.0% of the parents and guardians
- Dublin Bay North: 15.3% of the parents and guardians

Consultations with Service Providers/Stakeholders

"Young people do not feel as safe on the streets anymore"

Service Provider in DCN area

Seventy one percent (71%) of service providers who responded to the survey said there were insufficient services in the areas of domestic violence and 68% said there were insufficient supports for young people at risk of entering justice system.

The services in this area that need to be prioritised by decision makers in DCN according to service providers are:

- Safety in the community (27% gave this their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority when asked what decision-makers should prioritise when planning services for children and young people in DCN)
- Places for young people to spend free time (20% gave this their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority)

- Domestic violence (12% gave this their 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority)

Nine percent (9%) of service providers who responded to the survey said that safety in the community was the thing that needed to be improved the most in DCN (in third place after mental health and disability services) and 1% said domestic violence services needed to be improved the most.

Those that made suggestions as to how safety in the community could be improved said things like more and better resourced community policing, a stronger response to drug dealing, better services and infrastructure and more consultation with communities. Suggestions and comments are summarised below:

How could the area of **safety in the community** support and services be improved?

Community policing	5
Respond to drug dealing	2
Services	2
Infrastructure	1
Consultation	1

“Creating a more unified, and trauma informed, support services”

“Increased resources to support the community Gardaí”

“More resources to deal with rampant crime”

The service providers that made suggestions about how domestic violence supports and services could be improved mentioned the following: more funding, more staff, more communication between professional services and families, more data collection and more referrals for perpetrators to attend services.

Service providers’ suggestions in relation to how places for young people to spend their free time could be improved included providing more dedicated, safe spaces for young people that don’t have organised activities catering for different groups of young people – both targeted and mainstream groups.

How could the area of **places for young people to spend their free time** be improved?

“There are no proper spaces. There are youth clubs but most kids won’t join them as they want their own space without staff”

“Purpose built/ designed, dedicated, accessible, staffed premises to cater for groups of young people-both targeted and mainstream”

“Young people do not feel as safe on the streets anymore.”

“There are lots of young people to be catered for so access is limited in order to allow all young people contact ”

Are there sufficient services in the area of Safety and Protection from Harm?

There are over 50 safety related services in DCN, including Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence services, Child to Parent Violence, Child Protection and Welfare, Garda Stations, Prisons and Young People's Probation Services. While areas are generally well-served, there are gaps in specific services such as refuges for those affected by domestic abuse, lack of social workers to support and work with vulnerable families, and lack of Gardai in some areas for community policing. As the numbers of international protection applicants and displaced Ukrainians continue to seek protection in Ireland and DCN, the safety and welfare of those children and young people continue to be an ongoing services need.

What are the DCN CYPSC Priorities and Actions in the area of Safety and Protection from Harm?

The following are the DCN CYPSC key priorities within Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm. These have been informed by the priority needs that emerged from the needs analysis and been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including CYPSC members.

Safe Spaces for Children and Young People Community Integration and Cultural Awareness Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Child to Parent Violence

The following are the actions that have been identified by DCN CYPSC to undertake within these priority areas. The specific timelines and indicators for these actions to be carried out are outlined in Section 6 of this Plan.

Safe Spaces for Children and Young People

- Children and young people have access to a range of safe spaces encouraging social and recreational activities, with a view to inclusive programmes.

Community Integration and Cultural Awareness

- Children, young people and families living in emergency accommodation or congregated settings (e.g., direct provision centres) have access to social, emotional, and recreational supports and programmes in the local community.

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)

- Parents and children affected by DSGBV have evidence-informed responses and safe referral pathways.

Child to Parent Violence

- Parents have access to Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Programmes in their locality.

Safety and Protection from Harm

Under the UNCRC, Ireland is obliged to ensure that children have protection from all forms of abuse (Article 19), exploitation (Article 36), including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse (Article 34) and armed conflict (Article 38). The Irish government defines community safety as being about people being safe, and feeling safe, within their communities and recognises that community safety goes beyond traditional, high visibility, policing. The Department of Justice leads on several community safety policy initiatives however the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland has recognised that preventing crime and harm and making communities safer requires a whole of Government approach.⁹⁴

UNICEF highlights the importance and value of child friendly cities and communities, in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions. It states that, among other things, child friendly cities/communities should ensure that children and young people are safe and protected from exploitation, violence and abuse, and can meet friends and have places and spaces to play and enjoy themselves.⁹⁵

In 2022, a total of 26,020 offences were recorded across Garda stations in the DCN area, 12.5% of the total offences committed across the state.⁹⁶ In Q4 2021, there were 1,244 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla recorded in Dublin City North. This is a rate of 27.7 per 1,000 which is an increase on the rate of 18.9 in Q4 2019. The rate of 27.7 is higher than the national rate of 16.4 per 1000 for all Tusla areas in Q4 2021.⁹⁷ As of Q1 2021, there were 470 children in the care of Tusla in Dublin North City.⁹⁸

In 2018, 94.4% of children reported feeling safe in the area where they live in the Dublin area (State = 90.2%).⁹⁹ In contrast to this, less than half (48%) of the 255 children and young people in DCN who completed a survey for this research reported feeling safe when they are out in their local community and over one third (34%) said they did not feel safe when out in their local community. In addition to this, 26% of the children and young people felt they did not live in a friendly community and 17% said that feeling unsafe or a threat of violence was one of the biggest challenges for children and young people in the area (16% felt it was visible drug use). Of those children and young people that said they did not feel safe, over 50% were aged 13 to 17 years.

In the focus groups, young people in secondary school and older young people described how there was a lack of safe spaces, such as parks, recreations areas and indoor spaces that they could spend time hanging out with their friends. Children (and parents of young children) talked about dangerous parks and roads in their area and wanted more playgrounds that weren't made to feel less safe by older young people drinking, vaping or engaging in anti-social behaviour in them.

Parents echoed young people's concerns in relation to safety in DCN, with nearly half of all parents who responded to the survey highlighting that there is a need to improve safety and crime levels in their local areas. Some parents talked about how there was a sense of community spirit in their area, and they liked

⁹⁴ <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/b8d89-community-safety/>

⁹⁵ <https://www.childfriendlycities.org/>

⁹⁶ Data (cso.ie)

⁹⁷ Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

⁹⁸ Tusla (2022) State of the Nations Children

⁹⁹ Health Research Board (2023)

this, however they didn't like the prevalence of drug use and drug dealing, violence and crime in the area. Parents wanted safer environments for them and for their children and more visible Gardaí on the streets.

Twenty seven percent of service providers who completed the survey said that safety in the community should be prioritised by decision makers. Those that made suggestions as to how safety in the community could be improved said things like more and better resourced community policing, a stronger response to drug dealing, better services and infrastructure and more consultation with communities.

Safe Spaces for Children and Young People

In relation to safe spaces specifically, nearly a quarter of the children and young people who completed the survey stated that they did not have places to hang out with their friends. A lack of affordable youth spaces in DCN was also a concern for parents and guardians and service providers. Twenty three percent (23%) of parents stated that young people had nowhere to spend free time in the area and 68% of parents felt that places where children and young people can hang out should be improved in the area, while 55% said the availability of youth clubs should be improved. Twenty percent of service providers who responded to the survey felt that spaces for young people to spend their free time should be prioritised by decision makers. A service provider stated that while there are youth clubs available in their area, they are not always suitable for older young people as older young people needed more independence.

Further information emerged on this issue from the focus groups. Primary aged children enjoyed groups and activities they participated in outside of school. However secondary school aged young people and older young people felt there not enough places or spaces for them to spend free time with their friends. They felt that this resulted in them being discriminated against in other environments, for example when spending time in shopping centres, playgrounds or public parks in the absence of suitable, youth orientated spaces. Some of the young people described their experiences, outlining how a lack of good spaces to spend free time (separate to youth groups or organised activities) resulted in them engaging in anti-social behaviour, vaping, drugs or alcohol due to boredom.

Article 31 of the UNCRC states that young people have a right to 'rest, engage in leisure, play and recreational activities, and participate in cultural and artistic activities. In its recent concluding observations on Ireland's progress in relation to implementation, the UNCRC called for the State to strengthen initiatives aimed at promoting children's right to leisure, play and recreational activities; ensure that these activities are accessible for girls, children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and migrant children and socioeconomically disadvantaged children; and involve children in the planning, design and monitoring of programmes and policies.

BOBF 2014 – 2020 made a commitment to developing play and recreation spaces for both children and young people, from playgrounds to youth cafes, sports and leisure centres. *Teenspace*, the government's National Recreation Policy for Young People was published in 2017.¹⁰⁰ Two of its seven objectives are to: ensure that the recreational needs of young people are met through the development of youth-friendly and safe environments and maximise the range of recreational opportunities available for young people who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have a disability.

The government's national play policy 'Ready, Steady, Play' aims to increase public play facilities and thereby improve the quality of life of children living in Ireland by providing them with more play opportunities¹⁰¹. Included in its commitments are an aim to ensure social inclusion in publicly funded play with a specific

¹⁰⁰ National Recreation policy, available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9bac93-teenspace-national-recreation-policy-for-young-people/>

¹⁰¹ National Play Policy, available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/183b50-ready-steady-play-a-national-play-policy>

focus on marginalised children. In 2013, the Equality Authority said that in order to ensure social inclusion and acknowledge diversity, there are a number of principles that should be included in a play policy: Children are diverse; they come from diverse family backgrounds; children playing together can help overcome prejudice and discrimination in the future both between young people and between their parents, and play can model a more diversity-friendly future.¹⁰²

Previous research and policies have highlighted the need for more safe spaces for young people to play/hang out. The National Youth Mental Health Taskforce recommended in 2017 that local government needs to work with other stakeholder to provide safe youth friendly spaces and cultural facilities¹⁰³. DCN CYPSC and Barnardos 2019 research on safe play in Finglas West found that parents did not feel safe in their area, felt uncomfortable about letting their children out to play; that children often felt unsafe due to speeding vehicles and open drug activity; and that they wanted more safe spaces to play.¹⁰⁴

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that children and young people in DCN have access to a range of safe spaces in the area encouraging social and recreational activities, with a view to inclusive programmes.

Community Integration and Cultural Awareness

The number of non-Irish citizens in Ireland increased by 18% between 2016 and 2022. In April 2022 there were 631,785 non-Irish citizens in the country, which represents 12% of Ireland's usual resident population. In the year preceding April 2022 (when the Ukrainian war was only beginning) 89,512 people moved to Ireland of which 66,020 were non-Irish citizens. 15% of these were from India, 8% from Brazil and 6% were from the Ukraine.¹⁰⁵ The number of people seeking international protection in Ireland from various countries has increased in the past year, and in March 2023, European data showed that 76,185 Ukrainian refugees were in Ireland, which is fifth highest number in the EU as a proportion of population.¹⁰⁶

There were 4,589 children in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) in Ireland June 2023, and 7,775 people (of all ages) in IPAS accommodation in the Dublin area.¹⁰⁷ In November 2022, there were 2,314 Ukrainian refugees in Dublin City North, including 647 children and young people aged 18 or younger and 163 aged 19-24 years.¹⁰⁸ Local figures show in June 2023, approximately 524 Ukrainian children and young people were living in Dublin City North in emergency or serviced accommodation.

Of the 255 children and young people who completed the survey for this research 14% identified as something different to 'White Irish' (5.5% identified as 'Other White' which is white but not Irish, 2.4% identified as 'Black or Black Irish', 1.6% identified as 'Asian or Asian Irish', 1.6% identified as 'White Irish Traveller' and 3.2% ticked 'Other'). Analysis of their responses show that more Other White or White Irish felt unsafe in the local community than White Irish Travellers or Black or Black Irish but more traveller and black/black Irish children and young people did not feel safe in school compared to white Irish children and young people. In addition, half White Irish Travellers did not feel confident Gardaí would help if they needed it.

Young T

¹⁰² Equality Authority, 2003, Five Areas for Inclusion in a Play Policy, as referenced in the National Play Policy

¹⁰³ Department of Health (2017) National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report 2017.

¹⁰⁴ DCN CYPSC and Barnardos (2019) 'Responding to the need for child friendly physical activity play and recreation spaces for 6-12 year olds in Finglas West'

¹⁰⁵ <https://data.cso.ie/>

¹⁰⁶ Irish Times (2023) 'Ireland has fifth-highest number of Ukrainians by population size, latest data shows' 22/5/2023

¹⁰⁷ <https://data.cso.ie/>

¹⁰⁸ <https://data.cso.ie/>

Travellers described how they face discrimination and segregation at times in school and how they do not feel their culture is represented in mainstream settings. Some non-white Irish young people who took part in the focus groups stated that racism is present everywhere in their localities and described how they felt prejudice regularly from people and services in the community.

Ireport.ie is a monitoring tool on racist incidents. In 2022 there were 600 reports about racism received from the public and reports of criminal offences and incidents were up significantly compared to 2021 rates. 31% of assaults were against people identified as Black African, Black Irish or Black-Other, 22% against South Asian people, and 16% against people of Mixed backgrounds. The largest group of discrimination reports came from people of Black African, Black Irish or Black-Other backgrounds at 33 percent. Asian and South-Asian people experienced 24 percent of discrimination cases. Travellers reported 15 percent of discrimination cases. Businesses and service providers were the most common perpetrators of discrimination and perpetrators of racist crimes or racist incidents were over twice as likely to be adults (73%) than young people (29%).¹⁰⁹

The UN Committee assessing Ireland on its implementation of the UNCRC recently welcomed progress made by Ireland in this area, including the establishment of an independent Anti-racism Committee, but it remains about persistent discrimination against children of minority groups and in disadvantaged situations. It called on it to (among other things) ensure that legal frameworks protect young people from discrimination; ensure that all asylum-seeking children, including children with disabilities, have prompt access to housing, education, health services, social protection, psychosocial and integration support and reasonable accommodation; to prioritize measures to phase out the direct provision system by 2024, and to ensure that vulnerability assessments for all unaccompanied children are conducted in a child-friendly manner by trained professionals, within 30 days of their arrival. It has also called on the government to strengthen measures to ensure the enjoyment of Traveller and Roma children of all rights under the Convention.¹¹⁰

The Government has various frameworks and policies guiding its work on the integration of minorities in Ireland. In 2017, it published the Migrant Integration Strategy and the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy, and in March 2023 the government published a new National Action Plan Against Racism 2023 – 2027 stating that the actions in the plan aim to create a more inclusive Ireland, where everyone feels safe to live their own lives.¹¹¹

Research on the experiences and development of the children of migrants has recommended that increasing opportunities for migrant-origin children to engage in social activities, particularly engagement in team sports, would be beneficial for them as they found it fosters a positive self-image among children.¹¹² The same report and others have also highlighted that additional language support for migrant children is crucial for their integration and their educational achievements. English language competence is well recognised as an essential tool for integration both within and outside of the school system.¹¹³

In response to the needs identified in this area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that children, young people and families living in emergency accommodation or congregated settings (e.g., direct provision

¹⁰⁹ <https://inar.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Reports-of-Racism-in-Ireland-2022.pdf>

¹¹⁰ UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023) Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHlHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzmf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNv6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tItQs>

¹¹¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/d157a-minister-obrien-announces-publication-of-irelands-national-action-plan-against-racism-2023-2027/>

¹¹² Economic and Social Research Institute (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

¹¹³ ICI (2015) Voices of Young Migrant Men; ICI (2007) On speaking Terms, Introductory and Language Programmes for migrant in Ireland

centres) in DCN have access to social, emotional, and recreational supports and programmes in the local community.

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) and Child to Parent Violence

In November 2022, incident counts collated from Pulse on the 11th of November 2022 (and are not associated with any time period) were released via a parliamentary question. In DMR North Central the total number of Domestic Calls was 1,698, of which 517 resulted in Domestic Incident Charges and 91 were Breaches of Orders Charges¹¹⁴.

There is very little official information and data on the extent of DSGBV or child to parent violence at a national and local level in Ireland, however research and the experiences of organisations that support victims of domestic violence can give some indications: European research shows that one in four women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner and 14% of women in Ireland have experienced physical violence by a partner (current or former) since age 15.¹¹⁵ In 2022, there were 33,990 disclosures of abuse against women and children disclosed to Women's Aid which included 5,412 incidents of child abuse. This is a 16% increase on the previous year and the highest ever received by the organisation in the 50 years it has been in operation.¹¹⁶ Tusla data states that in more than 40% of cases, children who live with domestic violence abuse are also frequently directly abused, physically or sexually.¹¹⁷

Organisations working in the field have called for more comprehensive, centralised data as they say it is currently not representative of the extent of domestic and sexual violence that is evident from the number of women contacting frontline services.¹¹⁸ They have also called for more funding and resources for services and systems that support victims of domestic violence saying that every system victims are accessing are 'creaking at the seams' including specialist frontline services, specialist accommodation provision and the family and criminal law systems.¹¹⁹

The research conducted for this plan echoed these experiences, with 71% of service providers who completed the survey indicating that there were insufficient DSGBV services in DCN, highlighting this as an area that needs to be prioritised. While domestic violence specifically didn't come up among young people or parents involved in the research, some young people from a substance abuse group that took part in the focus groups, described how they felt frustrated and unheard at home in relation to the challenges they felt in regard to their substance misuse. Service providers' suggestions in relation to how DSGBV services could be improved in the area included: more funding, more staff, more communication between professional services and families, more data collection and more referrals for perpetrators to attend services.

In 2022, Ireland's third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV)¹²⁰ was published, based around four key components: prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy co-

¹¹⁴ Source: Parliamentary Questions (2022) Domestic Violence – Tuesday, 15 Nov 2022 – Parliamentary Questions (33rd Dáil) – Houses of the Oireachtas

¹¹⁵ European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (2014) Violence against Women: An EU Wide Survey

¹¹⁶ <https://www.womensaid.ie/get-informed/news-events/media-releases/a-record-high-number-of-domestic-abuse-contacts-with-womens-aid-in-2022/>

¹¹⁷ Tusla and Barnardos (2015) Parenting Positive, Helping Teenagers Cope with Domestic Abuse: https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Teenagers_coping_with_domesticabuse_d4.pdf

¹¹⁸ Irish Times (2022) 'Call for data on gender-based violence to be key to State strategy', 17/1/2022

¹¹⁹ Womens 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/>

¹²⁰ Department of Justice (2022) Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a43a9-third-national-strategy-on-domestic-sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>

ordination. The end goal of it is zero tolerance of DSGBV in Irish society. This strategy was welcomed by organisations supporting victims of DSGBV and they are calling for promised reforms to be implemented as soon as possible. In 2022 a new Action Plan on Bullying was also published which aims to prevent and address bullying in schools.¹²¹

Echoing these and other calls, the UN Committee assessing Ireland's implementation of the UNCRC has called on Ireland to ensure refuge accommodation for victims; to strengthen measures aimed at preventing violence against children especially marginalised groups; to enable children to apply for protection and safety orders; to ensure that children have access to legal support and confidential and child-friendly complaints mechanisms for reporting all forms of violence and abuse; and ensure that all professionals working with and for children in the education, health, justice and other sectors receive specialized training on identifying and effectively responding to cases of violence.¹²²

In response to these needs identified, DCN CYPSC has committed to supporting parents and children in DCN who are affected by DSGBV have evidence-informed responses and safe referral pathways and parents have access to Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Programmes in their locality.

¹²¹ Department of Education (2022) Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying:

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/241000/eb57d761-2963-4ab0-9d16-172b2e3be86d.pdf#page=null>

¹²² UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023) Available at:

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzfnf8DjzrqcpQTKSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNv6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tItQs>

4.5 Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

This section addresses the following questions:

1. How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation to Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity?
2. What did the consultations in DCN tell us in relation to this outcome area?
3. Are there sufficient services in DCN in this outcome area?
4. What is DCN CYPSC priority area and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within this outcome area?

How are children and young people in DCN CYPSC area doing in relation to Economic Security and Opportunity?

- According to the Pobal HP Deprivation Index DCN had some of the most disadvantaged SAs in the State in 2016 and had the highest rate of youth population aged 0 to 24 years¹²³.
- In 2023, there were 3,290 young people aged 25 years and under signing on the Live Register in the DCN area. This accounted for nearly 70% of the total number of young people signing on the live register in the Dublin Area¹²⁴.
- Family homelessness in the Dublin area reduced between 2019 and 2021, but increased from mid-2021, while single homelessness (number of households in emergency accommodation) has continued to increase overall since 2016¹²⁵.
- As of the 30th of April 2023, there were 1,263 families and 2,722 child dependents accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin area.¹²⁶
- Data provided by DCEDIY (May 2023) illustrates a breakdown of children (0-17) living in the IPSS accommodation. The majority of children (982 or 21.7%) are housed in the Dublin area followed by Donegal (511 or 11.3%).¹²⁷

What did the consultations tell us in the area of Economic Security and Opportunity?

Consultations with Children and Young People

Of the children and young people who filled out the survey for the development of this Plan:

- 37% felt confident they would be able to afford to leave home and live independently when they are old enough, 36% did not feel confident about this and 26% didn't know.
- 58% felt confident about their chances of getting a job after school or college, 21% were not confident about this and 21% said they didn't know.
- 61% felt confident their family had enough money to pay for the things they need or want to do, 22% were not confident about this and 17% didn't know.

¹²³ Pobal Deprivation Indices (pobal.ie)

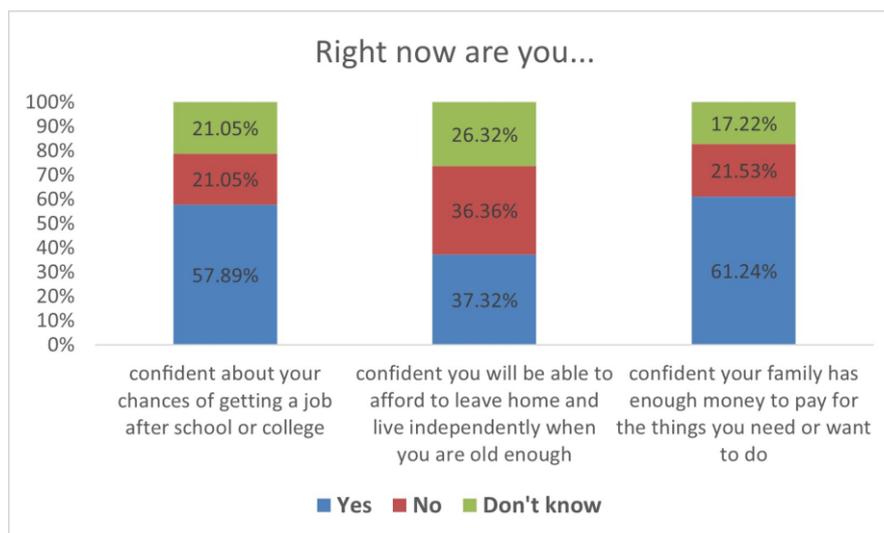
¹²⁴ Live Register: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/liveregister/>

¹²⁵ Homeless Dublin: <https://www.homelessdublin.ie/info/publications>

¹²⁶ Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (April 2022) Monthly Homelessness Report

¹²⁷ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023)

- 42% of young survey respondents felt there was not enough help in their area for young people looking for a job, and 51% said there wasn't enough help for families with money worries.

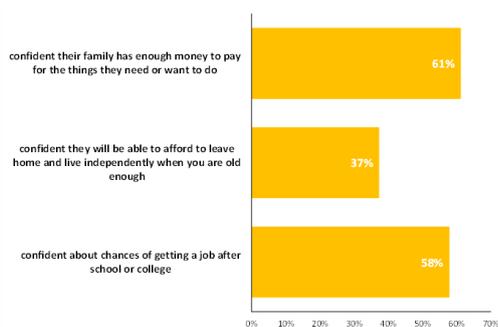


Graph 4.11: Young people's levels of confidence in relation to economic security questions

- Females were less confident than males about the chances of getting a job after school and being able to afford a home in the future.
- Fewer Asian/Asian Irish young people (25% of respondents) were confident about getting a job in the future than others. 46% of white Irish respondents, 66.7% of the Black/Black Irish young people and 75% of Travellers who answered this question said they were confident that they would have a job in the future and be able to afford a home.
- In terms of location breakdown, the following are the proportions of children and young people in each CFSN area that stated that they were not confident about their chances of getting a job in the future:
 - Ballymun: 27.3% of children and young people from this area were not confident about their chances of getting a job in the future
 - Cabra: 20.6% of children and young people
 - Dublin North East: 18.4% of children and young people
 - Finglas: 15.4% of children and young people
 - North East Inner City: 15.2% of children and young people
 - North West Inner City: 0.0% of children and young people
 - Dublin Bay North: 0.0% of children and young people

The most significant challenges for children and young people in their own view (in the area of economic security) were cost of living/money worries (19% of respondents) and worries about the future (9% of respondents). The box below provides a summary of children and young people's responses in this area.

Children and young people who responded to the survey stated that they were:



51% (n=107) of young people said there is not enough help for families with money worries

Most significant challenges according to young people:

- 19% (n=46) said Cost of living/money issues
- 9% (n=21) said Worries about the future

29 young people described the following areas related to this theme when asked what they would like to change/improve in DCN:

- Housing
- Employment
- Lower cost of living
- Information and support
- More funding for communities

Findings that emerged from the focus groups with children and young people in relation to this theme included:

- Overall, children and young people in focus groups wanted, more money, more opportunities and less barriers to access education and employment.
- Early years children in focus groups said they liked being bought things by their parents and they wanted more money and new shoes
- Primary school aged children in focus groups said they liked going to coffee and sweet shops, they didn't like wasting food and bad quality housing, and they wanted toy shops and more housing.
- Older young people in focus groups said:
 - They liked having access to cash, getting take-aways and going shopping.
 - They did not like low chances of jobs in their area, poor housing quality, cost of living and barriers when trying to access education and employment (low wages, strict rules and lack of childcare).
 - They wanted more money, to go to college, food, shelter and childcare for their families.

According to the focus groups with children and young people:

	Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying toys in the shop • Parents buying them what they want 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars • More money • Food • New shoes
Primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to coffee, sweet and ice cream shops • Going to <u>Funderland</u> • Living near the shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wasting food • Refugees • Bad quality housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bed with a slide • Toyshops • More houses • A unicorn
Youth services and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to money to cover costs (employment/training programme, crime and gambling) • Take-aways • Shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low chances of jobs in locality • Low standard of housing • Low access to apprenticeships • Parents moaning about money • Cost of living – heat/food etc • Not enough money on training courses to cover costs • Lack of childcare for young parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make money/have more money for cost of living • Go to college, get job/apprenticeship for better pay • Food and shelter • Leave my area/Ireland • Job opportunities • Childcare so can study • Free activities

Table 4.9: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups in the area of economic security

Consultations with Parents

- The most significant challenges for children and young people (in this theme):
 - Cost of living/money worries: 31% of respondents (n=79)
 - Worries about the future: 9% of respondents (n=24)
 - Lack of transport: 3% of respondents (n=7)
- Nearly a third of parents stated the cost-of-living crisis is a challenge for children and young in DCN in the survey. The following outlines the proportion of the total parents that filled out the survey in each CFSN that stated that the cost-of-living crisis is a challenge for children and young people:
 - Dublin North East: 33.3% of parents and guardians
 - North West Inner City: 33.3% of parents and guardians
 - Ballybough: 32.3% of parents and guardians
 - Dublin Bay North: 28.8% of parents and guardians
 - Ballymun: 26.3% of parents and guardians
 - Cabra: 21.9% of parents and guardians

"(One thing that would make life better for children, young people and families is to) have better supports around getting a job and going to college... so many young people in Coolock don't get a chance especially with the high rates of young mothers in the area."

Parent in DCN area

Services/supports within this theme that should be improved according to parents were employment supports for young people should be improved (38% of respondents) and financial support for families should be improved (35% of respondents).

Parents that responded to the *one thing that would make life better* question in the survey stated that affordable housing/rent or better pay in employment to cover rising cost of living would make life better for children and young people in the area.

Parents in the focus group talked a lot about the cost of living and insecurities they were experiencing in terms of housing or paying for bills. Some praised affordable and free school supports like school meals and free after school activities that some of their children had been able to benefit. This was particularly valuable to them in the context of the high cost of living, as they found many activities for children too expensive for them to afford. Some praised economic welfare supports but one lone parent without regular work talked about the many years she had been on the affordable housing list without success and the fact that she was facing eviction from her rental accommodation when the eviction ban was stopped. She was very worried about hers and her son's future security for this reason. They also wanted jobs to pay better so they wouldn't have to rely on welfare supports also.

Consultations with Service Providers/Stakeholders

When asked what areas need to be improved the most in DCN, service providers mentioned the following areas within the area of economic security:

- Homeless services
 - Services for families in IPA (incl. Ukrainians)
 - Employment supports and
 - Services for families in financial difficulty
- 36% of service providers did not think that there were sufficient services for accessing employment and training services in the area

"(We need) more support for families to stay in their homes/communities."

Service Provider in DCN area

- 88% of service providers did not think that there were sufficient services for family homelessness in the area.
- Service providers identified that homeless services could be improved by providing more housing and protecting families to remain in their accommodation.
- In addition, 32% of service providers said that homeless services need to be prioritised by decision makers in DCN (it should be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd priority) and 9% said services for families in financial difficulty should be either a top, second or third priority
- 64.9% of service providers did not think that there were sufficient services families in International Protection Accommodation (incl. Ukrainians). Service providers that IPAS services could be improved by providing more suitable accommodation and services to those in need.
- Suggestions and comments in relation to homeless supports and supports for families in international protection accommodation (incl. Ukrainians) are summarised below:

How could the area of **homeless supports** be improved?

Housing (more/better)	11
Protections for families	10
More funding for homeless services	3
Property Tax	1

"More affordable homes"

"More support for families to stay in their homes / communities."

"More early years supports whilst in homelessness"

"Housing to be prioritized by the Government"

How could the area of services and supports for **families in International Protection Accommodation (incl. Ukrainians)** be improved?

Suitable services	6
Suitable accommodation	3
Culturally sensitive work strategies	1
Community provision	1

"More suitable sustainable accommodation"

"Funding for local community groups to extend their programme of activities to promote integration."

"Supports provided by staff who are familiar with language/culture of IP applicants"

Are there sufficient services in the area of Economic Security and Opportunity?

As of 2023, there are over 20 employment and social inclusion related services distributed across DCN. These include Local Area Partnerships, Department of Social Protection, Local Employment Supports and Money, Advice and Budgeting Services.

There are varied homeless supports including 32 emergency accommodation units as well as supports and services provided by voluntary organisations and at least 9 services working with Traveller, Roma and Migrant groups (including IPAS).

What are the DCN CYPSC Priorities and Actions in the area of Economic Security and Opportunity?

The following is the DCN CYPSC key priority within Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity. This has been informed by the priority needs that emerged from the needs analysis and been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including CYPSC members.

Progression Routes Through Education and Training

The following are the actions that have been identified by DCN CYPSC to undertake within this priority area. The specific timelines and indicators for these actions to be carried out are outlined in Section 6 of this Plan.

Progression Routes through Education and Training

- Young people are supported to engage in various models of education, training or learning as career progression pathways.
- A focus on marginalised communities such as the Traveller Community, Roma and Migrant communities.

In 2016, DCN had some of the most disadvantaged SAs in the State in 2016 and had the highest rate of youth population aged 0 to 24 years.¹²⁸ In 2023, there were 3,290 young people aged 25 years and under signing on the Live Register in the DCN area. This accounted for nearly 70% of the total number of young people signing on the live register in the Dublin Area.¹²⁹ Recent data shows that as of the end of April 2023, there were 1,263 families and 2,722 child dependents accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin area¹³⁰, and in terms of the location of children aged 0-17, the majority were housed in the Dublin area (21.7%) compared to other areas, followed by Donegal (11%).

Article 28 of the UNCRC states that children have a right to education as a progressive and equal right. The state is obliged to make higher education accessible to all based on capacity; take measures to encourage regular school attendance and reduce drop-out rates. Ireland has a National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 and one of its aims is to widen access to higher education for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds or other under-represented groups.¹³¹ The National Skills Strategy 2025 aims, among other things, to provide skills development opportunities that are relevant to the needs of learners, society and

¹²⁸ Pobal Deprivation Indices (pobal.ie)

¹²⁹ Live Register: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/liveregister/>

¹³⁰ Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (April 2022) Monthly Homelessness Report

¹³¹ Department of Education (2019) National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030

the economy and to focus on active inclusion, in order to support participation in education and training and the labour market.¹³²

Research for the development of this plan found that only 37% of children and young people in the DCN area that took part in the survey were confident that they would be able to afford to leave home and live independently in the future, while 58% felt confident about their chances of getting a job in the future. Females were less confident than males about the chances of getting a job after school and being able to afford a home in the future.

While one group of young people in the focus groups were able to competently describe the various access routes to different education and training services and were able to outline a clear progression route to employment, not all had an awareness of alternative progression pathways or supports to access further and third level education. Young people in the focus groups primarily relied on the experiences of other young people in their community to inform them of options available, with some reporting that access to guidance counsellors in their schools were limited.

Two thirds of the young people who completed the survey stated that they were learning things that will help them in the future. However, some of the children and young people in the focus groups felt that they did not have access to subjects in second level school that would help them in the future such as life skills like banking and how to apply for a job.

Other research has echoed these results. Research by Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research with over 1,000 16 – 24 year olds found that 80% of them did not believe the Leaving Cert prepares them for the future career paths.¹³³ Similar research a few years before this found that 83% 16 – 24 year olds felt there was too much emphasis placed on third level education in Ireland and 36% felt pressures stemming from exams was one of the main reasons why being a teenager today is more difficult than it was for their parents' generation.¹³⁴

In the survey for this research, a high proportion of children and young people from the Traveller Community stated they were confident about their chances to get a job after school. However, in the focus group with young members of the Travelling community, younger Travellers described how they hoped to get employment in the future in trades through apprenticeship schemes, while older young people felt that their chances of ever getting employment outside of their community were extremely low and felt that secondary and further education were unnecessary.

Most participants in the focus groups of 16 – 24 year olds who were attending an alternative leaving certificate course were positive about the course itself, but many were unhappy with the barriers they were experiencing when trying to attend (or continue attending) the education and training course. These included inaccessible/costly childcare for their children (young mothers), being docked money from their weekly pay when they were just a minute or two late, and the low level of pay they got for attending the course (particularly for those under 18), compared the high cash income they knew they could access through drug dealing which was very common in the community, particularly for the young men. Some of these young people felt there were not enough advantages to attending education and training as the prospect of having a high enough income to afford a home or to live independently were low, but some were determined to earn an income from a job rather than from illegal activities and were clear that they would have to leave the DCN area to get a job the future.

¹³² Department of Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2016) National Skills Strategy

¹³³ Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2022) GenZindex Future Outlook

¹³⁴ Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2019) GenZindex Future Outlook

Parents in the focus group talked a lot about the cost of living, stress and insecurity they were experiencing in terms of housing or paying for bills. Some praised affordable and free school supports like school meals and free after school activities that some of their children had been able to benefit. This was particularly valuable to them in the context of the high cost of living, as they found many activities for children too expensive for them to afford.

Service providers outlined how there was a severe need in the DCN area to provide supports and services to those at-risk populations whose existing needs are being compounded and intensified by rising costs and pressures. They indicated through the survey that they did not believe there were sufficient services to respond to families facing homelessness, minority communities such as migrants and travelers as well as children, young people and their families living in IPAS.

In relation to children, young people and their families living in IPAS, there was concern about the level of need, the quality of housing provided in emergency accommodation centres, the transience of families being moved between locations and therefore for the social, emotional and physical welfare of children. Emergency accommodation is limited in its available physical space, privacy and suitability. Some young people that took part in the focus groups were living in such temporary accommodation. Those young people described how they were comfortable living where they were currently and they were engaging with local youth services, however the constant threat of being moved and having to leave services and schools that they had successfully engaged with left them feeling upset.

While people awaiting on a decision on their application for asylum in Ireland were previously not allowed to work, in mid-2018 the government granted people international protection applicants the right to enter the labour market after six months. Research by the European Migration Network has found that a significant number of young people in the international protection system in Ireland are now applying for and being granted labour market access permissions. Between mid-2018 and 2022, 135 young people aged 16 and 17 got labour market access permissions in Ireland¹³⁵ While organisations working with immigrants welcomed this move, they highlight the need for more supports for migrants to seek and obtain work, and also point to the fact that many young people who were born here but are not Irish or EU nationals and do not meet other criteria (including holding refugee status or being the family member of a refugee¹³⁶) are facing huge difficulties in accessing third level education as they are not eligible for free or EU fees although they were born in the country.

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that young people in DCN are supported to engage in various models of education, training or learning as career progression pathways, with a particular focus on at risk populations such as the Traveller Community, Roma and migrant communities.

¹³⁵ European Migration Network (2023) Labour Market Integration of International Protection Applicants in Ireland - <https://emn.ie/publications/labour-market-integration-ip-applicants/>

¹³⁶ <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third-level-education/fees-and-supports-for-third-level-education/fees/>

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

This section addresses the following questions:

1. How are children and young people in the DCN area doing in relation Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World?
2. What did the consultations in DCN tell us in relation to this outcome area?
3. Are there sufficient services in DCN in this outcome area?
4. What are DCN CYPSC priority areas and actions that have emerged from the needs analysis and strategic planning process within this outcome area?

How are children and young people in DCN CYPSC area doing in the area of Connected and Respected?

- According to Census 2022¹³⁷, the highest proportions of population born in Dublin are resident in the Finglas, Dublin North East and Ballymun areas.
- According to Census 2022¹³⁸, the North East and West Inner Cities have the highest proportions of populations born outside of Ireland.
- As of April 2022, there were 65,097 children and young people distributed throughout DCN. This figure represents over 5% of the total children and young people aged 0 to 17 years in the state (Census 2022)¹³⁹
- Research published in 2018 found that:
 - 89.7% of children and young people in the Dublin Area reported having three or more friends of the same gender (State = 89.3%)¹⁴⁰.
 - 63.5% children in the Dublin Area reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time (State = 67.2%)¹⁴¹.
 - 67.5% of young people nationally agreed or strongly agreed that they are encouraged to express their own views in class ¹⁴².

What did consultations tell us in the area of Connected and Respected?

¹³⁷ data.cso.ie

¹³⁸ data.cso.ie

¹³⁹ data.cso.ie

¹⁴⁰ University of Galway (2018) Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children

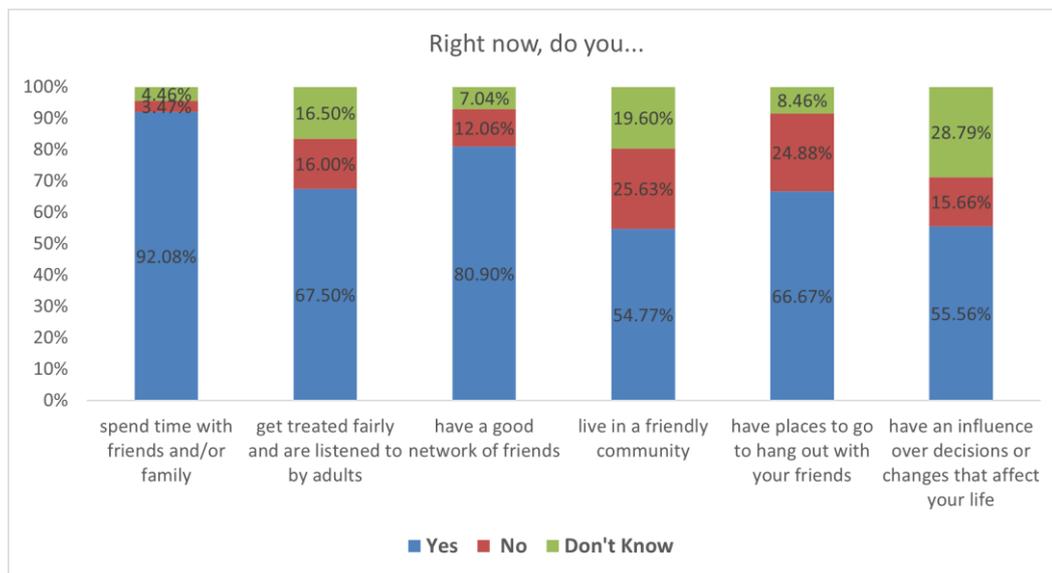
¹⁴¹ University of Galway (2018) Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children

¹⁴² University of Galway (2018) Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children

Consultations with Children and Young People

Of the children and young people who answered these questions when they filled out the survey for the development of this Plan:

- 92% said they spend time with friends and/or family and 3.5% said they do not.
- 81% reported having a good network of friends and 12% said they did not.
- 55% felt they live in a friendly community, 26% said they did not and 20% didn't know.
- 68% felt they get treated fairly and are listened to by adults, 16% didn't and 16% didn't know.
- 55.5% felt they have an influence over decisions or changes that affect their lives, 15.5% did not, and 29% didn't know whether they do or not.



Graph 4.12: Children and young people's responses to 'Connected/respected' related questions

The majority of the children and young people that stated that they do not get treated fairly or are not listened to by adults were aged 13 – 17 years old, followed by 18 – 24 year olds and the then those aged less than 12 years.

More children and young people in Dublin North East and Ballymun said they do not get treated fairly or are not listened to by adults than other CFSN areas.

Over two thirds of those who identified as transgender stated they did not get treated fairly or are not listened to by adults (65%), and more females than males felt they do not get treated fairly or are not listened to by adults.

The most significant challenges for children and young people within this outcome area according to children and young people themselves are having nowhere to spend free time with their friends and social media. This is echoed by the parents/guardians also. In addition, the highest proportion of young people who said they lacked information about youth services was those in Cabra (40%).

Findings that emerged from the focus groups with young people in relation to this theme included:

- Overall, children and young people in focus groups wanted to be listened to more, to have more places to spend their free time with others, and to have more youth clubs and youth groups.

- Early years children in focus groups said they liked family and going places with their family; they didn't like being away from their friends and they wanted more colour in their area.
- Primary school aged children in focus groups said they liked social groups, spending time with friends and being at home, they didn't like annoying people and people not being happy, and they wanted to go to groups more and discos.
- Older young people in focus groups said:
 - They liked having space to hang out with friends, trips away and being listened to by adults/teachers
 - They did not like having too few places to hang out, being treated differently or badly by others and being bored with not enough things to do in their area.
 - They wanted more representation, no discrimination, more youth groups and activities, more time in youth clubs and to be listened to by adults more.

According to the focus groups with children and young people:

	Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family • Going places with family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they can't to the park • Being away from my friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My mammy • More colour
Primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups • Playgrounds • Spending time with friends • People being happy • Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annoying people • People not being happy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to groups more • Discos
Youth services and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaces to hang out with friends/other teens • Trips away • Everyone knows everyone here • Playing pool in youth club • Being listened to in school • Youth clubs and services • <i>Nothing</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being treated differently • Parents • Not enough youth clubs • Nowhere to hang out in locality • Lack of things to do in locality • Being bored a lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More representation • No discrimination • More youth groups, clubs and activities • To be listened to • More facilities and things to do for older yp • More time in youth clubs

Table 4.10: Summary of responses from children and young people in focus groups in the area of connected/respected

Consultations with Parents/Guardians

Of the total number of parents that took part in the survey, 23% stated that one of the most significant challenges for children and young people in the area in their view was having nowhere for young people to spend free time with friends.

According to parents, the other significant challenges for children and young people in DCN in relation to this theme were:

- Social media: 23% of respondents
- Friendship problems or worries: 12% of respondents
- Peer pressure: 5% of respondents
- Covid related worries/stress: 4% of respondents
- Relationships: 2% of respondents

"(One thing that would make life better would be) to have more areas/groups that my daughter could join for free to have more time with kids her age. Kids don't play out on the street anymore and she feels lonely. It would be great if there was a summer project and a youth club that kids could go to meet up and have fun."

Parent in DCN area

Twenty three percent (23%) of parents who completed a survey felt social media was one of the biggest challenges for children and young people in DCN and 19% highlighted relationship challenges including friendship problems, peer pressure and personal relationships.

Thirty-eight (38%) of parents who completed the survey also said opportunities for children and young people to have a say in decisions that affect them should be improved.

Some parents in the focus group liked having youth clubs and low-cost youth activities in their area that their children could go to (those who had them nearby), the community spirit in their area and support from other residents when in trouble or bereaved. They mentioned that they liked local politicians who listen to them and get local issues sorted, and they liked when there was a welcome for immigrants in their area.

Parents in focus group didn't like a lack of amenities and facilities for children and young people (those that didn't live near such amenities), discrimination against immigrants and others, the government's immigration policies and the lack of consultation with local communities before changes are made or immigrants are moved in, and the negative impact of Covid, saying both young people and parents were more isolated and less motivated to go out/mix with others.

Parents in the focus group wanted more affordable things for children and young people to do, more places for teenagers to hang out rather than doing drugs, drug-dealing to be dealt with more effectively so their communities could be a more pleasant place to live in and walk around in, to be able to stay in their local area and to be consulted with more by policy makers.

According to the focus groups with parents:

Liked	Didn't like	Wanted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth club in area • Community spirit • Support from other residents when in trouble or bereaved • Local politicians who get local issues sorted • Welcome for immigrants in their area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of amenities and facilities for children & young people • Immigration policy • Lack of consultation with local communities before changes are made/people are moved • Impact of Covid – young people & parents more isolated & less motivated to go out/mix • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable things for children and young people to do • More places for teenagers to hang out rather than doing drugs/getting into trouble on streets • To be consulted with more • Stay in area because of community support

Table 4.11: Summary of responses from parents in focus groups in the area of connected/respected

Fifty two percent (52%) of parents stated that they did not have enough parental supports in their area. The following table outlines what proportion of parents in each CFSN stated that there were not enough parents supports as well as what type of supports were missing:

CFSN Area	Proportion of total parents who stated not enough parent supports in area	Types of supports missing included
Ballymun	57.9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addiction services • information services • supports for parents with disabled children
Cabra	56.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parental supports • community centres • childcare

Finglas	56.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community supports • childcare • mental health supports
Dublin North East	55.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community events • childcare
North East Inner city	52.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Afterschool care • Community events
Dublin Bay North	42.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for parents of children with disabilities • Childcare • peer to peer support for parents
North West Inner City	33.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information services of parents

Table 4.12: Parental support needs by CFSN area according to parents/guardians

"(I would like) access to online Parents Plus Programmes at any stage of the family journey, from early years to adolescence."

Parent in DCN area

Consultations with Service Providers/Stakeholders

Service providers who responded to the survey stated that there were insufficient services in after school activities (n=80 or 58%) and youth clubs/projects (n=61 or 45%). Areas (in this theme) that need to be improved in DCN according to service providers were places for young people to spend free time, ensuring youth participation and youth work provision.

Service providers highlighted things such as the need for dedicated youth orientated spaces, the need for more youth work for all young people and the need for more input from young people when shaping services. Service providers' suggestions in relation to how we could ensure children and young people are participating in decision-making included things like ensuring young people have more direct contact/communication with management/leadership levels and getting young people to assist in shaping the future of services.

How could the area of **ensuring children and young people are participating in decision-making** be improved?

"Focus groups with young people."

"Young people having a direct line to board or managements to ensure they can share their opinions and ideas."

"Input from young people to assist in shaping the service."

Are there sufficient services in relation to the theme of Connected and Respected?

There are 66 Youth Services and 35 youth clubs in DCN. Youth clubs provide young people with a range of universal activities while youth services offer a broad range of groups, health and social supports, information, and activities for 10 years up to 24 years.

There are multiple variations of models of youth leadership programmes including one Comhairle na Óg for Dublin City, and various localised models including NSP Young Community Leaders, while there are many parent support groups, and parent programmes, there is less, albeit some evidence, of parent-led support groups (e.g. Parent-Led Autism Network).

What are the Priorities and Actions in the area of Connected and Respected?

The following are the DCN CYPSC key priorities within the theme of 'Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World'. These have been informed by the priority needs that emerged from the needs analysis and been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including CYPSC members. They put a priority on young people and their parents being civically engaged.

Youth Advisory Networks Parent Advisory Networks

The following are the actions that have been identified by DCN CYPSC to undertake within these priority areas. The specific timelines and indicators for these actions to be carried out are outlined in Section 6 of this Plan.

Youth Advisory Networks

- Young people are actively engaged in decisions that affect their lives in their local community.

Parent Advisory Networks

- Parents are actively engaged in decisions that affect their, and their children's lives in their local community.

Engaged in decision-making

There were four key aims of Outcome 5 in BOBF 2014 - 2020¹⁴³. These are that children and young people:

- Have a sense of identity, free from discrimination
- Have a positive network of friends, family and community
- Are civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious and,
- Are aware of their rights, responsible and respectful of others

BOBF noted that the Government recognises that young people need opportunities to engage in meaningful civic discourse which contributes to policy-making and recognises that all children and young people need and deserve the chance to make a difference.

¹⁴³ Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (2014 – 2020)

Article 12 of the UNCRC enshrines children's right to participate in Irish law (as it was ratified by Ireland in 1992). It states that a child's view must be considered and taken into account in all matters affecting him or her, in accordance with their age and maturity¹⁴⁴. The UNCRC's recent concluding comments on Ireland's progress in relation to its implementation of the UNCRC called on the government to strengthen measures to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, including children in disadvantaged situations, within the family, the community, schools and in policymaking.¹⁴⁵

In 2015, the Government published its first National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making¹⁴⁶ which included actions for all of government and specific government departments. A review of the strategy was published in 2023.¹⁴⁷ It raises a number of areas for further development including monitoring and evaluation of current work, the development of Comhairle na nÓg so that more young people become involved in decision making, and the establishment of a National Youth Assembly as a way of capturing youth voices and feeding these into Government policy making.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is responsible for ensuring children and young people have a voice in the design, delivery and monitoring of Government policies, programmes and services, at national and local level. The Participation Unit (Hub na nÓg) within the Department published a National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making in order to provide support and guidance to statutory and non-statutory agencies in the way they include young people's voices in decision-making. The national framework's vision is about participation with purpose (for both the organisation and the young people involved), and this and additional guidance documents and checklists for ensuring the meaningful participation of children and young people are informed by the 'Lundy Model of Participation'.¹⁴⁸ Barnardos Ireland also has a *Guide to Understanding and Developing Children's Participation*¹⁴⁹ that is designed to show how services for children can introduce and develop participatory approaches with children.

There have been a number of calls for young people to be given more of a role in decision-making including through lowering the voting age to 16 and the government has previously committed to holding a referendum on this in BOBF 2014 - 2020. The National Youth Council of Ireland, which is a representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland has a campaign called Vote at 16. They are campaigning for the Government to extend the right to vote to 16 and 17-year olds for local, national and European elections as they believe that young people should have a greater say in decisions and actions that affect them and their community¹⁵⁰. The UNCRC's concluding recommendations in February 2023 called on Ireland to follow through in its commitment to hold a referendum on lowering the voting age to 16 years and to ensure that a decision to lower the voting age is supported by active citizenship and human rights education and measures.¹⁵¹

There is also an appetite among young people to have more of an influence on decisions that affect their lives. Research conducted in 2021 with 1,090 young people who were aged between 16 and 24, found that 78% would like a greater say in the policies and plans that will impact on their future and one third would

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). More information at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a1481d-united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

¹⁴⁵ UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023) Available at:

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzfnf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNV6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tltQs>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9128db-national-strategy-on-children-and-young-peoples-participation-in-dec/>

¹⁴⁷ <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/244760/e5dc3ce5-2fc0-4d3b-b6b9-d38a415a3223.pdf#page=null>

¹⁴⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/document/e4dd1d64-473b-4a2a-9de2-e2e1648fd52d_en

¹⁴⁹ Barnardos (2004) Available at: <https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/956>

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.youth.ie/get-involved/campaigns/vote-at-16/>

¹⁵¹ <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkzfnf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNV6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tltQs>

consider becoming a political representative. 53% believed young people should be allowed to vote at 16 in twenty years' time but only 19% believed this would happen.¹⁵²

The research for the development of this plan also found that young people want to have an impact on decisions that affect their lives and shows the need for further work in this area (see below). This has informed the prioritisation of both youth advisory networks and parent advisory networks in the DCN's CYPP.

For example, while it was positive that in the consultations for the development of this Plan, nearly 70% of children and young people who completed the survey felt they were being treated fairly and listened to by adults, only half (56%) of children and young people felt that they have an influence over decisions or changes that affect their lives, 29% didn't know whether they were having an influence over decisions or changes that affect their lives or not, and 15.5% did not think they were having an influence on decisions that affected them.

Furthermore, 37% of parents who completed the survey felt that opportunities for children and young people to have a say in decisions that affect them should be improved in the area, and 17% of service providers felt young people's participation should be prioritised by decision-makers. Service providers' suggestions in relation to how we could ensure children and young people are participating in decision-making included things such as ensuring young people have more direct contact/communication with management/leadership levels and getting young people to assist in shaping the future of services.

In response to these needs identified in the area, DCN CYPSC has committed to ensuring that young people in DCN are actively engaged in decisions that affect their lives in their local community and that parents in DCN are actively engaged in decisions that affect their and their children's lives in their local community.

Please note, a localised breakdown of the key responses of children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers in the consultations is provided in the appendices. This is broken down by CFSN area.

¹⁵² Young Social Innovators and Amarach Research (2022) GenZindex Future Outlook.

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for the DCN Area

The following table provides a summary of DCN CYPSC overall Local Priority Areas, categorised by BOBF Outcome area. This has been informed through the research and strategic planning process that took place in the development of this Plan in conjunction with key stakeholders. The specific actions to be carried out under each priority area are outlined below in Section 6 of this Plan.

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability/Delayed Development Mental Health
Achieving Full Potential in Learning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Engagement and Retention Early Learning and Care
Safe and Protected from Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Spaces for Children and Young People Community Integration and Cultural Awareness Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Child to Parent Violence
Economic Security and Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progression Routes through Education and Training
Connected, Respected, and Contributing to their World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Advisory Networks Parent Advisory Networks

The strategic planning meetings with CYPSC members also discussed internal matters related to DCN CYPSC and areas for development. From these discussions several priority areas within the category of change management were identified and are included in DCN CYPSC new CYPP. These are as follows:

Change Management	
Local Priority Areas	Objectives
Membership	Prioritise securing statutory membership on Main CYPSC Committee
Childcare Act Review	Support the development of CYPSC role in the Childcare Act Review
Local Networks and Communication	Establish and implement an agreed mechanism with PPFS and CFSNs / other networks to create wider communication channels.
Funding Channels	CYPSC will respond to funding opportunities to implement Children and Young People’s Plan and / or leverage funding from CYPSC membership/other partner agencies.
Dublin CYPSC Directory	Re-design and launch a new user-friendly website to act as a resource for services and families seeking services.

Section 6: Action Plan for DCN CYPSC

The following tables provide an outline of the actions that are planned for each Local Priority Area within the five BOBF outcome areas in DCN CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan (2024 – 2026).

For each priority area, the following items are listed:

- Objectives
- Indicators
- Target
- Activities
- Timeframe for completion
- Lead responsibility and partners
- Link to other plans
- Linked to other national outcomes(s) and/or Transformational Goals

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Disability / Delayed Development	Referral Pathways and contact points to and through disability services are clearly communicated.	No. of referral pathways identified. No. of publications to explain pathways. No. of contact points No. of families reached	One publication /production with referral pathways/ contact points. Minimum 100 families reached.	Establish multi-disciplinary working group. Compile and review services and pathways available in DCN for children with disabilities / delayed development including education and health pathways. Engage with parent-led groups to review and develop information. Develop and distribute user-friendly information with key contact points	<i>Year 2</i>	HSE Disability Services (Community Disability network Teams) HSE Primary Care Tusla Education Support Services National Educational Psychological Services National Council of Special Education Irish Primary Principals Network National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Service Tusla PPFS Parents	<i>National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2022</i> <i>HSE Progressing Disability Services</i> <i>Sláintecare</i> <i>Healthy Ireland Framework</i>	<i>O2 : Learning and Development</i> <i>TG: Supporting Parents / Earlier Intervention and Prevention.</i>
	Children and young people with disabilities /developmental delay and their parents are supported with a range of complementary	No. of programmes, community social and recreational supports offered.	Minimum 1 programme a year delivered and evaluated	Review current provision of complementary programmes / courses/ interim supports. Replicate/scale up evidence-informed models.	<i>Year 3</i>		<i>National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2022</i>	<i>O2: Learning and Development</i> <i>TG: Supporting Parents / Earlier Intervention and Prevention.</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	evidence-informed programmes and community social and recreational supports.	No. of participating children and young people with disabilities and parents		Explore empowering parents supports. Expand summer and other recreational activities / supports/further education opportunities for children and young people with neurodiversity needs.		City Of Dublin Youth Service C/V organisations Disability Focussed Services	<i>HSE Progressing Disability Services</i>	
	Services are trained in understanding of, and responding to, disabilities / developmental delays and neurodiversity.	No. of training programmes offered in the area No. of service providers participating. Impact of training	Delivery of at least 1 training per year for services.	Scope current provision and gaps in service providers knowledge and skills. Scale-up and/or implement training programme available for service providers. Evaluate and review impact of training.	Year 3		<i>National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2022</i> <i>HSE Progressing Disability Services</i>	<i>O2: Learning and Development</i> <i>TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention</i>
	Children and Young people have increased	No. of models identified.	Development and or	Scope early intervention wellbeing projects in	Year 3	HSE Mental Health Services / CAMHS	<i>Connecting for Life Dublin</i>	<i>O2: Learning and Development</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Mental Health	access to evidence informed models expanded and embedded in schools and community as accessible, early intervention response.	No. of participants	implementation of at least 1 new/upscaled model.	community and school settings. Source / leverage funding. Scale up selected model(s) to promote increased access to interventions. Review and evaluate.		Connecting for Life DNCC Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service Youth Services C and V Organisations Early Years	<i>North City and County Suicide Prevention Action and Implementation Plan 2021 – 2024</i> <i>Sharing the Vision national Mental Health Policy</i>	<i>O3: Safe and Protected from Harm</i> <i>TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention</i>
	Promote and increase accessibility to wellbeing awareness/ trainings through targeted campaigns.	No. of awareness campaigns in the area. No. of trainings No. of agencies involved.	Implement one campaign per year. Minimum 5 agencies involved. Evaluate campaign	Develop key messaging for children, young people, and parents to include wellbeing and approaches. Promote / host events that provide access to information on services and wellbeing. Evaluate and review.	Year 3		<i>As above</i>	

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in all Areas of Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Educational Engagement and Retention	Children and young people are supported through a trauma-informed approach.	No. of agencies and areas involved and participating. No. of training courses in trauma informed approach in the area. Impact of training. No. of children and young people benefitting.	Minimum 10 schools and 7 network areas involved. Minimum one training implemented. 500 children and young people.	Review trauma-informed methodologies and training in early years, schools and community. Host and coordinate DCN Event to share and explore learning between services, schools, and networks. Promote trauma informed key messages. Provide and fund training to encourage trauma-informed approaches. Evaluate and review initiatives	Year 3	Tusla Education Support Services National Education Psychological Service Department of Education National Council for Special Education Tusla Child and Family Agency Health Service Executive	<i>Sharing the Vision National Mental Health Policy</i> <i>Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023</i>	<i>03: Safe and Protected from Harm</i>
	Young people have increased awareness of progression pathways from second to third level/further education and training.	No. of campaigns on progression pathways No. of agencies involved	One campaign. Minimum 10 agencies involved.	Identify targeted areas with lowest transition to third level. Scope educational needs in the area, and youth participatory research.	Year 3	Local Development Companies. Higher and Further Education Institutions Dept of Education Secondary Schools	<i>Dept of Education Statement of Strategy 2021-2023</i> <i>Roadmap for Social</i>	<i>04: Economic Security</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in all Areas of Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Engage youth-led responses to develop a targeted campaign.		Tusla Education Support Service	<i>Inclusion 2020-2025</i>	
Early Learning and Care	Advocate for additional places in early years settings for children (0-2 years)	No of baby places available in the area.	One campaign	<p>Establish working group of early years related organisations.</p> <p>Develop campaign to increase number of baby places.</p> <p>Advocate for need to increase the number of baby places in DCN</p>	Year 2	Dublin City Childcare Committee Areas Based Childhood Programmes Early years providers Dept of Children Tusla Child and Family Agency	<i>First 5: A Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019 - 2028</i>	<i>O1: Active and Healthy</i> <i>TG: Supporting Parents</i>
	Promote early learning initiatives and responses that encourage play, social and recreational development.	<p>No. of learning activities for young children available in area</p> <p>No. of children, young people and parents participating. Review of programmes.</p>	<p>Minimum one initiative/ project developed.</p> <p>Over 50 young children and parents</p>	<p>Promote and implement learning activities for young children through music, arts, and culture.</p> <p>Target populations such as Migrants, Travellers and Roma, for same to support social inclusion.</p>	Year 3		<i>First 5: A Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019 - 2028</i>	<i>O1: Active and Healthy</i> <i>TG: Supporting Parents</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Safe Spaces for Children and Young People	Children and young people have access to a range of safe spaces encouraging social and recreational activities, with a view to inclusive programmes.	No. of safe places identified and promoted for children and young people.	Minimum one pilot area identified.	Review learning from implementation of Safe Play Research in Finglas West and replicate as necessary.	Year 3	Dublin City Council /Local Community Development Committee Local Development Companies HSE Health and Wellbeing Sláintecare An Garda Síochána Tusla Child and Family Agency Local Community Safety Partnership	<i>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: A National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (0-24 years)</i>	O1: Active and Healthy
		No. of initiatives to support social, recreational or educational development.	Minimum one project developed to implement initiatives.	Identify key partners to expand and replicate key learning and initiatives. Engage with services to explore current responses to drugs and drug dealing, anti-social behaviour etc. Identify one pilot area. Engage children and young people on further needs for safe spaces.				
Community Integration and Cultural Awareness	CYP and Families living in emergency accommodation or congregated settings (e.g. direct provision centres) have access to social, emotional,	No. of initiatives No. of children and families participating.	Minimum two programmes per year funded.	Continue to support Tusla Community Contact Centres to engage with children and young people and families under the BOTP and IPSS programmes.	Year 2-3	Tusla Child and Family Agency Health Service Executive ABCs Youth services C/V organisations	<i>Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025</i> <i>White Paper on Ending</i>	O1: Active and Healthy

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	and recreational supports and programmes in the local community.			Fund and initiate programmes and responses, to enhance a sense of belonging, community integration and safety among children and families.		Local Development Companies.	<i>Direct Provision</i>	
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Parents and children affected by DSGBV have evidence-informed responses and safe referral pathways.	No. of places/services the DA Research pack has been distributed to Implementation and evaluation of one programme to assist children impacted by DSGBV	Domestic Abuse Resource Pack is updated and disseminated digitally and available to all services. Implementation/expansion of one programme to support children.	Continue to expand and review NVR programmes and training for professionals. Review and disseminate Domestic Abuse Resource Pack. Explore provision of programmes to support children and implement	Year 2	DSGBV organisations Tusla C/V organisations	<i>Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence</i>	O1: Active and Healthy TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Child to Parent Violence	Parents to have access to a variety of parenting supports for all ages to meet their needs. To provide Parenting supports to Non-Violent Resistance	No. of courses available to parents and people trained based on need in the area from early years-to Adolescence.	Assess and support delivery of programmes across the network as request and need arises, support existing delivery and explore existing provision and training needs.	Through PPFS, CFSN Networks and CYPSC sub-groups. Using parenting funding identify key programs and supports for parents and build capacity according to the needs.	Year 3	Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Child and Family Support Networks and member agencies Trained services.		O1: Active and Healthy TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	(NVR) Programmes in their locality.	<p>No. of NVR programmes available in area</p> <p>No. of newly trained services</p> <p>No. of parents participating.</p> <p>Evaluation of same</p>	<p>Expand and support NVR programmes in network areas.</p> <p>Minimum one new training developed and evaluated.</p> <p>50 parents over 3-year period.</p>	<p>Host a meeting with CFSNs and trained partners on the impact of NVR training and programme implementation.</p> <p>Review interagency model of implementation.</p> <p>Scope feasibility / gaps in expanding out NVR further/host another training.</p> <p>Expand implementation and review.</p>				

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Progression Routes through Education and Training	Young people are supported to engage in various models of education, training or learning to stimulate learning achievements.	No. of young people who take part in education/ training/ learning programmes	<i>At least one course or social enterprise model is developed /implemented in the area for young people.</i>	Undertake scoping of progression pathways through education and available models of training, apprenticeships, social enterprises, etc/	Year 2	Local Development Companies Higher Education Authorities Local schools and education partnerships/networks. Employment, welfare and social enterprise organisations.		
	Particular focus on marginalised communities such as the Traveller Community, Roma and Migrant communities	No. of people who attend career fair/open day. No. of social enterprise models of skills-based programmes		Develop initiatives which stimulate early career progression routes. Host a Career fair/open day, focussed on targeted populations to enhance accessibility of courses and programmes. Assess feasibility of expansion of accredited courses such as Personal effectiveness QQI. Identify and potentially support social enterprise models of skills-based programmes.				

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Advisory Networks	Young people are actively engaged in decisions that affect their lives in their local community.	No. of young people involved in consultation/ research /advisory processes that are related to their needs.	Minimum one training to 10 organisations with 20 staff.	Activate Lundy Model of Participation to engage children/young people in further consultations or research that target their local needs including safety, spaces and premises.	Year 3	City of Dublin Youth Service Northside Partnership Comhairle na nÓg Hub na nÓg Tusla Prevention, Partnership, and Family Support Youth-led/leadership groups C/V organisations.	National Strategy of Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (2015-2020) EU Child Guarantee	O3: Safe from Harm
		Promote and expand models such as Youth Leadership Programme	Expansion of one model of youth leadership programme	Provide training and supports to youth services and other youth focussed organisations in developing and maintaining youth committees with diverse range of needs.				
		No. of training/ supports offered to youth orgs in developing youth committees with diverse needs.		Respond to identified need in consultation planning with young people through funding leverage, identified spaces and other opportunities.				

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		No. of staff who take part in above training.		Scope and expand Youth Leadership programmes such as Northside Partnerships Young Community Leaders				
Parent Advisory Networks	Parents are actively engaged in decisions that affect their, and their children's lives in their local community.	No. of parents involved in advisory processes and working group. No. of working groups/supports	Minimum one parent-led advisory group established in the area.	Consult with parent-led groups. Establish working groups. Replicate/Expand targeted models of parent led support within DCN (e.g. Parent Led Autism Network)	<i>Year 2</i>	Family Resource Centres Prevention, Partnership and Family Support C/V Organisations	<i>Supporting Parents: A national Model of Parenting Support Services</i>	<i>O3: Safe and Protected from harm</i>

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Membership	Prioritise securing statutory membership on Main Committee	No. of members added to Main Committee	At least 2 further statutory committee members are recruited to main Committee	Meet with noted stakeholders. Agree plan forward for engagement. Participation in Main Committee	Year 2	DCN CYPSC Chairperson and Coordinator	CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024	Overarching BOBF now in Young Ireland: The national Policy Framework for Children and young people 2023-2024 implementation
Childcare Act Review	To support the development of CYPSC's role in the Childcare Act Review	No. of Consultations No. of submissions	Engage in all opportunities to support the development of this role	Familiarise DCN CYPSC with updated consultations. Create a working group if and as needed to draw together submissions.	Ongoing	All CYPSC Members	Childcare Act Amendment	
Local Networks and Communication	Establish and implement an agreed mechanism with PPFS and CFSNs / other networks to create wider communication channels.	No. of meetings No. of networks Agreed mechanism	Ensure CFSNs and PPFS are aligning with standardised communication channels	Meet with PPFS Manager and CFSN Coordinators. Identify networks and suitable communication channels. Agree best mechanism for ensuring shared learning and communications exchange	Year 2	Tusla Child and Family Support Network members	Young Ireland: The national policy Framework for Children and young people 2023-2028	

Action Plan for Dublin City North Children and Young People's Services Committee

Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
Funding	Respond to and leverage funding opportunities to implement Children and Young People's Plan .	No. of funding channels No. of agencies No. of successful funding applications	At least one new funding channel applied for.	Identify and apply for funding opportunities	Ongoing	All CYPSC Members		
Dublin CYPSC Directory	Re-design and launch a new user-friendly website to act as a resource for services and families seeking services	No. of agencies registered. No. of promotional efforts. No. of end users	Website re-designed and launched. Website is populated with services/agencies information.	Engage test phase of pilot registrations and review learning. Promote new website to encourage services to register. Regularly monitor and review engagement and use.	Year 1 - 2	All CYPSC members and all services/agencies		

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

CYPSC recognises the importance of measuring outcomes, monitoring implementation, and reviewing our plan and structures. We are committed to ensuring all our processes are quality driven and outcomes focussed.

Dublin City North CYPSC will use the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework as its guide for ensuring our processes are meeting the required standards. While Dublin City North CYPSC will oversee the progress of the plan, this will be supported by ongoing engagement with the National CYPSC Office in Tusla, providing progress/annual updates and workplans. The following monitoring and review processes will be undertaken by Dublin City North CYPSC throughout the life-cycle of each 3 year plan:

Monitoring and Review	Description
Annual Progress Report	Updates and progress from the 3-year plan, involvement of children and young people in our structures; interagency activity; challenges and achievements. Dublin City North CYPSC will utilise this information to inform decision to enact developments or changes within the 3-year strategic plan
Mid-Year Progress Update	Monitoring mid-year to check if 3-year plan is on schedule; and will enable CYPSC to highlight local issues or challenges to national level structures.
Annual Programme of Work	Each year of the CYPP, CYPSC will produce an annual statement of intent/action outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved.

Section 8: Appendices

8.1: Overview of Consultation Findings Localised by Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) Area in the DCN area

North East Inner City (Ballybough, Inns Quay, Mountjoy, North City Dock and Rotunda)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Friends
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost of living/money worries 2. Visible drug use 3. Anxiety/stress
Things that need to be improved	Sports facilities for children and young people and places where children and young people can hang out
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver
There are not enough....	Sports facilities
If they had a magic wand they would do or change ... in DCN	Get rid of drugs and violence and have a safer environment for children
Service providers	
Biggest challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

Cabra (Ashtown, Cabra and Phoenix Park)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Schools
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety/stress 2. Nowhere to spend free time 3. Bullying (in person)
Things that need to be improved	Places where children and young people can hang out, Mental health services for children and young people and availability of youth clubs and projects
Young people	
Where they get information about services and supports	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver
There are not enough....	Information about services for young people
If they had a magic wand, they would do or change ... in DCN	Have less violence and safer places to go
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

Ballymun (Ballymun, Santry and Whitehall)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Social media
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety/stress 2. Visible drug use 3. Bullying (online)
Things that need to be improved	Mental health services for children and young people
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver
There are not enough....	Information about services for young people
If they had a magic wand, they would do or change... in DCN	Safer and have more employment opportunities
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs and young people experiencing domestic violence

Dublin Bay North (Clontarf, Donnycarney, Marino, Drumcondra and Botanic)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Schools
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety/stress 2. Bullying (online) 3. Social media
Things that need to be improved	Places where children and young people can hang out
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports?	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver
There are not enough....	Information about services for young people and Youth-friendly services
If they had a magic wand, they would do or change.... in DCN	Create more spaces for young people
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Under-resourcing in terms of staff/staff capacity
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

Finglas (Finglas, Glasnevin and Ballygall)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Friends other parents

Top 3 biggest challenges or problem facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety/stress 2. Bullying (in person) 3. Cost of living/money worries
Things that need to be improved	Places where children and young people can hang out
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports	Parents, grandparents and Caregivers
There are not enough....	Places to hang out with friends
If they had a magic wand, they would do or change... in DCN	Have less visible alcohol and drug misuse as well as a safer community
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

Dublin North East (Arran Quay, Grangegorman, Stoneybatter and Smithfield)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Social media, friends, schools and other parents
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visible drug use 2. Peer pressure to use drugs 3. Cost of living/money worries
Things that need to be improved	Opportunities for children and young people to have their say in decisions that affect them
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports	Parents, grandparents, caregivers
There are not enough....	Information about services for young people
If they had a magic wand, they would do or change.... in DCN	More spaces for young people
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

North West Inner City (Ayrfield, Harmonstown, Kilmore, Coolock, Darndale, Priorswood and Raheny)	
Parents	
Sources of information about services and supports	Social media
Top 3 biggest challenges or problems facing children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety/stress 2. Cost of living/money worries 3. Bullying (in person)
Things that need to be improved	Places where children and young people can hang out
Young people	
Sources of information about services and supports	Social media
There are not enough....	Places to hang out with friends

If they had a magic wand, they would do or change... in DCN.	Take away drugs and make the area safer for children and young people
Service providers	
Challenges facing services	Needs of children, young people and their families
There are insufficient services or supports in the following areas	Education services for children and young people with additional needs

8.2 Focus Group Themes by CFSN and Age

CFSN Area	Early Years			Primary School Age			Young People			Older Young People			Targeted Groups		
	like	didn't like	wanted	like	didn't like	wanted	like	didn't like	wanted	like	didn't like	wanted	like	didn't like	wanted
North East Inner City	family and friends	not having a swimming pool	new shoes				school	not feeling safe and drugs	support for parents and less drugs						
Cabra	parks and swings	people not being friendly	more playgrounds				school and accessible MHS	school and not enough activities	more activities and variation in school						
Ballymun	family	not going to the park	more money							Youth Projects/ alternative paths to 3rd level	cost of living and lack of housing	opportunity and security			
Dublin Bay North				spending time with friends	school, homework and not feeling safe	more places to meet friends	activities	school	more options in school	youth projects and alternative education programs	programs being strict, supports prevalent crime	activities and job opportunities	sports and part-time jobs	not having anything to do	to leave
Finglas				playgrounds	not feeling safe	jumpzone									
Dublin North East	going places with family	not feeling safe in parks	family										boxing and going to school	discrimination and lack of services	more support for Travellers in school
North West Inner City				playing and participating in activities	not feeling safe	more houses									

8.3 Survey Summary by CFSN and Respondent

Child & Family Support Network Area	Parents				Young People					Service Providers		
	Number of parents who filled out the survey	Most common source of information about services & supports	Top 3 biggest challenges or problem facing children & young people	Top things that need to be improved...	Number of young people who filled out the survey	Most common source of information about services & supports	Top 3 biggest challenges or problem facing children & young people	There are not enough... (most frequent response)	If you had a magic wand what would you do (most frequent response)	Number of service providers who filled out the survey	Top 3 biggest challenges facing services	Top 3 areas without sufficient services or supports
North East Inner City (Ballybough, Inns Quay, Mountjoy, North City Dock, Rotunda)	89	Friends	Cost of living/money worries; Visible drug use; Anxiety/stress	Sports facilities for children (c.) & young people (y.p.); Places where c. & y.p. can hang out	46	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Anxiety/stress; Cost of living/money worries; Bullying (online)	Sports facilities	Get rid of drugs & violence and have a safer environment for children	45	Needs of c., y.p. & their families; Under-resourcing re staff; Staff recruitment/retention	Education (Edu) services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people with problems at home
Cabra (Ashtown, Cabra, Phoenix Park)	32	Schools	Anxiety/stress; Nowhere to spend free time; Bullying (in person)	Places where c. & y.p. can hang out; Mental health services for c. & y.p.; Availability of youth clubs	34	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Anxiety/stress; Vaping or pressure to vape; Bullying (in person)	Information about services for young people	Have less violence & have safer places to go	24	Needs of c., y.p. & their families; Lack of/ gaps in funding; Under-resourcing re staff	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Young people & domestic violence (DV); Young people with problems at home
Ballymun(Ballymun, Santry, Whitehall)	19	Social media	Anxiety/stress; Visible drug use; Bullying (online)	Mental health services for c. & y.p.	33	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Anxiety/stress; Feeling unsafe/threat of violence; Going to school	Information about services for young people	Safer & have more employment opportunities	42	Needs of c., y.p. & their families; Under-resourcing re staff; Lack of/ gaps in funding	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people & DV
Dublin Bay North (Clontarf, Donnellycarney, Marino, Drumcondra, Botanic)	59	Schools	Anxiety/stress; Bullying (online); Social media	Places where c. & y.p. can hang out	17	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Anxiety/stress; Exam/study or school-related stress; Feeling unsafe/threat of violence	Information about services for young people; Youth-friendly services	Create more spaces for young people	16	Under-resourcing re staff; Needs of c., y.p. & their families; Lack of/gaps in funding	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people with intellectual disabilities
Finglas (Finglas, Glasnevin, Ballygall)	25	Friends and Other parents	Anxiety/stress; Bullying (in person); Cost of living/money worries	Places where c. & y.p. can hang out	39	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Anxiety/stress; Exam/study or school-related stress; Vaping/pressure to vape	Places to hang out with friends	Have less visible alcohol & drug misuse as well as a safer community	28	Needs of c., y.p. & their families; Lack of/ gaps in funding; Under-resourcing re staff	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people & DV
Dublin North East (Ayrfield, Harmonstown, Kilmore, Coolock, Darndale, Priorswood, Raheny)	36	Social media	Anxiety/stress; Cost of living/money worries; Bullying (in person)	Places where c. & y.p. can hang out	76	Social media	Anxiety/stress; Bullying (in person); Exam/study or school-related stress	Places to hang out with friends	Take away drugs & make the area safer for children & young people	22	Needs of c., y.p. & families; Lack of/gaps in funding; Under-resourcing re staff	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people with intellectual disabilities
North West Inner City (Arran Quay, Grangegorman, Stoneybatter, Smithfield)	3	Social media, Friends, Schools and Other Parents	Visible drug use; Pressure to use drugs; Cost of living/money worries	Opportunities for c. & y.p. to have say in decisions	3	Parent / Grandparent / Care Giver	Social media; Anxiety/stress; Bullying (online)	Information about services for young people	More spaces for young people	12	Needs of c., y.p. & families; Under-resourcing re staff; Lack of/ gaps in funding	Edu. services for c. & y.p. with additional needs; Accessing timely health services; Young people & DV

8.3: Membership of Dublin City North Subgroups

Membership correct as of June 2023

Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup

- Cliodhna O’Sullivan Lisdeel House Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services
- Eilish Cullen, Barnardos
- Irene Griffin, HSE Mental Health (Youth Mental Health)
- John Peelo (JP) Young People at Risk /Neighbourhood Youth Project 1
- Olan Devine, HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Patrick Reilly, Pavee Point
- Sandra Taylor HSE Mental Health Services (Suicide Prevention)
- Stephanie Cleary, Foróige (Hay Project, Garda Youth Diversion)

Learning and Development Subgroup

- Janet Colgan (Chair) Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)
- Bernie Darcy Dublin Northwest Partnership
- Brigina O’Riordan, Early Learning Initiative
- Clare Garrett, Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)
- Gerry Cullen, City Connects, North East Inner City
- Grainne Harris, Barnardos
- Helena O’Reilly, Finglas School Completion Programme
- Jennifer Cummins, Ballymun Anseo SCP
- Niall Gannon, National Educational Psychology Service

Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup

- Teresa Nyland (Chair) Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support, Dublin North City
- Aoife Ní Bhreachain, Dublin Bay North Network, Our Lady of Consolation NS
- Audrey Cruise, Tusla Family Resource Centre
- Avryll DeBurca, Daughters of Charity
- Catherine O’Kane, Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
- Brian Doyle/Gráinne Kinsella Tusla, Dublin North East Network (D5, 13 and 17)
- Clare O’Connor Extern
- Cliodhna Mahony Dublin City North CYPSC
- Dani McCalfferty, Foróige
- Eavan McCarthy, Ballymun Network for Assisting Children and Young People
- Fiona Gallagher YoungBallymun
- Frank Mulville Young People at Risk
- Helena O’Reilly, SCP Finglas
- Juliette O’Sullivan, HSE, Public Health Nurse
- Lucy Watters/Grace McCormack, Aoibhneas
- Maeve Gallagher, St Catherines Home School Community Liaison
- Michelle McNally, Safety Coordinator Finglas Local Drugs and Alcohol task Force
- Pamela Belton, Barnardos
- Paul Browne, Ballymun Child and Family Resource Centre
- Siobhan Ferguson, Sonas Domestic Abuse Service

Economic Security – To be established year 2.

Connected and Respected, Parent and Youth Networks will be developed as needed.

8.4: DCN CYPSC Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Dublin City North Children and Young People’s Services Committee is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency coordination and collaboration in order to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people (0-24 years) in Dublin City North.

2. Term

These Terms of Reference are effective until December 2019, on which date the Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the committee, unless otherwise agreed.

3. Membership

- Membership is as determined in the *Blueprint for Children and Young People’s Services Committee* (DCYA, 2015). See a full list of current members on page 11.
- Additional members may be proposed and approved by the Committee.

4. Objectives of CYPSC Dublin City North

- To identify and address the needs of children and young people (0-24 years) in Dublin City North.
- To plan and coordinate services, while optimising the use of existing resources and identify where further resources are needed to meet needs.
- Promote best practice in the participation of children and young people in decision-making.
- Promote quality, evidence-informed actions and outcomes-focused planning and practice.
- To ensure effective collaboration and interagency working.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- Organisations should mandate one senior manager / decision maker to attend.
- To develop and oversee outcomes-based subgroups, based on the five national outcomes for children and young people, and to meet the needs and priorities identified in the CYPP.
- To attend and participate in structured interagency Committee and Subgroup meetings, as agreed.
- To develop and oversee outcomes-based subgroups, established across the five national outcomes for children and young people, and to meet the needs and priorities identified in the CYPP.
- To develop, implement and monitor each 3-year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP).
- To ensure the views of children and young people (including those seldom heard) are included in the core work and planning of the Committee.
- To ensure members agencies, and other relevant networks or agencies are informed on CYPSC actions, where appropriate, agreed and relevant.
- To recognise CYPSC priorities in each agency’s service/strategic plans.
- To ensure/enable decision making processes are clear and accountable balanced with the need to make timely and quick decisions.

- To ensure the principles underpinning CYPSC are reflected in each agency's service and within the context of CYPSC.
- To seek, and respond to, opportunities for funding related to the CYPP or other emerging issue relevant to children and young people.
- To share information and data that may be helpful to CYPSC in its undertakings.
- The Chair of CYPSC will have final decision-making authority.
- Members taking on the role of Chair for a subgroup will represent their subgroup at the main CYPSC meetings and will be accountable for their subgroup's actions, and relevant action plan progression. Decision making at subgroup level will be made by the Chair at a level that is relevant to the development of "the plan". Other decisions may be taken to the CYPSC for consideration, where relevant and appropriate.

6. Meetings

- Meetings will be agreed in advance by members, and as necessary, to ensure completion of objectives as detailed above.
- All meetings will be chaired by Tusla's Area Manager for Dublin North City.
- In the Chair's absence, this role will be fulfilled by the Vice-Chair, Dublin City Council or identified co-Vice Chair.
- Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e., members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice), balanced with the need to make quick and timely decisions. If not possible, the CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision.
- A quorum of 50% plus one will be required for decisions to be made. Otherwise, suggestions for consideration by the group will be communicated via email. Likewise, where consensus or a quorum is not reached, the CYPSC Chair will have final decision-making ability.
- Meetings will be held six times in each calendar year, for 2 hours in Ballymun Civic Centre, unless otherwise stated and agreed.
- Other meetings such as subgroups, will be scheduled throughout the year, as convenient for those groups.
- Correspondence in between meetings may be facilitated by email and/or phone and may include additional documentation for review in advance of the following meeting.
- Agenda's will be drawn up by the Chairperson and Coordinator of CYPSC in advance of each meeting.
- Notes from each meeting will be recorded by the coordinator or other nominated person and distributed in advance.

7. Amendments

- Any amendments or modifications to these terms will be agreed by the Dublin City North CYPSC members, subject to agreed decision-making terms above.