



Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee

Fingal Children and Young
People's Plan
2024 – 2026



Contacts

Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) welcomes comments, views and opinions about our *Children and Young People's Plan*.

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Copies of this Plan are available at: <https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/fingal.233.html>

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Foreword

In my capacity as chair of FCYPSC, I am happy to announce the release of our fourth Children and Young People's Plan, covering the years 2024–2026. This plan's development started with a rigorous needs analysis that involved, children, young people, parents, community-based, nonprofit, and statutory organisations in conversation. This work was overseen by a small group of FCYPSC members, who saw the plan through to completion.

The incredible attendance at the planning days in 2023 demonstrated the dedication to the work of FCYPSC. I want to express my gratitude to each and every partner for their commitment, time, effort, and hard work, all of which helped to ensure that we have a practicable plan that will work towards improving the lives of children and young people in Fingal.

It is intended that this plan will enhance the quality of services currently being provided by Fingal's statutory, nonprofit, and community-based organisations. We have created a plan that provides for some of the most important needs of children, youth, and families in the county, despite obstacles including data collecting, staff retention, lengthy waiting lists, and a lack of resources.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) that have provided funding for the work of FCYPSC.

I would like also to express my gratitude to all the young people, children and parents who took part in our online surveys and focus groups. You generously donated your time, made invaluable contributions and have shaped our work for the next three years.

I'm looking forward to working with you to implement this strategy, and I'm eager to be a part of an interagency team that is outward looking, forward looking and keen to make improvements in the lives of children, young people and parents.

Kind Regards,

Caitriona Sheehan

Chairperson of Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee

List of Acronyms

ACE'S	Adverse Childhood Experiences
BOBF	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures
CAMHS	Child and Adult Mental Health Service
CF	Children First
CFSN	Child and Family Support Networks
CNN	Comhairle na nÓg
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committees
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CRA	Children's Rights Alliance
DATF	Drug and Alcohol Task Force
DCEDIY	Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DSGBV	Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
DV	Domestic Violence
ECCE	Early Childhood Education and Care
EDs	Electoral Divisions
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
EWS	Educational Welfare Service
FCC	Fingal County Council
FCYPSC	Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee
FLAC	Free Legal Advice Centre
HRB	Health Research Board
HSE	Health Service Executive
HSLS	Home School Liaison Scheme
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEAs	Local Electoral Areas
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LHO	Local Health Office
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
PPN	Public Participation Network
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SONC	State of the Nation's Children
TESS	Tusla Educational and Support Service

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Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) is to secure better outcomes for children and young people in Ireland, through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at a local level.

CYPSC work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland under *Young Ireland, the new National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028)*. These national outcomes are that children and young people:

- 1. Are active and healthy**
- 2. Are achieving in 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 develops and implements a three-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 voices of children, young people, and families. It also links with other local and regional plans (such as the *Local Economic and Community Plan* [LECP] for the county).

This CYPP emerged from a comprehensive process that involved data gathering, research on the current landscape and needs in the Fingal region including extensive consultations with over two thousand key stakeholders including children and young people, parents/guardians, and people working with children, young people and families in the Fingal region including Fingal CYPSC members. This process took place during the second half of 2023 and involved three online surveys, many focus groups with children, young people and parents/guardians, an in-person consultation day with nearly 100 people working with children, young people and families in Fingal, followed by a comprehensive strategic planning process with members of the CYPSC.

Through this process, strengths and achievements, as well as needs and gaps were identified, and the aspirations of children, young people, families and service providers for changes that would improve outcomes were identified, themed and prioritised, and this information was used to inform Fingal CYPSC's plan of work for the next three years.

Fingal CYPSC has now identified local priority thematic areas and specific objectives, actions and targets aligned with each of the five national outcomes for children and young people referenced in *Young Ireland*, in addition to the thematic area of Change Management. With the support of the CYPSC Coordinator, CYPSC members (main committee and subgroups) will work collaboratively over the coming three years to achieve its objectives and targets within the various thematic areas.

This Plan outlines the strategic approach that the Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee (Fingal CYPSC) will take in its work to improve the lives of children, young people, and families in the Fingal region from 2024 – 2026.

The Plan is structured as follows:

Section	Contents of Each Section
Section 1	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to CYPSC • A review of Fingal CYPSC's achievements since its last plan in addition to an overview of its current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats • A detailed overview of how this <i>Children and Young People's Plan</i> was developed
Section 2	Socio-demographic Profile of Fingal
Section 3	Overview of Services to Children and Young People in Fingal
Section 4	Local Needs Analysis including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic summary of the findings from consultations with children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers in Fingal – presented according to the five National Outcome Areas • The local priority thematic areas and objectives that have been agreed for Fingal CYPSC's CYPP in addition to the policy context and the rationale for same
Section 5	Summary of Fingal CYPSC's CYPP with Local Priority Thematic Areas under each National Outcome Area
Section 6	Detailed Action Plan for 2024 – 2026 including priority themes, objectives, targets, indicators, activities, timeframe, lead and partner organisations and links to other plans
Section 7	Monitoring and Evaluation
Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Findings of Consultations with Children and Young People, Parents/ Guardians and Service Providers/Practitioners in Fingal • Breakdown of Participants in Consultations • Fingal CYPSC's Terms of Reference • Fingal CYPSC's Subgroup Members

Table 1.1 Outline of the CYPP

1.1 Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The purpose of CYPSC is to ensure effective interagency 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. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. They provide a forum for interagency 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.

Every CYPSC works to achieve the five national outcomes in *Young Ireland* in a variety of ways including:

- Ensuring the needs of children and young people are identified and addressed
- Planning and coordinating services for children and young people, including overseeing the effective implementation of national and regional policies, strategies, and priorities
- Ensuring effective collaboration and interagency working among services working with children and young people in an area, including strengthening collective decision making and supporting the implementation of interagency initiatives
- Promoting quality, evidence-informed, and outcomes-focussed planning and practice
- Optimising the use of resources at a 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.

CYPSC 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 27 CYPSC in Ireland and five CYPSC in the Dublin region (including Fingal CYPSC) working to achieve the vision and goals of Ireland's new policy framework for children and young people entitled *Young Ireland (2023 – 2028)*.

The aim of *Young Ireland* is to provide a platform to realise the rights of children and young people in Ireland so that all partners can work effectively together to ensure children and young people can thrive. Its vision is: '*An Ireland which fully respects and realises the rights of children and young people.*'¹ It highlights the importance of interagency working to achieve this vision and gives CYPSC a key role in this regard.

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 Next Steps* 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

¹ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *Young Ireland, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People*.

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

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 around the country are linked to varying degrees, with other regional collaborative structures in their counties such as Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN), Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC).

- CFSNs are led by Tusla and are made up of services that help children and families and aim to support families to experience services as easily as possible in their area. There are four CFSNs in Fingal: South West Fingal, Mulhuddart, Mid Fingal and North Fingal.
- LCDCs are led by local authorities and aim to bring a more coordinated approach to local and community development activity. They are responsible for coordinating, planning and overseeing local development initiatives including the Fingal *Local Economic and Community Plan* (LECP). The Fingal LCDC is currently in the process of developing Fingal's LECP for the period 2024 - 2029 and has been organising consultations as part of this process.³
- PPN is a network of more than 500 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations in Fingal County. The aim of Fingal PPN is to co-ordinate how the community is represented, to empower member groups to influence plans and policies for the Fingal region, and to facilitate information sharing between statutory and non-statutory agencies.

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

³ A draft of the LECP report is currently available on Fingal County Council's website.

1.2 Who we are

Fingal CYPSC was established in 2009 following a six-month consultation process with key stakeholders. Fingal CYPSC's catchment area covers 450 square kilometres and corresponds with Fingal County Council which stretches from the River Liffey and the Dublin City boundary to the Meath boundary north of Balbriggan; and from the east coast to the Meath and Kildare boundaries in the west. Fingal CYPSC has in excess of 40 members representing statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations involved in the management and delivery of services to children and young people across the county of Fingal. The current members of Fingal CYPSC are outlined in Table 1.2.

Agency	Representative
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Chair of Fingal CYPSC)	Caitriona Sheehan
Tusla, Child and Family Agency (Coordinator of Fingal CYPSC)	Úna Caffrey
An Garda Síochána	Fiona Savage
An Garda Síochána	Roisin Maguire
Barnardos	Clodagh Carroll
Cairde	Sarah Duku
Health Service Executive (Mental Health)	Donal Cassidy
Daughters of Charity	Thomas Mathews
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB)	Claire Barkey
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB)	Simon Mc Cabe
Fingal County Childcare Committee	Adrienne Doyle
Young Person Representative	Aisha Alameen
Fingal County Council (Vice Chair of FCYPSC)	Naomi Weir
Foróige	Jean O'Gorman
Health Service Executive (Health and Wellbeing)	Ellen O'Dee
Health Service Executive (Primary Care)	Sarah Jane Leonard
Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN)	Alma Moran
Empower Local Development Company	Louise Stewart
Mountview Family Resource Centre	Margaret McLoughlin
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Nicola Garvey
Peter McVerry Trust	Tanya Blyth
Tusla Child and Family Agency PPFS Manager	Grainne Kinsella
Tusla Education Support Services	Georgina Traynor

Table 1.2 Members of Fingal CYPSC Main Committee as of December 2023

Fingal CYPSC Subgroups

Fingal CYPSC has formed five thematic subgroups aligned to the five national outcomes for children and young people which are made up of members of the main CYPSC committee as well as other practitioners, front-line staff and people from the voluntary and community sectors that have specific interest and expertise in particular subgroup areas or themes.

The Fingal CYPSC subgroups⁴ are:

- Mental Health subgroup

⁴ The individual members of each subgroup are listed in the appendices of this Plan.

- Learning and Development subgroup
- Safe and Protected from Harm subgroup
- Economic Security and Opportunity subgroup
- Child and Youth Participation subgroup

1.3 Review of Previous Children and Young People's Plan

Fingal CYPSC previously developed a CYPP for the period 2019 – 2021 and as part of the development of this new Plan, a review of the last plan was conducted with CYPSC members. Issues discussed and identified included key achievements for the period 2019 – 2023 and key learnings to inform the next plan.

The graphic below outlines some of the key achievements by outcome area and Table 1.3 documents Fingal CYPSC achievements and the corresponding impact.

Achievements and Impacts (2019 – 2023)

Table 1.3 provides a summary of Fingal CYPSC achievements, by theme, between 2019 and 2023 and the related impacts.

Achievement	Example	Impact
Community engagement	932 parents, 242 stakeholders and 963 children and young people were consulted with on the 2024-2026 CYPP.	Gained comprehensive insights into the needs of children young people and parents. Fostered community ownership and commitment. Ensured an evidenced based plan founded on need.
Youth participation	FCYPSC 900+ young people were consulted on the 2024-2026 CYPP. Selection of a young person 18–24 to become a member of FCYPSC. Links with Fingal Comhairle na nÓg.	The youth perspectives were gained. Better decision making. Stronger connection and enhanced collaboration and engagement.
	Developed the Fingal youth participation and engagement wheel (FYPEW).	Provided a clear framework for youth participation in Fingal.
	Two 'Creating Spaces for Intercultural Dialogue' events held. A panel of young people met with a panel of national and local decision makers to tell their experience of discrimination and racism.	Young people were empowered. Decision makers informed which led to changes in practice.
Supports to homeless families	Webinar x 2 to support agencies working with families experiencing homelessness.	Improved knowledge leading to enhanced service delivery.
	Delivered educational supports to families experiencing homelessness.	Children and young people were given supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness.
	Youth services delivered to children and young people experiencing homelessness.	Children and young people were supported to transition into educational settings following a prolonged absence.

Achievement	Example	Impact
Development and maintenance of networks	6 FCYPSC subgroups based on the 5 national outcomes maintained. Principal's network established. A master contact list for all primary and secondary schools in Fingal was developed.	Improved collaboration and communication fostering stronger relationships and trust among service providers. Provision of an opportunity to address complex issues.
Design, Development and delivery of resources	Development of school avoidance pack 'Back on track: Fingal schools toolkit for supporting students who avoid school.'	Provided Fingal-specific support to address issues of school avoidance, to improve attendance and engagement and reduce anxiety.
	Leaflet on accessing a secondary school place developed and distributed.	Simplified the process of finding a secondary school place, making it easier for families and students.
	Transition booklet 'Looking back-looking forward' developed and distributed in Dublin 15 to support transition for primary pupils to post primary.	Eased the transition from primary to secondary school, reducing anxiety and promoting readiness.
	Development of vaping resources which were translated into 4 different languages.	Parents were given factual information about the impact of vaping on young people's health.
	Design, development and dissemination of sensory resource packs.	Supported children with sensory needs, enhancing their learning and daily experiences.
	Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence resource pack.	Provided crucial information and support for dealing with domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence.
	Developed an information leaflet on FCYPSC.	Increased awareness of FCYPSC role and resources, promoting community engagement and utilisation of services.
Research	Research completed on the impact of the National Childcare Scheme on not-for-profit childcare services: 'Double Disadvantage: Reduced Access to Early Childhood Care and Education for Children at Risk of Poverty in Fingal'.	Inequities highlighted. Identified that Fingal has one of the lowest rates of community-based not-for-profit childcare services in the country. Supported services to advocate for change.
	Supported the delivery of Planet Youth in Fingal.	Up-to-date knowledge on drug and alcohol use among 3,000 young people living in North Fingal. Fostered community involvement and support for youth substance use prevention programs.
	Development of core measures of economic security that was incorporated into a 'dashboard' of	Increased knowledge regarding how young people in Fingal were doing in relation to economic security.

Achievement	Example	Impact
	wellbeing indicators for children and young people in Fingal.	
Delivery of programmes	Supported the delivery of the Archways programmes in Fingal with a total value of €93,577.	Better supports for teachers and parents.
	The 1st post COVID-19 World Mental Health Day Road Show event.	Fostered community reconnection following the isolation of the pandemic. Raised awareness about mental health issues and available post-pandemic.
	Health & Wellbeing Programme delivered to marginalised young people in Fingal.	Young people returning to education, connecting with youth services and supported young people to remain in their families.
	Triple P Fearless Parenting Programme. Peer-led Resilience Programme in Development for those impacted by eating disorders.	Supported parents to manage their children's anxiety. Helped reduce anxiety levels in children, promoting their overall emotional wellbeing.
	'Be Body Positive' school flag initiative offered to all secondary schools in Fingal.	Promoted body positivity, fostering a healthier self-image and inclusive school culture among secondary schools in Fingal.
	Social Anxiety Youth Intervention Programme Delivered to Young People on the waiting list for Mental Health Services.	Offered targeted support for youth with social anxiety, improving their social skills and confidence.
	Redesign, development and delivery of mental health Journal insert for secondary and primary schools.	Increased awareness and access to mental health services, supporting youth well-being.
	Delivery of Disability & Inclusion Family Support Training.	Parents of children with a disability supported to navigate the educational and health systems.
Delivery of programmes	Delivery of a wellbeing/trauma informed programme to children and young people who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).	Provided for Emotional Healing Mitigates against long-term impact of ACEs.
	Delivery of train-the-trainer baby massage training.	Provided baby massage training, promoting infant well-being and parental bonding.
	Delivery of food poverty initiatives to families living in areas of deprivation and experiencing poverty.	Increased access to food amongst those experiencing food poverty.
	Restart youth careers expo. Looking at routes to education training and employment.	Expanded career awareness and opportunities among young people aiding in future planning and decision-making.

Table 1.3 Key Fingal CYPSC Achievements and corresponding impact (2019 – 2023)

During the review process and the strategic planning process, CYPSC members discussed and identified achievements in relation to Change Management, how the CYPSC did its work, and the impact of CYPSC membership on organisations. These are summarised in Table 1.4.

Achievements in Change Management and how the CYPSC did its work	
Strengthening of the organisation structure and membership of CYPSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change within the management of subgroups • Strengthened commitment of members through meeting attendance and project input • Participation of children and young people is a priority for the committee in order to ensure we are addressing the needs of the youth of the county • Wide representation of a variety of statutory, voluntary, community-based organisations and young people within Fingal • Continued collaboration between agencies • Successful planning and effective interagency engagement in FCYPSC
Local-level planning and co-ordination of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined-up, strategic thinking and planning also ensured by regular meetings of the five subgroups of FCYPSC • Fingal CYPSC and Fingal LCDC worked to create a Healthy Ireland Plan for Fingal and Submitted a joint application for Healthy Ireland funding • Submitted a joint application for Healthy Ireland funding • Participation in new structures such as the Community Response Forum facilitated a knowledge exchange between FCYPSC and forum members • FCYPSC structures facilitated a response in a timely manner to global and local issues such as COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, digital poverty and a national cyber-attack
Initiatives and programmes of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement and commitment of partners across the county. Engagement has led to the implementation of a range of developments which are helping to improve outcomes for children and young people in Fingal

Table 1.4 Fingal CYPSC achievements in relation to Change Management and how CYPSC works

Challenges for Fingal CYPSC (2019-2023)

CYPSC Challenges	
Capacity of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and staffing across services are currently limited

CYPSC Challenges	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National systemic issues such as waiting lists for services, staffing shortages, homelessness, poverty, lack of community based not for profit childcare services in Fingal, and knock on effects of these
Capacity of member agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all agencies are represented on the CYPSC main committee and its subgroups There can be staff changeovers at times which leads to inconsistency in meetings There are competing agendas and demands between CYPSC duties and the roles and responsibilities of members
Needs of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population increases witnessed in recent years not matched by services growth There are deteriorating economic conditions for some families as the cost-of-living crisis continues Pockets of deprivation alongside areas of great affluence make it more difficult to respond adequately to the needs of the community Fingal has a large area and a very diverse population. There are significant urban and rural based populations with different needs as well as Fingal having one the most ethnically diverse populations in Dublin The boundaries of other agencies such as Tusla, HSE and the local authority are not consistent and lead to not all communities and areas being represented or captured in a conterminous manner
Funding and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not enough administrative support for CYPSC Some funding is limited, last minute and at times there is lack of joined up thinking between agencies Funding is not proportionate to the growing Fingal CYPSC population. Services and supports continue to operate with limited resources and that are not sufficient for the large population
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources and staffing across services are limited Demands on staff (high workloads and lack of capacity, staffing gaps and retention issues) There are no clear pathways of policy and departmental influence

Table 1.5 Challenges for Fingal CYPSC (2019-2023)

Members also discussed and identified internal and external challenges and areas for development. These are summarised below.

Learnings to Inform the new Fingal CYPP

CYPSC members also discussed and identified what they can learn from the CYPSC's achievements and progress since the last Plan which would be useful in the development of the next Plan. These are summarised in Table 1.6 below:

Insights to guide the new CYPP
<p>Operations within the CYPSC structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members should have a clear understanding about the work that is conducted in other agencies which results in less duplication among services. Joint working from agencies is key and creates meaningful impacts on the community. Interagency working and relationship building takes time. Membership transition is also an issue and needs constant, time energy and effort. There have been great achievements within the subgroups' work and this work continues despite challenges. It is important for services to be adaptable and responsive to emerging needs. Adaptability and collaboration is essential in order to meet the needs of evolving communities. It is important to expand on work done so far while ensuring a targeted response. Achievements within CYPSC should be acknowledged and shared to champion services working well together within CYPSC. It is important to examine what projects have been successful in other CYPSC areas and to replicate where possible. More needs to be done locally and nationally to raise the profile of CYPSC so agencies can understand the functions, role and potential of CYPSC. It is important to examine all funding opportunities to enable innovation/service delivery.
<p>Strategic planning and clear goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to revisit the plan and check that the actions are relevant with the passing of time. There is a need to include a response to emerging needs as part of subgroup plans. Strategic and coordinated plans are important as they provide clear actionable goals and lead to more effective collaboration between agencies. Clear and objective goals are critical for members. Evaluations of initiatives are important to identify outcomes and learnings from actions.
<p>Youth/family participation and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of children and young people is a priority for the committee in order to ensure we are addressing the needs of the youth of the county. Strong links with communities through ongoing consultations are vital for CYPSC to be aware of and respond to emerging needs. It is critical for CYPSC to include the voices of young people within its structure so that there is constant engagement and awareness of their needs and the impact of CYPSC actions and projects.
<p>Needs of the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to follow evidence-based and evidence-informed practice when responding to needs of families. Investment in Universal Wellbeing Supports in schools and communities is important as the positive impact on children is significant.

Insights to guide the new CYPP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention is key for children's health and well-being. • The demographics in Fingal over recent years have changed dramatically and it is one of the youngest and the most ethnically diverse areas in the country. With these changes come other needs for the community that need to be adequately identified and responded to.
<p>Factors that have supported achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of multiple funding streams such as BOBF CYPSC funding, Healthy Ireland funding. • Services working collaboratively together within the CYPSC structure through solid leadership, active communication, strong subgroup membership, lobbying other agencies, sharing resources as well as consultations with CYP and families. • Evidence and research to identify and provide evidence of needs in an area to help access funding. • Leveraging resources such as providing spaces for meetings. • Strong membership commitment.

Table 1.6 Insights to guide the new Fingal CYPP

1.4 How this Plan was developed

Fingal's new *Children and Young People's Plan (2024 – 2026)* was developed over a six-month period between June and December 2023. It involved the following stages and steps:

1. **Desk research** including a review of policy and relevant literature and a review of the previous Fingal CYPSC Workplan.
2. **A review of services** in Fingal and completion of **a socio-demographic profile**.
3. **Consultations** with over two thousand stakeholders in the Fingal region, including children and young people, parents/guardians and service providers/agency representatives using surveys, focus groups and in-person consultation workshops.
4. **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:

- Firstly, outline the process of both the consultation and strategic planning sessions used to inform and develop the CYPP;
- Secondly, outline the children, young people, parents/guardians and service providers that took part in the consultation; and
- Outline the members of the Fingal CYPSC who attended the strategic planning sessions.

Distribution of Consultations

In total, 2,137 participants, including children, young people, parents or guardians, and service providers actively contributed to the consultation process, providing valuable insights to shape the development of the Fingal CYPSC CYPP. The image below provides a breakdown of consultation participants, highlighting those who responded to surveys, participated in focus groups, and attended consultation events.

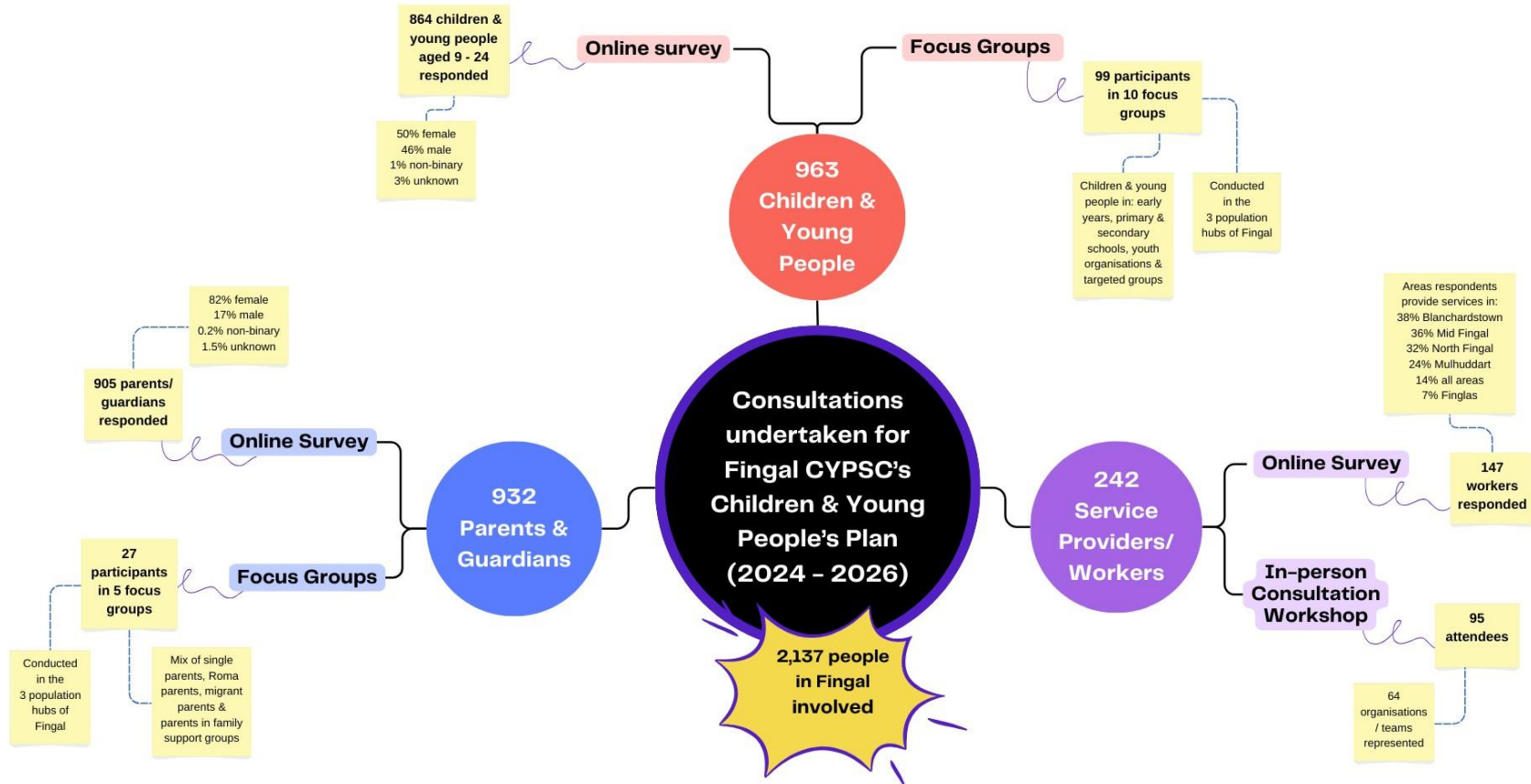


Figure 1.1 Overview of Consultations

	Service Providers	Parents	Children and Young People
Focus Groups	n/a	27	99
In-person consultations	95	n/a	n/a
Surveys	147	905	864
Total	242	932	963

Table 1.7 Number and categories of people consulted to inform the Fingal CYPSC CYPP

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

Service providers were consulted with through an online survey and one full-day consultation workshop. This workshop was attended by 95 people from organisations working with children, young people and their families, and was made up of a variety of community, voluntary and statutory services/agencies.

Strategic Planning Process

An engaging and interactive two-day process marked the culmination of the development of the *Children and Young People's Plan*. This participatory event was attended by 41 people working with children, young people and their families, and made up of 23 community, voluntary and statutory services/agencies who are members of Fingal CYPSC's main committee or subgroups.

During this two-day facilitated process, members of the CYPSC main committee and its subgroups worked together to carefully evaluate the outcomes of the consultations and the emerging needs within the region. This was followed by facilitated discussions, brainstorming and voting to identify local priority areas for the next three years under each of the National Outcome Areas. In the second session, the thematic subgroups worked together to pin down specific objectives, create SMART goals and identify targets and indicators for each.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Fingal

2.1 Overview

The Fingal CYPSC area reaches from Balbriggan in North Dublin to Blanchardstown in the Mid-West of the Dublin Region. The current population of 330,506 (Census 2022) represents a population growth of 11.6%. This is the second highest population growth of all CYPSC areas (Meath having the highest) and is far greater than the State average population growth of 8.1%.

Fingal's large population is characterised by:

- Rapid growth compared to other CYPSC areas because of vast housebuilding projects.
- A far higher youth population when compared to other CYPSC areas.
- An extremely diverse population when compared with other CYPSC areas.

The Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) defined by Fingal County Council have been used wherever possible to organize and analyze Census 2022 data for this socio-demographic study and the Needs Analysis in Section 4. Map 2.1 below shows the LEAs in Fingal, including:

- Balbriggan
- Rush-Lusk
- Swords
- Howth-Malahide
- Blanchardstown Mulhuddart
- Ongar
- Castleknock



Some datasets obtained from agencies such as the HSE and Tusla utilised in this section do not directly correspond to the Fingal CYPSC area as the boundaries used by these agencies are not cohesive with the Fingal CYPSC boundary.

Map 2.1 Fingal's Local Electoral Areas

2.2 Key Comparator Indicators

Key Indicator	Fingal	State	Source
Child and Youth Population: Number of Children and Young People aged 0-24 years Percentage of total population	116,021 35%	1,657,058 32%	Census 2022
Child Population: Number of children under 18 years (0-17 years) Percentage of total population	88,093 27%	1,218,567 23%	Census 2022
Young Adult Population: Number of young people aged 18 - 24 years Percentage of total population	27,928 8%	438,491 8%	Census 2022
Infant Mortality: The number of deaths among infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	1.6 per 1,000	3.3 per 1,000	CSO 2021 ⁵
Child Mortality: Number of deaths of children by death	1 - 4 years: 1 5-9 years: 1 10-14 years: 4 15-19 years: 2 20-24 years: 7	1 - 4 years: 19 5-9 years: 16 10-14 years: 26 15-19 years: 71 20-24 years: 104	CSO 2021 ⁶
Traveller children: Number of Traveller children Rate per 1,000 children 0-18 years	752 8.3	14,142 7.6	Census 2022
Foreign national children: Number of foreign national children Rate per 1,000 children 0-18 years	9,223 104.7	88,630 72.7	Census 2022
Children with a disability: Number of children with a disability 0-24 Rate per 1,000 children	14,040 18%	131,764 108.1	Census 2022
Young Carers: Number of children (0-19) who provide regular unpaid personal help Rate (per 1,000) of children	472 5.4	8,165 6.7	Census 2022
Lone Parents Number and percentage of children living in a lone-parent household aged over and under 15 years	14,144 23.2	189,437 15.5%	Census 2022

Table 2.1 Key comparators

⁵ CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2020.

⁶ CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2020.

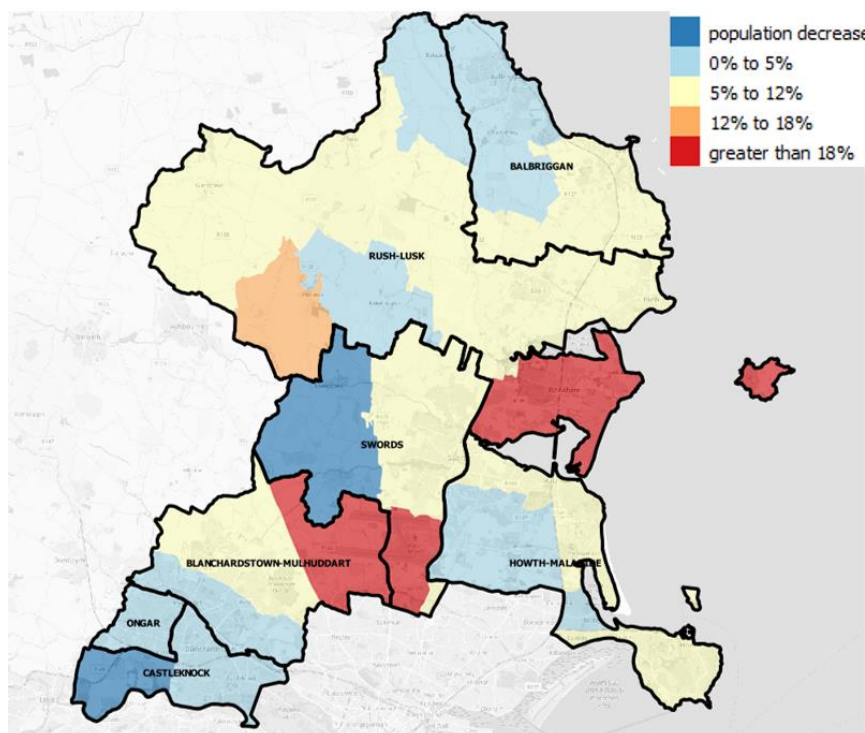
2.3 Demographics

Population change

As of April 2022, the total population of Fingal was 330,506. This figure represented an 11.6% population increase since 2016 and is greater than the State rate of 8.2%. This population growth is the second highest growth in the country, relative to the 27 CYPSC areas. Meath had the highest growth with a rate of 13.2%.

When compared to other CYPSC areas, Fingal (330,506) is the third most populated CYPSC area in the State, after Cork (City and County) (584,156) and Dublin City North (350,260).

Map 2.2 shows the distribution of population growth seen in Fingal at Electoral Divisions (ED) level between 2016 and 2022 in Fingal.



Map 2.2 Population change by ED 2016 -2022. Source: Census 2022

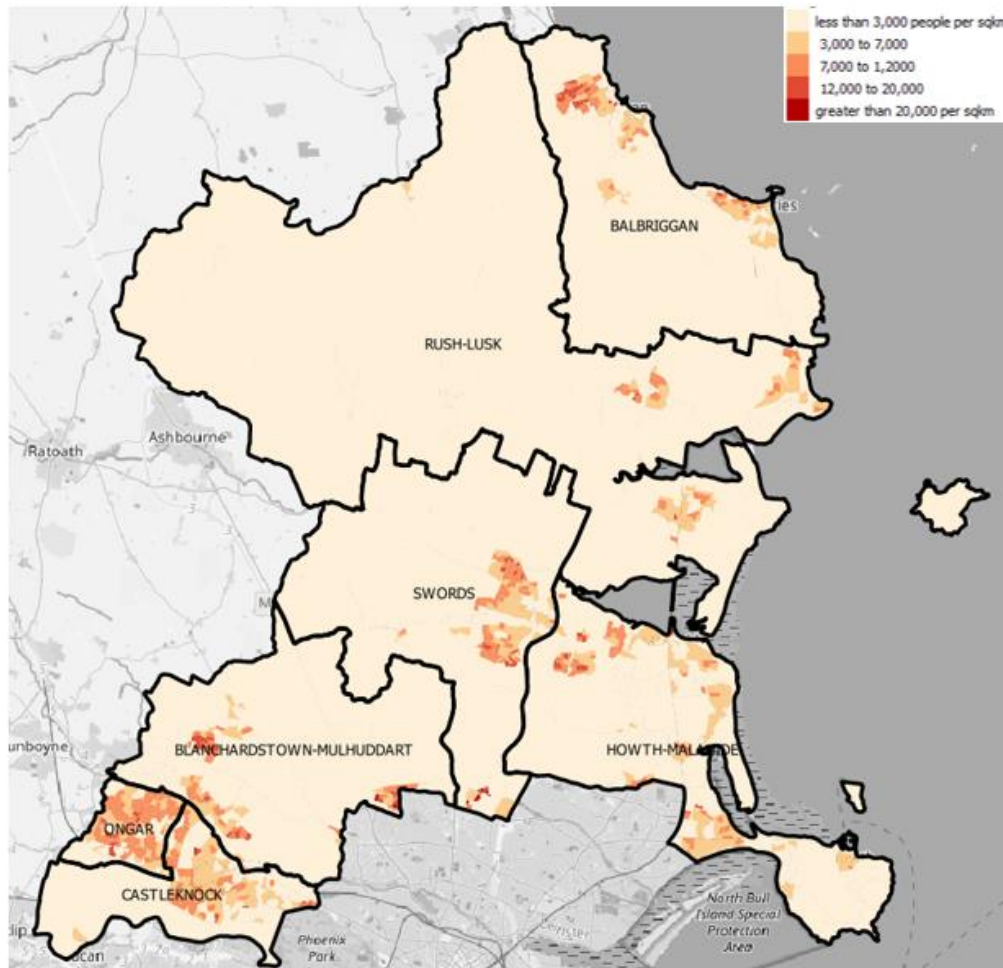
Table 2.2 Below illustrates population change at LEA level in Fingal from 2016 -2022.

Local Electoral Area	Population - 2016 (Number)	Population - 2022 (Number)	Actual change 2016-2022 (Number)	Percentage Change
BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART	34,420	40,022	5,602	16.3%
CASTLEKNOCK	43,953	47,149	3,196	7.3%
RUSH-LUSK	34,674	40,255	5,581	16.1%
BALBRIGGAN	36,570	40,476	3,906	10.7%
HOWTH-MALAHIDE	62,543	69,960	7,417	11.9%
SWORDS	44,966	48,739	3,773	8.4%
ONGAR	38,894	43,905	5,011	12.9%

Table 2.2 Population change by LEA 2016 to 2022

Population Density

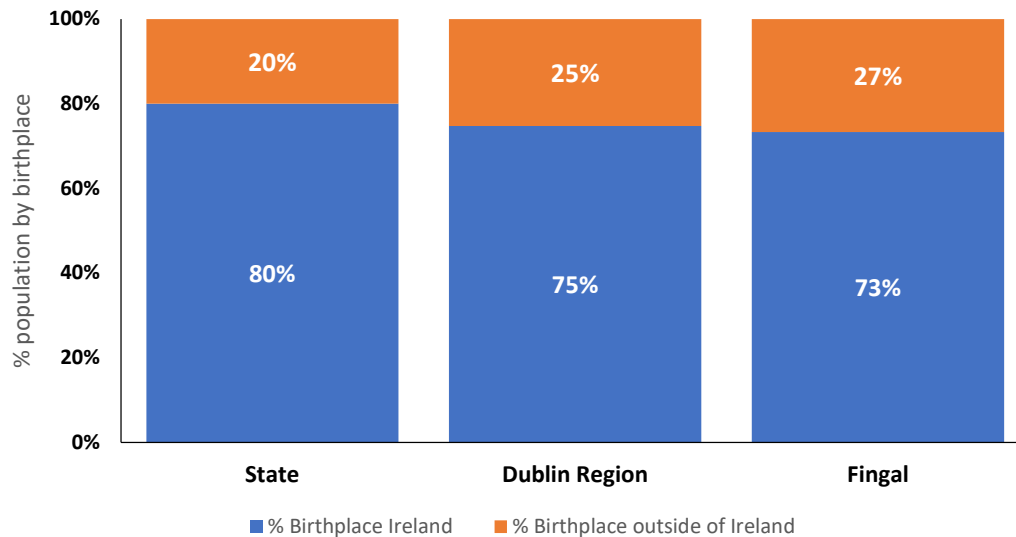
Map 2.3 below shows a clear distribution of the population density throughout Fingal. The most densely populated areas are in the urban areas of Ongar, Blanchardstown, Swords and Balbriggan. While the less densely populated areas are evident throughout the rural areas of Rush, Lusk and Balbriggan. Fingal is characterised by having a significant population in both urban and rural areas throughout the county.



Map 2.3 Population Density Source: Census 2022

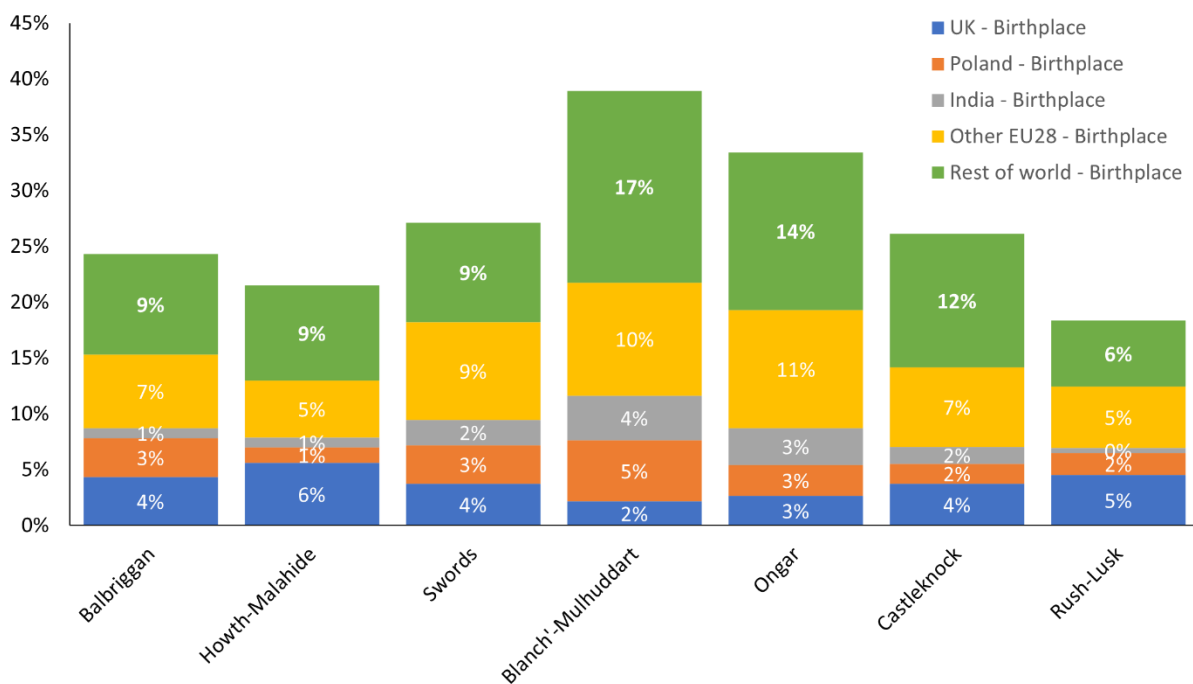
Population born outside of Ireland

Data released from Census 2022 shows that Fingal has an extremely diverse population. At a State level, the proportion of the population born outside of Ireland is 20%. This is higher in the Dublin region at 25% and even higher in Fingal at 27%.



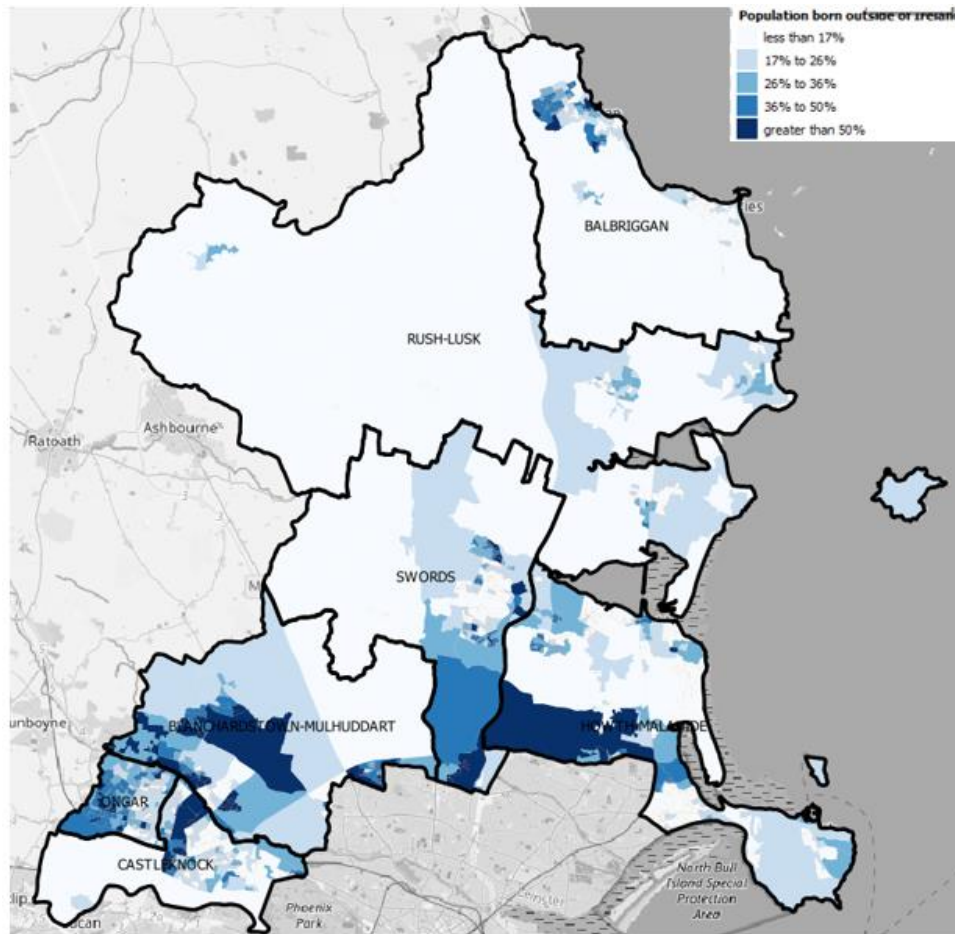
Graph 2.1 Population by birthplace 2022

Graph 2.2 below outlines the population of Fingal broken down by LEA and their birthplace. In comparison with the other LEAs, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart and Ongar have the most diverse population by birthplace where nearly 40% of their population was born outside of Ireland. This is far greater than the State average of 23%.



Graph 2.2 Population by birthplace and LEA 2022

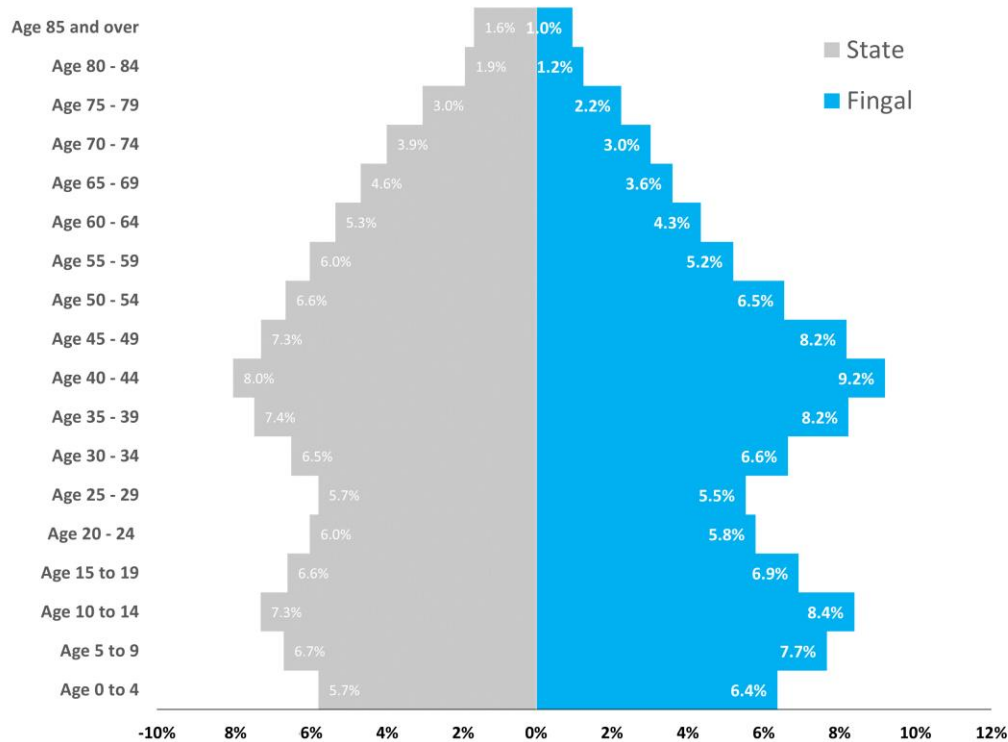
Map 2.4 (below) shows a clear geographic distribution of the SAs of the highest proportions of population born outside of Ireland in the south of the county in Ongar, Blanchardstown, and Swords.



Map 2.4 Population born outside Ireland. Source: Census 2022

Age Profile

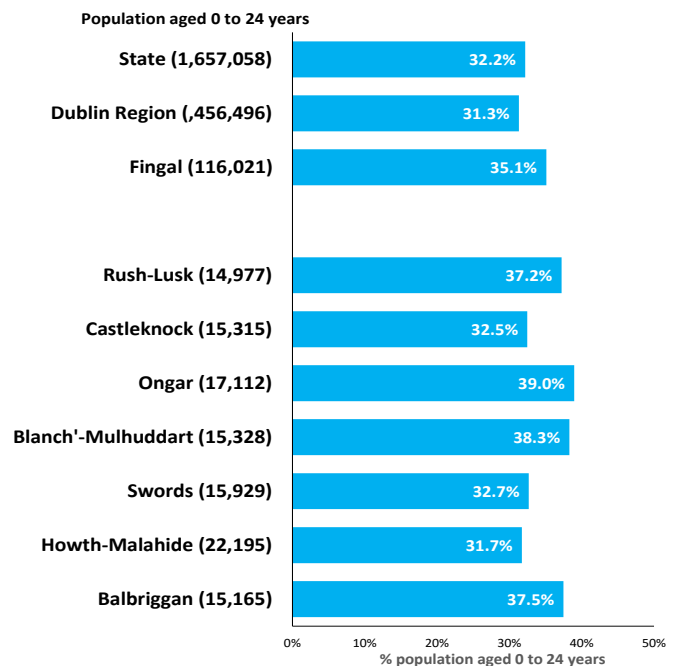
Figures released from Census 2022 show how Fingal's population is younger than the State. Fingal has a higher representative share in the working age and young age groups than the State average. Graph 2.3 outlines the population pyramid of Fingal and compares it to the State.



Graph 2.3 Population Pyramid. Source Census 2022

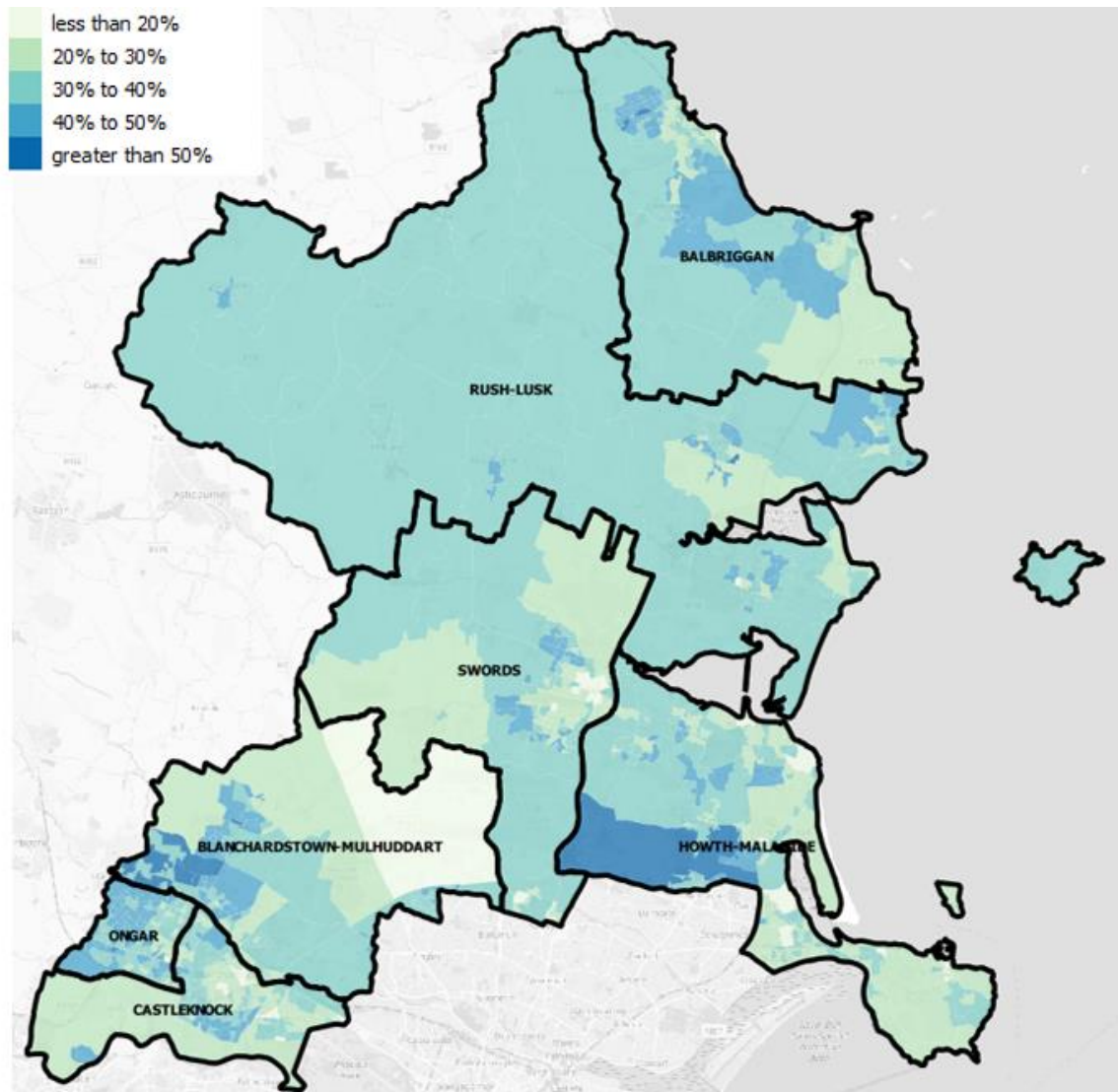
Further analysis was carried out on the 0 to 24 years age groups. Graph 2.4 shows the proportion of the population aged 0 to 24 years in Fingal and the LEAs.

As outlined in the graph, the proportion of the population aged 0 to 24 years in Fingal and its LEAs greatly exceeds the State and Dublin regional average. This highlights how there is a vastly greater proportion of children and young people in Fingal when compared with other areas.



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

Map 2.5 (below) highlights the areas with the highest proportions of youth population. These include Ongar, Blanchardstown, Howth and Balbriggan. Many of these areas have a youth population of greater than 50%.



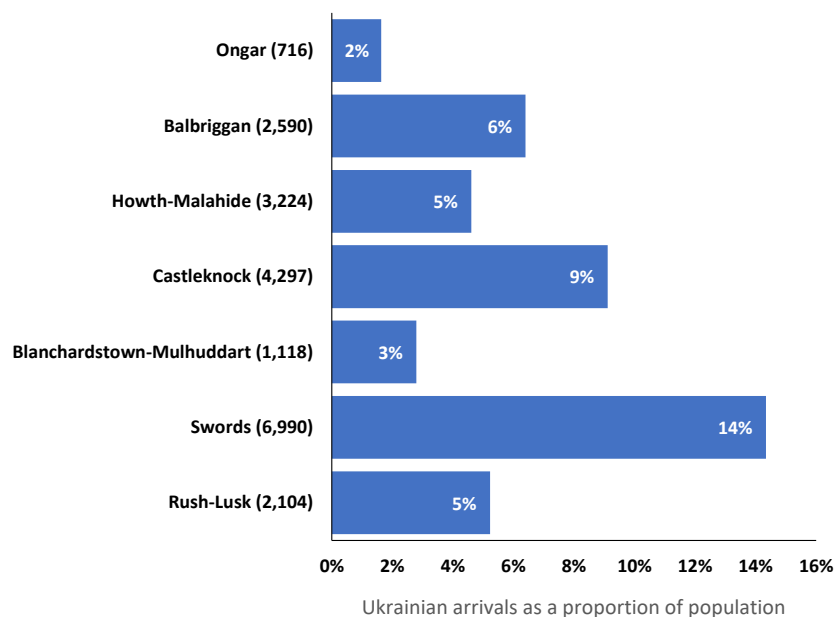
Map 2.5 Population aged 24 years and under. Source Census 2022

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

According to the Coordinator of the Fingal Ukraine Response Forum (FURF), as of January 2024:

- There were 11 International Protection Accommodation Centres in Fingal housing 2,405 International Protection Applicants
- There were four Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Centres in Fingal housing 2,684 BOTPs from Ukraine

According to the CSO⁷ and based on PPSN allocations, since May 2022, 21,039 Ukrainian people have arrived in Fingal. This data is outlined in Graph 2.5 as a proportion of the total population in each LEA in Fingal.

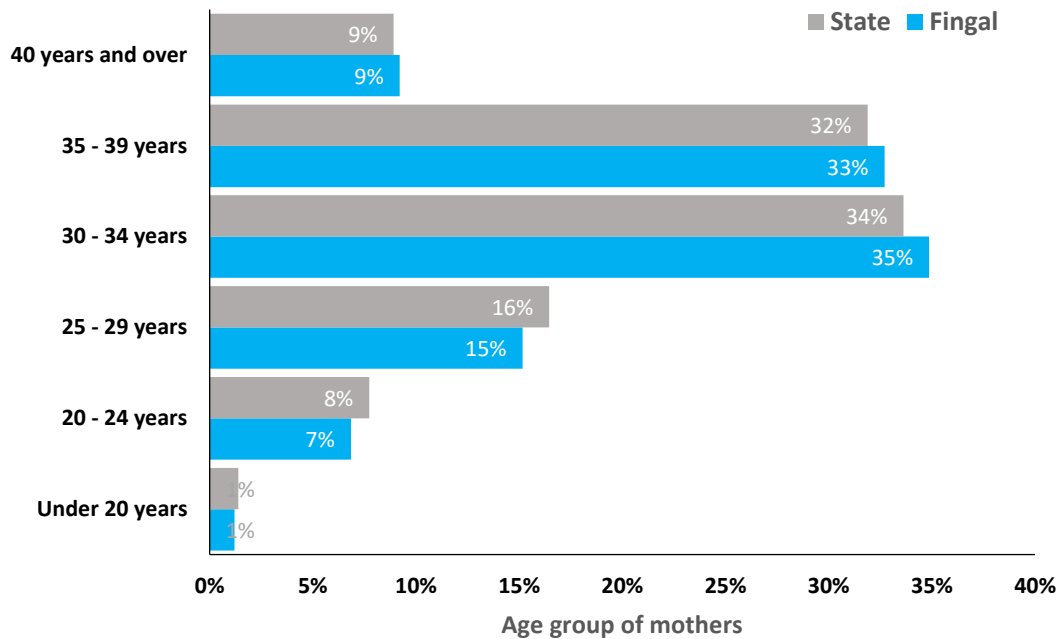


Graph 2.5 Ukrainian arrivals by LEA. Source: Census 2022

2.5 Births and mothers

- In 2022, there were 3,929 births registered to mothers in Fingal. This figure represented 6.8% of the total births in Ireland in this year. This proportion was the third highest of the 31 local authorities.
- In 2022, Fingal had a higher share of older mothers when compared with the rest of the country (Graph 2.6).

⁷ [Data Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 11 - Central Statistics Office.](#)



Graph 2.6 Births to mothers by age group. Source: Census 2022

- In 2020, according to the *Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO)*, 5.4% of babies born in Dublin County weighed under 2,500 grammes, this was lower than the State average of 5.8%.
- According to Census 2022 2.7% or 2,337 of mothers with no formal or primary education only, were in Fingal. This was lower than the State average of 4.8%.
- In 2020, according to the *Perinatal Statistics Report (HPO)*⁸ 44.8% or 1,857 of mothers were exclusively breastfeeding their babies in Dublin County (data for Fingal is not available). This was higher than the State average of 44.2% of mothers breastfeeding exclusively.
- According to the HRB, 97.8% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse⁹ within 72 hours in Dublin North LHO¹⁰ and 100% in Dublin North West Local Health Office (LHO)¹¹ area in 2021 (State 97.8%).
- According to the HRB, 56.9% of children in the Dublin North LHO received their developmental check by ten months, compared to 65.8% in the Dublin North West LHO and 59.8% in the State overall.

2.6 Family Structure

- As of April 2023, according to the latest Census results, there were 83,418 families living in the Fingal CYPSC area. Further analysis showed there were 28,722 families with children aged under 15 years. The figure represented 34.4% of the total families and was greater than the State average of 29.9%.

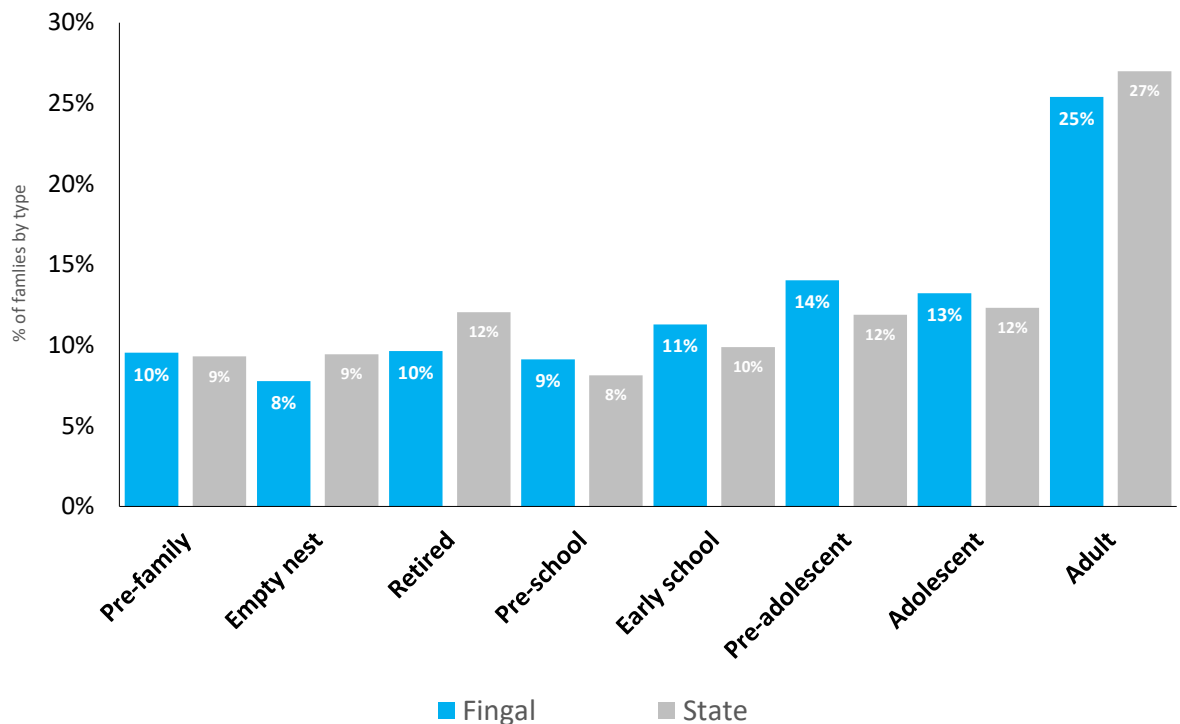
⁸ [Layout 1 \(hpo.ie\)](https://hpo.ie/).

⁹ Source: [Latest data \(hrb.ie\)](https://hrb.ie/).

¹⁰ Dublin North LHO covers the following areas in Fingal Balbriggan, The Naul, Skerries, Garristown, Oldtown, Lusk, Ballyboghil, Rush, Swords, Malahide, Portmarnock, Baldoyle and Howth.

¹¹ Dublin North West LHO covers Dublin 15 in Fingal

- Further data from Census 2022 is outlined in Graph 2.7 detailing the proportions of families by type in Fingal and provides a direct comparison to the State averages.

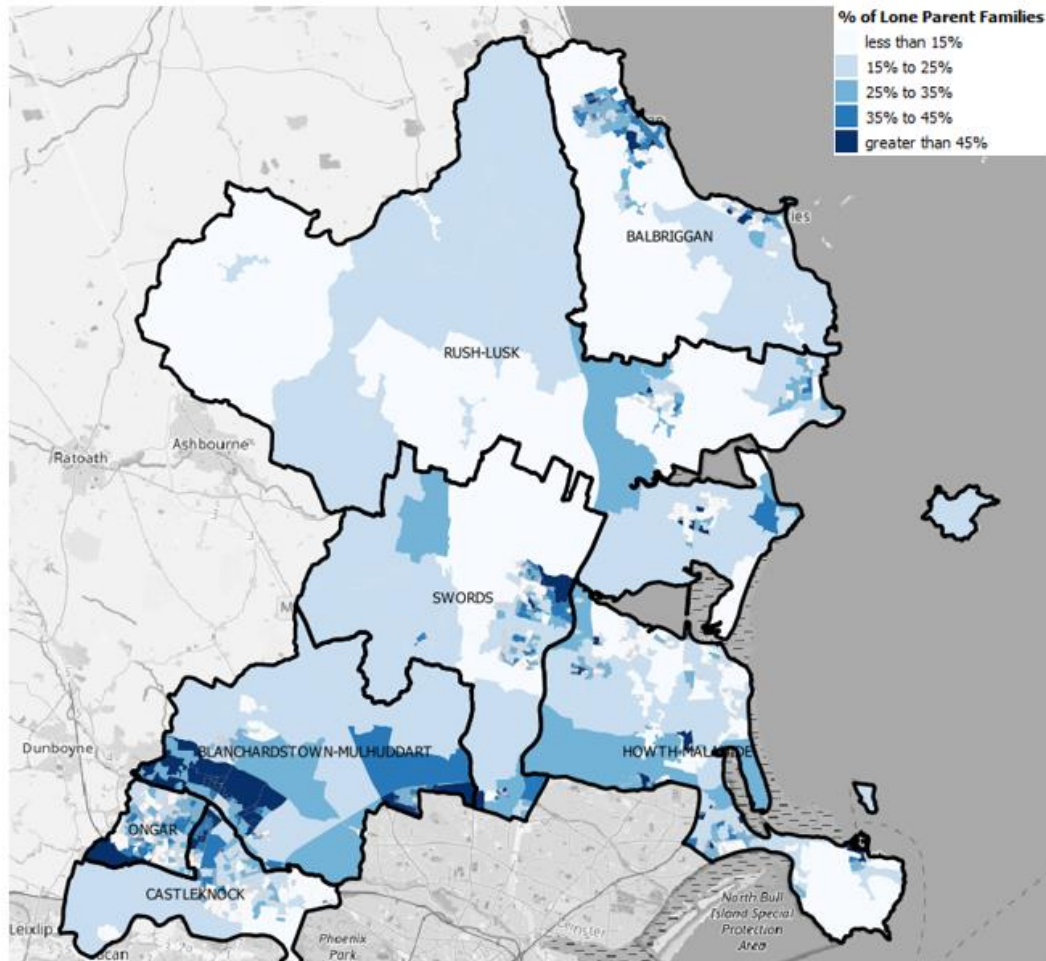


Graph 2.7 Families by Type. Source: Census 2022

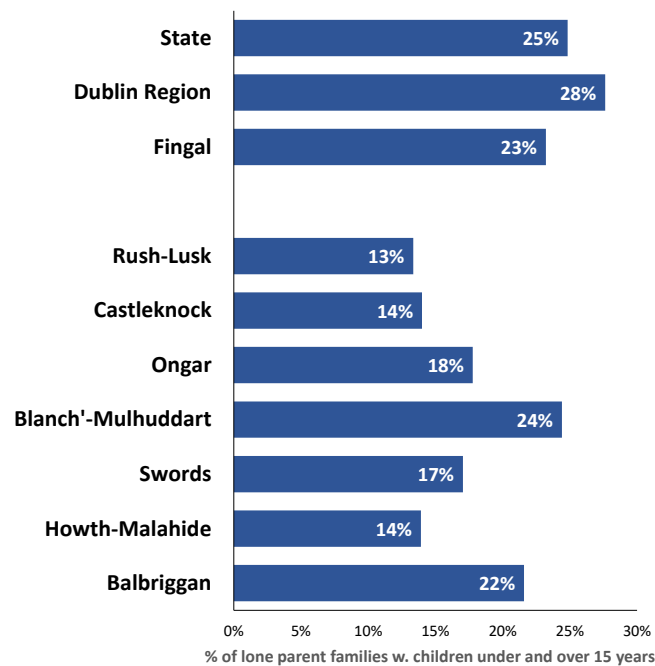
- There is a far higher proportion of families classified as ‘early-school’, ‘pre-adolescent’ and ‘adolescent’ in Fingal when compared to the State averages.

2.7 One Parent Families

- In Fingal, according to Census 2022 One Parent Families with children aged under and over 15 years account for 23% of the total families. This is slightly lower than the State average of 24.8%. Further analysis was carried out on these figures and showed that of the total families with children aged under 15 years, lone parents accounted for only 17.5% of these.
- Despite the low overall rate of lone parents, when the data is mapped and examined at a small area level there are extremely high rates of lone parents in some parts of Fingal. The geographical spread of lone parents is examined in Graph 2.8 and Map 2.6. These graphics highlight the differences in the rate of Lone Parent Families in the LEA, with the highest proportions in Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart and Balbriggan. The map also highlights how some areas have proportions of families classed as Lone Parent Families greater than 45%.



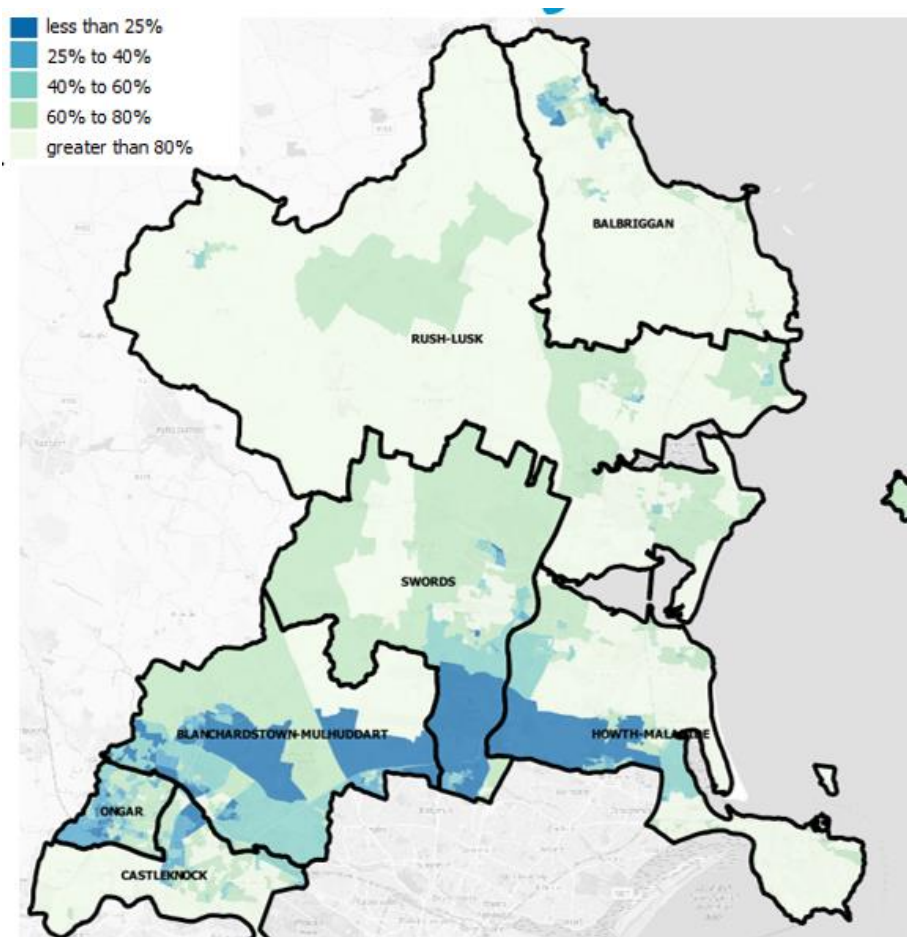
Map 2.6 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022



Graph 2.8 One Parent Families as a % of total families. Source: Census 2022

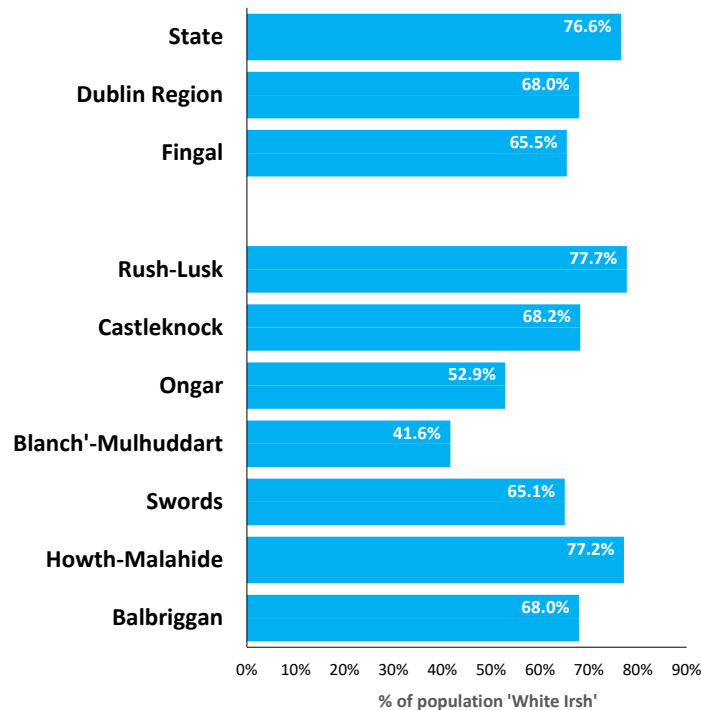
2.8 Ethnicity

- Fingal is an extremely diverse area when compared with the State and regional averages. This is highlighted below in Graph 2.9 and Map 2.8 with the proportion of population classified as 'White Irish' according to Census 2022.
- Map 2.7 below highlights how areas with the lowest proportions of population classified as 'White Irish' are in Blanchardstown, St. Margarets, Ongar and Balbriggan.



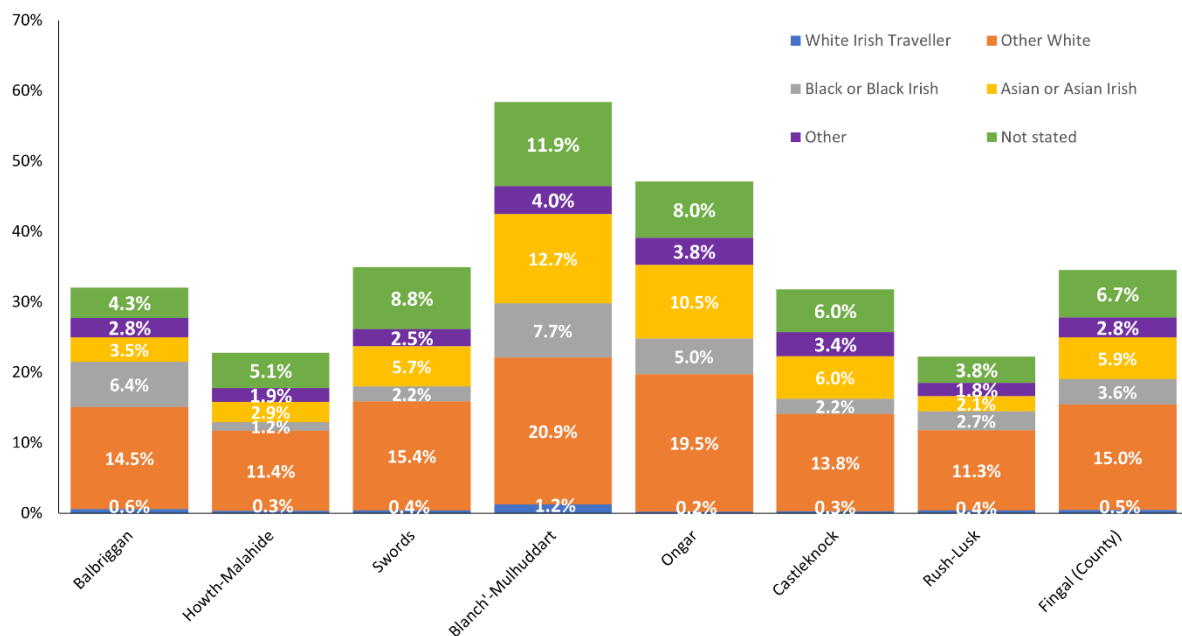
Map 2.7 Population classified as 'White Irish' Source: Census 2022

- Graph 2.9 below shows how the proportion of population classified as 'White Irish' is lower in Fingal when compared with the State average. The graph also shows the distribution of low proportions of 'White Irish' in Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart and Ongar.



Graph 2.9 Population classified as 'White Irish' Source: Census 2022

- Graph 2.10 below highlights the proportions of population belonging to each of the ethnic minority groupings¹² by LEA and as published by the CSO for Census 2022.

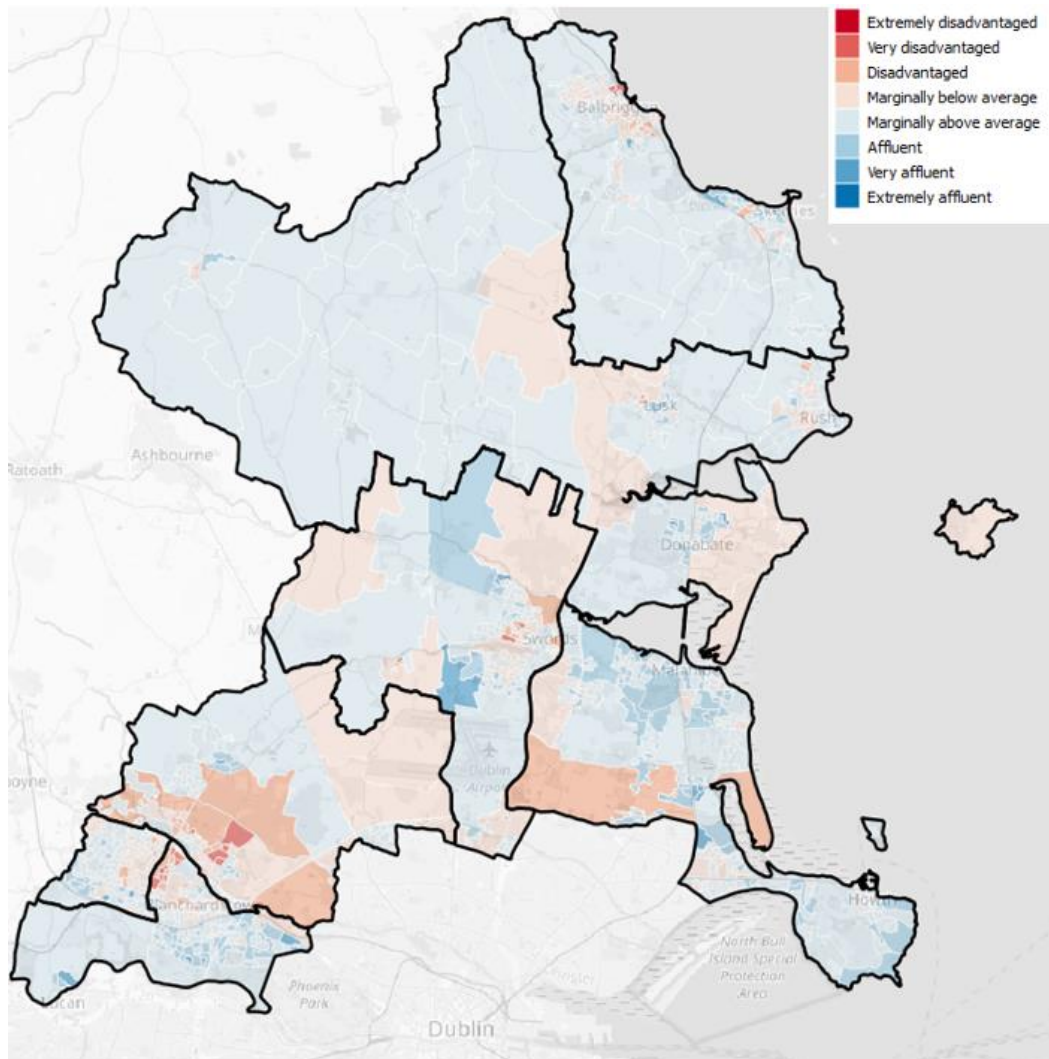


Graph 2.10 Population by Ethnic Minority Groupings. Source Census 2022

¹² The ethnic group of White Irish is not included in this graphic as it would dwarf the other groups and make them illegible.

2.9 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

- The 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation in 18,919 Small Areas (SAs) in 2022 in Ireland based on the Relative Index Scores for 2022. Within Fingal there is a clear distribution of the most affluent areas in the east, south and some rural areas. While clusters of high levels of deprivation are evident in Blanchardstown, Ongar, Swords and Balbriggan (Map 2.8).



Map 2.8 Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022. Source: Pobal

- Despite having an overall level of less disadvantage in Fingal County, within some areas, there are extremely disadvantaged communities when compared to other areas in Fingal. These areas include:
 - Blanchardstown:** Corduff, Dromhearth, Whitestown and Fortlawn
 - The Ward:** Rivermeade
 - Swords:** St Cronan's
 - Balbriggan:** Lambreecher/Bath Road and Pinewood

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index uses a range of indicators from the Census including housing, education levels and employment. As outlined in this socio-demographic profile when compared

with other areas in the Dublin region there are high levels of home ownership, high levels of education and high levels of employment.

According to Fingal CYPSC stakeholders, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index is not capturing the significant proportion of the population in Fingal that are working in minimum wage or industrial wage employment with high-cost mortgages as well as facing the significant increase in the cost of living as of late.

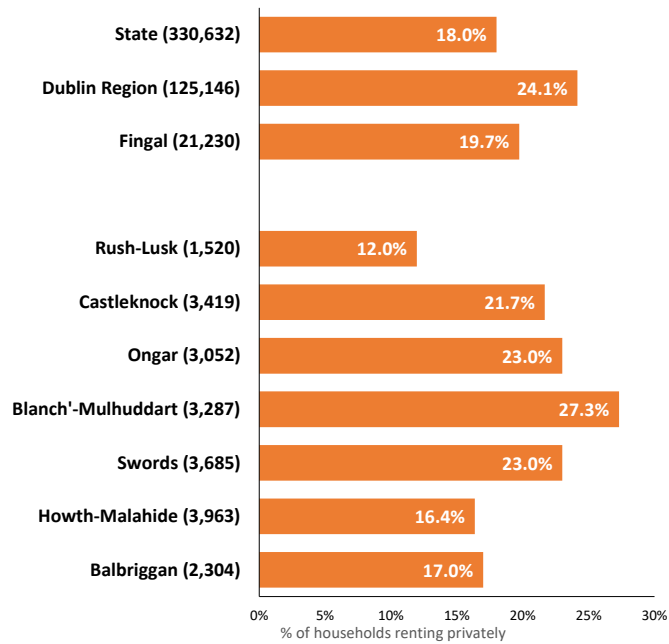
2.10 Housing Tenure

	Households by housing tenure					
	Owned with mortgage or loan	Owned outright	Rented from private landlord	Rented from Local Authority	Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body	Occupied free of rent
State	28.9%	37.0%	18.0%	8.3%	1.6%	1.7%
Fingal (County)	38.5%	28.5%	19.7%	6.6%	1.7%	0.9%
Balbriggan	39.1%	27.8%	17.0%	10.4%	1.8%	1.1%
Howth-Malahide	35.4%	39.9%	16.4%	2.9%	1.2%	1.1%
Swords	37.9%	25.7%	23.0%	6.2%	1.4%	0.8%
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart	36.0%	10.6%	27.3%	14.7%	4.9%	0.5%
Ongar	46.2%	20.1%	23.0%	3.3%	1.6%	0.4%
Castleknock	33.0%	34.3%	21.7%	5.9%	0.7%	0.9%
Rush-Lusk	45.3%	29.6%	12.0%	6.8%	1.5%	1.2%

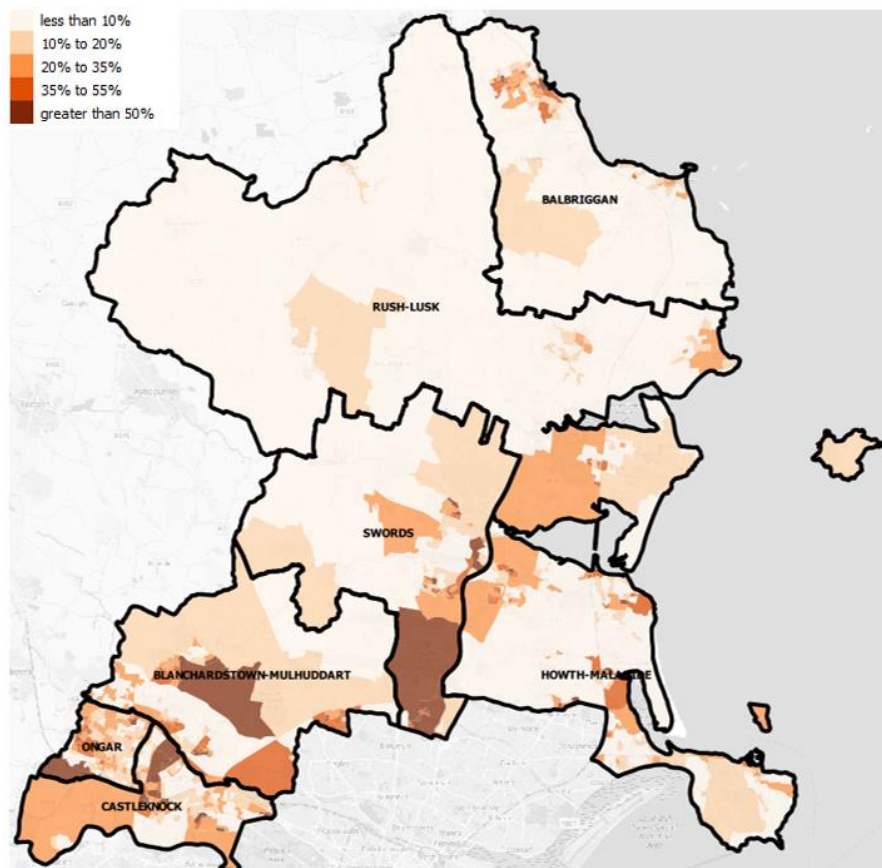
Table 2.3 Households by housing tenure (Source: Census 2022)

As outlined in Table 2.3 above, the rate of social housing (rented from local authority or voluntary co-operative housing body) is lower in Fingal when compared with the State. The result of this is an over-reliance on the private rented housing market for social housing.

- Data shown in Graph 2.11 and Map 2.9 highlight the importance of private rental accommodation to house families in some areas in Fingal. Overall, the rate of private rental accommodation in Fingal is lower when compared to the Dublin Region according to Census 2022 and higher than the State average.
- Despite a low county average, there are some areas in Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, Ongar and Swords where the reliance on the private housing market exceeds the Dublin Regional average. Graph 2.10 shows the proportions of private rented housing by LEA while Map 2.10 maps the distribution by small area.
- Some areas in Blanchardstown and Ongar have rates of private rented that exceed 50%.



Graph 2.11 Proportion of households renting privately. Source: Census 2022



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

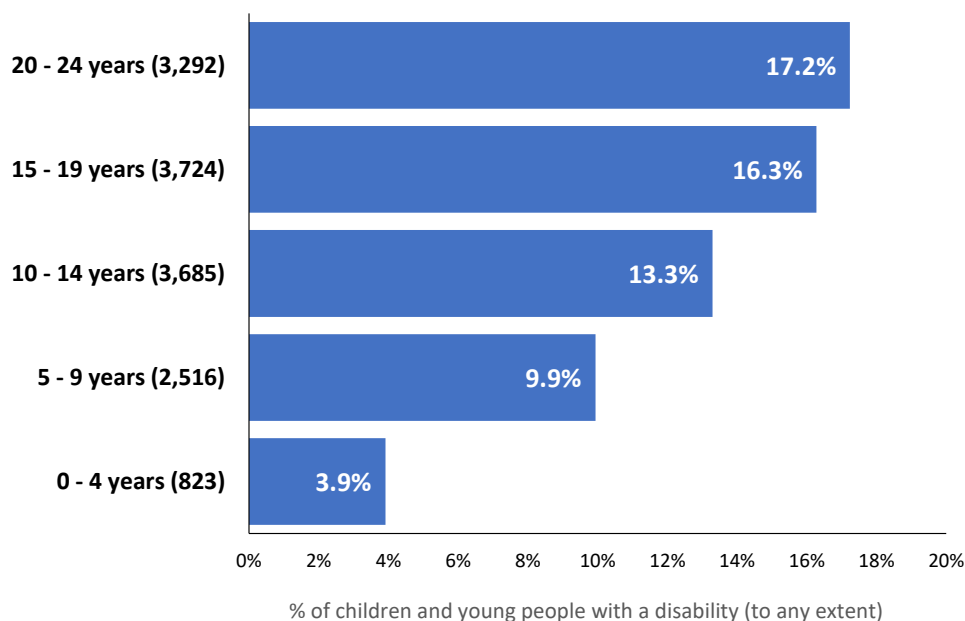
2.11 Homelessness

- As of 2022, there were 2,816 parents with children on the social housing waiting lists in Fingal County Council. This figure had decreased slightly from the 2020 figure of 2,999. (Social Housing Waiting List, Fingal County Council.)

- Family homelessness in the Dublin region 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 Region Homeless Executive, 2022).
- In the week ending 30 April 2023, there were 8,665 adults accessing local authority managed emergency accommodation in Ireland, and 6,288 of these were in the Dublin region (of which 2,283 were female and 4,005 were male). In terms of nationality of these adults in the Dublin region, 54% (3,407) were Irish, 25% (1,592) were from the EEA/UK, and 21% (1,289) were from the rest of the world.
- In the same period (week ending 30 April 2023), there were 1,263 families accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin region (the highest proportion in the country) which included 2,722 child dependents (out of 3,594 nationally or 76% of child dependents) and 2,610 adults.¹³

2.12 Children with a Disability

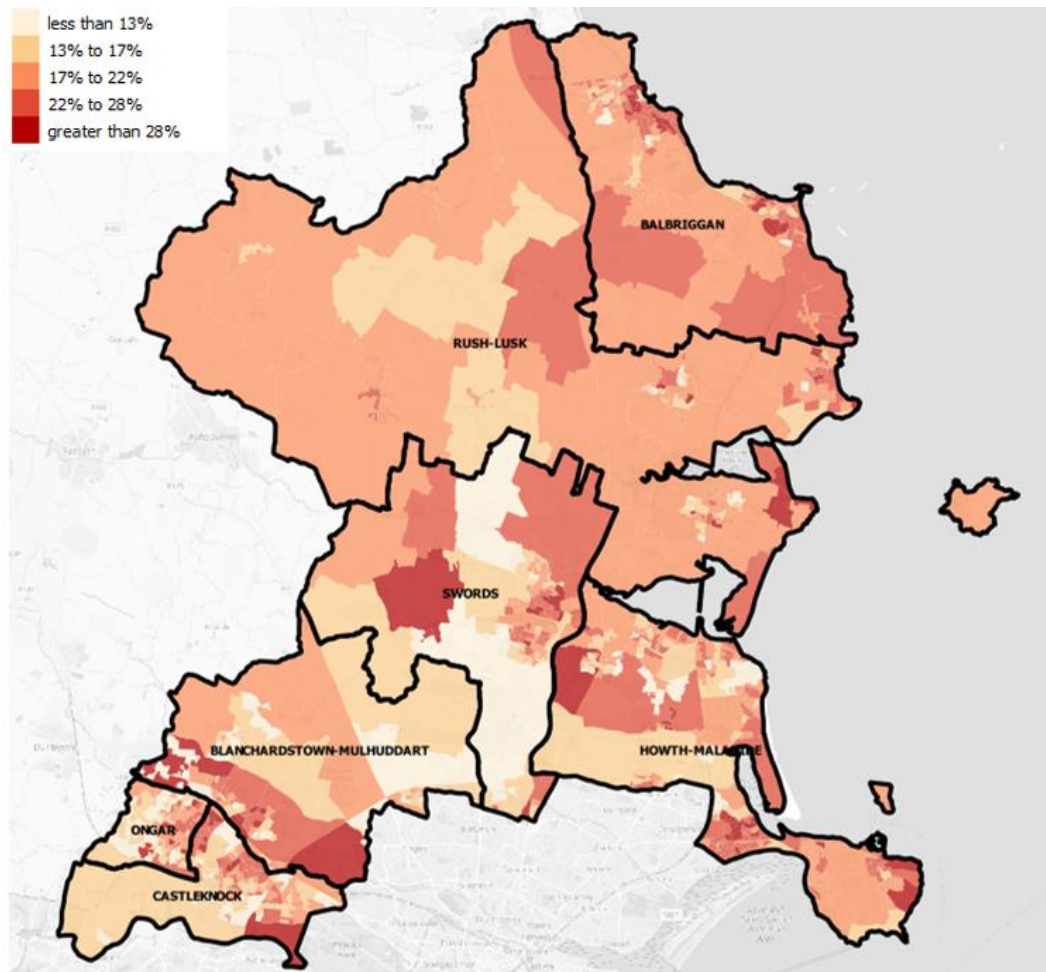
- According to Census 2022, there were 14,040 children and young people in Fingal with a disability. This figure represents 18% of the population aged 0 to 24 years.
- Graph 2.12 breaks down this figure by age group as well as the proportion of the total children in that age group.



Graph 2.12 Proportion of children and young people with a disability. Source: Census 2022

- Graph 2.12 breaks down this figure by age groups as well as the proportion of the total children in that age group.
- Map 2.10 shows the proportion of population with a disability by small area in Fingal according to Census 2022. Areas of high proportion are distributed throughout Fingal.
- Areas with the highest rates of children or young people with a disability in Fingal of over 23% include Sutton, Lissenhall, Delwood, Tyrellstown and Turnapin.

¹³ Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (April 2022). Monthly Homelessness Report and data specifically from Fingal is not available.



Map 2.10 Proportion of population with a disability. Source: Census 2022

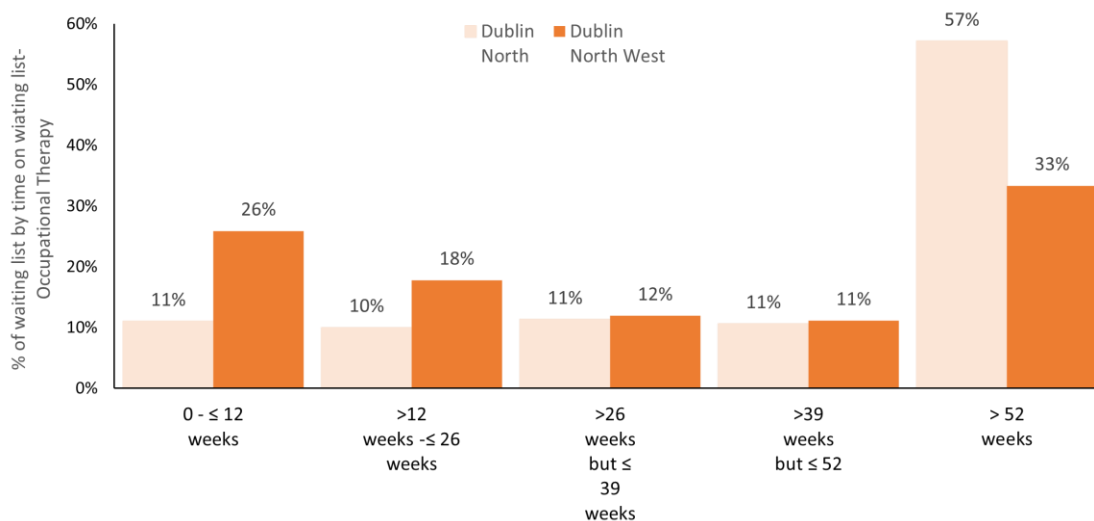
2.13 Waiting Lists

- Table 2.4 outlines the numbers of children aged 0 to 17 years awaiting services in Dublin North and Dublin North West Local Health Offices (LHO), both based in Fingal as of May 2022 according to the HSE.¹⁴

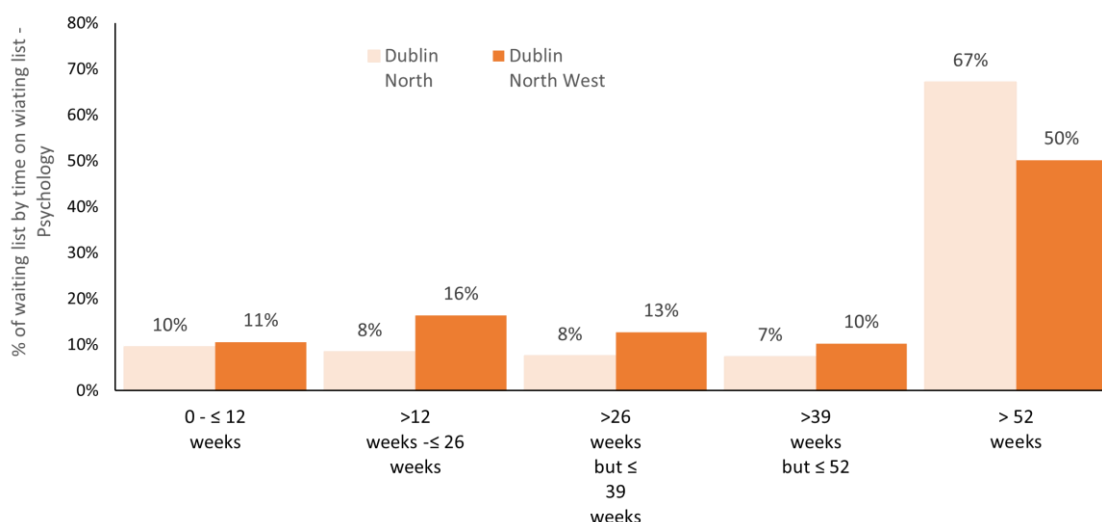
	Dublin North West	Dublin North
Psychology Treatment	899	892
Occupational Therapy	630	991
Physiotherapy	399	458
Speech and Language Therapy (Initial Assessment)	320	
Speech and Language Therapy (Initial Therapy)	351	909
Speech and Language Therapy (g Further Therapy)	459	1,363
Dietetics	160	168

Table 2.4 Waiting List for HSE children's services as of May 2022

¹⁴ Source: [National Disability Services \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie).



Graph 2.13 Proportion of children waiting for a psychology assessment by length of time



Graph 2.14 Proportion of children waiting for an Occupational Therapy assessment by length of time

- As outlined in Graph 2.14 and 2.15 above, of the children awaiting either an Occupational Therapy or Psychology assessment most are waiting over 52 weeks for their initial assessments in the Dublin North and Dublin Northwest LHOs.
- According to the latest Parliamentary Questions¹⁵ (PQs) there has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people waiting to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from 2,755 in December 2020 to 4,434 at the end February 2023 nationally.
- In 2021, information on the waiting lists for CAMH services was made available at Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Level of which there are nine. Fingal is within CHO Area 9 and the data was made available by PQ¹⁶. In March 2021, there were 259 children and young

¹⁵ Source: [Mental Health Services – Thursday, 20 Apr 2023 – Parliamentary Questions \(33rd Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas.](#)

¹⁶ Source: [pq-47739-21-mark-ward.pdf \(hse.ie\).](#)

people waiting to be seen by CAMHS in CHO9 which accounted for more than 10% of the national figure of 2,384.

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

- According to the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF)¹⁷ in 2020, the rate of self-harm for females aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 477 which is 1 per 100,000 females aged 10 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the Dublin North West LHO (576.6) and lower than the average in the Dublin North LHO (453.0).
- According to the NSRF¹⁸ in 2020, the rate of self-harm for males aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 250.7 per 100,000 males aged 10 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the Dublin North West LHO (358.6) and lower than the average in the Dublin North LHO (93.7). The rate in Dublin North West was the second highest in the country and in Dublin North the rate was the lowest.

2.15 Suicide

- In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) provides mortality data including deaths by suicide. Death due to intentional self-harm is classified as an unnatural death and therefore, must be referred to the Coroner for investigation. This investigation can take a protracted length of time to complete for various reasons (such as getting medical reports, health and safety reports, engineer's reports, the involvement of the Director of Public Prosecutions etc.) and delays the registration of such deaths. Data from the CSO is published in different stages: 1. Numbers of deaths are provided firstly based on the year of registration – 'provisional' 2. They are revised later, by year of occurrence – 'official' 3. Finally, they are revised later again, to include 'late registrations'. The 2022 statistics below are 'provisional' and subject to change should more deaths be registered as suicide in subsequent years.
- According to the CSO Vital Statistics,¹⁹ in 2022 there was a suicide rate of 4.4 in Fingal. This rate was lower than the State rate of 8.1.

2.16 Drugs and Alcohol Treatment

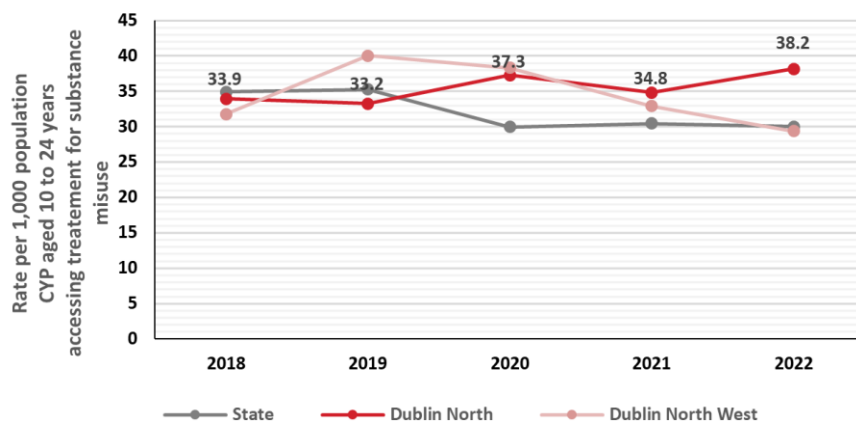
- Information on the number of young people aged 24 years and under accessing treatment for alcohol and drug problems is published by the Health Research Board.²⁰ The information is released at the Local Health Office Level (LHO) of which there are two: Dublin North and Dublin North West.
- In 2022, 352 children and young people residing in the Fingal area accessed treatment for drug and alcohol use. This figure equated to a rate of 38.1 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 24 years in Dublin North and 29.4 in Dublin Northwest. The rate in Dublin North was the fifth highest in the country in 2022 and exceeded the national rate of 30.

¹⁷ [National Suicide Research Foundation – National Suicide Research Foundation \(nsrf.ie\).](https://www.nsrff.ie/)

¹⁸ [National Suicide Research Foundation – National Suicide Research Foundation \(nsrf.ie\).](https://www.nsrff.ie/)

¹⁹ Source: [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office.](https://www.cso.ie/en/publications/vitalstatistics/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2022/)

²⁰ Source: [Latest data \(hrb.ie\).](https://hrb.ie/)



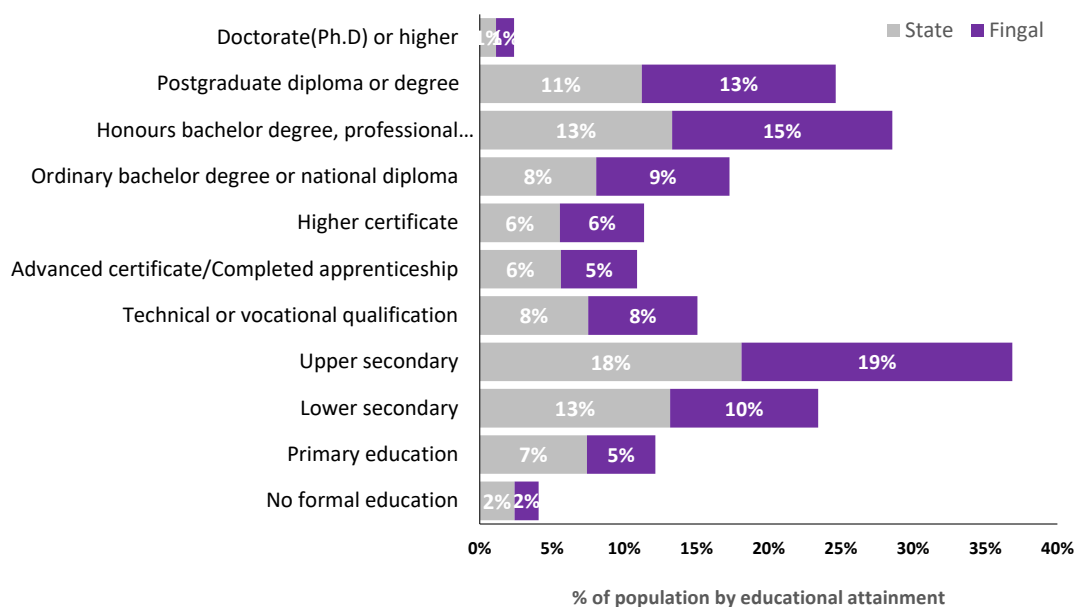
Graph 2.15 Young people (10 to 24 years) accessing treatment for drugs and alcohol (2018 to 2022).
Source: HRB 2023

- As outlined in Graph 2.12, the rate of young people accessing treatment for substance misuse has increased in Dublin North between 2018 and 2022 while in the same period, decreases have been evident in Dublin North West and at a State level.

2.17 Education

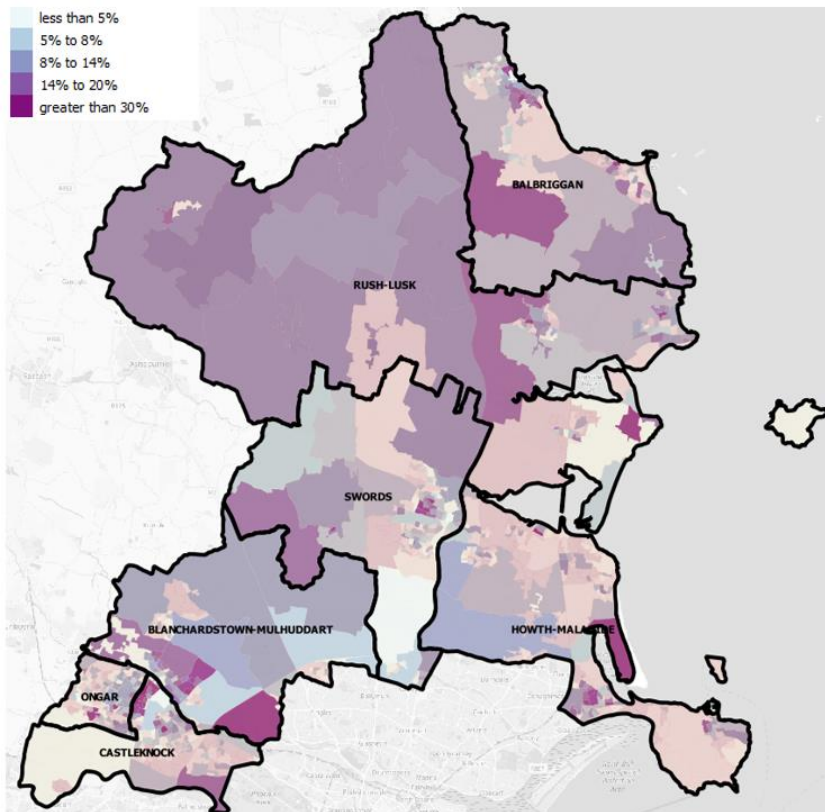
Educational Attainment

- According to Census 2022, 202,630 (or 61.3% of the total population) people in Fingal had completed their education. Graph 2.16 highlights the distribution of educational attainment in Fingal and makes a direct comparison of averages with the State.



Graph 2.16 Proportion of population by Educational Attainment. Source: Census 2022

- When compared with the State, Fingal has a higher-than-average attainment in education levels. Despite this, Map 2.11 highlights the distribution of population with no formal or primary only education in Fingal. Clusters of small areas with low levels of education are evident in Swords, Balbriggan and Blanchardstown.



Map 2.11 Proportion of population with No Formal or Primary Only Education. Source: Census 2022

Early Years

According to the Pobal *Early Years* report in 2020/21:²¹

- There were 19 community childcare providers and 284 private childcare providers of Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare services in Fingal.
- With a total of 1,176 vacant childcare places, there was a vacancy rate of 20%.
- €214.30 was the average weekly fee for childcare in Fingal, the second highest in the country.

Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Retention

- Leaving Certificate retention rates are published by the Department of Education²² 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 five or six years. This information is released by the county which includes Dublin County and not the four local authorities.
- According to the Department of Education²³ in 2016, 4,189 young people began secondary school in Fingal. Of these, 97.4% completed their Junior Certificate and by 2021 92.4% had completed their Leaving Certificate. 318 young people in Fingal in the 2016 cohort did not complete their Leaving Certificate.

²¹ Source: [Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020 2021 \(pobal.ie\)](https://www.pobal.ie/en/early-years/annual-early-years-sector-profile-report-2020-2021).

²² Source: [gov.ie - Retention \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/retention/).

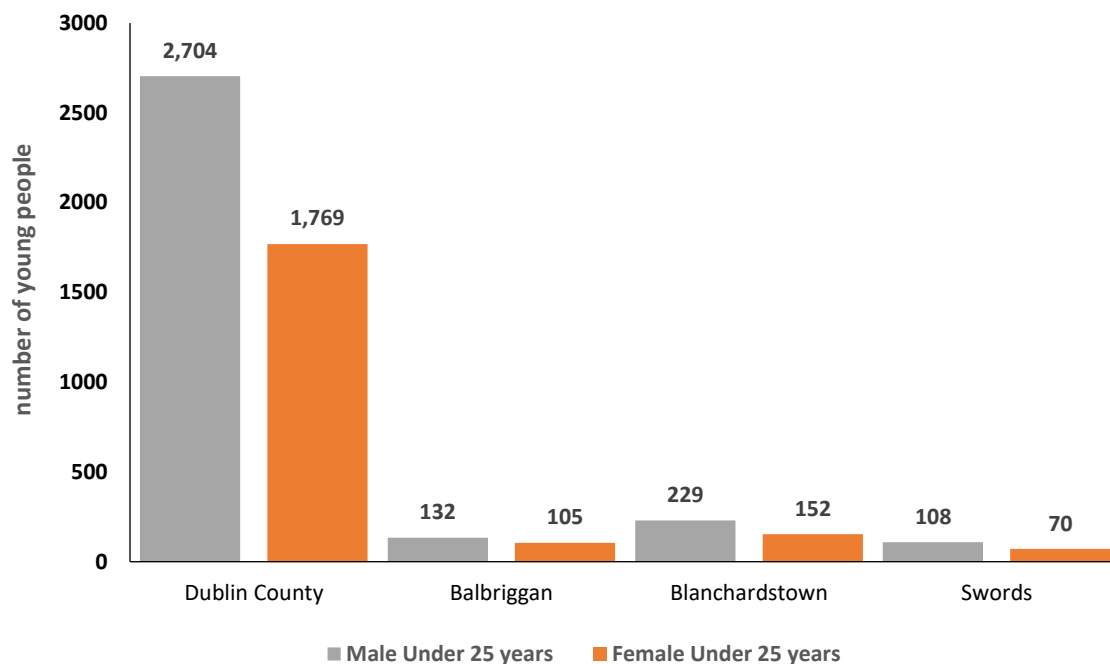
²³ [gov - Ministers Foley and Harris announce publication of latest Education Indicators for Ireland report \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/ministers-foley-and-harris-announce-publication-of-latest-education-indicators-for-ireland-report/).

School absenteeism

- According to the latest published data available,²⁴ in the 2021-22 school year Dublin had one of the highest percentages of 20-day absences from primary school (12.3%). This was above the national average of 11.0%.
- At the post-primary level, the figure for the same period in Dublin was 13.4% just above the national average of 12.9%.

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 who are signing on. There are three Department of Social Protection offices in Fingal: Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Swords.



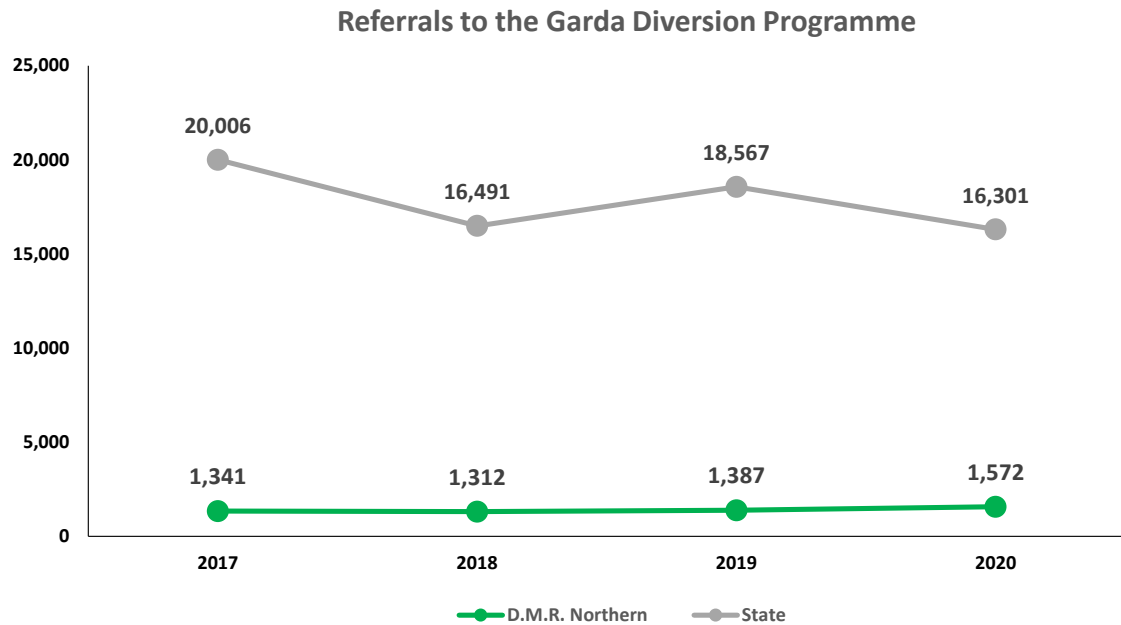
Graph 2.17 Young people (24 years and under) signing on the Live Register. Source: Department of Social Protection and CSO 2023

- As of November 2023, there were 796 young people aged 25 years and under signing on to the Live Register in Fingal. This accounted for nearly 17% of the total young people signing on the live register in the Dublin Region (Graph 2.17).

2.17 Garda Youth Diversion Programme

- The Garda Youth Diversion Programme (GYDP) is a national initiative provided for in the Children's Act 2001. It aims 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 Fingal, there are five GYDPs.
- The latest published data available is for 2020 of which the Dublin Metropolitan Northern Region (DMRN. Region) received 1,572 referrals to the programme. This represented an increase of 17% since 2017 (Graph 2.18).

²⁴ [AAR SAR 2019 22.pdf \(tusla.ie\)](#).



Graph 2.18 Referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme. Source: Garda Youth Diversion Programme and CSO 2023

2.18 Tusla Referrals and Children in Care

- According to the Tusla Data Hub,²⁵ in 2022 there were 2,097 children referred to Tusla in Dublin North. This equated to a rate of 20.1 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 17 years. When compared with the other 17 Integrated Service Areas (ISAs) boundaries as outlined by Tusla, this rate is the fifth highest in the country.
- The rate of 20.1 in 2022 also represents significant growth in the rate of referrals in the Dublin North ISA as it was only 9.6 in 2017.
- Between Q4 2017 and Q4 2022 the number of referrals has increased by 110.3% in the Dublin North ISA. This is greater than the State average of 60.4%. Also, in this time period the number of referrals for welfare issues has increased by 133.4% from 365 in Q4 2017 to 852 in Q4 2022 and the number of referrals for emotional abuse increased by 148.5% from 237 to 589.
- In the Dublin North ISA, the rate of children in the care of Tusla is one of the lowest in the country at 3.6 (per 1,00 population aged 10 to 17 years) in 2022. Dublin City North had the highest at 9.5 and Dublin South East/Wicklow the lowest at 2.3.
- Finally, as of Q4 2022, there were 2,223 cases open to social work (as defined by Tusla) currently open in Dublin North of which only 7.3% had an allocated social worker. This was below the State average of 22.8% and the third-lowest rate in the country when compared with the other ISAs.

²⁵ [Tusla Data Hub - Performance and Activity Data.](#)

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

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

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 are best illustrated by the Hardiker Model, and have been categorised as such in the listing.

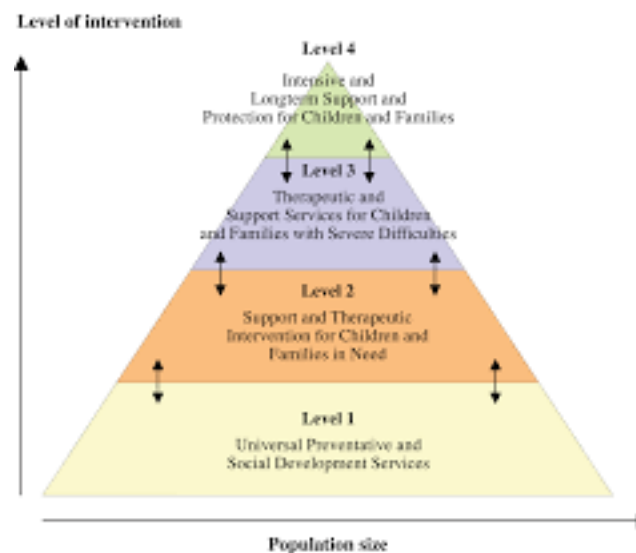


Figure 3.1: Hardiker Model. (Source: Hardiker et al, 1991)

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1. Health, Social and Family Supports			
Barnardos	Children's charity working with vulnerable children and their families. Includes intensive family support work, home-based parenting support, one-to-one and group work with children, early years community childcare; bereavement services; national wellbeing service, child and family focused programmes; and assessments on (SOS-Tusla) model. 4 services in 2 locations in D15.	Community and Voluntary	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. Provides early years services; assessment (SOS -Tusla); therapeutic supports; family supports; and Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for families. Two bases in Fingal in Balbriggan and one in Dublin 15.	Community and Voluntary	Universal (early years) Targeted 3-4
Fingal County Council (FOC)	FCC provides a range of public services; social, housing, community and welfare services and homelessness supports. There are 5,000 acres of public open space; 98 playgrounds, 4 skate parks, 35 tennis courts, 170 pitches for a range of sports, 9 all-weather pitch facilities, 4 cricket grounds; 14 multi-use games areas; 1 baseball pitch and 1 x 6 lane all weather running track. 10 libraries, 4 mobile library services, house bound service; and substantial online resources, 35 community centres and 183 sports clubs.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-4
EPIC	Works with and for children and young people who are currently living in care or who have experience of living in care.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3
Extern	Provides services to young people to decrease the risk of their current placements breaking down and to assist young people to return home if necessary. Also to reduce level of risk that young people engage in.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3
Family Resource Centres	Four Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in Fingal all supported and funded by Tusla. Providing a range of community, family and child supports. Aster FRC in Balbriggan, Mountview FRC Blanchardstown and Baldoyle FRC employed by local voluntary management committees. Wellview FRC in Mulhuddart employed by Tusla and work on a referral basis.	Statutory and Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1. Health, Social and Family Supports			
Health Service Executive	Provide public health and social care services in primary care centres and hospitals (18 PC and HC) and hospitals (1). Services include screening and vaccinations, mental health, primary care, disability, addiction, dental, sexual health, audiology and carers support. Primary care teams include GPs, public health nurses, occupational therapist, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, social workers, dieticians, smoking cessation and other healthcare professionals. Urgent medical help is provided through GP out-of-hours service, Injury Units and Emergency departments.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Tusla Child and Family Agency	The statutory agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. Includes a range of support services including alternative care; Family and Community Support including Family Resource Centres, Meitheal and Family Support Service; Child Protection and Welfare; Education Welfare Service; Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Service; Prevention, Partnership and Family Support and Preschool Inspections.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Youth Advocacy Project (YAP)	Intensive support programmes for young people and families. YAP Ireland uses a strengths-based, family-focused approach for young people with complex needs leading to positive outcomes for the young people, their families and referral agents.	Statutory	Targeted 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1.2 Homelessness			
St Vincent De Paul	The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides long-term accommodation for people in need. They have two projects in the county; one in Malahide and one in the North County.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-4
Peter McVerry	Provides a range of homeless supports services in Fingal. Four Family Hubs operational in Fingal.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-4
Crosscare	Delivers a youth service in the Swords area. Providing information and advice to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. A food bank is also provided.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-4
Respond	Respond, a construction-led Approved Housing Body and service provider, has been working all around Ireland for over 40 years. Their vision is that every family and individual in Ireland will have high-quality housing as part of a vibrant and caring community. In Fingal, Respond provides two daycare services for older people and 547 social and cost rental homes.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3-4
Threshold	Provides advice and advocacy; housing and support to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Clients access the service through a freephone line, video consultation, or webchat.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1.3. Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services			
Aoibhneas	Located in the city area but serving North Dublin; provides a refuge, 24-hr helpline; outreach service; drop-in service; court preparation and training.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3-4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1.3. Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services			
Sonas	Provides an emergency help number; crisis intervention; refuge in D15, advice, outreach and visiting support; individual and group support to women and children; court accompaniment; and preventative and awareness work.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3-4
Women's Aid	Provides outreach service in Swords and Coolock, for which the catchment area is effectively the north side of Dublin City and County.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3-4
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	24-hr helpline, crisis counselling, long-term therapy, outreach, accompaniment (sexual assault treatment unit, Garda court) and training.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3-4
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Social work department in Fingal addresses issues of domestic violence. Three teams, with a complement of 31 social workers, are based in Coolock, Blanchardstown and Swords and cover the geographical area along the east coast from Howth to Balbriggan.	Statutory	Targeted 3-4
Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU)	The Rotunda Hospital provides the principal sexual assault treatment unit for Dublin, including North Dublin.	Statutory	Targeted 3-4
Amen	Located in Meath and outreach from Dolphin House in Dublin. The only dedicated support service for male victims of domestic abuse in Ireland providing crisis intervention, helpline support and face-to-face supports to victims.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 3
St Clare's Unit Assessment (Temple Street)	Assessment and therapy service based in Temple St Hospital for children, young people and their families where sexual abuse is a concern. Referral only by Tusla Social Work. Phone advice provided to concerned parents.	Statutory	Targeted 3-4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
1.4 Traveller/Roma and Migrant Support			
Blanchardstown and Balbriggan Traveller organisation	Two services directly working for and with Traveller and/or Roma population in Fingal. Fingal Travellers Organisation and Blanchardstown Travellers Organisation. Range of services including, education, training, inclusion, advocacy, personal development, healthcare, etc.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
Cairde	Cairde, a national health organisation, works to tackle health inequalities among minority ethnic communities. Providing individual advocacy and information services to ethnic minorities. Supporting groups to take an active role in the analysis and redress of the issues affecting them. They have a base in Balbriggan.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
Balseskin Reception Centre	Balseskin is a reception centre contracted by the Department of Justice and Equality to provide initial reception services to persons entering the State and seeking international protection. This centre is on the outskirts of Fingal and borders the Dublin City boundary.	Statutory	Targeted 2-3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
2. Education and Support Services			
Primary and Secondary Schools	96 primary schools (13 have DEIS status, 4 of these schools are in North Fingal, 8 are in West Fingal and 1 is in the centre of Fingal), Four special national schools in Fingal . There are 38 post primary schools in Fingal (5 have DEIS status, 2 in West Fingal, 2 in North Fingal, 1 in Swords).	Statutory	Universal
National Educational Psychological Service	National Educational Psychological Services (28 psychologists in Fingal) 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.	Statutory	Targeted 2
Tusla Education and Welfare Service including School	The Child and Family Agency's Educational Welfare Services work together collaboratively and cohesively with schools and other relevant services to secure better educational outcomes for children	Statutory	Targeted 2-3 and Universal

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
2. Education and Support Services			
Completion Projects/Home School Community Liaison Service	and young people. There are 8 Educational Welfare Officers and 2 Senior EWO in Fingal. Primary and secondary schools supported alongside School Completion Projects. 11 Home School Community Liaison Coordinators are assigned to 19 primary and post-primary schools. Five SCP operational in Fingal supporting 9 primary schools and 28 secondary schools.		
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board	Provides a range of educational and support services including a range of accredited and non-accredited courses, primary schools (3) second-level schools (12), Youthreach centres (4) and centres of Further Education (2).	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-3
Blanchardstown Community Training Centre (CTC)	Blanchardstown CTC provides training, educational and employment-related services for young people (16–21 years) in a friendly and informal manner.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2
Dublin City University (DCU)	Based on the outskirts of Fingal, provides a range of supports to linked schools in the community to address educational disadvantage.	Statutory	Universal
Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)	Based in Blanchardstown, provides a range of supports to linked schools in the community to address educational disadvantage.	Statutory	Universal

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
3. Early Years Prevention and Intervention			
Fingal County Childcare Committee (FCCC)	FCCC provides advice and information to support parents find an early years' service. FCCC also provides a range of supports to early year's providers including information and advice on the three Government schemes, National Practice Guidelines (Síolta & Aistear), accredited and non-accredited	Community and Voluntary	Universal and targeted 1 and 2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
3. Early Years Prevention and Intervention			
	training opportunities, child protection, compliance with Pre-School Regulations and funding requirements.		
Early Years Services	273 private early years services registered crèches, Montessori's providing a range of day and sessional activities and development services to children up to five years of age. There are 17 Parent and Toddler Groups in Fingal and 33 after-school services.	Community and Voluntary	Universal 1
Community based Not for Profit Early Years Services in Fingal	There are 6% community based not for profit childcare services in Fingal.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted
Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services	As well as providing two family centres in Fingal, DOC also provides supports to families in Fingal through its Dublin Safer Family Service on the outskirts of Fingal in Santry.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
4. Youth Clubs and Projects/Resources			
Crosscare and Foróige Youth Services	There are six UBU youth Services operational in Fingal, one in Swords (Crosscare), Balbriggan, Coastal North Dublin, Tyrellstown, Blanchardstown and Huntstown (Foróige), offering a broad range of groups including LGBTQI+, health and social supports, information, and activities for 10 years up to 24 years. UBU Your Place Your Space – is a youth funding scheme that targets disadvantaged young people.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
4. Youth Clubs and Projects/Resources			
Foróige Youth Clubs	22 Foróige youth clubs listed in the Fingal service directory and they are also running an Early School Leavers Programme. This directory is under review and a new All Dublin Hub will be launched over the course of this plan.	Community and Voluntary	Universal
Sports Clubs	84 sports clubs listed in the Fingal service directory. This directory is under review and a new All Dublin Hub will be launched over the course of this plan.	Community and Voluntary	Universal
LGBTI+	Local projects and programmes established in youth services. LGBTQ+ book club in Balbriggan and one LGBTI club in D15.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
5. Policing and Youth Justice			
An Garda Síochána	Nine Garda stations in Fingal (Garristown, Balbriggan, Skerries, Lusk, Malahide, Swords, Dublin Airport, Howth and Blanchardstown) provides 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. Not all stations are full time.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP)	Five GYDPs operational in Fingal: WEB YDP, ORB YDP, BEAT YDP, North Fingal YDP and JETS. The projects seek to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour.	Statutory	Targeted 2
Young Persons Probation (YPP)	Works with children and young people aged 12 to 18 who come before the courts, including those who are in the Oberstown Children's Detention Campus, Lusk. Also involved with Youth-JARC (Joint Agency Response to Crime), which works with repeat or prolific offenders in the Dublin 15 area. YPP funds or	Statutory	Targeted 3-4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
5. Policing and Youth Justice			
	part-funds various projects that are specific to young people in the county. There are five YPP officers covering Fingal.		
Oberstown Children's Detention Centre	Oberstown Children's 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, so that they are capable of making positive and productive contributions to society. Two educational centres on the campus cater for all the young people who are detained there. Located directly in Fingal CYPSC catchment area but a major point of referral for all Dublin districts.	Statutory	Targeted 4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
6. Drug and Alcohol Services			
Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT)	Two CDATs address the growing drug and alcohol problem in the Dublin 15 area that is affecting individuals, families and the wider community.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Responsible for the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy at a local level; provides information, education, funding, responses and support for addiction-related issues including family support services. Blanchardstown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force and North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force operate in Fingal.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
HSE Addiction Services	Four HSE satellite clinics providing treatment outreach services in the community to drug users 18+, including nurses, GPs, counsellors and general assistants. These are not operational on a full-time basis. HSE Addiction Services provides clinics for dispensing and treatment, plus needle exchanges, outreach and rehabilitation services. Residential beds available in Ireland. Rutland Centre (18+) (Dublin South); Keltoi (18+) (Phoenix Park); Cuan Mhuire (Cork, Kildare, Galway, Limerick and Down). Peter	Statutory	Targeted 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
6. Drug and Alcohol Services			
	McVerry Residential Detoxification (Dublin 1). Access to Residential detox beds available at a number of centres throughout the country as needed from HSE.		
Traveller Programme	Addiction outreach service for the Traveller Community. Integrated care pathway for Travellers and their families seeking support with drug and alcohol misuse. There are currently two services operating in Fingal within primary care settings in Blanchardstown and Balbriggan.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-4
Youth	Crosscare drug and alcohol programme (DAP) for young people (12–24) Swords. Foróige D15 Youth Drug Education and Prevention Project. CÚIS project – drug and alcohol support service targeted at young people aged 12–24 in Balbriggan.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth (SASSY)	Comprehensive assessment and individual care plan. Individual counselling and cognitive therapy. Health education and advice. Support and education for families.	Community and Voluntary	3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
7. Mental Health Supports			
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	CAMHS is a specialist service for people under the age of 18 with moderate to severe mental health difficulties; the team is comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists. There are 4 teams in Fingal Blanchardstown, Blakestown, Balbriggan and Swords.	Statutory	Targeted 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
7. Mental Health Supports			
Adult Mental Health Supports	Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS) provides specialist mental health care to working age adults. Most services will have teams made up of psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health nurses and social workers.	Statutory	Targeted 2-4
Traveller Counselling Service	Community-based counselling service for the Traveller Community. Available nationally. One location in Fingal.	Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
Jigsaw	Provides mental health support services for young people aged 12 - 25. Two bases: D15 and North Fingal (Balbriggan and Swords).	Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
GROW	Mental health organisation which helps people who have suffered, or are suffering, from mental health problems. There is one group in Balbriggan.	Voluntary	Universal
Community Counselling Service	Five services (Fingal Counselling Service, Genesis, Daughters of Charity, Crosscare Teen Counselling and SAMH Youth Counselling) provide free counselling, support, information and referral to teens experiencing mental health difficulties.	Voluntary	Universal
Hospital Services	St Patrick's University Hospital (D8), St Vincent's Hospital (adolescents 16–18 years), day patients, D3; Temple Street, mental health, social work and psychology; St Ita's, Portrane. The new National Forensic Mental Health Hospital is being built in Portrane.	Statutory	Targeted 3-4
Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention	Provides information and advice to communities impacted by suicide and supports the delivery of suicide awareness training.	Statutory	Universal
Pieta	Provides one-to-one therapeutic services for young people at risk of self-harm or suicide. One base in Swords and outreach in Balbriggan and Blanchardstown.	Voluntary	Targeted 3-4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
8. Disability-Specific Interventions			
Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT)	<p>There are 2 disability teams in Fingal. The Dublin North disability team has 3 CDNTs: 1. Balbriggan CDNT- CRC, 2. Swords CDNT- CRC and 3. Coastal CDNT (Baldoyle)- St. Michaels House. The Dublin West team has 2 CDNT.</p> <p>Blanchardstown CDNT- Avista and Blakestown CDNT- Avista. CDNTs provides specialised support and services for children who have a disability and complex health needs associated with their disability. Each HSE Disability Team is managed by a Disability Manager. Each area has its own case managers and admin team.</p>	Statutory	Targeted 2-3
Community and national information and support	National organisations such as Irish Autism Action, Irish Society for Autism, ASPIRE; multiple local community and private services including education, family support programmes, respite, and supportive services in Fingal.	Community and Voluntary	Targeted 2-3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
9. Employment, Social Inclusion and Legal			
Empower Local Development Company and Fingal Leader Partnership	Two local development companies established: Fingal Leader Partnership and Empower. Providing a range of employment, education, training and support services to communities, including Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Intreo Offices	5 Intreo offices serving the people of Fingal. Offering 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. Swords, Balbriggan, Blanchardstown. (Finglas and Kilbarrack also cover parts of Fingal.)	Statutory	Targeted 2

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Community & Voluntary	Hardiker Level
9. Employment, Social Inclusion and Legal			
Local Area Employment Service (LAES)	Two Local Area Employment Services. Empower in Dublin 15 and Ballymun Job centre covering parts of North County Fingal.	Community and Voluntary	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)	There are two MABS offices in Fingal (Swords and Blanchardstown) offering a range of supports such as budgeting advice, negotiating with creditors to achieve sustainable payment solutions and personal insolvency options. And also a specific MABS service that serves Fingal.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted 1-2
Free Legal Aid Centres (FLAC)	Responsible for the provision of legal aid and advice on matters of civil law to persons unable to fund such services from their own resources. Also, provide a family mediation service. Three FLAC centres in Fingal in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan.	Statutory	Targeted 2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis for Fingal

4.1 Overview

This section sets out the needs of children, young people, and their families in Fingal as well as the priority areas and actions that have been agreed by CYPSC members to respond to these needs over the coming years. This needs analysis is informed by socio-economic data, service mapping for the region, and the results of consultations with nearly 2,000 key stakeholders, including 963 children and young people, 932 parents/guardians and 242 service providers working with children, young people and families in the Fingal region in late 2023.

The key questions that are addressed in this section are:

- How are children and young people in Fingal doing in relation to each of the priority areas for children and young people?²⁶
- What did the consultations tell us in relation to each of the priority areas?
- Are there sufficient services in relation to each of the priority areas?
- What are Fingal CYPSC's local priority needs and objectives for each outcome area and what are the rationale for these?

This section is broken down as follows:

- **Sections 4.2 to 4.6** summarise the results of the consultations thematically, according to the five Young Ireland National Outcome Areas:
 - **Active and Healthy**
 - **Achieving in Learning and Development**
 - **Safe and Protected from Harm**
 - **Economic Security and Opportunity**
 - **Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World**
- **Sections 4.2 to 4.6 also** outline the local priority thematic areas and objectives that have been identified for this *Children and Young People's Plan*, along with the background and rationale for same.

²⁶ The five national outcomes for children and young people are defined in Young Ireland, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2023 – 2028). They are: Active and Healthy, Achieving in Learning and Development, Safe and Protected from Harm, Economic Security and Opportunity and Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World.

4.2 Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

During the consultations with over 2,000 people in Fingal that were carried out for the purpose of developing this CYPP, children and young people as well as parents/guardians said that some of the best things about living in Fingal were having lots of sports activities and facilities as well as activities for children and young people. When asked what the most significant challenges facing them were, young people identified body image, mental health problems, school pressures and stress, family problems/stresses, pressure to vape or smoke and stress/worry/anxiety. Parents also raised concerns about children's and young people's mental health in Fingal.

When asked what they wanted to change in Fingal, parents, children and young people called for the following things in relation to 'Active and Healthy':

- More activities in general for children and young people
- More accessible mental health services and supports
- A response to vaping and substance misuse
- Support for young people feeling pressure to look or behave a certain way

Service providers working with children, young people and families stated that mental health problems were one of the biggest challenges for children and young people in Fingal. This was followed by long waiting times for services and stress/worry/anxiety.

The following are the Fingal CYPSC Local Priority Themes and Objectives within Outcome 1: 'Active and Healthy'. These have been identified through the process of developing this *Children and Young People's Plan*.

Active and Healthy: Local Priorities and Objectives	
Priority 1: Youth Mental Health	
Objective 1:	Improve access to mental health services for young people.
Objective 2:	Support those on waiting lists for Mental Health services.
Objective 3:	Improve body image of young people in Fingal.
Objective 4:	Raise awareness of mental health promotion initiatives in Fingal.
Objective 5:	Support the delivery of suicide prevention and self-harm reduction initiatives.
Priority 2: Youth Physical Health and Wellbeing	
Objective 1:	Children and Young People in Fingal Are Active and Healthy.

Priority 1: Youth Mental Health

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- In 2021, information on the waiting lists for CAMH services was made available at the Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Level of which there are nine. Fingal is within CHO Area 9 and was made available by PQ.²⁷ In March 2021, there were 259 children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS in CHO 9 which accounted for more than 10% of the national figure of 2,384.
- According to the NSRF,²⁸ the rate of self-harm for females aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 477.1 per 100,000 females aged 0 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the Dublin Northwest LHO (576.6) and lower than the average in the Dublin North LHO (453.0).
- According to the NSRF,²⁹ the rate of self-harm for males aged 0 to 24 years in Ireland was 250.7 per 100,000 males aged 0 to 24 years. The rate was higher than the national average in the Dublin Northwest LHO (358.6) and lower than the average in the Dublin North LHO (93.7).
- According to the CSO Vital Statistics,³⁰ in 2022 there was a suicide rate of 4.4 in Fingal. This rate was lower than the State rate of 8.1.

Despite there not being a very high suicide rate in the Fingal area when compared to other areas, the Regional Office for Suicide Prevention (ROSP) in CHO 9 have indicated there has been an increase in suspected suicides coming to their attention. The high rates of self-harm among young people in Fingal as well as the high waiting lists show that there is a mental health problem among children and young people that needs to be responded to.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

During the consultations with over 2,000 children and young people, parents and guardians and service providers across Fingal, it became clear that issues related to young people's mental health were of concern to all stakeholders. Topics such as difficulties accessing mental health services, negative body image, the negative impact of bullying and social media, and anxiety and stress among children and young people in the region were raised repeatedly by the three groups – young people, parents and service providers.

Within the consultations for this CYP:

- 21% said children and young people did not feel positive about things or have good mental health.
- 26% of children and young people said that body image was the biggest challenge facing children and young people at present followed by mental health problems at 14%.

Young people within the focus groups (especially females), described how social media groups and apps were negatively impacting them, making them feel vulnerable to online bullying and pressure to look a certain way. Young people also described how they had waited a long time to access counselling services and when they eventually got access, they felt the service was not suited to them as it was short-term and/or the focus was on medication rather than therapeutic supports. They felt they needed more on-going and long-term therapy and support.

²⁷ Source: [pq-47739-21-mark-ward.pdf \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/eng/press/2021/pq47739-21-mark-ward.pdf).

²⁸ [National Suicide Research Foundation – National Suicide Research Foundation \(nsrf.ie\)](https://www.nsrfl.ie/).

²⁹ [National Suicide Research Foundation – National Suicide Research Foundation \(nsrf.ie\)](https://www.nsrfl.ie/).

³⁰ Source: [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](https://www.cso.ie/en/publications/vital-statistics-yearly-summary-2022/).

When asked what needs to change in relation to health, many young people called for things that would support their mental health, such as faster access to quality mental health services when they need them, limiting social media and better access to mental health promotion and supports such as education, opportunities to be active, and youth-friendly places where they can meet and socialise with friends.

Parents raised concerns about children's and young people's mental health in Fingal. When asked what the biggest challenges for children and young people were in their view, 25% said that the impact of social media was one of the most significant challenges facing young people in Fingal. Other challenges according to parents that related to mental health included long waiting time for services, body image, drug use and general mental health problems.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Service providers were concerned about young people's mental health including the long waiting times for mental health and other services. 41% felt that mental health problems were one of the biggest challenges for children and young people; 80% did not feel there were enough mental health services for children and young people in the region, and nearly 60% said that mental health supports should be one of the top three priorities for decision makers.

When service providers were asked what should be improved or achieved over the next three years in the Fingal region, they called for several things related to mental health including a one-stop-shop for mental health services and better collaboration to increase accessibility and shorten waiting lists, suicide prevention training and planning, trauma-informed awareness and training, and body image education campaigns.

A common issue that arose was the fact that even if services do exist, many do not have sufficient capacity to meet demand and support young people's mental health effectively or in a timely manner.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Other research in Dublin and nationally has highlighted similar concerns among young people and adults about the mental health of young people and gaps in supports for them, some of which was carried out in the context of COVID-19. Planet Youth³¹ research found concerning data in relation to mental health and wellbeing indicators including body image. This included the normalisation of substance use, only half reporting feeling happy with their body, and over half of respondents reporting that someone has told them that they are thinking about completing suicide.

Jigsaw and UCD's (2019) My World 2 survey found that the biggest stressors in Community Health Office Area 9 (which includes Fingal) were school, exams and homework, and 9% of males and females reported a suicide attempt compared to 6% nationally. It also found that females were more likely to report deliberate self-harm than males.³² National research published 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

³¹ NDRDATF (2022) 'Improving health outcomes by understanding the lived experiences of young people in North Dublin': North Dublin Risk and Protective Factors Planet Youth Report 1; Dublin. Ireland. Merlin Press.

³² Jigsaw My World Survey.

friends,³³ and the negative impact of social media on depression and anxiety has been discussed by many.³⁴

The *National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report*³⁵ stresses the vital role that schools have to 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 Dublin City North region 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.

The Irish Government published *Sharing the Vision, A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* in 2022. The vision of this policy is 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 Ireland's 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. One of the key 'spotlight' areas of focus in *Young Ireland*, the Government's new framework for children and young people published in 2023, is mental health and wellbeing. Some relevant planned actions that aim to respond to these needs and challenges include that, 'no child with a complex need, including a mental health issue will be taken into State care as a consequence of insufficient service provision', exploration of the methods and means of youth suicide, and exploration of suicide prevention training for 16 to 18-year-olds.³⁸

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the mental health needs of children and young people identified through the development of this Plan in a variety of ways. These are by:

- Improving access to mental health services for young people in Fingal;
- Supporting those on waiting lists for mental health services in Fingal;
- Improving the body image of young people in Fingal;
- Raising awareness of mental health promotion initiatives in Fingal; and
- Supporting the delivery of suicide prevention and self-harm reduction initiatives in the region.

For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6.

Priority 2: Youth Physical Health and Well-being

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- According to a HSBC Survey: 61.9% of children who participated in the survey in the Dublin region report 'being happy with the way they are'.³⁹
- 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 region (State = 51.1%).²⁰

³³ Office of the Ombudsman (2022).

³⁴ Coyne S. et al. (2019) 'Does Time Spent Using Social Media Impact Mental Health?: An Eight Year Longitudinal Study'.

³⁵ Department of Health (2017) National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report 2017.

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*.

³⁸ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *Young Ireland, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People*.

³⁹ [SCA16 - Well-being and Life Satisfaction of Children 10 - 17 years \(cso.ie\)](#).

- In 2018, 81.9%% of children reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week in the Dublin region (State = 78.2%).²¹
- In 2018, 6.5% of children reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day in the Dublin region (State = 6.7%).²²

The Fingal CYPSC area has experienced significant population growth over recent times and has resulted in extreme demands on health services in the area as seen through the significant waiting list data. Local evidence gathered from service providers indicates that the negative outcomes of lengthy waiting lists and lack of services are far greater than is indicated in some of the data above.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

All the biggest challenges for children and young people that were raised by parents are related to the health outcomes of their children. Parents also stated that sports facilities for children and young people need to be improved in Fingal.

Parents, service providers and young people noted the fact that it can be hard to access physical health services such as doctors, dentists, physiotherapists etc., and that they can wait for a long time or find the costs of such health services prohibitive.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Overall, the service mapping and consultations undertaken for the development of this plan have identified many challenges when it comes to the provision of and access to health and related services in Fingal. These include long waiting times for disability and mental health assessments and appointments; inadequate or inappropriate services when received; staff shortages and a lack of capacity among organisations to meet demand; as well as a lack of information about the services that do exist, their eligibility requirements, how to access them and how to navigate the system.

As a result, many service providers and parents involved in the consultations called for better access to services for children, young people and their families living in Fingal. They also repeatedly raised the need for more information on services that do exist, better communication by those services, and the need for more supports for families to know how to navigate the system. Other issues that were raised in relation to gaps in services included the need for more family therapy services, inadequate physical environments, and a lack of understanding among providers/staff of service users' needs.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Planet Youth consultations with young people in the same region in 2022 also found mixed results in relation to physical health and wellbeing. While 63% rated their physical health as good or very good, only just over half reported playing sports outside of school at least once a week, with girls exerting themselves less than boys. In addition, only 32% of the respondents in the research said there was a lot to do in their neighbourhood.

The Children's Rights Alliance (CRA) has criticised the Government for not developing a 'Public Health Obesity Act', arguing that children in disadvantaged situations are more likely to have unhealthy food which has negative health implications.⁴⁰ In its observations to the Irish

⁴⁰ Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card. Available at: <https://childrensrights.ie/publications/report-card-2023/>.

Government in 2023 on health-related matters, the UN Committee on the rights of the child recommended that it strengthen the availability and affordability of quality health care for children, including extending free GP care to all children, abolishing hospital charges for children, taking measures to eliminate discrimination against minorities and ensure their access to healthcare, including issuing them with medical cards, reduce waiting lists, resource the *National Traveller Health Action Plan (2022 – 2027)* and provide adequate health care and support for intersex children and their families.

The Government has several policies and plans aimed at promoting and protecting good health among the Irish population. These include *Healthy Ireland, a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing (2013 – 2025)* which aims to ensure that everyone enjoys physical and mental health and wellbeing in Ireland to their full potential; *Sláintecare* – a ten-year programme that aims to improve health and social care services; *A Healthy Weight for Ireland* which is Ireland's *Obesity Policy and Action Plan (2016 – 2025)*; as well as the *National Sports Policy (2018 – 2027)* and the *National Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2023 – 2027)* which aim to increase participation in sport and outdoor recreation. There are also specific strategies for some minority groups including Travellers and disadvantaged communities.

One of the priorities of *Young Ireland* is play and recreation, and key actions include that there will be adequate provision of play and recreation spaces in urban areas; increasing the number of children and young people to achieve 'an optimum level of physical activity'; and by working with the LCDC, build the capacity of local authorities to develop more vibrant, creative and sustainable places.

Fingal's LCDC is also planning to promote physical health and wellbeing in the region in the coming years. Fingal's draft *Local Economic and Community Plan (2024 – 2029)* (currently nearing completion) contains high-level goals which align with Fingal CYPSC's plans. Under the theme of 'healthy, inclusive, connected communities' the LECP aims to, 'Increase participation in active living and physical and mental activities to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.' Also, under the theme of 'rich arts, culture and heritage' it aims to, 'Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.'⁴¹

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the physical health needs of children and young people in Fingal over the next three years by re-establishing a physical health steering group to support the delivery of Healthy Ireland funding; applying for and distributing Healthy Ireland funding; and engaging with Healthy Fingal Coordinator in Fingal County Council.

⁴¹ Fingal County Council Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2028 (2023) 'Public Consultation Summary and Finalised Vision and High-Level Goals'. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-local-community-development-committee-lcdc>.

4.3 Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development

According to the consultations carried out for the purpose of the CYPP, children and young people as well as parents concurred that one of the best things about living in Fingal was good schools or good supports in school, however, they also felt that school pressures/stress (e.g. exam pressures) was a significant challenge facing children and young people in Fingal.

School pressures were raised in consultations by young people too, along with the need for more flexibility around uniforms and other rules, and less homework or shorter school days. While the need for more, easier and more timely assessments for ASD and ADHD as well as SLDs (specific learning disorders) were also mentioned repeatedly within consultations by parents.

The following are the Fingal CYPSC's Priority Thematic Areas and Objectives within Outcome 2: 'Achieving in Learning and Development' that have emerged from the process of developing this *Children and Young People's Plan*.

Achieving and Learning: Priorities and Objectives
Priority 1: Supporting Children and Young People in Education
Objective 1: Support marginalised/at risk children and young people to remain in school education.
Objective 2: Support all children and young people to remain in mainstream education.
Objective 3: Investigate accredited tailored educational opportunities for 11- to 16-year-olds who require alternative educational placements.
Priority 2: Children and Young People with Additional Needs
Objective 1: Provide supports to families with children and young people with additional needs.

Priority 1: Supporting Children and Young People in Education

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- Data from Census 2022 shows that overall, there are higher than average rates of participation in third level education in Fingal when compared to the national average.
- According to the Department of Education⁴² in 2016, 4,189 young people began secondary school in Fingal. Of these, 97.4% completed their Junior Certificate and by 2021, 92.4% had completed their Leaving Certificate. 318 young people in Fingal in the 2016 cohort did not complete their Leaving Certificate.
- A special cross-tabulation from Census 2016, shows that over 80% of travellers had ceased education before they were 17 years old.⁴³
- 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.

⁴² [gov - Ministers Foley and Harris announce publication of latest Education Indicators for Ireland report \(www.gov.ie\).](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/education-indicators-for-ireland-2021/)

⁴³ Data (cso.ie).

Of these, 1,204 primary school students and 687 post-primary students were in County Dublin.⁴⁴

High education levels of the working age population in Fingal can at times hide the extent of the population that has low education levels in Fingal. Low education can be more prevalent in ethnic minority groups as well as people living in disadvantaged areas leading to poorer economic prospects. With far higher rates of ethnic minority groups than in other CYPSC areas, the proportion of population at risk of leaving education with no formal or lower secondary is far greater in Fingal.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Of the 119 children and young people who felt school pressures/stress were a significant challenge, 69% were female and 34% were male. Nearly 70% of them identified as white Irish, 11% identified as 'other white background' and 8% identified as having a 'mixed group/background'.

Young people from an alternative education service discussed enjoying the range of subjects available to them and felt that they were learning skills that they would use in the future and would support access to employment. Young people also reported appreciating the smaller class sizes and not having to wear a school uniform. While students in mainstream education settings described how their classes were very large and they did not always enjoy their subjects. They also discussed exam stress and how there was significant pressure placed on them from Junior and Leaving Certificate programmes.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Of the 147 people working with children and young people who completed a survey online, 75% (n=110) did not agree that there are enough education services for children and young people in Fingal. Parents echoed these sentiments as 26% said there was a need for more education supports and 22% said there was a need for more alternative education supports for young people.

Analysis of the consultations undertaken for the development of this Plan in the area of learning and development shows a clear need for more education supports for children and young people in Fingal. Needs that were identified repeatedly by parents, service providers and young people themselves during the consultations included the need to ensure equality of access to education and school readiness; the need for more supports to help young people remain in school as long as possible, including targeted supports for those who are marginalised, at risk, or have additional needs; and more alternative education options at a younger age for those who do leave school early.

What does other research and policy tell us?

A consultation carried out in Fingal in 2022 also asked young people about their experiences of education and got similar responses. The consultation was carried out by Planet Youth⁴⁵ and 2,677 young people aged 14 – 16 took part. While 72% said they felt safe in school, 36% of females and 22% of males reported often or always feeling bad in school and around half of students

⁴⁴ 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>.

⁴⁵ NDRDATF (2022) 'Improving health outcomes by understanding the lived experiences of young people in North Dublin': North Dublin Risk and Protective Factors Planet Youth Report 1; Dublin. Ireland. Merlin Press.

reported being bored at school. In addition, 22% found schoolwork too hard, 18% wanted to quit school and 27% reported that adults at their school notice when they are having a hard time and offer to help them.

These local consultations in Fingal echo the national consultations with children and young people that took place as part of the development of the new national policy framework for children and young people, *Young Ireland*. The national consultations showed that young people were mostly happy in and enjoying school, however, they would like less stress/pressure, less homework, and more support for pupils with learning difficulties, marginalised young people, and those with special educational needs.

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, that 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.⁴⁶

The membership organisation the Children's Rights Alliance has repeatedly raised concerns about educational inequalities in the country, particularly the educational disadvantage that poor and marginalised children and young people face, including Roma and Traveller young people. They have called for an expansion of the Home School Community Liaison programme to non-DEIS schools and for an increase in the number of Educational Welfare Officers in the Tusla Education Support Service (TESS). The Government committed to the latter in budget 2024.⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸ *Young Ireland*, the new national Government policy framework, acknowledges that the Government needs to ensure greater inclusion in education, especially for marginalised groups and prioritises this in its action plan. Planned actions include targeted measures to improve the educational outcomes of Roma and Traveller children and young people, including the development of a new Traveller and Roma Education strategy.

The Department of Education's *Statement of Strategy 2023 – 2025* also includes a number of goals which aim to address needs that were identified in Fingal, including improving the learning experience to meet the needs of all children, ensuring equity of opportunity in education and, 'Developing an education system that welcomes every child and young person and meets their educational needs irrespective of background or ability.'⁴⁹ Actions include providing supports to children at risk of educational disadvantage through TESS, reducing the retention and achievement gap between schools in the DEIS programme and non-DEIS schools and supporting children experiencing poverty through the expansion of the free book scheme and the hot meals programme.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the education needs identified in Fingal in a variety of ways, including by:

⁴⁶ ESRI (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring?

⁴⁷ Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Press Release: Education Investment is key to breaking cycle of poverty in budget 2024. Available at <https://childrensrights.ie/press-release/education-investment-is-key-to-break-cycle-of-poverty-in-budget-2024/>

⁴⁸ Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2021) Statement of Strategy 2021 – 2023.

⁴⁹ Department of Education (2023) Statement of Strategy 2023 – 2025.

- Supporting marginalised/at risk children and young people to remain in school education.
- Supporting all children and young people to remain in mainstream education.
- Investigating accredited tailored educational opportunities for 11- to 16-year-olds who require alternative educational placements.

For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6.

Priority 2: Children and Young People with Additional Needs

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- According to the HBSC⁵⁰ 38.6% of children in Ireland reported that reading was one of their hobbies in 2012. By 2018 this proportion had decreased to 30.8%.
- According to Census 2022, there were 14,040 children and young people aged 0 to 24 years in Fingal with a disability to any extent. This figure represents 18% of the population aged 0 to 24 years.

The proportion of children and young people reporting having a disability or long lasting health condition is growing in Ireland as well as in Fingal according to data gathered in Census 2016 and 2022.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

The need for more ADHD and ASD assessments is an issue which is causing huge frustration for many parents as they are having to wait for long periods for their children to have their needs assessed - which is time that they are going without the required supports. Then when assessments take place there can be further long delays caused by bureaucracy and long waiting lists before children get access to support or children have aged out of the service and require further referrals.

Some parents of children with disabilities talked about the challenges that this brings for them as they: try to provide supports themselves without the necessary qualifications or training; see their children struggling in school; lose out on opportunities and find it hard to navigate the system, and to advocate for appropriate supports more quickly.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Of the 147 people working with children and young people who completed a survey online, 75% (n=110) did not agree that there are enough education services for children and young people in Fingal. Parents echoed these sentiments as 26% said there was a need for more education supports and 22% said there was a need for more alternative education supports for young people.

Forty per cent of service providers who responded to the survey said supports for children and young people with additional needs should be in the top three priorities for decision-makers.

Overall, a key challenge for services that was highlighted repeatedly was a lack of adequate staffing and resources in many relevant agencies (in addition to or instead of a lack of actual

⁵⁰ [SCA34 - Children aged 15 who reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies \(cso.ie\).](#)

services). The negative impact that these gaps in staffing, and particularly in specialised staff, were having on waiting lists was highlighted.

What does other research and policy tell us?

The results from the consultations in relation to learning and development, young people, parents and service providers working in Fingal believe there is a need for more supports for young people with additional needs in the area to help them reach their full potential, educationally and otherwise.

The Ombudsman for Children has reported similar experiences from families who have made complaints to them, including difficulties in securing appropriate school places for children with special educational needs, particularly for children with autism in Dublin, Cork and Clare.⁵¹

The Children's Rights Alliance has also raised the challenges of children getting access to developmentally appropriate and needs-based early childhood education and care. It acknowledges that the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) has helped support children with disabilities, however, it criticises the fact that it is only available to pre-school children over the age of two years and three months and therefore younger children may not be receiving supports that they need.⁵²

The Department of Education's *Statement of Strategy 2023 – 2025* aims to ensure equity of opportunity in education for all regardless of ability. It plans, among other things, to encourage high standards in education for children and young people, including those with additional needs.

The new national framework for children and young people *Young Ireland*, also prioritises inclusion in education, with actions focusing on the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities. This includes ensuring that all children are supported to avail of inclusive education in mainstream schools by implementing the National Council for Special Education's *Inclusive Education Framework*, as well as a focus on initial teacher education and CPD and ensuring adequate supports for integrated classes. There is also a plan to review the in-school therapy pilot project with a view to scaling up the therapeutic supports nationally.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the needs identified in Fingal through the provision of supports to families and young people with additional needs, including:

- Delivering training/supports to parents and organisations supporting children and young people with additional needs;
- Delivering a series of thematic webinars on disability, inclusion and family support;
- Work on understanding the CDNT in Fingal;
- Delivering workshops to those on waiting lists for services;
- Supporting the development of Parent Led Autism Networks (PLAN) in Fingal; and
- Developing a leaflet on Support Pathways for Children with Additional Needs.

For more information on these actions and associated targets etc., please see Section 6.

⁵¹ Ombudsman for Children (2022) Plan for Places Available at [this link](#).

⁵² Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card.

4.4 Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Safe and protected from harm

In the consultations for the development of this Plan, 30% of the young people across Fingal who completed a survey reported experiencing crime sometimes.

When asked what they would change children and young people mentioned things in relation to general safety in their area. These included:

- Less anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.
- Less criminal activity.
- For people to be able to feel safe by improving street lighting and having more Gardaí patrolling.

Parents stated that indoor spaces where young people can hang out need to be improved the most. Parents stated that they wanted to change things in relation to safety included:

- Safe spaces for children and young people.
- Stronger Garda presence.
- To reduce anti-social behaviour.
- To ban vaping, reduce the availability of drugs and have better education and awareness programmes around drugs.
- Create a safer environment for all.

Some parents described how there is a lack of information available on the various Government supports and services and education supports available to them and their children. When asked what could be changed or improved in relation to supports and information for parents and guardians, parents called for more supports and information for parents of children with disabilities and mental health difficulties, information and support in relation to childcare and general parenting information and advice and information on Government departments and services.

The following are the Fingal CYPSC's Priority Thematic Areas and Objectives within Outcome 2: 'Achieving in Learning and Development' that have emerged from the process of developing this *Children and Young People's Plan*.

Safe and Protected: Priorities and Objectives
Priority 1: Trauma Informed Practice
Objective 1: Create a common narrative and understanding of trauma informed practice among service providers in Fingal.
Priority 2: Safety in Fingal
Objective 1: Respond to/investigate further the needs identified by young people in relation to safe youth spaces in Fingal (in conjunction with Outcome 5).
Objective 2: Support those impacted by and working in the area of domestic, sexual and gender- based violence.
Priority 3: Substance Misuse

Objective 1: Lower the number of young people using addictive substances.
Objective 2: Collaborate with stakeholders in relation to substance misuse among young people in Fingal.
Priority 4: Parenting
Objective 1: Information on universal parenting programmes will be easily accessible.
Objective 2: Easily accessible information relating to services for children, young people and families is available.

Priority 1: Trauma Informed Practice

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority?

Several young people discussed how those engaged in authoritative positions over young people, in particular Gardaí and teachers, had a lack of understanding of the needs of young people as well as the challenges that young people are facing. These young people felt that teachers in alternative learning programmes as well as youth workers or mental health practitioners had a greater understanding of the challenges that young people faced.

Some young males felt discriminated against by adults in their locality as well as by Gardaí when they were hanging out in public areas. These young people felt they were being labelled as being anti-social by others and were being pushed out of public spaces.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

The need for a more trauma informed approach in all services was identified repeatedly by service providers who were involved in the consultations for this Plan. Service providers identified that there is a significant service gap for children and young people that have experienced trauma and a need for more awareness among people working with children and young people, including teachers around trauma and its impact.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to these needs for more trauma informed education and practice in the region by increasing access to trauma informed practices (TIP) in schools and other places that provide services to children and young people in Fingal. It will start this process by developing an action plan in relation to TIP among service providers in Fingal, and then it will work to develop a shared understanding and vision for TIP among services, inviting other organisations to share examples of good practice and in time, roll out trauma Informed practice training to all service providers in Fingal.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Academics working in the field of trauma informed education have argued that trauma has become too aligned with a medical model where 'survivors' responses are individualised and decontextualised... whilst broader inequalities, exclusion and systemic issues that impact the

wellbeing of children families and communities are overlooked'.⁵³ Education in trauma informed practice aims to redress this balance by building the capacity for people (including educators) who are working with children and families to approach their work and care from a trauma-informed lens.

The importance of implementing trauma-informed policy and practice across health and social care systems in Ireland was highlighted by Mental Health Reform in 2020,⁵⁴ when it emphasised the success of introducing trauma informed approaches in other countries. It called on the Irish Government to commit to cross-departmental and interagency collaboration to ensure a coordinated approach to trauma informed care.

Being trauma-informed is one of the four service delivery principles of the Department of Health's *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020)*. It includes a core commitment to trauma-informed care delivery, and it recognises that there should be an out-of-hours service for young people in significant distress around the country.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to these needs for more trauma informed education and practice in the region by increasing access to TIP in schools and other places that provide services to children and young people in Fingal. It will start this process by developing an action plan in relation to TIP among service providers in Fingal, and then it will work to develop a shared understanding and vision for TIP among services, inviting other organisations to share examples of good practice and in time, roll out TIP training to all service providers in Fingal. For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6.

Priority 2.1: Safety in Fingal – Youth Space

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- The Garda Youth Diversion Programme (GYDP) is a national initiative provided for in the Children's Act 2001. It aims to support An Garda Síochána in diverting young people away from the criminal justice system through a network of Garda Youth Diversion Projects. It targets 12–17-year-olds with the intention of diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. In Fingal there are five GYDP.
- The latest published data available is for the period 2020, of which, the DMR Northern Region received 1,572 referrals to the programme. This represented an increase of 17% since 2017.
- According to the HBSC Survey, 32.3% of the children who participated in the survey in the Dublin Region in 2018 reported having been bullied.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority?

Throughout the consultations, young people described how there were not enough safe places for them to hang out with their friends in the evening and at the weekends. They also described high levels of criminality, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse in their localities and how this made them feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

⁵³ O'Toole, Catriona, When trauma comes to school: Toward a socially just trauma-informed praxis. Catriona O'Toole, International Journal of School Social Work: Vol. 6: Iss. 2.

⁵⁴ <https://mentalhealthreform.ie/news/experts-highlight-importance-of-trauma-informed-policy-and-practice-to-future-of-irish-health-services/>

Parents noted that there is a lack of safe and universal youth focused spaces for their young people to spend time in and several parents felt that there were more targeted services for young people engaging in anti-social behaviour than there were for young people not engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

The service providers consulted stated that there is a strong need to provide more youth spaces and services in Fingal. They emphasized the need for better retention of skilled youth workers, extended opening hours, and universal services for all young people in the area, rather than just targeted groups.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Previous research and policies have also highlighted the need for more safe spaces for young people to play/hang out. In 2017 the National Youth Mental Health Taskforce recommended that local government needs to work with other stakeholders to provide safe youth friendly spaces and cultural facilities.⁵⁵ Research on safe play in a different part of the country in 2019 (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.⁵⁶ Children and young people living in congregated settings such as direct provision often have even less opportunity than other young people to hang out, socialise or play with others. Recent research by the National Youth Council of Ireland (2023) on the experiences of black young people in Balbriggan County Dublin also raises the need for safe spaces for young people to hang out but highlights the need for supervision to ensure it is a safe space. They recommend more funding schemes for youth and community development work that facilitates the universal provision of and access to spaces and places for minority ethnic young people to gather, both identity-specific and mixed groups.⁵⁷

International research also suggests that safe spaces for young people to hang out offer protective factors including facilitating positive relationships with other young people, positive identity development and a sense of safety. Spaces where young people can be self-directed and socialise in a safe environment can facilitate meaningful engagement, connection, mutual support and help to build a sense of community which is particularly valuable for young people who live in environments where there is a lot of violence.⁵⁸

The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education states that play is central to well-being, development and learning of the young child. Ireland's *National Recreation Policy for Young People* which was published in 2017 has two key objectives which are aimed at ensuring that the recreational needs of young people are met through the development of youth-friendly

⁵⁵ Department of Health (2017) National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report 2017.

⁵⁶ 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'

⁵⁷ Centre for Youth Research and Development (2023) 'Looking out for, looking after, looking to each other': Perspectives from and about Black young people in Balbriggan, County Dublin. Dublin: NYCI

⁵⁸ YouthRex Evidence Brief 'Best Practices for Creating Safe Spaces for Youth' Ontario, Canada, available at: <https://youthrex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/YouthREX-EB-Best-Practices-for-Creating-Safe-Spaces-for-Youth-2018.pdf>

and safe environments and that the range of recreational opportunities available for young people who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have a disability are maximised.⁵⁹

Young Ireland acknowledges that, ‘there is more to be done to create cities and urban centres where creative, playful and safe family centred facilities are provided,’ and aims to move beyond creating once-off recreation facilities towards creating child and youth-friendly urban spaces. One of its actions is to work with the Department of Housing to ensure adequate provision of play and recreation spaces in the built environment through the planning process.⁶⁰

Fingal’s new draft *Local Economic and Community Plan (2024 – 2029)*⁶¹ contains two high level goals which align with Fingal CYPSC’s plan to promote safety in Fingal and respond to the need for safe spaces for children and young people to hang out and do activities. Under the theme of ‘Safe, accessible, vibrant places’ it aims to ‘promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity’. And ‘support the development of urban and rural areas for a high quality of life’.⁶²

In response to the issues raised in this research in relation to safety and safe spaces, Fingal CYPSC plans to hold an interagency forum to discuss the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal, to develop a response by FCYPSC member agencies to the needs identified, and to communicate this with young people in the county. This will be done as a joint action in conjunction with the subgroup working on this issue within Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World.

Priority 2.2: Safety in Fingal – Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- 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, European research shows that one in four women in Ireland who have been in a relationship has been abused by a current or former partner and 14% of women in Ireland have experienced physical violence by a partner.⁶³ In 2022, there were 33,990 disclosures of abuse against women and children disclosed to Women’s Aid. This is a 16% increase on the previous year and the highest ever recorded since it was set up 50 years ago.⁶⁴ 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.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ National Recreation policy, available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9bac93-teenspace-national-recreation-policy-for-young-people/>.

⁶⁰ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2023) *Young Ireland*, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. P.66.

⁶¹ Fingal County Council Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2028 (2023) ‘Public Consultation Summary and Finalised Vision and High-Level Goals’. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-local-community-development-committee-lcdc>.

⁶² Please note, the wording of these themes and goals in the LECP were correct at time of writing using the latest draft of the LECP which had not been finalised yet.

⁶³ European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (2014) *Violence against Women: An EU Wide Survey*

⁶⁴ <https://www.womensaid.ie/get-informed/news-events/media-releases/a-record-high-number-of-domestic-abuse-contacts-with-womens-aid-in-2022/>.

⁶⁵ Tusla and Barnardos (2015) *Parenting Positive, Helping Teenagers Cope with Domestic Abuse*: https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Teenagers_coping_with_domesticabuse_d4.pdf.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority?

As part of the development of the plan, a focus group was carried out with young parents who had been victims of DSGBV. This group felt that health and safety restrictions set out during the COVID-19 pandemic made domestic violence worse in some homes and that *'nobody knows what is happening behind closed doors'*. While acknowledging the significant benefits that they got from being able to access a refuge space and a supportive environment when they most needed it, participants also talked about the ongoing lack of both services and housing options for victims of DSGBV who are trying to leave the violent situation which puts them in further danger. Due to a lack of affordable housing and the imminent need to leave the refuge, some young women felt that family hubs might be their only option if they couldn't secure their own housing. They were worried that these were unsuitable for new parents especially those with young babies. This group of young women also discussed how some staff in maternity hospitals did not understand the significance of them having orders against the fathers of their babies and felt that they had to repeat time and time again why the fathers were not present with them in the maternity units.

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?

Over half of the service providers who filled out the survey indicated there were insufficient services for young people experiencing DSGBV and 12% felt DSGBV services should be prioritised when planning services for children, young people and families. At the in-person consultation day, practitioners raised the need for education and training on domestic violence for service providers, for workshops on violence and criminal behaviour and for more supports and housing options for victims of DSGBV.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Organisations working in the field have called for more comprehensive, centralised data as they say it is currently not representative of the extent of DSGBV which is evident from the experience of front-line services.⁶⁶ They have also called for more funding, training and resources for services and systems that support victims of domestic violence including specialist front-line services, specialist accommodation provision and the family and criminal law systems.⁶⁷

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that governments must 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). In 2023, the UN Committee on the rights of the child called on Ireland to ensure refuge accommodation for victims; enable children to apply for protection and safety orders and have access to legal support and child-friendly complaints mechanisms; strengthen measures aimed at preventing violence against children; and to ensure that all professionals working with and for children in the education, health, justice and other sectors receive specialised training on identifying and effectively responding to cases of violence.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Irish Times (2022) 'Call for data on gender-based violence to be key to State strategy', 17/1/2022.

⁶⁷ Women's Aid (2022) Press Release 'A record high number of domestic abuse contacts with Women's Aid in 2022.' <https://www.womensaid.ie/get-informed/news-events/media-releases/a-record-high-number-of-domestic-abuse-contacts-with-womens-aid-in-2022>.

⁶⁸ UNCRC Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023).

Ireland's third *National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) 2022 - 2026*⁶⁹ was published in 2022 with a focus on prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy co-ordination. The end goal of it is zero tolerance of DSGBV in Irish society. In 2022, a new Action Plan on Bullying was also published which aims to prevent and address bullying in schools.⁷⁰ In addition, one of the actions in *Young Ireland*, the national policy framework, is for the new DSGBV Agency that has been set up recently to review specialist services for victims of DSGBV to ensure they are accessible in all parts of the country.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to support those impacted by and working in the area of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence by supporting the provision of DSGBV training to agencies/service providers in Fingal and reviewing and updating the Fingal DSGBV resource pack.⁷¹ For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6 below.

Priority 3: Substance Misuse

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

According to the HRB,⁷² in 2022, 352 children and young people residing in the Fingal area accessed treatment for drugs and alcohol use. This figure equated to a rate of 38.1 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 24 years in Dublin North and 29.4 in Dublin Northwest. The rate in Dublin North was the fifth highest in the country in 2022 and exceeded the national rate of 30.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority?

Twenty-four per cent (n=217) of young people who completed the survey said that vaping and/or smoking was a significant challenge facing children and young people in Fingal.

Throughout the consultation, young people described the prevalence of substance misuse including vaping in some areas in Fingal and how drugs and vapes were extremely accessible and utilised amongst young people in their areas.

Parents also noted the prevalence of substance misuse in their locality. These parents said that substances and vapes were readily accessible and available to children and young people in their area and that this worried them a lot and often made them reluctant to let their children out in the locality without adult supervision.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Within the consultation to inform this CYPP, nearly half of service providers disagreed that there were enough addiction services for children, young people and families in Fingal. Service providers stated that there is a need for more education about drugs and substance misuse aimed at children and young people.

⁶⁹ 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/>.

⁷⁰ 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>.

⁷¹ Available at:

[https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Documents/Resources/Fingal/30_11_2020%20CYPSC%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Resource%20Pack%20Fingal%20\(00000003\).pdf](https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Documents/Resources/Fingal/30_11_2020%20CYPSC%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Resource%20Pack%20Fingal%20(00000003).pdf).

⁷² [The HRB National Drugs Library - Drugs and Alcohol](#).

What does other research and policy tell us?

Other local and national research on the issue of substance abuse has shown significant substance use among young people and highlighted the negative impact that this can have. The Planet Youth research undertaken by the North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force in 2022 showed a prevalence of substance availability and use among young people in North County Dublin. It found that vaping had emerged as a prevalent risk behaviour and that, 'attitudes in relation to harms or risks associated with alcohol use and vaping (were) indicating normalisation of use'.⁷³ Among other things, it also found that 32% have tried smoking or an e-cigarette in their lifetime (18% in the last 30 days), 18% had used cannabis in their lifetime (8% in the last 30 days) and 64% had tried alcohol in their lifetime. It highlights the need for health promotion initiatives that target parental, youth and community perceptions about harmful substances.

A Health Research Board report⁷⁴ published in 2022 about alcohol and drug use in 15 – 24-year-olds in Ireland found that young people are starting to drink at a slightly older age than previously and there has been a decrease in the prevalence of binge drinking. However, despite these positives, it also found that one-in-three young drinkers have an alcohol use disorder and that Ireland is seventh out of 35 European countries for reports of being drunk. It also reported that a quarter of young people reported using illegal drugs (more males than females), and while cannabis remains the most commonly used drug, the use of drugs like ecstasy and cocaine has increased – up to the second highest in Europe. It also found that there is a link between substance use and mental health issues and that family behaviour plays a role in both positive and negative substance use behaviours.

Strategic Priority 1 of the Irish Government's *National Drugs Strategy Strategic Action Plan (2023 – 2024)* aims to 'strengthen the prevention of drug and alcohol use and the associated harms among children and young people'. It aims to do this by developing an integrated framework to strengthen prevention; build the capacity of services to recognise hidden harm and support families affected; implement the prevention and education funding programme; support the development of a multi-component environmental community action on alcohol project; support the development of a national addiction service for under 18s; mitigate the risk and impact of 'grooming' and hidden harm for young people; and support the SPHE curriculum in schools.

The National Framework *Young Ireland* aims to support young people at risk of getting involved in the criminal justice system to be diverted from this and that detention is used as a last resort. Its actions include increasing cooperation among State agencies, enhancing the capacity of youth diversion projects to support young people at risk, and sharing examples of good practices in youth justice interventions. The *Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027* also aims to increase collaboration across all sectors of government and society to strengthen families' and communities' capacities to live free from crime and harm.

⁷³ NDRDATF (2022) 'Improving health outcomes by understanding the lived experiences of young people in North Dublin': North Dublin Risk and Protective Factors Planet Youth Report 1; Dublin. Ireland. Merlin Press.

⁷⁴ Health Research Board (2022) HRB Overview Series 12: 'Alcohol and other drug use among children and young people in Ireland: prevalence, risk and protective factors, consequences, responses, and policies'. Available at: <https://www.hrb.ie/news/press-releases/single-press-release/article/new-hrb-report-examines-substance-use-among-young-people/>.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the issues identified in Fingal in relation to substance misuse by organising an interagency sharing and capacity-building event and working with partners to lower the number of young people using addictive substances in the county. For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6.

Priority 3: Parenting

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- Between 2016 and 2022 there was an 11.6% population growth in Fingal. This was the second highest population growth when compared to the 26 other CYPSC areas (Meath was the highest and Donegal was the lowest).
- According to the Tusla Data Hub,⁷⁵ in 2022 there were 2,097 children referred to Tusla in Dublin North. This equated to a rate of 20.1 per 1,000 population aged 0 to 17 years. When compared with the other 17 Integrated Service Areas (ISAs) this rate is the fifth highest in the country.
- The rate of 20.1 in 2022 also represents significant growth in the rate of referrals in the Dublin North ISA as it was only 9.6 in 2017.

In recent years Fingal has witnessed increased population growth far higher than the State average. With this population growth, there has also been a significant rise in the number of parents seeking information and supports.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Parents and guardians were also asked where they get information on services and supports in their area. Friends or other parents, at 49%, are the primary source of information on supports and services for parents. This was followed by teachers (38%) and internet searches (36%).

Parents who participated in the survey were asked if there were enough parents supports in their areas. Overall, 55% of parents felt there was not enough support, 11% said there was enough support and 34% did not know.

When asked what could be changed or improved in relation to supports and information for parents and guardians, parents called for more supports and information for parents of children with disabilities and mental health difficulties, information and support in relation to childcare and general parenting information and advice and information on Government departments and services. Some also called for parenting supports to be available in the evenings and weekends for people who work while others wanted flexibility or online courses for parents who are not able to access childcare. Online methods of sharing information were also suggested – via sites or social media platforms that parents already use.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Service providers stated that there is a need for more information services as well as supports for parents. Supports for parents were identified as family support workers and professionals to engage with families either individually or in a group setting to offer them support.

What does other research and policy tell us?

⁷⁵ [Tusla Data Hub - Performance and Activity Data.](#)

Research in Ireland on parenting support is limited, however, a 2023 study by the Childhood Development Initiative points out that providing support to parents in the early years of their child's life can enhance their engagement in their children's lives. It found parent supports that are most effective include a focus on prevention, supports that address more than one area of need, easily accessible services and continuity between universal and targeted provision.⁷⁶

The Irish Government's policy, *Supporting Parents, A National Model of Parenting Support Services (2022-2027)* takes a cross-Government approach to creating greater awareness of and access to parenting support services, more inclusive parenting support services and needs-led and evidence-informed parenting support services. Tusla recently published a *Parenting Support Strategy 2022-2027* which aims to provide the necessary supports and resources to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and their families. It plans to support parents by 'building on their strengths, giving them choice and helping them to identify solutions that will work for them'.⁷⁷

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the needs of parents in Fingal by working to ensure that:

- Information on universal parenting programmes will be easily accessible; and
- Information relating to services for children, young people and families is available and easily accessible.

For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6 below.

⁷⁶ Leitao (2023) in Irish Studies Review: 'Supporting parents with young children in Ireland: context and research supported interventions', Routledge. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09670882.2023.2265834>.

⁷⁷ Tusla Parenting Support Strategy 2022 – 2027.

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_Parenting_Support_Strategy_2022-2027_Web.pdf.

4.5 Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Seventy-three per cent of the 963 young people who completed the survey for these consultations felt confident they have a good chance of getting a job after school or college.

When asked this open question: *‘If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you do or change to make life better for children and young people in the Fingal region?’*, 50 children and young people named things that are related to the theme of economic security. These included:

- Access to employment – particularly part-time work, to keep busy and have an income when young;
- Employment supports for young people – some talked about the impact of not having access to appropriate employment supports and how this could lead to young people feeling under pressure and dropping out of school;
- Better access to housing for their families and others; and
- Financial supports for families.

While parents said that financial supports for families needed to be changed or improved and 10% felt that money worries were one of the most significant challenges facing young people in the region. Parents also highlighted the need for more employment and education supports for young people, particularly those struggling with the cost of living or who leave school early.

The following are the Fingal CYPSC’s Priority Areas and Objectives within Outcome 4: ‘Economic Security and Opportunity’ that have emerged from the process of developing this *Children and Young People’s Plan*.

Economic Security and Opportunity: Priorities and Objectives
Priority 1: Youth Employment Supports
Objective 1: Agree multi-agency strategy to support young people at risk of becoming NEET.
Objective 2: Support 16- to 18-year-olds in education into employment.
Priority 2: Community based not-for-profit Childcare Services
Objective 1: Increase community based not-for-profit childcare provision in Fingal.
Objective 2: Increase funding for and number of National Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC Programme) in Fingal.
Priority 3: Cost of Living Crisis
Objective 1: Establish an interagency working group to support those disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.
Priority 4: Homelessness
Objective 1: Support agencies working with families experiencing homelessness.

Priority 1: Youth Employment Supports

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

As of November 2023, there were 796 young people aged 25 years and under signing on to the Live Register in Fingal. This accounted for nearly 17% of the total young people signing on the live register in the Dublin Region.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

A substantial 45% of the young people who completed the survey believed there was not enough financial supports for young people and their families in their area and some argued that more financial supports may deter young people from getting involved in risky/criminal behaviour.

During the consultation, young people who were participating in an alternative learning programme were confident that they had a clear pathway from education to employment opportunities, while also being able to access necessary education and employment supports. Some of these young people, particularly those aged 18 years and under, explained how their parents encouraged them to remain in an education programme in order to fulfil child benefit allowance regulations. Some of the young Traveller boys were very confident about employment opportunities in their future. They described how some older male siblings and cousins had accessed employment through apprenticeships and felt that they would also access employment in this manner.

Several young people in mainstream education settings expressed a desire to enter into trades when they finished school and felt they needed more access to practical subjects because this would provide them with more opportunities to access part-time employment. Other young people in the focus groups felt there were not enough opportunities for them to access part-time employment and transport issues were a barrier to this. They also wanted to learn more practical job search skills such as how to write a CV or access work experience/employment and practical life skills

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Service providers did not feel that there were sufficient services in terms of employment supports for young people in Fingal. Service providers stated that young people wanted to learn more practical job search skills such as how to write a CV or access work experience and/or employment and practical life skills.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Other research has also identified a need for more alternative education and employment supports for young people in Ireland. Research in recent years by Young Social Innovators (YSI) and Amárach Research with over 1,000 16 – 24 year-olds across Ireland found that 80% of respondents did not believe the Leaving Certificate prepares them sufficiently for the future career paths and 83% felt there was too much emphasis placed on third level education in Ireland versus other options.⁷⁸

Some groups such as immigrants, minorities and people with disabilities face additional barriers to accessing employment and education and need tailored supports. Research by the European Migration Network has found that a significant number of young people in the international

⁷⁸ Young Social Innovators and Amárach Research (2022) GenZ index Future Outlook.

protection system in Ireland have been granted permission to work since the regulations changed. Between 2018 and 2022, 135 young people aged 16 and 17 got labour market access permissions in Ireland.⁷⁹ Since the outbreak of the Ukrainian war, Ukrainian refugees arriving in Ireland have automatically been allowed to work in the country. While this has given them more rights than some other groups and many people from other countries have secured employment in Ireland, not everyone is successful or able to work for a variety of reasons, and this can put people in vulnerable situations financially and otherwise.

Organisations supporting migrants in Ireland have highlighted the need for more supports for immigrants who are looking for work. They 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 refugee⁸⁰) are facing huge difficulties in accessing third level education as they are not eligible for free or EU fees despite being born in the country.

One of the aims of Ireland's *National Strategy for Higher Education* is to widen access to higher education for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds or other under-represented groups.⁸¹ The *National Skills Strategy 2025* also aims to provide skills development opportunities that are relevant to the needs of learners, society and the economy and to focus on active inclusion, in order to support participation in education and training and the labour market.⁸² One of the actions planned in Ireland's new national policy framework for children and young people aims to support young people not in employment, education or training by improving jobseeker supports for people under the age of 24. It plans to support young people with a disability to gain employment by ensuring there are alternatives to day services through education, training or employment pathways.

Young Ireland also aims to advance commitments made in *Pathways to Work* (2021 – 2025), the Government's framework for employment activation and support policy. The Government's *Employment and Youth Activation Charter* (2014) also aims to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training by supporting activities which help unemployed people (including long-term unemployed young people) return to employment.

In 2022 the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth awarded grants totalling €2.7 million (through the European Social Fund Plus) to non-governmental organisations so they can provide a range of practical supports aimed at improving the employability of migrants including English language classes and workplace training. This is to be welcomed. Locally in Fingal, the draft of the *Local Economic and Community Plan (2024 – 2029)*⁸³ contains high level goals which are aimed at creating a 'prosperous economy' and increasing labour market participation. These include removing barriers to labour market participation and supporting skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the employment support needs of children and young people in Fingal by agreeing to a multi-agency strategy to support young people at risk of becoming NEET

⁷⁹ European Migration Network (2023) Labour Market Integration of International Protection Applicants in Ireland - <https://emn.ie/publications/labour-market-integration-ip-applicants/>.

⁸⁰ <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third-level-education/fees-and-supports-for-third-level-education/fees/>.

⁸¹ Department of Education (2019) National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.

⁸² Department of Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2016) National Skills Strategy.

⁸³ Fingal County Council Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2028 (2023) 'Public Consultation Summary and Finalised Vision and High-Level Goals'. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-local-community-development-committee-lcdc>.

and support 16- to 18-year-olds in education into employment, including through the organisation of a jobs fair in Fingal that is targeted at disadvantaged young people. For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6 below.

Priority 2: Community based not for profit childcare services

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- There was a total of 19 community-based childcare services in Fingal in 2021, and there were ten not-for-profit, community-based ECCE services.⁸⁴ This is one of the lowest rates of community-based childcare when compared to other areas according to Pobal.
- Evidence also shows how there is an extremely low proportion of community based childcare provision which potentially results in less access to childcare from some cohorts of population such as lone parents and ethnic minorities.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Some of the young single parents, who participated in the focus groups, described the various barriers that one parent families face when trying to access employment. They described how there is a lack of childcare close to either their homes or workplaces and how as single parents they rely on childcare solely to access employment and without adequate childcare, it is not possible to enter back into the labour market or education after having children.

Thirty-one per cent of parents/guardians (282) who completed a survey identified childcare as the thing that needed to be improved the most in Fingal, calling for it to be more affordable and more readily available.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

There is a severe lack of community based not-for-profit childcare services in Fingal. The national average for community based not-for-profit childcare services is 26%, whereas in Fingal overall it is 6% and in some areas such as Balbriggan it is as low as 2%. The lack of affordable community based Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) services impacts the economic security of families in Fingal, specifically in relation to housing, child and food poverty and social exclusion.

What does other research and policy tell us?

At present, children and families living in areas of deprivation in Fingal do not have access to the Area-Based Childhood (ABC) programme, a national prevention and early intervention initiative targeting investment in effective services to improve outcomes for children, young people and families living in areas of socio-economic deprivation.

High quality early education and care have important benefits for young children, particularly those from disadvantaged groups. Research by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on the impact of different types of childcare found that 'centre-based care' has a positive effect on the socio-emotional development of disadvantaged groups including children from lone parent households.⁸⁵ However, the OECD has found that if early childhood education and care is

⁸⁴ Fingal CYPSC 'Double Disadvantage – Reduced access to early childhood care and education for children at risk of poverty in Fingal'.

⁸⁵ ESRI (2016) Socio-emotional Outcomes at Age Five: Does Childcare Make a Difference? Economic and Social Research Institute.

not sufficiently subsidised, fewer children from disadvantaged backgrounds participate in it. In 2023 the Children's Rights Alliance (CRA) highlighted the fact that Ireland has one of the highest childcare costs in Europe and the participation rate of children from low-income families in formal childcare is less than a quarter of that of their high-income peers.⁸⁶ Recent research by the ESRI on the children of migrants in Ireland highlights the importance of facilitating access to quality early learning and care for migrant-origin children, as their participation in early learning and care at age three is lower than for Irish-origin children.⁸⁷

The report *Double Disadvantage, Reduced Access to Early Childhood Care and Education for Children at Risk of Poverty in Fingal* highlighted the challenges that some parents have faced when trying to access childcare in the region, as a result of changes in the way national childcare subsidies are being implemented. Challenges included: eligibility issues, reduced access to and participation in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system for children at risk of and experiencing poverty; and the difficulties that not-for-profit community-based childcare settings face when trying to remain financially sustainable. It recommends enhancing not-for-profit, community-based childcare infrastructure in Fingal, and targeting funding that supports the delivery of high-quality, early childhood education and care for children experiencing poverty and social isolation.⁸⁸

In the Government's 10-year strategy *First Five A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019 - 2028*, it states 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. *First Five* aims to improve affordability, accessibility and quality of Early Learning and Care in Ireland and it requires CYPSC to support interagency collaboration to this end.⁸⁹

Fingal CYPSC plans to respond to the childcare needs in Fingal by working with others to advocate for increased numbers of community-based not-for-profit childcare provisions in Fingal. FCYPSC will also highlight the lack of Area Based Childhood in the programmes in the county and advocate for increased provision. For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6 below.

Priority 3: Cost of living crisis

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

According to the latest 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index, despite having an overall level of less disadvantage in Fingal County, within some areas there are extremely disadvantaged communities when compared to other areas in Fingal. These areas include:

- Blanchardstown: Corduff, Dromhearth, Whitestown and Fortlawn
- The Ward: Rivermeade
- Swords: St Cronans
- Balbriggan: Lambeeher/Bath Road and Pinewood

⁸⁶ Children's Rights Alliance (2023) Report Card.

⁸⁷ ESRI (2022) Children of Migrants in Ireland, How are they faring? Economic and Social Research Institute

⁸⁸ Fingal CYPSC, 'Double Disadvantage: Reduced Access to Early Childhood Care and Education for Children at Risk of Poverty in Fingal.'

⁸⁹ Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019) *First Five, a Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families (2019 to 2028)*.

- According to Census 2022, 23.2% of households with children under and over 15 years were one parent households.

Despite Fingal having high levels of employment and home ownership there remains a significant disadvantaged cohort of population. Within these areas there is high youth population equating to high levels of youth population in Fingal living in poverty with not enough access to necessary supports and services.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Children and young people in the survey were also asked if they felt there was enough help for young people and families who are struggling financially. The following (Table 4.1) details the proportions of children and young people in each LEA who stated they did not feel there was enough help for young people and families struggling financially.

Local Electoral Area	% of children and young people who stated that they did not feel there is enough help for young people and families struggling financially
Blanchardstown - Castleknock	27%
Balbriggan	25%
Blanchardstown - Mulhuddart	23%
Swords	17%
Rush/ Lusk	16%
Howth - Malahide	14%
Ongar	13%

Table 4.1 Biggest health related challenges according to parents by Local Authority Area

Twenty per cent of parents who completed the survey said that financial supports for families needed to be changed or improved and 10% felt that money worries were one of the most significant challenges facing young people in the region.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

It was well-documented throughout the consultation process how service providers felt that there were more services needed for families who were being negatively impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and rising household costs. They particularly highlighted the low level of financial support offered to young parents, parents with high housing costs and parents missing the threshold for statutory benefit schemes offered by the Department of Health (Medical Cards) and the Department of Social Protection (Family Income Support Payments).

What does other research and policy tell us?

Within Ireland, the CRA and others have repeatedly called for effective and targeted investment designed to break the cycle of poverty for the 90,000 children and young people living in consistent poverty in Ireland. Recommendations have included more long-term thinking and planning; child poverty proofing of any measures; further investment in anti-poverty and housing; and protection for families experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation, including an international protection child payment card.⁹⁰ It has also highlighted the need for better

⁹⁰ <https://childrensrights.ie/press-release/the-introduction-of-the-international-protection-child-payment-is-a-non-negotiable-in-the-fight-to-improve-the-lives-of-children-living-in-the-direct-provision-system/>.

standards for people living in emergency accommodation or congregated settings like direct provision.⁹¹ It welcomed the recent expansion of the school meals programme and free school books scheme in Budget 2024, along with the establishment of the Child Poverty and Well-being Programme Office within the Department of An Taoiseach, as steps in the right direction.

The aim of the Child Poverty Programme Office is to improve co-ordination, collaboration and accountability across Government to help all children have what they need to be happy, healthy and safe. The Office has developed a *Programme Plan for Child Well-being 2023 - 2025*. Its six key priorities areas are: income supports and joblessness; early learning and childcare, reducing the cost of education, family homelessness, consolidating and integrating family and parental support, health and well-being services and enhancing participation in culture, arts and sport for children and young people affected by poverty.

The work of this new Programme Office has been integrated with the new national framework for young people *Young Ireland*, and child and youth poverty has been named as one of the three priority 'Spotlight' themes in *Young Ireland*. Some of the actions in *Young Ireland* that aim to address child and youth poverty include reducing the number of children and young people in poverty, delivering four pilot child poverty local area plans in CYPSC areas under Ireland's EU Child Guarantee National Action Plan and introducing a national living wage by 2026. Furthermore, *Young Ireland* aims to progress the priority areas the EU Child Guarantee identified that are in Ireland's *Guarantee National Action Plan* by working to prevent and combat social exclusion. *Young Ireland* also prioritises access to housing and aims to complement and build on other homelessness strategies such as the *Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023 – 2025* and *Housing for All* which is the Government's housing plan up to 2030. Some of the actions in relation to housing in *Young Ireland* include addressing the root causes of homelessness among children, strengthening data collection, producing far more social and affordable homes, and providing Traveller-specific accommodation.

Locally, Fingal's new draft *Local Economic and Community Plan (2024 – 2029)* contains a high-level goal to 'target improvements in areas of disadvantage'.⁹² This aligns with Fingal CYPSC's plans to address the cost-of-living crisis and support agencies working with people in homelessness in the coming years.

Fingal CYPSC plans to establish an interagency working group to support those disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis by working on issues such as food, fuel, period and digital poverty using existing networks. For more information on these actions and associated targets and indicators, please see Section 6 below.

Priority 4: Homelessness

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- According to Census 2022, in Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (27%), Ongar (23%) and Swords (23%) the reliance on the private housing market exceeds the Fingal (20%) average.

⁹¹ Children's Rights Alliance (2023).

⁹² Please note, the wording of these themes and goals in the LECP were correct at time of writing using the latest draft of the LECP which is not finalised yet.

- As of 2022, there were 2,816 parents with children on the social housing waiting lists in Fingal County Council. This figure had decreased slightly from the 2020 figure of 2,999. (Social Housing Waiting List.)

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

The housing crisis was also something that came up throughout the consultations. Some primary school aged children described the positives of having their own home in the focus groups, but also knew there was not enough housing for everybody in the region and that some families were homeless. Older young people were aware of the high cost of housing and feared they would never be able to own their own homes. Some of the Traveller children that participated described living in low quality housing.

The lack of housing availability, both social and private rented was a consistent theme throughout the parents' focus groups. The unavailability of suitable houses impacted many groups of parents that participated, this included new communities, those living in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) with refugee status and needing to move into appropriate housing, young families and one parent families. Some parents that participated in the groups were living in emergency accommodation. They described how living in overcrowded and unsuitable accommodation as detrimental to the overall well-being of the families.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Service providers also expressed concerns in relation to the cost-of-living crisis and homelessness during the consultations. Thirty-four per cent of service providers who completed a survey indicated that housing and homeless services should be within the top three priorities for decision-makers in Fingal, with some calling for the most vulnerable groups like lone parents and young care leavers to be prioritised.

What does other research and policy tell us?

There is a lot of research and evidence on the high levels of child poverty and homelessness in Ireland and the negative impact that this is having on children, young people and families. Research published by Barnardos in 2022 found that one quarter of parents were always or sometimes worried about being unable to provide enough food for their children and a third of parents who were not working always or sometimes worried. It also found that one-fifth of adults had skipped meals or reduced portion size to ensure children had enough to eat.⁹³ Charities working on the ground have reported a large increase in demand for assistance with food, and the stress and levels of debt caused by the rising cost of the back to school, and Christmas periods are well documented by Barnardos⁹⁴ and others.

The negative effects of homelessness and the associated deprivation on children and young people (particularly the most marginalised) have also been well documented. Focus Ireland research on the experiences of families (including children) living in emergency accommodation in Dublin in 2020 and 2021 found unsanitary conditions, lack of support from relevant services, negative mental health impacts and damaging effects on children and families caused by living in unstable/unsuitable housing.⁹⁵ Research by Social Justice Ireland highlighted the negative

⁹³ Amarach, Food Poverty the Impact on Vulnerable Children and Families (Barnardos 2022).

⁹⁴ <https://www.barnardos.ie/barnardos-back-to-school-survey-2023>.

⁹⁵ Curran and Hoey (2022) Causes of Family Homelessness in the Dublin Region during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Insights into Family Homelessness Series 2022, Vol 2, No. 2, Focus Ireland.

long-term impacts of homelessness on children and young people⁹⁶ and a 2023 Special Report on the safety of children living in emergency accommodation by the Ombudsman for Children raised serious concerns about the adverse effect on the rights and welfare of children residing in State-provided accommodation. It recommended that IPAS cease the use of commercial hotels, put an independent quality assurance mechanism in place and have regard for the vulnerability of children within the international protection process when planning their accommodation needs.⁹⁷

Fingal CYPSC plans to support agencies working with families experiencing homelessness by organising an interagency event on homelessness in the county which includes information sharing and a presentation on the recommendations and guidance in the *Home Works* report, which is a study on the needs of children experiencing homelessness.

⁹⁶ Social Justice Ireland (2021) Precarious Housing – the Long-Term Impact of Child and Youth Homelessness, Social Justice Ireland.

⁹⁷ Ombudsman for Children (2023) Special Report on the Safety and Welfare of Children in Direct Provision. Available at: <https://www.oco.ie/app/uploads/2023/10/OCO-Special-Report-on-Safety-and-Welfare-of-Children-in-Direct-Provision.pdf>.

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

Nearly 70% of young people who completed a survey as part of this research felt confident that they have an influence over decisions or changes that affect their lives.

When asked if they could change one thing and what it would be, 146 children and young people stated that they wanted to change things in relation to ‘connected’ and ‘respected’. In general, when asked to say what they would like to change, respondents called for a cleaner environment, less bullying, happier people, having a voice, and more youth and community focused spaces.

Some children in the early years focus groups described how they enjoyed going on local day trips with families as well as partaking in community activities such as singing in churches.

The following are the Fingal CYPSC’s Priority Areas and Objectives within Outcome 5: ‘Connected, Respected and Contributing’ have emerged from the process of developing this *Children and Young People’s Plan*.

Priority 1: Youth participation
Objective 1: Create a space and awareness for young people to actively participate in services, including FCYPSC, in the county of Fingal.
Objective 2: Support the engagement of YP in Fingal Comhairle na nÓg.
Priority 2: Connecting and respecting seldom heard young people
Objective 1: Take a targeted approach to having seldom heard young people engage with Fingal CYPSC.
Objective 2: Respond/investigate further the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal.

Priority 1: Youth participation

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- According to Census 2022, 32.2% of the population in Ireland is aged between 0 to 24 years. In Fingal, this proportion is greater at 35.1%. Relative to the other 27 CYPSC areas, Fingal had the second largest proportion of children and young people in the State. Meath had the highest at 35.5% and Dublin City South had the lowest at 26.6%.
- According to Census 2022, 12.6% of the population in Fingal was volunteering regularly. Relative to the other 27 CYPSC areas this was the fourth lowest proportion. Dublin City North had the lowest proportion at 10.4% and Mayo had the highest at 16.9%.
- According to the HBSC Survey, since 2010 the proportion of children in the Dublin Region that reported having good places in their area to spend their free time decreased from 68.2% to 63.5% in 2018.

Low volunteering rates, according to the Census, are typical of areas with a lack of local community based public buildings and spaces where volunteering mainly occurs. Children and young people from ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged groups are more likely to not have good places to spend their free time which is particularly that case for children and young people living in Fingal.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Many young people involved in the consultations called for more spaces for them to hang out with their friends, socialise and feel part of their community. Parents also raised this need repeatedly, saying it would be better for young people to be kept active and busy and off the streets, out of trouble and less isolated than at home.

Young people that attended a Foróige service in Balbriggan described how it had a positive influence on them. They described how they had an opportunity to meet other young people outside of the school setting. Some of the young people in Swords noted how they benefitted from having a drop in youth-focused space available to them. While in Rush, some of the young people that participated in the group were aware of a youth space in Swords, however, but felt it was not accessible to them due to poor public transport links. When young people who participated in the focus groups were asked what they would change, some young people described that they would have more youth services in their locality and to ensure that they were available to more young people. They also felt there should be more outreach and information sharing regarding these groups.

According to the survey with parents, 45% (n=282) stated that more indoor spaces where young people can hang out were needed in Fingal.

Are there sufficient services in relation to this outcome area?

Throughout the consultations, it was well documented how there is not enough opportunities for young people to participate in decision making in Fingal. Service providers stated that there is a need for not only consultations with young people but also recommendation to be outlined also by young people.

Service providers also stressed how there is not enough youth work services for young people and enough spaces for young people to spend their free time.

What does other research and policy tell us?

Research conducted in 2021 with 1,090 16 – 24 years olds in Ireland found that 78% would like a greater say in the policies and plans that will impact on their future and one third would consider becoming a political representative. Fifty-three per cent believed young people should be allowed to vote at 16 in 20 years but only 19% believed this would happen.⁹⁸

There have been several calls for young people to be given more of a role in decision-making in Ireland. The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and its members have a campaign called Vote at 16 which is calling on the Government to extend the right to vote to 16- and 17-year-olds for local, national and European elections. NYCI and its members believe that young people should have a greater say in decisions and actions that affect them and their community.⁹⁹ The Government has previously committed to holding a referendum on this matter, but it hasn't taken

⁹⁸ Young Social Innovators and Amárach Research (2022) GenZindex Future Outlook.

⁹⁹ <https://www.youth.ie/get-involved/campaigns/vote-at-16/>

place yet. The UNCRC concluding recommendations in February 2023 called on Ireland to follow through in its commitment to hold a referendum on lowering the voting age and recommended that it ensure that any decision to lower the voting age is supported by active citizenship and human rights education and measures.¹⁰⁰

The Government published a *National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making* in 2015¹⁰¹ and a review was published in 2023.¹⁰² It highlights positive progress and 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.

Fingal CYPSC has committed to increasing youth participation it plans to:

- Create a space and awareness for young people to actively participate in services, including FCYPSC, in the county of Fingal;
- Support the engagement of young people in Fingal Comhairle na nÓg; and
- Respond to/investigate the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal further (in conjunction with group responsible for Outcome 3).

Priority 2: Connecting and respecting seldom heard young people

How are children and young people in Fingal doing?

- According to Census 2022, 87.6% of households in Fingal had a broadband internet connection. Relative to the other 27 CYPSC areas, Fingal had the second highest proportion of households with internet connections, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown had the highest at 90.1% and Kerry the lowest at 72.5%.
- According to the HBSC Survey, in 2018 **at a national level** (regional breakdown not available) 67.2% of children reported having good places in their area to spend their free time. Further cross references were carried out on this data, and it was identified that 74.0% of traveller children reported having good places to spend their free time, 69.1% of immigrant children and only 64.9% of children with a disability and/or chronic illness.

Despite there being a high level of broadband connectivity according to Census 2022, during COVID 19 young people in Fingal were impacted by digital poverty. Some did not have access to the hardware to complete schoolwork, some didn't have access to the internet and others did not know how to use hardware if they had it. Some young people in seldom-heard communities such as Travellers and immigrants were disproportionately impacted by school and community-based service closures due to the health and safety regulations set out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What did the Consultations tell us in relation to this priority area?

Primary-aged Traveller girls noted how they enjoyed participating in youth groups. The same groups of Traveller girls described how they felt having a playground would be an opportunity to

¹⁰⁰<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsvOufvUWRUJILHiLHKqpXZxBJO6ukR67VoC4Y8jg%2BGkznf8DjzrqcpQTkSk6R3SYU8fyjSS%2FcV9rb5HcSS8FEaNv6wZw5cs3vn2pqu8tltQs>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9128db-national-strategy-on-children-and-young-peoples-participation-in-dec/>

¹⁰² <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/244760/e5dc3ce5-2fc0-4d3b-b6b9-d38a415a3223.pdf#page=null>

meet and spend time with friends as well as wanting to spend more time with their friends in schools in an out-of-school setting. Older young people participating in a community training initiative described how they felt more listened to and respected by adults in their alternative education setting compared to when they attended mainstream education.

Are there sufficient services in this priority area?

Within the consultations carried out for this CYPP, service providers and seldom heard groups such as Travellers, Roma, Ukrainian children and young people, children in care, children of immigrants and asylum seekers as being at risk. Service providers said that there are not sufficient services regarding language supports to access critical services. It was also emphasized that there are insufficient services specifically targeted at seldom-heard young people, increasing the risk of further marginalization for these groups.

What does other research and policy tell us?

The new *National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making* aims to ensure that participation is mutually beneficial for both organisations and the young people involved. The focus is to establish and improve mechanisms to ensure that seldom heard and vulnerable children and young people are listened to and involved in decision-making for policy, laws, services and research. The new children and young people's national framework *Young Ireland* also includes a number of actions in relation to child and youth participation. These include embedding the voice of children and young people in decision-making in law, policy, education, health, social services, and legal processes as well as in their homes and communities. It also includes building capacity for child and youth participation through the provision of education, training and resources.

Hub na nÓg, which is the participation unit within the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, provides resources and supports to build capacity and provides guidance to statutory and non-statutory agencies in the way they include young people's voices in decision-making. These are informed by the 'Lundy Model of Participation.' Guidance documents and checklists for ensuring the meaningful participation of children and young people are available from the Hub website.¹⁰³ Barnardos also has a *Guide to Understanding and Developing Children's Participation*¹⁰⁴ that is designed to show how services for children can introduce and develop participatory approaches with children.

Fingal CYPSC has committed to increasing youth participation, including that of seldom heard young people taking a targeted approach to having seldom heard young people engage with Fingal CYPSC.

¹⁰³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/e4dd1d64-473b-4a2a-9de2-e2e1648fd52d_en.

¹⁰⁴ Barnardos (2004) Available at: <https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/956>.

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

Below is a summary of Fingal CYPSC's Local Priority Areas, categorised by National Outcome area. These have been informed by and decided on based on the findings derived from conducting demographic profiling; service mapping; consultations; assessments of needs and strategic planning in the process of developing this Plan. Further details on the results of these are provided in Sections 2 to 4. The specific objectives/goals and related activities that will be carried out under each priority area are outlined below in Section 6 of this Plan. The strategic planning meetings with FCYPSC members also discussed internal matters related to Fingal CYPSC and areas for development. From these discussions, several priority areas within the category of Change Management were identified and are included in the CYPP. These are also outlined below:

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Mental Health Youth Physical Health and Wellbeing
Achieving in Learning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Children and Young People in Education Children and Young People with Additional needs
Safe and Protected from Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma Informed Practice Safety in Fingal Substance Misuse Parenting
Economic Security and Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Employment Supports Community based not-for-profit Childcare services Cost of Living Crisis Homelessness
Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth participation Connecting and respecting seldom heard young people Youth Spaces
Change Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Communications Dublin CYPSC Information HUB Funding Emerging Needs

Section 6: Fingal CYPSC's Action Plan for 2024 – 2026

The following tables provide an outline of the actions that are planned for each Local Priority Area under each of the Five National Outcomes.

For each Local Priority Area, the following items are listed: Objectives, indicators, targets, 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 Fingal Children & Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time frame for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Mental Health	Improve access to MH services for young people	Biannual mental health conference held in Fingal.	1 youth mental health conference held biennially.	<p>Develop a youth mental health conference in Fingal with the aim of:</p> <p>Information sharing about services.</p> <p>Identification of needs (especially those unmet).</p> <p>Information sharing re: preventative/well-being programmes.</p> <p>Review models of collaborative working, identifying strengths and existing areas of good practice with a view to improving collaborative working among MH services in Fingal.</p> <p>Create an interagency referral guide for professionals (pathway) (flow chart).</p>	2024-2026	Lead: CYPSC mental health subgroup Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator; other professionals	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, EU Child Guarantee National Action Plan (Government of Ireland, 2022). The UN Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC). Sharing the Vision 2020-2030. Stronger Together: HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022-2027. Sláintecare Implementation Strategy & Action Plan 2021 — 2023	Early Intervention

Action Plan for Fingal Children & Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time frame for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<i>Improve body image of young people in Fingal</i>	<p>Interventions to improve body image reviewed.</p> <p>A youth friendly body image initiative designed, delivered & evaluated in Fingal.</p> <p>Scope out funding opportunities to deliver effective interventions to improve body image in Fingal.</p>	<p>1 review of national and international body image campaigns reviewed.</p> <p>1 Fingal specific body image intervention designed, delivered and evaluated.</p> <p>1 funding opportunity scoped out.</p>	<p>Research effective initiatives/interventions, best practice and funding opportunities to improve body image in Fingal.</p> <p>Design, deliver & evaluate a Fingal specific intervention to address the issue of poor body image among young people in Fingal.</p> <p>Scope out a funding application.</p>	2025	<p>Lead: Jigsaw,</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator & other relevant agencies/experts/stakeholders</p>	<p>Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (0-24) 2023-2028.</p> <p>Connecting for life strategy in Dublin North City and County.</p>	Early Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Fingal Children & Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time frame for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<i>Raise awareness of mental health promotion initiatives in Fingal</i>	<p>Create a database of youth MH promotion initiatives.</p> <p>Create a mailing list to disseminate information on youth mental health promotion initiatives.</p>	<p>1 database of youth mental health promotion initiatives created and updated.</p> <p>1 mailing list created to disseminate information on youth mental health.</p>	<p>Create database/directory of youth MH promotion initiatives and keep updated.</p> <p>Disseminate information among statutory, voluntary, community-based organisations and young people on youth mental health initiatives.</p>	2024	<p>Lead: CYPSC mental health subgroup</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator & other relevant agencies who are involved in collaborative process</p>	<p>Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (0-24) 2023-2028 Sharing the Vision 2020-2030. Implementation Plan 2022-2024.</p> <p>Sharing the Vision.</p>	Early Intervention and Prevention
	<i>Support those on waiting lists for MH services</i>	Develop interventions to support those on waiting lists for MH services.	1 intervention developed annually to support those on waiting list for MH services.	Design, develop and deliver evidence informed annual intervention to support children, young people and families on waiting lists for mental health services.	2024- 2026	<p>Lead: CYPSC mental health subgroup</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator & other relevant agencies who are involved in collaborative process.</p>	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (0-24) 2023-2028. Sharing the Vision 2020-2030. Implementation Plan 2022-2024.	Support Parents, strengthen transitions, Early intervention and prevention

Action Plan for Fingal Children & Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Time frame for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
	Create an awareness of Suicide prevention and self-harm training initiatives among FCYPSC members	Information on suicide awareness and self-harm training initiatives disseminated to FCYPSC members.	Monthly notifications on suicide awareness and self-harm training initiatives disseminated to FCYPSC members.	Develop an understanding of Suicide prevention and self-harm training initiatives available in Fingal. Disseminate information on suicide and self-harm training initiatives available in Fingal.	2024-2026	Lead: Subgroup of CYPSC mental health members Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator and other members/relevant stakeholders.	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. Sharing the Vision Connecting for Life: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015- 2020.	Support Parents, Early intervention and prevention
Youth Physical Health & Wellbeing	Children and young people in Fingal are active and healthy	Healthy Ireland (HI) funded projects delivered in Fingal.	3 HI projects delivered in Fingal annually.	Seek applications for 3 HI projects to be delivered in Fingal annually. Reestablish a Healthy Fingal steering group to review applications. Disseminate HI funding.	2024-2026	Lead: CYPSC mental health subgroup Partners: FCYPSC Coordinator; other professionals.	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing (2013- 2025). CHO9 Dublin North City and County Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan.	Cross government and interagency collaboration and coordination

Action Plan for Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Children and young people with additional needs	Provide supports to families with children and young people with additional needs	<p>Training/ support sessions delivered.</p> <p>Thematic webinars delivered.</p> <p>Spotlight on CDNT in Fingal delivered to education subgroup members.</p> <p>Meet with CDNT managers and interagency partners.</p>	<p>1 training support session delivered for parents.</p> <p>3 Thematic webinars delivered.</p> <p>1 spotlight on CDNT teams in Fingal delivered to subgroup members yearly.</p> <p>Annual meeting with CDNT Managers and interagency partners.</p>	<p>Deliver training/supports to parents and organisations supporting children and young people with additional needs (DESSA).</p> <p>Deliver a series of thematic webinars on disability, inclusion and family support. Navigating and understanding PDS. Questions and challenges.</p> <p>Deliver a spotlight on disability services annually.</p> <p>Meet with CDNT managers and interagency partners to scope out potential for interagency working to support families with children and young people with additional needs.</p>	2024 - 2026	Learning & Development subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator, partner organisation, CFSNs & PLAN.	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. European Child Guarantee. STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026.	<p>Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education.</p> <p>Goal 10 reduced inequalities</p>

Action Plan for Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		<p>The experiences of those accessing CDNT in Fingal documented.</p> <p>Leaflet on CDNT in Fingal designed and delivered.</p>	<p>3 case studies on the experiences of those accessing CDNT services documented.</p> <p>1 leaflet designed and distributed to parents through FCYPSC networks.</p>	<p>Document the experiences of those accessing CDNT in Fingal.</p> <p>Develop a leaflet on Support Pathways for Children with Additional Needs.</p>				
Supporting children & young people in education	Support marginalised/ at risk children and young people to remain in school/ education	Focus group held with professionals delivering supports to marginalised young people who struggle to remain in school.	1 focus group held with professionals delivering supports to marginalised young people who struggle to remain in school.	Carry out a focus group with key players in education to understand why some marginalised/at risk children and young people in Fingal struggle to remain in school/ education.	2024- 2026	<p>Learning & Development Subgroup.</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC coordinator and partners incl: Empower, Public Health Nurse, community early years</p>	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. European Child Guarantee. UNCRC. STEM Education	Outcome 5: Connected respected and contributing to their world.

Action Plan for Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		stakeholders engaged in scoping exercise on alternative education opportunities that could be replicated in Fingal.	1 scoping exercise on alternative education opportunities that could be replicated in Fingal.	Engage stakeholders in a scoping exercise to explore tailored/alternative education opportunities that could be replicated in Fingal. Document the outcome of the scoping exercise. Pilot afterschool service for at risk young people. Evaluate service provided and produce a report on findings and launch report.		services, TESS, Tusla – Family Support, PFL.	Policy Statement 2017-2026.	
	Support all children & young people to remain in mainstream education	Stakeholder meeting convened. Spotlight on the DES Trauma	1 stakeholder meeting convened. 1 spotlight session on the	Convene a stakeholder meeting to highlight the needs and challenges for those struggling to remain in education. Inform post primary patrons of the results of the scoping exercise to highlight the needs and challenges for those struggling to remain in education. Deliver a spotlight session on the DES TIP.	2024-2026	Lead: Learning & Development Subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations incl. NAPD and TESS.	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. European Child Guarantee. UNCRC. STEM Education	Outcome 5: Connected respected and contributing to their world.

Action Plan for Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		Informed Practice (TIP) delivered.	DES TIP delivered.	Support the work of outcome three to develop a trauma informed initiative in Fingal.			Policy Statement 2017-2026.	
	Support for 11 – 16-year-olds who require alternative educational placements	Supports for 11 to 16-year-olds, who require alternative educational placements, in place/ piloted in Fingal.	1 pilot of Supports for 11 to 16-year-olds, who require alternative educational placements delivered in Fingal.	<p>Investigate accredited tailored educational opportunities for 11 to 16-year-olds who require alternative educational placements.</p> <p>Evaluate the possibility of delivering a pilot programme in an area of need in Fingal.</p> <p>Deliver programme. Evaluate and draft a report on service provided with a view to replicate in other areas of need in Fingal.</p>	2024-2026	Lead: Learning & Development Subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations incl. NAPD and TESS.	Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. European Child Guarantee. UNCRC. STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026.	Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world.

Action Plan for Fingal Children & 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Trauma Informed Practice	<i>Create a common narrative and understanding of Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) among service providers in Fingal</i>	Trauma Informed Practice working group established in FCYPSC.	1 working group on TIP established in Fingal.	<p>Develop a TIP working group, and terms of reference for same, to deliver on the safe from harm agenda in Fingal.</p> <p>Working group to develop an action plan in relation to TIP among service providers in Fingal.</p> <p>Develop a shared understanding and vision for TIP among services.</p> <p>Invite other organisations/CYPSC to deliver a spotlight on TIP in their area/ agency.</p> <p>Identify agencies and staff that will commit to participating in delivery of TIP training to service providers in Fingal.</p> <p>Roll out TIP training to all service providers in Fingal.</p> <p>Identify a blueprint for what a quality trauma informed service looks like.</p> <p>Identify community trauma champions</p>	By end of 2026	<p>Lead responsibility: Safe from Harm Subgroup, Tusla chair and member agencies.</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC coordinator; other CYPSC members, Fingal County Council etc.</p>	<p>Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People.</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p>	Outcome 1: Children are active and Healthy.

Action Plan for Fingal Children & 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Safety In Fingal	<i>Investigate further the needs identified by young people in relation to safe youth spaces in Fingal</i>	Youth spaces discussed.	Youth spaces discussed with statutory voluntary and community-based organisations in Fingal.	<p>Hold an interagency forum to discuss the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal.</p> <p>Document the response of FCYPSC member agencies to the needs identified.</p> <p>Communicate this response to young people in Fingal</p>	2024	Tusla, DDLETB and Members of outcome 3 and 5.	The EU Youth Strategy, UNCRC, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.	Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
	<i>To support those impacted by and working in the area of, domestic, sexual and gender-based</i>	<p>DSGBV training offered in Fingal.</p> <p>Fingal DSGBV resource reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>3 DSGBV training offered in Fingal.</p> <p>Fingal DSGBV resource reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>Reestablishment of DSGBV training working group with a view to offering DSGBV training.</p> <p>Review and update Fingal DSGBV resource.</p>	2025	Tusla, Aoibhneas, Sonas.	Young Ireland.	Outcome 1: Children are active and Healthy.

Action Plan for Fingal Children & 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Substance Misuse	<i>Lower the number of young people (YP) using addictive substances</i>	<p>% of YP tried alcohol at 13 years.</p> <p>% of YP who smoked an e-cigarette in the last 30 days.</p> <p>% of YP who used cannabis in the last 30 days.</p>	<p>Less than 35% of YP Tried alcohol at 13 years.</p> <p>Less than 18% smoked an e-cigarette in the last 30 days.</p> <p>Less than 8% Used cannabis in the last 30 days.</p>	<p>Continue to support Planet Youth data collection.</p> <p>Liaise with relevant agencies to support the delivery of Planet Youth prevention plan.</p> <p>Dissemination of key data among wider relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Support the delivery of SAOR¹⁰⁵ training annually.</p> <p>Promote (DRIVE¹⁰⁶) among those experiencing intimidation.</p> <p>Signposting information developed.</p>	By end of 2026	NDRDTF and subgroup 3 members.	Young Ireland. UNCRC.	Outcome 4: Economic Security and opportunity.
	<i>Collaborate with stakeholders in relation to substance misuse among people young people in Fingal</i>	Interagency event on substance misuse held.	1 interagency event on substance abuse held annually.	<p>Organise an interagency sharing event to identify trends/ themes.</p> <p>Organise an interagency capacity building event based on themes identified in year 1.</p> <p>Information event for parents and service users on services/ resources available in Fingal.</p>	By end of 2026	NDRDTF and subgroup 3 members	Young Ireland. UNCRC	Outcome 4: Economic Security and opportunity.

Action Plan for Fingal Children & 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Parenting	<i>Information on universal parenting programmes will be easily accessible</i>	Parenting website developed. Train the trainer programme for parents investigated.	1 parenting website developed and launched. 3 Train the trainer parenting programmes investigated.	Parenting website developed, launched, promoted and maintained. Scope out the possibility of a train-the-trainer programme for parents.	2024-2026	Safe from Harm subgroup Partners: Wider CYPSC membership & FCYPSC Coordinator.	Young Ireland. First 5 Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting.	Outcome 1: Children are active and Healthy.
	<i>Easily accessible information relating to services for children, young people and families is available</i>	Consultations with children, young people and parents reviewed.	Consultations with children, young people and parents for the FCYP reviewed.	Review and document the issues raised by parents, young people and services during the consultations for the CYPP. Communicate the issues raised to relevant stakeholders. Develop/identify a resource with the potential to make information easily accessible for children, young people and services.	2024-2026	Lead responsibility: Safe from Harm subgroup. Partners: Wider CYPSC membership & FCYPSC Coordinator.	Young Ireland. First 5 vision, the First 5 Implementation Plan (2023-2025). Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services (Government of Ireland, 2022).	Outcome 1: Children are active and Healthy.

¹⁰⁵ SAOR (Support Ask, Offer assistance and Refer) training is a Brief Intervention training for Alcohol and Substance abuse.

¹⁰⁶ DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is an interagency response to Drug Related Intimidation & Violence in Ireland.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth Employment Supports	Agree multi-agency strategy to support young people at risk of becoming NEET	Multi-agency strategy developed with action plan to support young people at risk of becoming NEET.	1 multi-agency strategy and action plan developed to support young people at risk of becoming NEET.	<p>Establish a multi-agency working group with a view to developing a multi-agency strategy to support young people at risk of becoming NEET.</p> <p>Develop strategy and an action plan on how to engage with NEETS and disseminate widely.</p>	2024	Lead: New multi-agency group & CYPSC Economic subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator, Empower, Foróige, Crosscare, Youthreach & CTC.	Young Ireland, Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025, Housing for All, Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025, Pathways to Work 2021-2025.	Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world.
	Support 16- to 18-year-olds in education into employment/ apprenticeships	Jobs Fair delivered in Fingal.	1 Jobs fair delivered annually.	<p>Organise a Jobs Fair for young people in Fingal in areas of disadvantage.</p> <p>200+ marginalised young people in areas of disadvantage invited to Jobs Fair.</p>	2024- 2025	Lead: FCC FCYPSC coordinator, Empower, Foróige.	Young Ireland Pathways to Work 2021-2025.	Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world.
		Post Secondary School Preparation (PSSP) supports delivered	PSSP supports delivered to 2 DEIS post primary	Support Post Secondary Preparation: Practical skills for job seeking are offered in DEIS schools in D15 and Balbriggan.				

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		in DEIS secondary schools in D15.	schools in D15 & Balbriggan.					
<i>Children and families living in areas of deprivation in Fingal</i>	<i>Increase community based not-for-profit childcare provision in Fingal in line with the national average</i>	# of interagency meetings held to discuss the gap in community based not-for-profit childcare provision in Fingal.	2 Interagency meetings held to discuss the gap in community based not-for-profit childcare provision in Fingal	<p>2 interagency meetings held to highlight the gap in community based not-for-profit childcare provision in Fingal</p> <p>Review/examine developments since the publication of Double Disadvantage.</p> <p>Roundtable discussion and action plan on how to increase community based not for profit childcare services in Fingal.</p> <p>Scoping out of potential sites for community based not for profit childcare services in Fingal.</p> <p>Investigate the possibility of community centres as a host for not-for-profit childcare services.</p>	End of 2026	Lead: Empower, Interagency Working Group Partners: FCYPSC Economic subgroup, FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.	First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028. Young Ireland.	Outcome 1: Children are active and healthy.
	<i>Support local and national Stakeholders to</i>	Highlight areas of need in Fingal	1 document produced	Produce a document that highlights area of need in Fingal.	2024-2026	Lead: Empower CYPSC	First 5: A Whole-of-Government	Outcome 1: Children are

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<i>deliver better outcomes for children and families living in areas of deprivation in Fingal.</i>		highlighting areas of need in Fingal.	Increase awareness of areas of need in Fingal among local and national stakeholders.		Economic subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator, PPFS manager Tusla and partner organisations.	Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028. Young Ireland.	active and healthy.
<i>Cost of Living Crisis</i>	Support those in poverty/disproportionally impacted by the cost-of-living crisis	<p>Interagency working group established to focus on poverty.</p> <p>Submit an application for the National Child Poverty Action Plan Pilot to be in Fingal submitted.</p> <p>% increase in funding for food banks.</p> <p>Social shop in Fingal scoped out</p>	<p>1 Interagency working group established to focus on poverty.</p> <p>1 application submitted for the National Child Poverty Action Plan funding.</p> <p>50% increase in the funding for food banks.</p> <p>1 social shop scoped out in D15 with a view to</p>	<p>Establish interagency working group to address food, fuel, period & digital poverty using existing networks.</p> <p>Submit a joint application with Fingal LCDC for the National Child Poverty Action Plan Pilot to be in Fingal.</p> <p>Secure funding for existing food banks.</p> <p>Scope out a Social Shop.</p>	2024-2026	<p>Lead: Interagency Working Group</p> <p>Partners: FCYPSC Economic subgroup, FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.</p>	Ireland's EU Child Guarantee National Action Plan. Agenda for Sustainable Development.	Agenda for Sustainable Development: Goal 1: No Poverty.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		webinar delivered on EU Child Guarantee.	replicate in other areas. 40 attendees at webinar on the EU Child Guarantee.	Deliver a webinar on the EU Child Guarantee, National Action Plan: Implications for policy and practice in Fingal.				
Homelessness	Support agencies working with families experiencing homelessness.	Interagency event organised. Homeless Services Support Information document developed.	1 interagency event convened. 1 Fingal specific Homeless Services Support document developed.	Convene an interagency event on homelessness. Develop a Fingal specific Homeless Services Support Information document.	2024-2026	Lead: Economic Subgroup Partners: FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025. Young Ireland. Home Works:	Outcome 5: Children and young people are active and healthy.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Youth participation	Create awareness of Fingal's Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel	Resources on Fingal's Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel distributed.	Distribute resources to all 99 primary and 39 post primary schools, 1 Community Training Centre, 4 Youth Reaches in Fingal.	<p>Launch Fingal Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel resources.</p> <p>Distribute resources.</p> <p>Review the supporting structures for young people to become members of FCYPSC and subgroups.</p> <p>Share information on FCYPSC with schools, clubs, medical services churches and youth services to increase young people's knowledge of CYPSC, how it works and its benefits etc.</p> <p>Offer young people (aged 10 – 24) the opportunity to join the CYPSC group.</p>	December 2026	FCYPSC Participation Subgroup.	Young Ireland; The EU Youth Strategy, UNCRC, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.	Outcome 4: Children and young people have economic security and opportunity.
	Support the engagement of young people in Fingal Comhairle na nÓg	FCYPSC members attend Fingal Comhairle na nÓg	2 members of FCYPSC attend Comhairle na nÓg steering group meetings.	<p>FCYPSC coordinator to sit on FCNN steering group.</p> <p>DDLETB to sit on the steering group of FCNN.</p>	December 2026	FCYPSC Participation Subgroup.	Young Ireland; The EU Youth Strategy, UNCRC, National	Outcome 1; Children and Young People are Active and Healthy.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
		nÓg steering group.		FCNN members to be invited to present to FCYPSC annually. Support FCNN to progress their chosen topic annually.			Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.	
Connecting & respecting seldom heard young people	Strengthen the voice of seldom heard young people at FCYPSC.	# of FCYPSC members that represent seldom heard young people living in Fingal.	3 Agencies representing seldom heard young people are represented on FCYPSC and subgroups.	Undertake stakeholder mapping to identify gaps in representation Review Fingal youth participation and engagement wheel to identify agencies needed to support seldom heard young people engage in FCYPSC. Document the experiences of seldom heard young people in Fingal and present findings to local and national decision makers.	2024- 2026	Participation Subgroup	National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.	<i>Outcome 1; Children and Young People are Active and Healthy.</i>

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Safe youth spaces	<i>Respond/ investigate further the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal</i>	Youth spaces in Fingal discussed with statutory voluntary and community-based organisations in the county.	2 meetings held with statutory voluntary and community-based organisations in Fingal regarding youth spaces in the county.	Hold an interagency forum to discuss the needs identified by young people in relation to youth spaces in Fingal.	2024	DDLETB. PPFS.	National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.	Outcome 3: Children and young people are safe from harm.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Advocacy	Create awareness of challenges and opportunities for children and young people in Fingal among key stakeholders at a local and national level	Key messages about children young people and families distributed.	10 key facts per 5 national outcomes distributed to local and national organisations.	<p>Identify target audience(s)/key stakeholders we are aiming to engage with/learn from advocacy messages & key facts.</p> <p>Evidence baseline report developed.</p> <p>10 key facts per subgroup extracted from the report, branded and delivered via social media/ newsletter.</p> <p>Organise a round table discussion on challenges and opportunities for children and young people in Fingal.</p> <p>Communicate priorities and challenges to relevant local and national statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations in Fingal.</p>	2024 - 2026	FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.	Young Ireland	Goal 4: Ensure quality of service

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Communications	Improve internal and external communication in FCYPSC	Communication strategy developed.	1 Communication strategy developed.	<p>Facilitated session to agree communication strategy & channels of communication for FCYPSC.</p> <p>Annual meeting of FCYPSC and subgroups.</p> <p>Design and dissemination of Ezine to FCYPSC and subgroup members. Utilise IT system that monitors engagement.</p> <p>Review membership of FCYPSC & subgroups to ensure representation of all communities living in Fingal.</p> <p>Establish a communications and events committee</p>	2024 - 2026	FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.	Young Ireland.	Goal 4: Ensure quality of service.
x5 CYPSC in Dublin Information HUB developed	Facilitate opportunities for local statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations to communicate regarding their work	Dublin CYPSC creates opportunities for organisations to communicate regarding their work.	1 Information hub created.	<p>X 5 CYPSC in Dublin information hub developed.</p> <p>FCYPSC branded Videos on services in Fingal developed.</p> <p>FCYPSC branded Stakeholder lunchtime/spotlight sessions across 3 population hubs in Fingal delivered.</p>	2024 - 2026	FCYPSC coordinator and partner organisations.	Young Ireland	Goal 4: Ensure quality of service.

Action Plan for Fingal 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) &/or Transformational Goal(s)
Funding	FCYPSC members are aware of all funding streams to help realise the aims of making Fingal the best county in Ireland to grow up in	FCYPSC members informed of funding streams available	All member agencies represented on FCYPSC informed of funding streams available.	Distribute information on potential funding streams to all FCYPSC members. Include Government and philanthropic funding streams 2024-2026. Reestablish FCYPSC funding work group to process FCYPSC funding applications.	2024 - 2026	FCYPSC coordinator & FCYPSC partners.	Young Ireland	Goal 4: Ensure quality of service.
Emerging needs	FCYPSC responds to global and local emerging needs impacting children, young people and families in Fingal if/when they arise	FCYPSC systems/ability to respond to emerging needs because an emerging need.	Relevant emerging needs responded to if they arise.	Identification of emerging needs established as an agenda item of FCYPSC and subgroup meetings and Plan adapted to respond to emerging needs. FCYPSC agree spotlight section of meetings annually. Midway review of FCYPSC plan to adapt and respond to new emerging needs if required and review progress on existing objectives and adapt those if required due to emerging needs	2024 - 2026	FCYPSC coordinator & FCYPSC partners.	Young Ireland	Goal 4: Ensure quality of service.

Section 7: Monitoring and Evaluation

This section includes details of how the implementation of the Plan will be monitored and reviewed locally by FCYPSC members during the course of its three-year lifespan in alignment with the [CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework](#).

FCYPSC members have a collective responsibility for the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of this three-year CYPP. FCYPSC's priorities named in this three-year plan are linked to the five national outcomes outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and *Young Ireland*. They have clearly stated objectives and indicators and are time-framed to assist in monitoring and delivery.

Fingal CYPSC will monitor and review its work regularly throughout the period 2024 – 2026. This will be done through the following activities:

- Regular review of progress in relation to each action, considering indicators and targets in the CYPP.
- Annual review processes with CYPSC Main Committee and other members as relevant.
- The chairperson of each subgroup will prepare and present a progress report at each FCYPSC meeting, detailing successes in the implementation of the FCYPSC plan and highlight any concerns or blockages.
- FCYPSC will engage with children, young people and families to monitor and review the development of the plan.

FCYPSC has submitted this three-year CYPP to the National CYPSC office to undergo a quality assurance process. This rigorous monitoring and review process ensures compliance with national standards.

FCYPSC will produce an annual programme of work outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved by FCYPSC each year of the plan. It will provide a high-level overview of what and how FCYPSC will deliver against each of the agreed local objectives and strategic actions in this three-year plan.

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

FCYPSC will produce an Annual Progress Report on its activities, achievements and impact to the national office for CYPSC. The Annual Progress Report will be utilised locally by FCYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. The report will inform FCYPSC decisions to enact developments or changes within its three-year strategic plan and will enable FCYPSC to be responsive to emerging local needs as well as national policy imperatives.

Appendices

8.1 Fingal CYPSC's Terms of Reference

Valid from March 2018

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Fingal 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 County Fingal.

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). A full list of current members is below.
- Additional members may be proposed and approved by the Committee.

4. Objectives of Fingal CYPSC

- To identify and address the needs of children and young people (0-24 years) in Fingal.
- 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 Fingal
- In the Chair's absence, this role will be fulfilled by the 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.
- Other meetings such as subgroups, will be scheduled outside of these times, 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.
- Agendas 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 Fingal CYPSC members, subject to the agreed decision-making terms above.

8.4 Fingal CYPSC's Subgroup Members

Membership correct as of July 2024

Mental Health Subgroup

- Annmarie Drake NEPS
- Clare O'Reilly Jigsaw North Dublin
- David Creed North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force
- Emilia Marchelewska Cairde
- Evgeniya Kuznietsova Jigsaw D15
- Geraldine Scott Crosscare
- Fintan Davit Pieta
- Irene Griffin HSE Youth Mental Health
- Jenny Murphy Barnardos
- John Duffy Suicide Resource Officer HSE
- Karen Bosonnet CAMHS
- Karin Davy Daughters of Charity
- Suzie Mc Carthy Traveller Counselling Service
- Sylvia Cahill CAMHS
- Tadhg Foley Foróige
- Doreen Carpenter HSE Mental Health Service for Travelers
- Liz Devlin Education Welfare Service
- Nicola Garvey National Association of Principals and Deputies

Education Subgroup

- Alma Moran Irish Primary Principal Network
- Caroline Mhiceoin Education Welfare Service
- Erin Culligan HSE Disability Team
- Hilary Walsh Peter Mac Verry Trust
- Judith Kerins Education Welfare Service
- Kim Cummins Foróige
- Lisa Gannon School Completion programme
- Michele Condra School Completion programme
- Monica Lawless Empower
- Pauline Managan Empower
- Ruth O'Connor Home School Community Liaison
- Valerie Reynolds Education Welfare Service
- Finola Mc Loughlin Barnardos
- Ellie Barwise Home School Community Liaison

Safe From Harm Subgroup

- Catherine Meleady North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force (NDRTF)
- Clodagh Carroll Barnardos
- Debbie Kenny Child and Family Support Network
- Cristina Santamaria Aoibhneas

- Evelyn Murphy Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support
- Finola McLoughlin Barnardos
- Grainne Kinsella Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support
- Karen Gorman Foróige
- Karin Davy Daughters of Charity
- Kathleen Cummins Peter Mc Verry Trust
- Linda Daly Sonas
- Louise O'Neill Aster Family Resource Centre
- Margaret Mc Loughlin Mountview Family Resource Centre
- Olivia O'Flaherty Tusla
- Patricia Dunne Aster FRC
- Ruth Morris HSE Nursing
- Sara Jane Blanchardstown Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Sonya Logan Sonas
- Francis Mc Cabe Child and Family Support Network
- Mary Morris Blanchardstown Drugs Task Force
- Katie Murphy North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force (NDRTF)

Economic Subgroup

- Aisling Traynor Foróige
- Aoife Sheridan Fingal County Council
- Carl O'Rourke Blanchardstown Community Training Centre
- Christine Hughes Rush Youthreach
- Eddie Manning Swords Youthreach
- Elaine Hurley Blanchardstown Youthreach
- Felix Gallagher Empower
- Frances Killeen Balbriggan Youthreach
- Louise Stewart Empower
- Grainne O'Donoghue Tusla
- Jean O'Gorman Foróige

Participation Subgroup

- Aisha Alameen Betro Young Person Representative
- Heather O'Shea Barnardos
- Aoife Genocchi Foróige
- Avryll De Burca Daughters of Charity
- Paula Whitty YAP
- John Costello National Learning Network
- Laura Byrne Gheel
- Mary Geagan Neighbourhood Youth Project
- Leo Galvin Young Person Representative
- Oladele Akpata Crosscare Youth Service
- Sarah O'Brien Jigsaw
- Simon Mc Cabe Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board
- Siobhan Noctor Blanchardstown Traveller Project