



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee



Ross Castle Killarney National Park: by Erica 5th Class

Children and Young People's Plan 2026 –2028

Contact

The Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments and feedback about our Children and Young People's Plan

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Listowel Castle: by Ayla 6th Class

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Glossary of terms

AIRO	All-Island Research Observatory
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
ADHD	Attention-deficit, hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
BOBF	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures
BOTP	Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCC	County Childcare Committee
CFL	Connecting for Life
CFSN	Child and Family Support Network
CHO	Community Healthcare Organisations
CnN	Comhairle na nÓg
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSP	Child Safety Programme
CYPSC	Children and Young People’s Services Committee
CYPP	Children and Young People’s Plan
CYP	Children and Young People
DCDE	Department of Children, Disability and Equality
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DEY	Department of Education and Youth
DESSA	Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency
DSP	Department of Social Protection
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ED	Electoral Districts
ELC	Early Learning and Care
ETB	Education and Training Board
FET	Further Education and Training
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GMS	General Medical Service
HI	Healthy Ireland
HSCL	Home School Community Liaison
IAIMH	Irish Association of Infant Mental Health
IGG	Irish Girl Guides
IPA	International Protection Accommodation
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
IRPP	Irish Refugee Protection Programme
KCYS	Kerry Community Youth Service
KCIF	Kerry Community Integration Forum
KCCC	Kerry County Childcare Committee
KTHCDP	Kerry Traveller Health and Community Development Project
LA	Local Authority
LAIT	Local Authority Integration Team
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual +

LHO	Local Health Office
LTl	Local Training Initiatives
MBA	Marginally Below Average
MD	Municipal District
MEND	Men Ending Domestic Violence
MTU	Munster Technological University
NEETS	Not in Employment, Education, or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NEWKD	North East West Kerry Development Partnership
NLN	National Learning Network
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention
NPRS	National Perinatal Reporting System
NSRF	National Suicide Research Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFG	Programme for Government
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
PPN	Public Participation Network
SAP	Small Area Population
SCP	School Completion Programme
SRDAFT	Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
STAR	Supporting Travellers and Roma
SONC	State of the Nation's Children
SKDP	South Kerry Development Partnership
TG	Transformational Goals
TIRC	Tralee International Resource Centre
TESS	Tusla Education Support Service
UBU	Your Place Your Space
UNCRC	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Chairperson's Foreword

As Chairperson of Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC), I am delighted to present our Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2026 - 2028 for the county. Kerry CYPSC was established in September 2010, and our new Children and Young People's plan will build on the excellent work undertaken by Kerry CYPSC and its Working Groups to date. The plan will guide our collective efforts to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families in Kerry through collaborative, interagency working.

This Plan reflects our collective ambition to achieve tangible, lasting improvements in the lives of children and young people across Kerry. It builds on the successes of our previous strategy, outlines clear priorities based on robust needs analysis, and sets out measurable actions to be delivered through strong interagency collaboration. The Kerry Children and Young People's Plan is the result of the commitment and energy of all our Kerry CYPSC stakeholders. We are delighted to include the voice of children and young people, parents, and our wide network of stakeholders across all services and supports in the county.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of this plan through their participation in the consultation processes at stakeholder engagement days, facilitating child and youth consultations, and facilitating parent consultations. We would like to thank the children, young people and parents who shared their views so honestly with us enabling us to develop two reports which have informed the development of the Kerry CYPP, '*2022 Kerry Youth Consultation Report*' and '*Needs Analysis and Parents Support Strategy for County Kerry*' (2024) which provided invaluable insight for the development of this plan.

We recognise that the actions outlined in our new Children and Young People's Plan are ambitious, and we look forward to working collaboratively with all our stakeholders to achieve our goals. This Children and Young People's Plan is a 'live' document, and we welcome feedback in relation to it. Kerry CYPSC and its working groups will respond to issues as they emerge as we did during the unforeseen Covid-19 pandemic and the displacement of so many Ukrainians following Russia's invasion in 2022.

I would like to thank Kerry CYPSC and Kerry CYPSC Working Group members for their ongoing energy and commitment to this interagency initiative, and I look forward to working with you all to successfully implement this Kerry CYPSC Children and Young People's Plan.



Breda Lynch

Area Manager, Tusla Child and Family Agency Kerry

Chairperson of Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee

Date: December 3rd, 2024

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC) is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective integration of existing services and interventions at local level. CYPSCs are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people (CYP) in every county in Ireland. Their remit spans all children and young people aged from 0 to 24 years. *Young Ireland: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023 – 2028* underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People’s Services Committees with a key role in this.

Kerry CYPSC works towards progressing in County Kerry the five national outcomes underpinned by six transformational goals as per Figure 1.

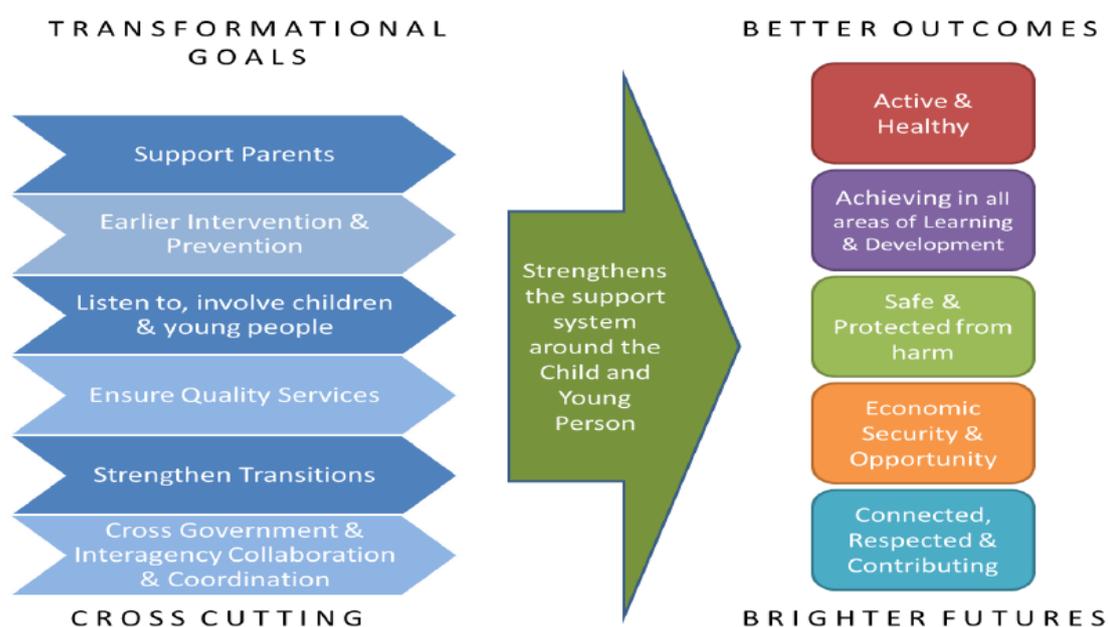


Figure 1: National Outcomes and Transformational Goals

Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children, Disability and Equality established the Children and Young People’s Services Committees in 2007. Since then, CYPSCs have increased incrementally in number and are now a key structure for Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland.

CYPSCs bring together all major organisations and agencies working locally that have a remit on behalf of children and young people. They work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through integrated planning and improved service delivery.

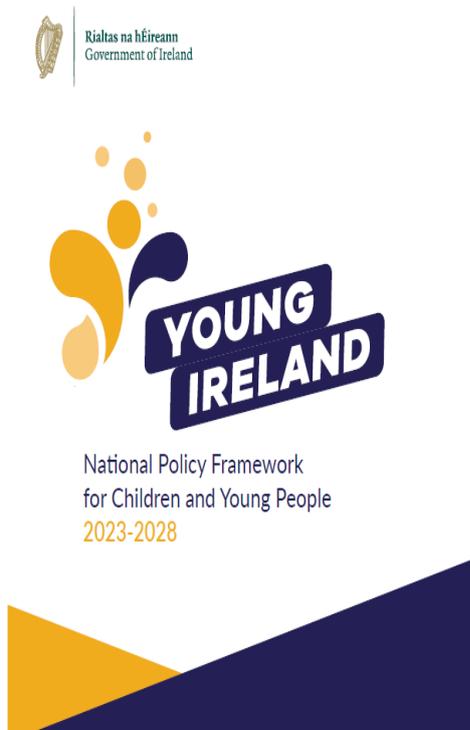
Figure 2 depicts the child and youth policy structures with CYPSC is represented on the the Children and Young Peoples Policy Forum.



Figure 2: Child and youth policy structures

The development of CYPSCs has been shaped and will continue to be informed by several major government policies and strategies.

Young Ireland (2023-2028)



Young Ireland is the new policy framework for children and young people. It covers the period from 2023-2028 and envisages an Ireland in which all children and young people can fully access their rights. It is focused on tackling the biggest challenges that affect children and young people in Ireland today and setting up robust structures, so children’s rights are foremost whenever decisions are made affecting the lives of children and young people.

Young Ireland is a whole of government policy emphasising the importance of everyone working together for the development, to their maximum potential, of children and young people. It identifies five national outcomes for children and young people and recognises CYPSCs as the key vehicle for inter-agency work and development of local Children and Young People’s Plans (CYPP).

First 5 (2019 -2028)

This is Ireland’s first ever strategy for early childhood. It is a ten-year plan to help ensure that all children have positive early experiences. The “First 5 Strategy” uses evidence to identify goals, objectives and the specific actions required across Government to support children and their families in the early years of life. This whole-of government strategy aims to deliver.

- A broader range of options to parents to balance working and caring.
- A new model of parenting support.
- New developments in child health, including a dedicated child health workforce.
- Reform of the Early Learning and Care System, including a new funding model.
- A package of measures to tackle childhood poverty.

National Healthy Childhood Programme 2014-2025

The Health Service Executive, through the delivery of the National Healthy Childhood Programme, has a key role in supporting families so that babies can fully realise their potential into adulthood. The Programme covers the antenatal stage to the first year in secondary school with a focus on prevention and early intervention (screening and surveillance including health promotion strategies and interventions) and is provided by health services across a range of settings from homes to hospitals. The Nurture Infant Health and Well-being Programme is a key enabler for the implementation of the National Healthy Childhood Programme, focusing on supporting the development and delivery of the universal child health service for 0–2-year-olds.

Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025

Six key priority areas have been identified under the Healthy Ireland Framework which is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland, and these are replicated for Healthy Kerry.

1. Physical activity
2. Healthy weight
3. Tobacco free
4. Sexual health
5. Alcohol and drug related harm
6. Mental health

Local Authorities have a significant role in protecting and promoting their citizens' health and wellbeing. Kerry Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Kerry Healthy County Committee, working with a range of organisations and groups, oversee the implementation of the Healthy Kerry Plan which was updated in 2024. Kerry CYPSC receives funding under the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund.

Sláintecare

The vision for healthcare set out in the Programme for Government (PFG) is Universal Healthcare, a public health service which provides people with access to high quality, affordable care when they need it. Sláintecare is designed to enable the reorientation of service delivery towards general practice and community-based services, thereby providing health services closer to people's homes and reducing pressure on acute hospitals. This is particularly relevant to County Kerry, a largely rural county. The Sláintecare 2023 Action Plan sets out the ongoing reform priorities aligned with the Programme for Government, the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021—2023, Department of Health priorities and the HSE's National Service Plan 2023.

A National Model of Parenting Support Services 2022

Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services addresses parenting support services from pre-birth up to adulthood. It describes the provision of parenting supports in Ireland and respective roles and responsibilities and sets out actions to improve parenting supports. It acknowledges that for parents to get the right parenting support, at the right time, the provision of high-quality, accessible information and high-quality services that are visible, inclusive, and easily accessible are essential.

It seeks to strengthen and develop mechanisms for effective coordination, co-operation, and collaboration. It recognises the roles and strengths of individual sectors in supporting parents and seeks to identify how stakeholders can work together to maximise all efforts and deliver better results for parents and their children.

The model sets out the vision, principles and delivery mechanisms for parenting supports in Ireland. The four goals identified as essential to achieving the vision are: 1. Greater awareness of parenting support services 2. Greater access to parenting support services 3. More inclusive parenting support services 4. Needs-led and evidence-informed parenting support services.

This will help to guide the implementation of current and future parenting support actions and promote a cohesive, joined-up national approach across different sectors. The first stage in achieving these goals is described in its action plan illustrated in Figure 3 which will be realised through a 5-year implementation plan accompanying the model.



Figure 3: Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services – Action Plan

CYPSC Shared Vision Next Steps 2019-2024

The aim of Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019–2024 is to provide a succinct road map for the ongoing development of CYPSCs. It identifies the most immediate actions to be addressed to assist CYPSCs to further develop in a strategic, integrated and sustainable manner. It seeks to expand the capacity of CYPSCs to reflect relevant policies and emerging developments and respond to emerging needs, both national and local.

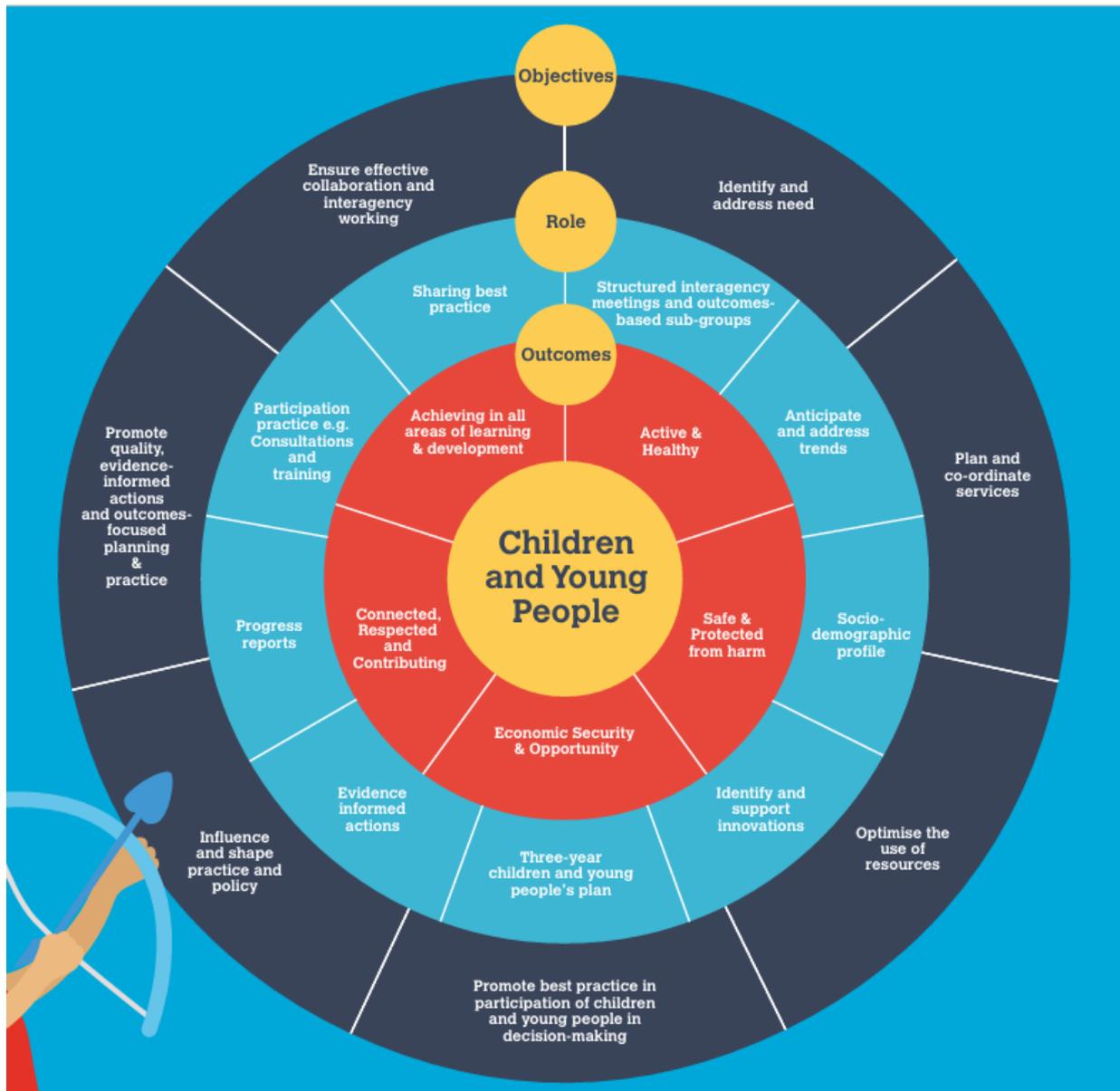


Figure 4: Summary of objectives, roles and outcomes of CYPSC

Children and Young People's Services Committee in County Kerry

Kerry CYPSC was founded on 14th September 2010 and has since been working hard to establish connections with agencies and services across Kerry and the rest of Ireland, to make sure children, young people, and their families have access to services and support they may need. Kerry CYPSC is supported by a Co-ordinator who is employed by Tusla Child and Family Agency. It is chaired by the Tusla Area Manager for Kerry and the Vice Chair role is held by the Chief Officer of the LCDC, Kerry County Council. Each county CYPSC reports to the national CYPSC office at the Tusla Child and Family Agency which in turn reports to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Who we are

Kerry CYPSC brings together all major organisations and agencies working locally with or on behalf of children and young people. The current membership is listed in Table 1 and illustrated overleaf.

Name	Agency
Breda Lynch	Area Manager, Tusla CFA Kerry
Bridget Fitzgerald	Senior Executive Officer, Kerry County Council
Aileen Kelleher	Manager, Kerry County Childcare Committee
Ann Moynihan	Manager, Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
Ann Marie Roche	Principal Social Worker, Tusla CFA
Anne Doyle	Guidance Counsellor, Institute of Guidance Counsellors, Kerry
Berni Smyth	CEO, Kerry Community Youth Services
Brigid Quilligan	Manager, Kerry Traveller Health and CDP
Carol Naughton	Education Officer, South Kerry Development Partnership
Catherine Casey	General Manager, Adapt Women's Refuge Service, Kerry
Eoin Donovan	Inspector, Divisional Protective Services Unit, AGS
Jimmy Mulligan	Manager, South West Counselling Centre
Kate Gibney	HSE Drugs and Alcohol Services / SRDATF
Mary Anne Lowney	Regional Manager Munster, Tusla Education Support Service
Michael Moriarty	Primary Care Services Manager, HSE Kerry
Norma Keane	Senior Probation Officer, Probation Services
Pam Dillane	Education Officer, North East and West Kerry Development
Pat McGarty	Head of Department, Social Sciences, MTU Tralee
Rosemarie O'Shea	Manager, South West Kerry Family Resource Centre
Seamus Whitty	Youth Officer, Kerry Education and Training Board
Sylven Veerasoo	Clinical Coordinator, HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, South Kerry
Alan O'Brien	Youth Representative, Student MTU Tralee
Karen Amumpaire	Youth Representative, Student MTU Tralee
Claire O'Toole	Coordinator, Kerry CYPSC

Table 1: Kerry CYPSC Membership 2024

Kerry CYPSC has five subgroups aligned to the five national outcomes to support the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) aligned to the national outcomes contained in Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-28.

- Child and Youth Mental Health (Outcome 1)
- Substance Use (Outcome 1 and 3)
- Parenting and Early Years (Outcome 3)
- Progression Pathways (Outcome 2 and 4)
- Youth Participation (Outcome 5)

The role of the subgroups is to implement the actions in the CYPP. They provide regular progress reports to the main CYPSC and highlight emerging issues, concerns and gaps. Sub groups convene working groups as required. These are time limited groups that are created to ensure the implementation of specific actions.



Ballybunion Beach: By Rian 2nd Class

Kerry CYPSC Organisational Chart

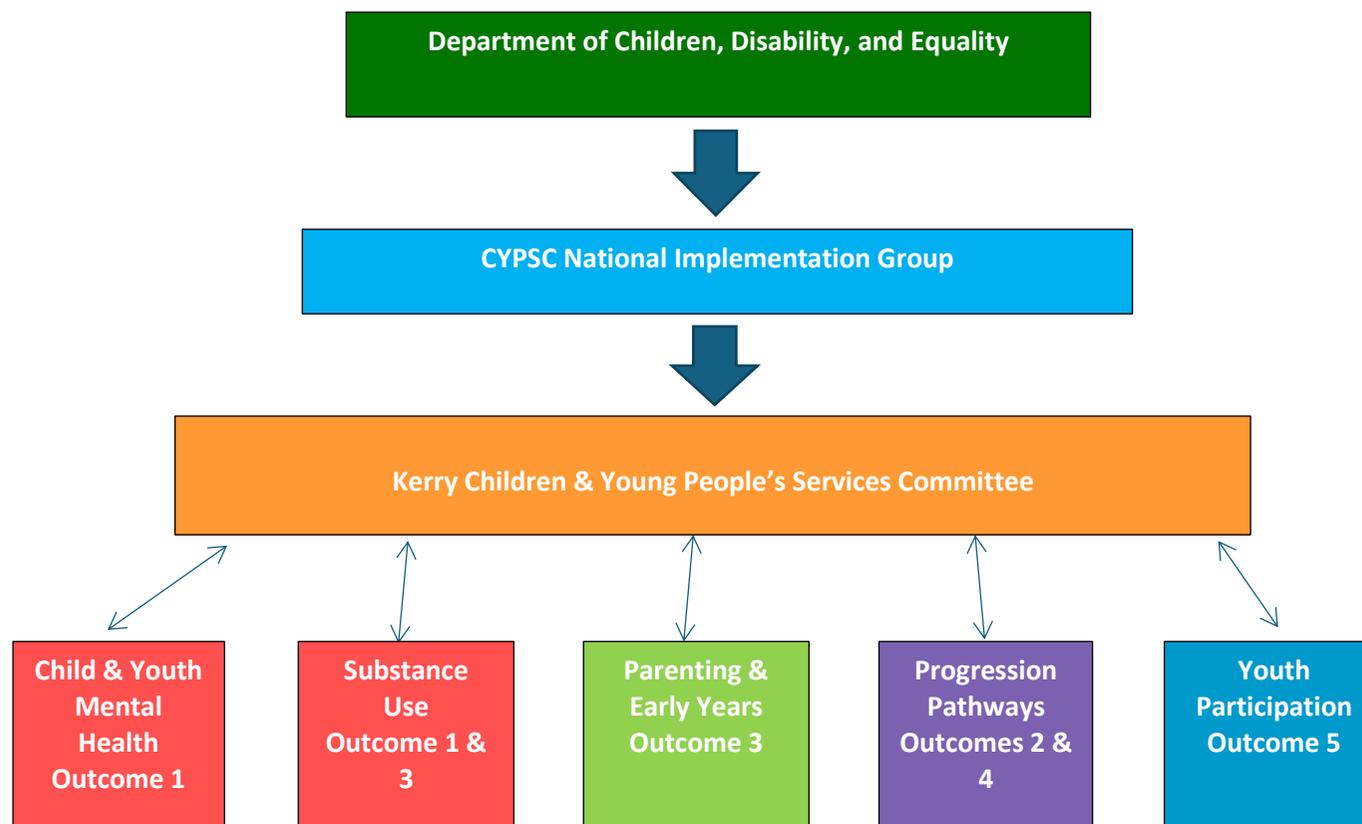




Figure 5: Kerry CYPSC Organisations

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Kerry CYPSC works closely with all statutory, community and voluntary agencies which provide services and supports to children, young people and families in the county to ensure better outcomes. Cooperation, collaboration and partnership working is embedded across all priority area working groups; Kerry CYPSC endeavours to work in partnership and participation with children, young people, parents and communities. Kerry CYPSC and its partners are committed to strengthening and developing the interagency links and collaborative practice across all aspects of our work. This CYPP was developed in partnership with all stakeholders and Kerry CYPSC will continue to work with them to effectively implement it over the next 3 years.

The inter-agency element of Kerry CYPSC's work extends to representation of the Kerry CYPSC Co-ordinator and CYPSC members on a range of local and county wide interagency forums focused on children and young people. This ensures synergies between these agencies/working groups' plans with the Children and Young People's Plan. They are also mechanisms where CYPSC can influence the way agencies work and encourage them to look at their own work through the CYPSC lens.

Kerry CYPSC collaborates closely with the Kerry Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which is an interagency structure. The LCDC is required to develop a 6-year strategic Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to oversee the coordination and distribution of local community development and social inclusion funding. Beyond the general principles shared by all stakeholders, there are notable areas for progression of mutual interest for the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage. These include:

- Ensuring that local county-level implementation and monitoring through the CYPSC is formally linked with the Local Community Development Committee.
- Alignment between the priorities for children and young people set out in Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-28 and the priorities and actions set out in the relevant Local Economic and Community Plan.

Kerry CYPSC and Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) are strategically linked at county level. Kerry CYPSC the PPFS Kerry team and the Kerry Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) work collaboratively to support children, young people and families in Kerry.

Kerry County Childcare Committee

Kerry County Childcare Committees (KCCC) supports and assists families and early learning and care and school age childcare providers with childcare matters in County Kerry. KCCC is a Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) funded support. A key function of KCCC is to facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible early learning and care and school age childcare services for the overall benefit of children and their parents by taking a child-centred and partnership approach. In addition, they provide parents with information on parenting courses available locally and distribute funding and provide support for parent and toddler groups.



Fenit Lighthouse: by [Íde](#) 4th Class

How the Children and Young People’s Plan was developed

The Kerry Children and Young People’s Plan was developed by Kerry CYPSC and its subgroups between July and December 2024. The methodology deployed is outlined in Table 2 which documents the work undertaken with the findings from each of the stages presented in subsequent sections of the plan. Statistics sourced (e.g. Census 2022) are the most recently available datasets.

Stage	Description
Desk Review	<p>This stage involved reviewing research undertaken locally in County Kerry and reviewing regional and national policies and strategies relevant to children and young people (CYP). It facilitated a deeper understanding of Kerry’s socio-demographic profile and services, supports and access points for children, young people, and families to enable the mapping of services.</p> <p><u><i>Kerry Specific Research</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Analysis of the Socio-Economic Statement for the 2023-29 Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan. - Central Statistics Office (CSO) Kerry Census Data 2022. -Pobal Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) for Kerry -Trinity Index -Kerry Parents Needs Analysis and Support Strategy 2024 -Neurodiversity Consultation with Jigsaw Youth Advocates - 2024 - Te Rodel Nevo Drom ‘We are Looking for a New Way’ A Health Strategy for Roma Families in the South West¹ A Health Strategy for Roma Families in HSE South West. -Advancing Positive Educational Outcomes for the Children of Migrants, International Protection Applicants and Refugees in the Tralee Area – Tralee International Resource Centre - 2023 -Look Back Review into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Mental Health Services Area A 2022 -Kerry Youth Consultation 2022 <p><u><i>Kerry Specific Plans and Strategies</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership Strategic Plan 2023-2027 -Kerry Education and Training Board (ETB) Youthwork Plan 2023-2027 -Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029. -Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, -Connecting For Life Kerry Action Plan -Healthy Kerry Framework 2021-2027.

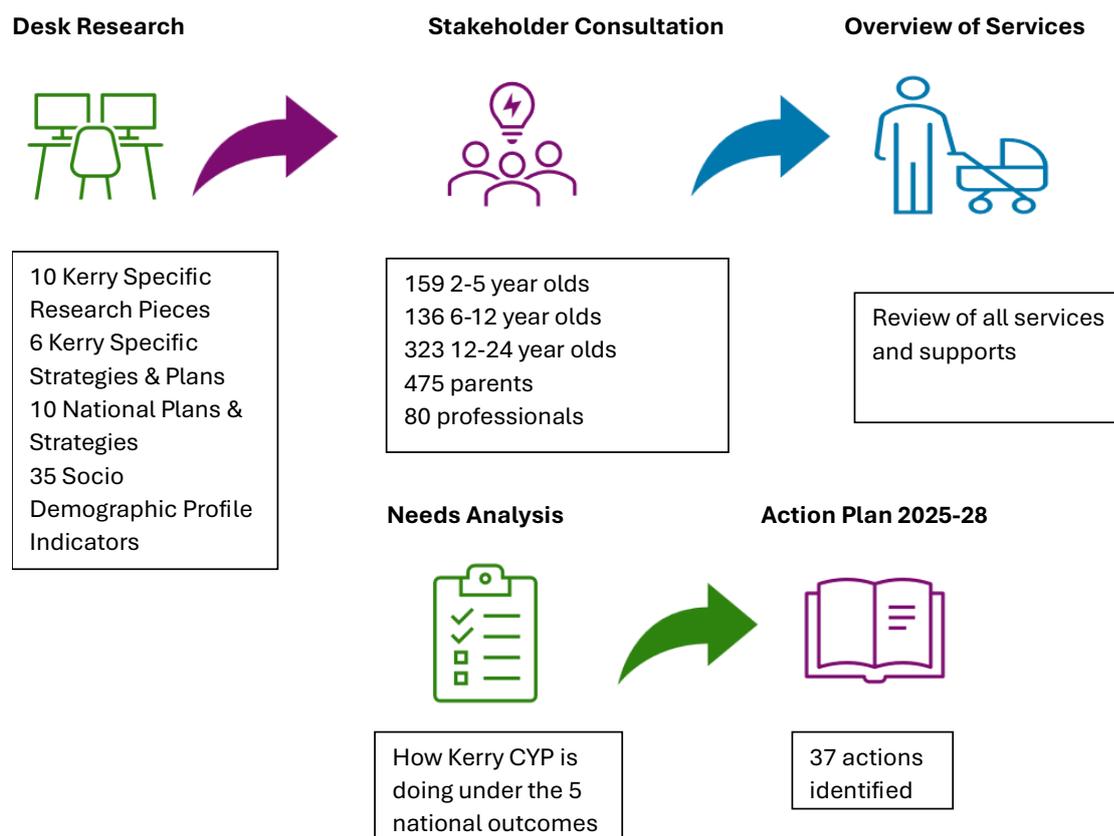
¹ Compiled by: Dr Patricia Kennedy, Consultant; Gina Kelly, Community Worker; Marcela Venzel, Roma Peer Researcher TIRC; Isac Ianko, Roma Peer Researcher TIRC. May 2024

Desk Review	<p><u><i>National Plans, Strategies and Research</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. - First Five A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children, and their Families 2019-2028. - Parenting Support Strategy and the National Model of Parenting Support Services 2022-2027. - Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 - Child Health Public Health Annual Report 2023 - Connecting for Life, the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2020-2024. - National Traveller and Roma Strategy 2018-2023. - CYPSC Shared Vision Next Steps 2019-2024. - Future Further Education and Training (FET): Transforming Learning Strategy 2020-2024. - National Neurodiversity Consultation with Jigsaw Youth Advocates.
Stakeholder Consultation	<p>All consultations with children and young people were undertaken in line with the Lundy Model of Child and Youth Participation. The Kerry CYPSC was able to avail of previous consultation with parents and young people in 2022 and 2023. A mixed method of focus groups, semi-structured interviews and online surveys offered increased flexibility in relation to engagement options. This included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus group discussions with 253 young people aged 12-24 facilitated by 22 organisations working with young people in 2022². ➤ A consultation for the Kerry Parents Needs Analysis and Strategy in late 2023 with 475 parents and 80 professionals contributing. ➤ Kerry Parents Youth Mental Health (YMH) Focus Group in April 2024 with nine participants. ➤ Consultation with 159 children aged 2-5 in rural and urban areas facilitated by Kerry County Childcare Committee in October 2024 ➤ Consultation with 136 primary school children aged 5-12 in October 2024 across rural and urban areas of County Kerry including schools with high pupil population of Ukrainian children. ➤ Survey co-designed with Comhairle na nÓg (CnN) for young people aged 12-24 with 70 responses in November 2024. ➤ Two workshops (September 12th 2024 and October 24th 2024) with 52 professionals attending comprising CYPSC members and stakeholder organisations.

² Building and Strengthening Child and Youth Participation in Kerry CYPSC and Its Stakeholder Organisations Consultation 2022.

<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>The workshops and focus group discussions were facilitated to get perspectives on the previous Kerry CYPP, needs of children, young people, and parents in their County and what contributors feel should be the priorities for the 2026-2028 CYPP. The consultations addressed how consultees felt children and young people were doing under the five national outcomes, strengths, inclusivity, and gaps in existing services, facilities, resources and supports.</p>
<p>Final Plan</p>	<p>A thematic analysis of all data generated and accessed was undertaken to identify priority needs, objectives, actions, and indicators which were presented to Kerry CYPSC in the form of a draft CYPP. This enabled the membership to reflect on and challenge the findings in the draft report and suggest alternative actions, priorities, timelines, and ownership. The feedback from the Kerry CYPSC membership was integrated into the final 2026-2028 Kerry Children and Young People’s Plan.</p>

Table 2: Kerry CYPP Methodology



Review of Previous Plan

This section explores the findings from the desk review and stakeholder consultation pertaining to the period 2020-24. Table 3 sets out an analysis of the achievements against objectives in the previous plan. The vast majority of the activities provided for in the previous plan have been achieved or continue to be progressed. The broad nature of some of the objectives is such that they will continue to be priority areas in the 2026-28 Kerry CYPP.

Action Completed: ✓

Action Ongoing: ✓

Action Not Completed: X

Priority Area	Objectives	Activities / Achievements	Status
Child and Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing	To ensure accessible information on mental health supports are available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Kerry CYPSC Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub was developed on the Kerry CYPSC website providing information on all services and supports available both locally and nationally. 	✓
	To improve access to services and supports for children, young people and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Information Seminar on Mental Health Services was organised to outline all services and supports in Kerry and how to access the most appropriate service. ▪ A range of activities across health and wellbeing were delivered to children and young people across the county with the support of CYPSC Healthy Ireland funding. ▪ Student Support Team training is delivered annually for secondary schools in partnership with all stakeholders. ▪ An Online Information Seminar for Primary Schools on Services and Supports available in Kerry was organised in partnership with key stakeholders. Following the success of the event it will be an annual event going forward. ▪ Significant work was undertaken with all services and supports across mental health, substance use and youth services to develop an improved access and shared care model of provision. 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

Substance Use	To work with stakeholders to address gaps in substance use service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In partnership with HSE Drugs and Alcohol Services, the Southern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (SRDATF) and TORC FRC a countywide Adolescent Drugs and Alcohol (D&A) Project Worker post was developed and mainstreamed with the support of CYPSC HIF funding. ▪ In partnership with HSE Drugs and Alcohol Services, the Southern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force a countywide Adolescent Drugs and Alcohol Education and Prevention Project Worker post was developed with the support of HIF funding. It is anticipated this post will be mainstreamed in 2025. <p>The above actions have resulted in enhanced Drug and Alcohol supports for adolescents across the continuum of care embedded within HSE Addiction Services and Community Counselling Supports.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: right;">✓</p>
Parenting and Early Years	To support parents in their parenting role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current information on available parenting programmes and supports is provided on the Kerry CYPSC website. ▪ The Language and Play programme (x 10-12 PA) has been delivered to Parent and Toddler Groups annually. ▪ The needs of parents were identified via a countywide consultation with parents (475) and 80 practitioners, and the 'Kerry Parental Needs Analysis and Support Strategy' was published. 	<p style="text-align: right;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: right;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: right;">✓</p>
Traveller Education	To improve transitions in education for primary school Traveller children in Killarney.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In partnership with Kerry Travellers Health and CDP, Killarney Primary Schools and Traveller parents a Teacher-led Homework Support Pilot was established in Ballyspillane, Killarney. Due to the unsustainable costs of the project, it could not be mainstreamed or replicated in other areas. ▪ In partnership with Holy Cross Mercy Primary School, Traveller children are supported in their school-based homework club. 	<p style="text-align: right;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: right;">✓</p>

Inclusion and Integration	To work with stakeholders to identify and address exclusion, anti-racism and promote inclusion.	<p>In partnership with the Kerry Ukrainian Response Forum the following initiatives were undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 summer camps were organised for 450+ Ukrainian children displaced by war in the summer of 2022 countywide. ▪ Countywide coffee mornings on DSGB Violence were organised. ▪ A range of information resources were circulated widely. ▪ Information on Tusla Child Protection Services and Safeguarding Responsibilities were circulated to all accommodation providers, residents and development workers. <p>In partnership with Cork CYPSC and local Cork and Kerry stakeholders an 'Anti-Racism and Inclusion Communication Guide' and an Anti-Racism Social Media Campaign were developed to support anti-racism, far-right messaging and inclusion across the region.</p> <p>In partnership with Kerry International Resource Centres KASI and TIRC, Local FRCs and the Tusla Integration Team a range of initiatives and supports have been developed and delivered with the support of DCDE IPSS funding including the employment of a child and youth support and development worker.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
Youth Participation	To include the voice of children and young people in the work of Kerry CYPSC and its stakeholder organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following consultation with 253 Children and Young People (CYP) across 22 organisations and schools, the 'Kerry Youth Participation Report' was published. ▪ In line with the Lundy Model the findings and recommendations from the report were brought to all key stakeholders across the county to address the needs identified by children and young people. The Youth Participation Report was used to inform the LECP, Local Development Companies Strategic Plans, and Kerry Youth Work Plan. 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

Youth Participation	To include the voice of children and young people in the work of Kerry CYPSC and its stakeholder organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with stakeholders is ongoing to develop a broad range of initiatives and amenities which respond to the needs identified in the Youth Participation Report. ▪ A range of countywide youth participation opportunities and initiatives were delivered in partnership with local stakeholders. 	✓
Children and Young People with Additional Needs	To support the transitions of children and young people with additional needs across all health, education and community services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 'Supporting Children with Additional Needs 0-17' Booklet was developed and published online as an E-Booklet on the Kerry CYPSC website providing information on how to access all available supports for children 0-17 across health, education, community and Department of Social Protection services. ▪ The 'Supporting Adults 18+ with additional Needs' E-Booklet is published online on the Kerry CYPSC website providing information on all health, education, community, financial and employment supports for young people 18+ and adults with additional needs. ▪ The Progression Pathways Fair, an information fair for young people with additional needs on all services and supports available for them on further and higher education and training, employment and community supports was developed by Kerry CYPSC and stakeholders and is organised annually. 	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 20px;">✓</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 20px;">✓</div> <div>✓</div> </div>
Continuous Professional Development	To increase capacity and professional development across communities of practice in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In partnership with stakeholders Kerry CYPSC has organised and supported a range of training and CPD opportunities for front line practitioners / communities of practice in Kerry including Trauma Informed Care, Trauma and Attachment, Parents Plus, Parents Plus ADHD. 	✓

Collaborative Interagency Working	To support and enhance interagency collaborative working.	<p>The Coordinator continues to work with the following structures locally to improve and support ongoing interagency collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tusla PPFS and CFSNs ▪ Comhairle na nÓg ▪ Cork Kerry Infant Mental Health Forum ▪ UKR Community Response Forum and Local Action Groups ▪ Community Integration Forum and relevant sub-structures ▪ Kerry LYCP ▪ Tusla Parents Participation Forum <p>Kerry CYPSC and the CYPSC coordinator have worked with stakeholders to support and inform the following strategic plans / initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cork and Kerry CYPSCs Anti-Racism Initiative ▪ Kerry Migrant Integration Strategy ▪ Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
CYPSC Funding	Develop initiatives to address gaps in service provision and priorities identified by Kerry CYPSC	While funding is limited, a real strength of Kerry CYPSC is its capacity to leverage additional funding to address priorities and gaps in service provision through co-funding initiatives with its partners and thereby enabling many projects to be evidenced and then mainstreamed over the course of each CYPP.	✓

Table 3: Kerry CYPSC Achievements 2020-24

My Farm: By Alex 6th Class

Challenges

A number of challenges were evident from the review of the previous Kerry CYPP.

- The lack of resources to support the work of Kerry CYPSC locally, particularly the lack of project support restricts the capacity of the initiative to build on the work and achievements. Competing demands on the Coordinator role means that some identified issues and priority action areas may go unaddressed.
- Balancing alignment with national policy and strategy and supporting other interagency plans can make it challenging for CYPSC to identify its niche and demonstrate its unique impact.
- While Kerry CYPSC appreciates the increase in available funding streams to support initiatives in the county, they are often piecemeal, or once-off which hampers strategic planning and development. CYPSCs are very experienced in assessing the needs in their counties through their planning and CYPP development processes. If funding could be drawn down to address specific identified needs over the course of a CYPP, implementation and change would be more effective.
- Availability of data essential for the planning and delivery of services for children and young people 0-24. While the Census 2022 was available to the CYPP review, county wide profiling of the deprivation data is ongoing and resource intensive.
- Accessing services and support for children, young people and families with additional needs remains a significant challenge. Services are under-resourced, and the challenges in the recruitment and retention of staff is resulting in children and young people remaining on multiple waiting lists without a service for a long time.
- Insufficient emphasis is placed on early intervention and prevention, especially intervening early before a crisis develops in a child, young person's or family's life. State agencies focus on firefighting which often results in 'ripple effect' with community and voluntary agencies then responding to situations /cases outside of their remit /capacity which is not in the best interest of the child.
- The availability of youth friendly play and recreation spaces, particularly for teens outside of sporting amenities is a challenge in Kerry. The geography / rurality of the county compounds this.
- The need for an effective, responsive, accessible Parents Hub was clearly highlighted in the 2023 consultation with parents and stakeholders. Securing funding to develop an appropriate model is a challenge, particularly as parents have identified the need for an in-person model to complement existing online resources.
- Bringing about effective change locally is virtually impossible if there is no national policy support for same. Significant work was undertaken with both statutory and community and voluntary service providers in Kerry to test a new accessible, shared care model of service provision but ultimately the model could not be progressed.
- CYPSC does not have the mandate and authority to challenge agencies that are not addressing gaps in services for CYP and those who consistently don't engage.

- While Kerry CYPSC has a very positive relationship with all its stakeholders, particularly at working group level, there can be weakness in the connectivity with state agencies and their consistent engagement with CYPSC. Kerry CYPSC will need to strengthen the interconnectedness and collaborative practice with state agencies.

Learnings

The following learnings were noted.

- Having the voice of young people heard in an evidence-based way strengthens the work of CYPSC and its member organisations.
- Agencies and services adopting trauma-informed approaches will become even more important in supporting children, young people, and families from new communities as their needs become more apparent and visible.
- The provision of training, continuous professional development and networking opportunities for CYPSC stakeholders, frontline practitioners and communities of practice strengthens the work and capacity of services to respond effectively as well as support organisations and individuals often working under pressure.
- Maintaining a singular focus on the needs of children, young people, and families, as opposed to service or organisational needs, supports constructive engagement and productive inter-agency partnership.
- The collective strength of CYPSC in championing shared priorities when fully mobilised can bring about positive change.
- There is an appetite at local level for a more accessible, interconnected model of service delivery particularly across mental health, disability and addiction services as dual diagnosis is recognised as a significant barrier for many young people.

Impact

The culmination of Kerry CYPSC's 2020-24 achievements has resulted in the following impacts.

- Kerry CYPSC continues to build on and strengthen the good collaborative interagency working across services and supports in Kerry. Information on available services and supports at all levels is widely available and accessible. Promotion of available services and supports has been facilitated across all tiers and to all stakeholders.
- The needs of children, young people and parents have been well captured and documented and there is a good level of awareness of these needs across all stakeholders in the county resulting in many shared priorities with most working collaboratively to address the needs identified.
- The engagement of 30+ organisations / 80+ members in Kerry CYPSC and its working groups together with the engagement of the Kerry CYPSC Coordinator in local interagency structures ensures that planning and coordination of services and supports for children, young people and families is a priority in the county.
- Frontline practitioners and communities of practice have been well supported through the identification of training needs and delivery of required training.

- Improved service provision in adolescent addiction services through interagency collaboration resulting in a 3-person team working across the continuum of care from early intervention and prevention to adolescent addiction counselling.
- The Kerry CYPSC structures together with local authority structures and local stakeholders responded very effectively to Covid-19 and the Ukrainian crisis which highlights the effectiveness of collaborative interagency working and its ability to respond well to emergencies in a timely manner.

What we need to be aware of

- A national evaluation of Children and Young People’s Services Committees will be concluded in late 2024. This evaluation has two aims. (1) Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of CYPSCs (2) Inform future resourcing of CYPSCs.
- A HSE/Tusla Scoping exercise on Hidden Harm (HH) services and resources has recently been completed which will impact how HH supports are resourced and delivered in the future.
- The National Drug Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2025. Prevention, education and additional supports for young people and families impacted by substance use will likely be part of the terms of reference.
- Tusla (as of November 2024) are undertaking a national review of Parenting Hubs.
- The Department of Education is undertaking a review of the “Social Personal and Health Education” (SPHE) curriculum which may impact on drug and sex education programmes.
- Tusla’s 2024-2026 Corporate Plan commits to designing and implementing a new Local Integrated Service Delivery Model (inclusive of an integrated screening and local integrated teams) to provide consistency in their response. This will have an impact on how Tusla commission services in the future.
- PPFS will no longer be a stand-alone work strand in Tusla under the new Local Integrated Service Delivery Model.
- National research that may have opportunities and implications locally. For example, Trinity College is currently undertaking research on the needs of IPAS families, while Tusla has commissioned research on the needs of the Traveller and Roma Communities (Values Lab Report).



Tralee Town Park: by Ewan 3rd Class

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile

A key element in the development of the Kerry CYPP was the compilation of a comprehensive socio-demographic profile for Co. Kerry. This was crucial in terms of ensuring that the decision-making of the CYPSC members was evidence informed by the most current information. This section presents an overview of the social and demographic profile for the target population (0-24 years) in Co. Kerry based on the most current available data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2022 Census and primary and secondary research sources. National comparisons are provided where appropriate.



Figure 6: Map of Kerry

Positioned in the South-West corner of Ireland, County Kerry is adjoined by two counties: Cork and Limerick. The population of County Kerry grew by 6% to 156,458 in 2022, rising from 147,707 in 2016. This rate of population growth in Kerry was lower than the state (8%) during this period. Kerry remained the 10th most populated County in Ireland in 2022, as it was in 2016. It is comprised of five Municipal Districts (MDs) from which Kenmare had the highest population growth followed by Killarney, Castleisland and Tralee while Listowel experienced a net population decline in the same period.

About 35% of the population live in urban areas resulting in a very high rural dispersion of the remaining two thirds of the population. This has significant implications for the delivery of services across the county. Tralee is the most populated town (26,079) followed by Killarney (14,412) and Listowel (4,794) Most services are located in the two main urban centres of Tralee and Killarney. The geography of the county means that accessing services from rural areas is a real challenge. Travelling from Tarbert to Tralee is an 88km trip and from Ballinskelligs to Killarney is a 156km trip.

Town	Population
Ballybunion	1618
Castleisland	2536
Dingle	1617
Kenmare	2566
Killarney	14412
Killorglin	2163
Listowel	4794
Milltown	1118
Tralee	26079
Total	56,903

Table 4: Towns with population of over 1,000

Employment/Unemployment

As of April 2022, there were 127,202 people of the working age (15 or older) in Kerry and of these, 67,545 were at work (53.1%). This was a 10% increase from the 2016 figures, which was the lowest rate of employment growth in the country during this period – in comparison, nationally employment increased by 16% during the same time. 6,700 people (5.2% of working population) were unemployed in Kerry in April 2022 – a considerable decrease of 23% (8,700 people) from 2016.

There were 24,700 retirees in Kerry, an increase of 13% from 2016. Whilst there were 6,490 people unable to work due to sickness or disability, an increase of 24% from 2016. Most workers are in 'Skilled Trade Occupations' at 18% (13,299), which is higher than the 13% of those nationally. 'Professional Occupations' are the second highest occupation at 17% (12,528), which is below the national levels of 20%. 'Elementary Occupations' are the third most popular at 10% (7,018), which is above the national levels of 8%.

There is a high dependence on the 'Hotel and Restaurant' and 'Agriculture' sectors. There are almost double the number of Kerry residents 'at work' in these sectors when compared to the national averages. However, Kerry performs less favourably for 'Manufacturing', 'Information and Communications' and 'Professional, scientific and technical' activities, when compared to the State, Southwest or the Southern Region.

For 15 – 24-year-olds – although the unemployment rate for 2022 had decreased to 15.8% at national level (significantly down from 38.7% in 2011 and 25.6% in 2016), this age group still had the highest unemployment rate among the categorised 10-year age groups (almost double the national average across all age groups of 8.3%). For County Kerry specifically, the unemployment rate for this age group sat at 17%, slightly above the national average. This figure was down year-on-year similarly, from 40.5% in 2011 and 25.6% in 2016.

The unemployment rate among females of 17.3% was slightly higher than males, at 16.7%. Of this age group, the highest socio-economic group with regards to employment was 'Non-manual' at 35%, which was lower than the national levels of 50% for the same age group. 'Manual skilled' was next at 4% (12% at national level), followed by 'Semi-skilled' at 2% (10% at national level).

The key facts and figures for children and young people in the county as prescribed in the national CYPSC CYPP template are presented in Table 5 with salient socio-demographic indicators explored later in this section.

County Kerry Key Facts and Figures

Indicator and Source	Description	Kerry	State
Total Population	Total population of Kerry	156,458	5,149,139
CSO Census 2022		6% increase on 2016 Census	8.1% increase on 2016 Census
Child Population	Total number of children 0-17 living in Co. Kerry	34,994	1,218,567
CSO Census 2022	% of total population	22.3%	26.2%
	Total number of young people under 24 living in Co. Kerry	46,383	1,657,058
	% of total population	29.6%	32.2%
Young Adult Population	Total Number of young people aged 18-24 living in Co. Kerry	11,389	438,491
CSO Census 2022	% of total population	7.3%	9%
	Total number of young people aged 20-24 living in Co. Kerry	7,783	307,143
	% of total population	5%	6%
Children and Young People registered as having an Intellectual Disability	No of children	531	8,826
CSO 2022 ³	Rate per 1,000	15.2	7.2
Children and Young People registered as having a Physical/Sensory Disability	No of children	75	6,340
CSO 2022 ⁴	Rate per 1,000	2.1	5.2
Children with a disability by (by administrative county – Kerry County Council)	No of children	3,649	131,764
SONC 2022 p.22 ⁵ (from CSO)	Rate per 1,000	104.3	108.1

³ <https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA45>

⁴ <https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA46>

⁵ https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/20250714_SONC_report_Sociodemographics.pdf

Indicator and Source	Description	Kerry	State
Infant Mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births classified by the area of residence in 2022	6	191
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Rate	4.0	3.3
Neonatal Mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 28 days old per 1,000 live births classified by area of residence of the mother	4	140
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Rate	2.7	2.4
Youth Mortality	Number of deaths among young people under 20 in 2022	11	323
CSO Vital Statistics 2022			
New Births	Number of new births in Kerry, 2022	1,507	57,540
CSO Vital Statistics, 2022	Number of births to mothers under 20 years of age in 2022	18	798
Children born to Teenage Mothers			
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Births to mothers under 20 years as a percentage of all births in 2022	1.2%	1.4%
Traveller Children	Number of Traveller children in 2022	453	14,142
CSO Census 2022			
	Rate per 1,000 children	12.9	11.6
Foreign National Children	Number of foreign national children	2,294	88,630
State of the Nation's Children (SONC) 2022	Rate per 1,000 children	58.2	64.4
Suicides	Number of deaths by suicide in 2022	13 (12 male, 1 female)	412
CSO Vital Statistics, 2022 ⁶			
	Suicide Rates for all persons, males and females, per 1,000 population	8.2	8.1

⁶ <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vs/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2022/>

Indicator and Source	Description	Kerry	State
Education Retention rate of pupils in second level schools – Entry Cohort 2016 Primary and Post-Primary Schools And Student Absence Reports Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022 Tusla Education Support Services	Retention rate to Junior Certificate for the 2016 Kerry entry cohort	97%	98%
	Retention rate to Leaving Certificate for the 2016 Kerry entry cohort	92.7%	91.2%
	Average percentage of Primary school pupils absent for 20 days or more (2021/22 Covid Year)	37%	39%
Children by Educational Attainment of Mother State of Nation’s Children 2022 (SONC)	Percentage of children in Kerry classified by the educational attainment of mother in 2016	7%: Primary	8%
		12%: Lower secondary	13%
		38%: Upper secondary	38%
		39%: Third level or higher	38%
		4%: Other/not stated	3%

Indicator and Source	Description	Kerry	State
Child Protection Referrals to Social Work Tusla, Kerry https://data.tusla.ie/	Number of child protection referrals to the Social Work Department in Kerry in 2023	Total: 2,704 Child Welfare Concerns 1,762 Emotional Abuse: 219 Neglect: 176 Physical Abuse: 320 Sexual Abuse: 226	91,924 54,721 15,908 5,176 8,375 5,467
Children in Care Tusla, Kerry https://data.tusla.ie/	Number of children in Kerry in the care of Tusla Child and Family Agency in December 2023	Total: 174 Residential: 18 Foster Care: 150 Other: 6	Total: 5,615 Average across 17 State divisions: 330
Garda Youth Diversion Programme SONC 2022	Number of children aged 10-17 years referred to Garda Youth Diversion Programme in Kerry	224	8,404
Probation Probation Service	Number of young people aged under 25 referred to the Probation Service in Kerry in 2023	48	N/A
Children in Lone Parent Households SONC 2022	Number of children living in a lone parent household in Kerry % of total child population	5,002 14.3%	197,908 26%
Childhood Immunisations HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre 2021	The % uptake of immunisations among children at 24 months of age (2021)	94% (% who received 3rd "6 in 1" vaccination) 90% (MMR1)	94% 90%
Breast Feeding SONC 2022 (2021 data)	% of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital in Kerry (2021)	64.7%	61.9%

Indicator and Source	Description	Kerry	State
Lone Parent Families CSO 2022	Number of families with either one father or one mother	6,468 or 17.2% of families 5500 or 14.6% one-mother families 968 or 2.6% one-father families	219,996 or 17.2% of families 186,487 or 14.6% one-mother families 33,509 or 2.6% one-father families
Housing Waiting List Kerry County Council 2022 The Housing Agency – Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2022	Number of households on Social Housing Waiting List in 2022 No. of Social Housing Applicants on housing list as single adults with one or more children (child may not reside with adult)	2,305 456	57,842 qualified for housing support nationally in 2022 13,579
Clients Receiving Treatment for Substance Abuse Health Research Board 2022	Number of people receiving substance use treatment in 2022 who gave a Kerry address.	Total all ages 475 <18 years = 10 18-24 years = 68	8,922
Rates of Self-harm National Self-harm Registry Ireland, 2021 https://www.nsrif.ie/statistics/	Self-harm presentations to University Hospital Kerry aged 0-24 years in 2021	<16 years Males: <5 ⁷ Females: 28 16 – 17 years Males: 9 Females: 17 18 – 24 years Males: 37 Females: 42	<16 years ⁸ Males: 203 Females: 1062 16 – 17 years Males: 232 Females: 675 18 – 24 years Males: 1072 Females: 1578
Youth Unemployment CSO, 24	Number of (under 25s signing on the Live Register in Co. Kerry (Aug 2024)	Total: 683 Male: 321 Female: 362	Total: 21,061 Male: 11,306 Female: 9,755
IPAS Occupancy IPAS Weekly Accommodation and Arrivals Statistics - DECDIY	IPAS Children Occupancy in Kerry centres (May 5 th , 2024)	215	7,314

Table 5: County Kerry - Key Facts and Figures

⁷ If <5 then number not specified to avoid disclosive data.

⁸ State numbers are an estimate due to the instance of <5 figures not representing the exact number.

Deprivation

Policy makers use the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for the purposes of selecting DEIS⁹ schools, allocating funding under the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), identifying communities to work with as part of the Family Resource Centre (FRC) Programme, and to determine the location of healthcare facilities based on the predicted health needs and outcomes of a local population.

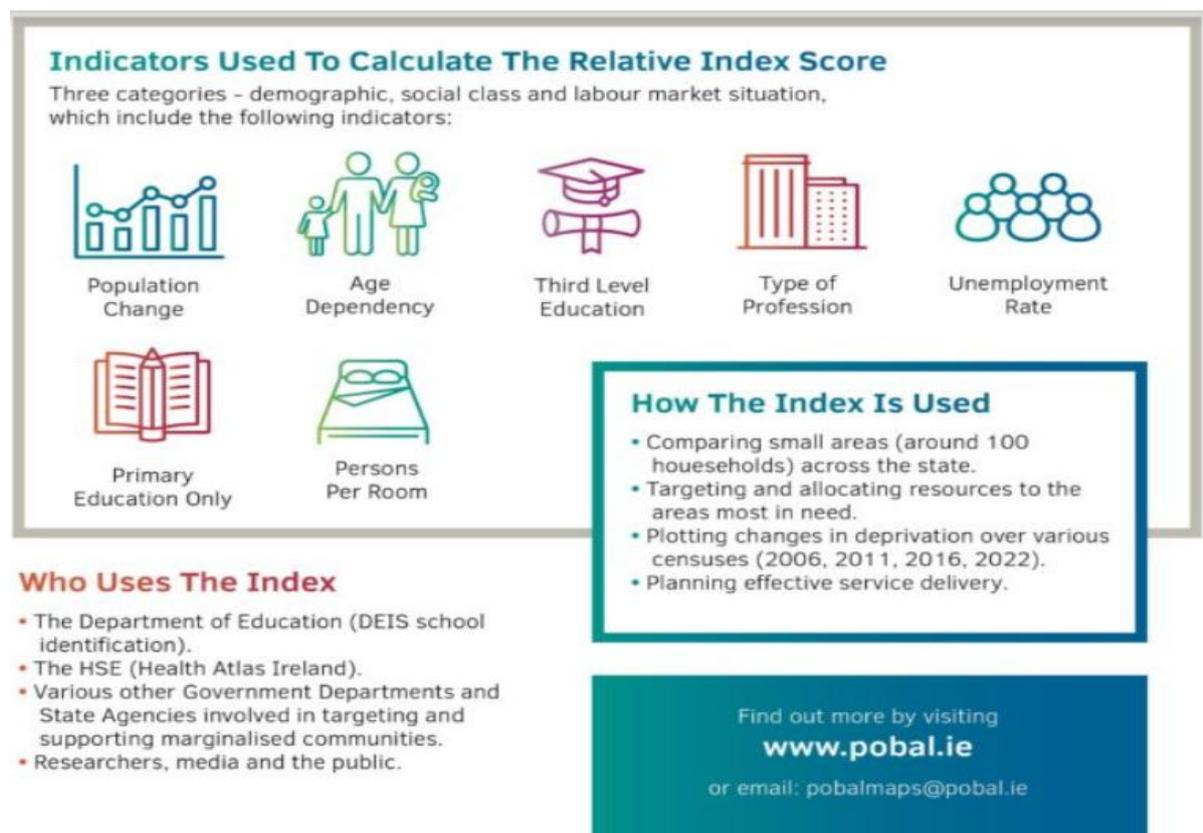


Figure 7: Pobal HP Deprivation Index

Kerry ranks as the 14th most disadvantaged county in the state with a deprivation score of -1.86 (-1.31 in 2016) and a classification of Marginally Below Average (MBA). While there is some variation within the county, overall, it is not characterised by extremes of affluence or deprivation. Of the 164 Electoral Divisions (EDs) in the county, the majority according to the deprivation index are classified as marginally below average, while 55 are marginally above average. As per Table 6, Kerry is the 2nd most disadvantaged county in Munster.

County	2016	2022	Change
Kerry	-1.31	-1.86	-0.51
Cork	2.52	2.69	+0.17
Clare	-0.22	-0.11	+0.11
Limerick	--1.31	-0.83	+0.48
Tipperary	-3.39	-5.33	-1.94
Waterford	-2.35	-1.22	+1.13

Table 6: Deprivation in Munster - Source HP Deprivation Index CSO Census 2022

⁹ Programme for schools serving disadvantaged students

There are seven Electoral Districts (EDs) within Kerry categorised as 'disadvantaged'¹⁰ with a total of 8, 151 people living in an ED which is disadvantaged of which 75% (n= 6,104) live in Tralee Urban.

Electoral District (ED)	2016 Pop	2022 Pop (% change)	2016 Deprivation Score	2022 Deprivation Score
1. Derriana/Cloon	260	255 (-2%)	-10.6	-18.5 (-75%)
2. Dereen	192	204 (+6%)	-6.9	-11.6 (-68%)
3. Ardagh	669	685 (+2%)	-11	-11.4 (-4%)
4. Tralee Urban	4,954	6,104 (+23%)	-9.3	-10.7 (-15%)
5. Kilmurry	289	304 (+5%)	-7.1	-10.4 (-46%)
6. Kilshenane	277	234 (-16%)	-17	-10.2 (+40%)
7. Portmagee	413	365 (-12%)	-6.2	-10 (-61%)

Table 7: Disadvantaged Electoral Divisions Source CSO Census 2022

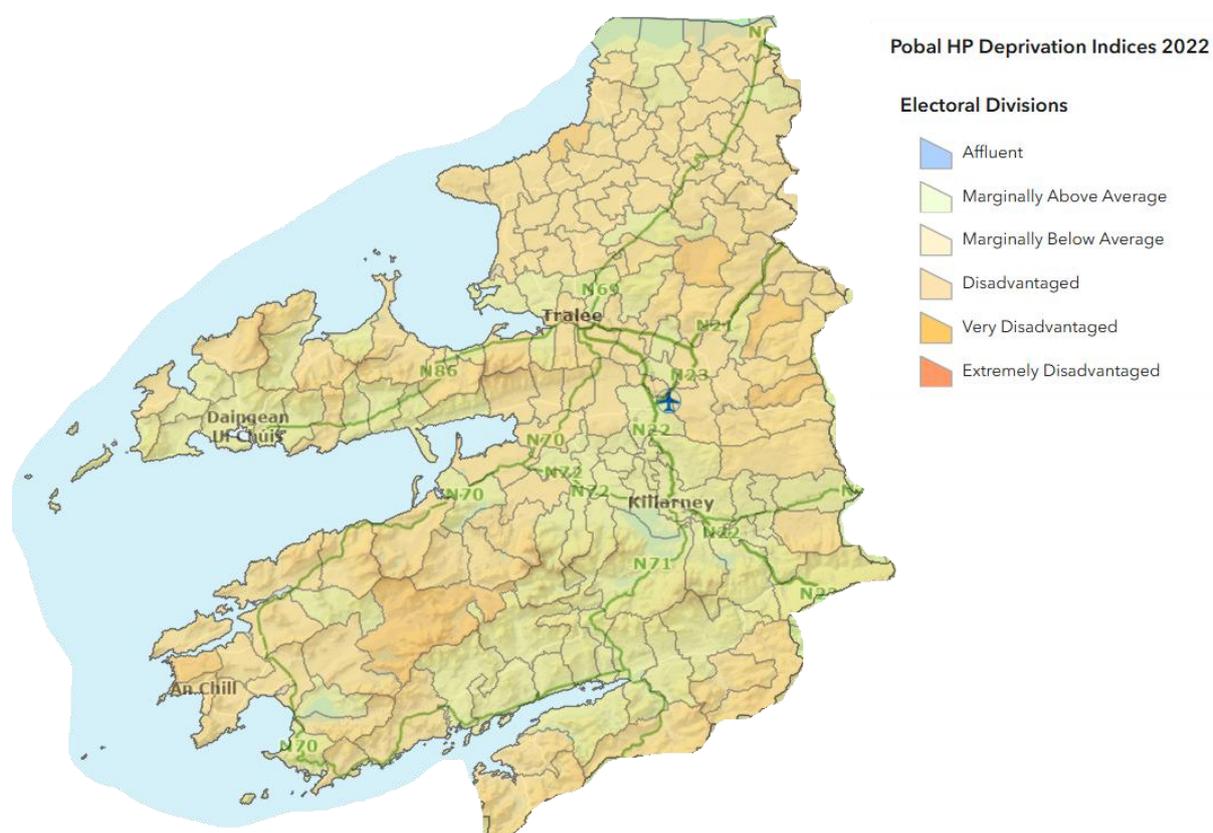


Figure 8: Pobal HP Deprivation Index Kerry 2022

¹⁰ Deprivation score of between -10 and -20

Child and youth population - Age Structure

Age Group	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24
No. of children and young people in Kerry	8,300 (5.30%)	9,625 (6.15%)	10,831 (6.92%)	9,844 (6.29%)	7,783 (4.97%)
No. of children and young people in Ireland	295,415 (5.74%)	342,670 (6.65%)	374,202 (7.27%)	337,628 (6.56%)	307,143 (5.96%)

Table 8: Child and Youth Population Source CSO Census 2022

Age Dependency

Kerry has a total population of 46,383 aged 0-24 accounting for 30% of its total population. The age dependency rate, expressed as 'the percentage of persons aged 0 to 14 plus those aged 65+, relative to the population' in County Kerry is 37.8%. There were 1,460 births in Kerry in 2023. Given the size of the 0-24 age population and the upward trajectory of population growth, it is probable that this age cohort has not yet peaked and there is likely to be an increased demand for children's and young people's services over the next decade.

Family Structure

Kerry has 39,118 families and the highest proportion (12.3%) have children in the adolescent age range. There were 28,756 children aged 15 and under in Kerry in 2022. Of these, 9,454 (33%) were in childcare, compared with 33% nationally.

No. of Families	Kerry 39,118	Ireland 1,279,951
Pre-school (0 – 4 yrs)	7.2%	8.1%
Early School (5 – 9 yrs)	8.9%	9.9%
Pre-Adolescent (10 – 14 yrs)	11.1%	11.8%
Adolescent (15 – 19 yrs)	12.3%	12.3%
Adult (20 years or over)	27.7%	27%

Table 9: Kerry Family Structure Source CSO Census 2022

Table 10 outlines the make-up of households in the county and gives insights into the type of households in which children in County Kerry are living – the family cycle categorises families by the age group of their youngest child. Kerry's families included 17,237 (44%) married couples with children and 2,646 (7%) cohabiting couples with children. A further 5,341 (14%) families with children were headed by single mothers and 1,134 (3%) by single fathers. A total of 5,002 children aged <18 are living in a lone parent household in Kerry – 14% of all children <18 in the county resulting in a lone parent ratio of 17.51. The average number of children per family in the county was 1.29, compared with 1.34 nationally. There were also 10,551 married couples without children and 2,209 cohabiting couples without children.

Type of Household	Households	Persons
One person	16150	16150
Married couple	9876	19752
Cohabiting couple	2012	4024
Married couple with children	16347	66586
Cohabiting couple with children	2489	9470
One parent mother with children	4612	11984
One parent father with children	979	2380
Married couple with other persons	438	1442
Married couple with children and other persons	800	4114
Cohabiting couple with other persons	171	583
Cohabiting couple with children and other persons	150	753
One parent mother with children and other persons	519	1936
One parent father with children and other persons	125	449
Two family units with/without other persons	473	2467
Three or more family units with/without other persons	4	33
Non-family households containing related persons	1284	2993
Households comprised of unrelated persons only	1888	5033

Table 10: Private Households in Kerry by Type CSO Census 2022

Nationality and Ethnicity¹¹

As per 2022 Census, Kerry is home to 20,282 non-Irish citizens (includes those with no citizenship stated and persons of dual nationality) accounting for 13 % of the county's citizenship.

- UK nationals (3,788) account for the largest cohort of non-Irish nationals followed by Polish (3,361), Lithuanian (768), German (566) and Croatia (526).
- As of September 2024, Kerry hosted 9,639 Ukrainian refugees.
- The number of Ukrainian children enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Kerry were 448 and 175 respectively, as of June 2022. According to data from Kerry ETB, this figure had increased to 958 in primary school and 647 in secondary school as of October 2024.
- Irish Travellers comprise 0.7% (1,107) of Kerry's resident population (156,458) which is up from 0.6% in 2016 and slightly higher than the national average of 0.6% (32,949)¹².
- Irish Travellers comprise 7.3 per 1,000 of the population in Kerry, which is higher than the national average of 6.5¹³

¹¹ Figures based on population who are [usually resident and present in the state](#) – i.e. usually live in Ireland – numbers will differ from overall population

¹² CSO Census data 2022

¹³ CSO Census data 2022 (<https://data.cso.ie/> - Irish Travellers per 1,000 of total population

Migrant Population

The Kerry Community Integration Forum (KCIF) is a pioneering initiative that builds upon the successful multi-stakeholder collaboration established during the COVID-19 Community Call response. Repurposed in 2022 to address the Ukraine Crisis and expanded in 2024 to include International Protection Applicants, the KCIF represents a comprehensive approach to migrant integration in County Kerry.

Target groups:

- International Protection Applicants (IPA) and Those with Status (TWS),
- The Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs),
- Individuals under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP), where applicable,
- Vulnerable migrants,
- Community Sponsorship beneficiaries.

Kerry at a Glance: Migrant Population Statistics

There are 954 IPAs in Co. Kerry. (source DCDE 09.09.24)

- 7 x Direct Provision Centre and 8 x Emergency Direct Provision Centres.

There are 9,500 BOTPs residing within communities across Co. Kerry. (source DCDE 09.09.24).

There are 98 BOTP state accommodation centres across the county with approximately 4,975 residents. There are:

- 2,015 in DACs, 2,960 in self-catering and 800 residing in Offer a Home Scheme houses.
- 3,725 in private arrangements

Education

Over the past 20 years, there has been an increasing trend towards higher education attainment in Kerry. The percentage of the population with no formal or primary education only has reduced consistently and is now at 11.4%. Those with third level qualifications from the county are at the national average and have increased from 31% in 2016 to 36.65% in 2022. All these factors have positive implications for the employment opportunities available to residents of Co. Kerry

Suicide and Self Harm

The three-year suicide moving average for Kerry for the most recent period available 2020-22 was 10.3¹⁴. Rates of self-harm in men less than 24 years resident in County Kerry was above the state average at 203.5 per 100,000; and for women 194.9 per 100,000 in 2015. By 2021 women under 24 had a higher presentation to University Hospital Kerry (n=87) than men under 24 (n=51)¹⁵ Young people are identified as a priority group for suicide prevention activities in the Connecting for Life Kerry 2022-2024 Action Plan.

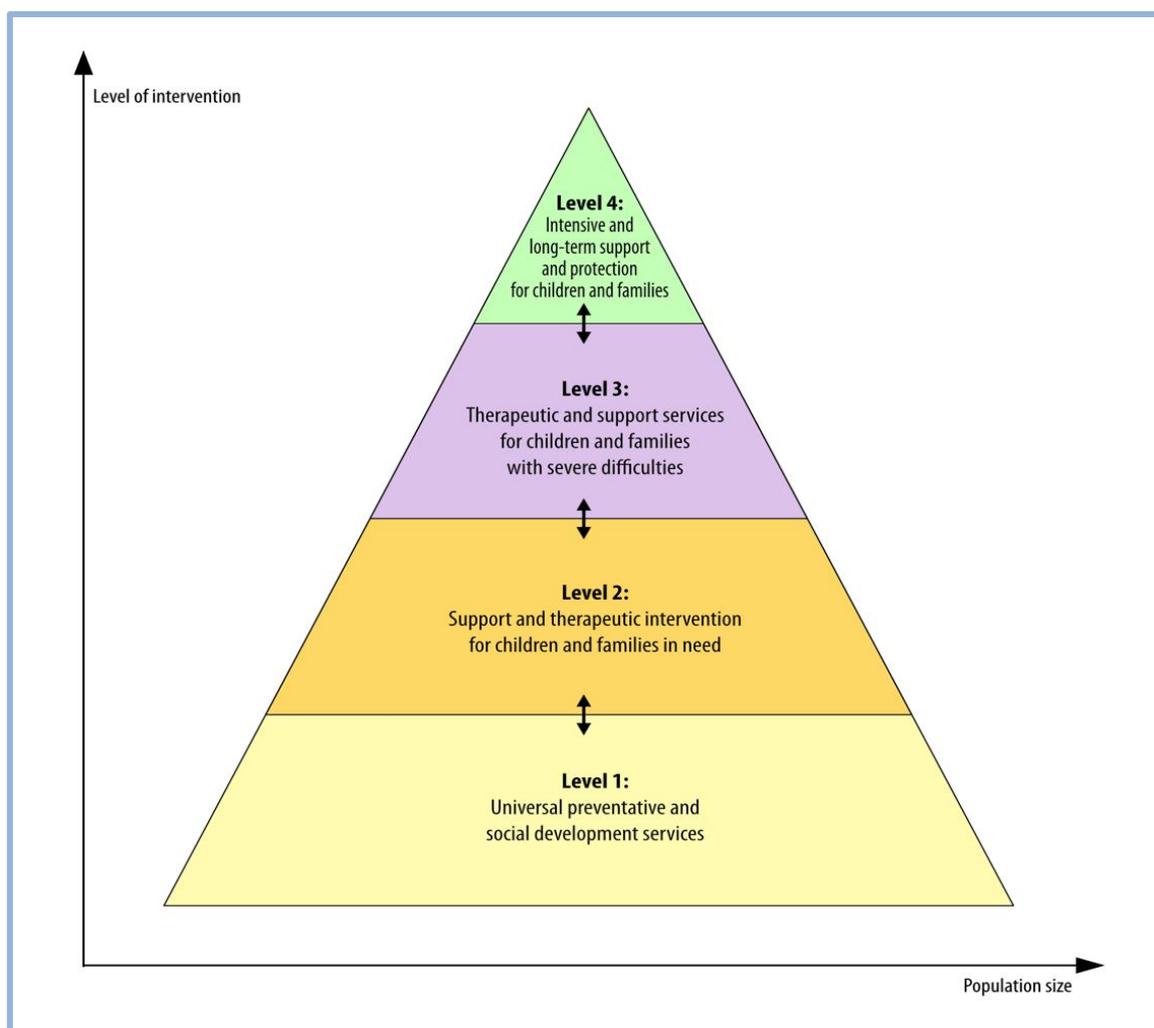
¹⁴ Data accessed from CSO Table MORT02 (updated on 16/07/2024) The figures for 2022 are provisional. They should be treated with caution as they refer to deaths registered in this year and may be incomplete.

¹⁵ National Self Harm Registry 2021

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in County Kerry

This section provides an overview of the services available to children, young people and their families in the county. The tables below list the services along with the Hardiker model¹⁶ level at which it operates and whether it is statutory or a community/voluntary service. The list of services has been drawn up under the 5 National Outcomes. However, it should be noted that most of the agencies provide services across multiple Outcomes.

Hardiker Model



¹⁶ The Hardiker Model is widely used in the planning of child and family services. It shows the level of intervention provided by services i.e. from Level 1 - a universal preventative and social development service to Level 4 intensive and long-term support and protection.

Services for Children, Young People and Families in County Kerry

Health and Social Services			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Health			
The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides all of Ireland's public health services in hospitals and communities across the country.	Public Health Nurses (PHN's) Community and Registered General Nurses (RGN's): wide range of nursing services in the community. They are often the first point of contact for people to access a range of HSE services. The Kerry PHN Department oversees the delivery of the Community Families Programme, a home visitation support programme which is available to all first and second time parents of children 0-3 years. Meet a Mum Groups are organised by PHNs and local FRCs as required to support more vulnerable new parents.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Area Medical Officers: developmental assessments of all babies from the age of seven months and follow up of those with an identified developmental, growth or clinical concern; role in relation to the school immunisation programme; medical evaluation of suspected child abuse and neglect.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Dentistry and Orthodontics: Including emergency services for children aged 0 - 16 years.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Community Nutrition and Dietetics Service: Dietary assessment, advice and support for children and young people.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Addiction Services: counselling (including addiction counselling for young people) and outreach work. The HSE Drugs and Alcohol Family Support Service provides support to families impacted by substance use.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 and 3)
	Health Promotion Officers: Promotion in relation to key areas of physical activity, obesity, alcohol, smoking, sexual health and health inequalities are addressed across different population groups, including children.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides all of Ireland's public health services in hospitals and communities across the country.	Kerry University Hospital (KUH) provides a comprehensive acute healthcare service to the population of Kerry and surrounding catchment areas. KUH provides a 24-hour emergency department service. Self-Harm Nurses are available daily from 8am to 8pm. Onsite specialist teams include: Medical, Surgical, Paediatrics, Neonatal, Critical Care, Coronary Care, Maternity, Orthopaedics, Palliative and Mental Health.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Speech and Language Therapy: Service for children, young people and adults with speech and language difficulties including parent advice clinics	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Disability Services: Children's disability services are for children and young people up to 18 years. Assessment of Need Service and the Early Intervention Service are focused on children aged 0-5 years. There are 3 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in Kerry.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1- 3)
	HSE Adult Disability Services: Adult day services are HSE funded programmes to provide day services supports to people aged 18 and over, with intellectual disabilities, autism, or people with complex physical disabilities. The programmes provided by Enable Ireland, St John of God Services, Inspired, NLN, Kerry Parents and Friends etc assist people to make choices and plans and to be an active, independent member of the community.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2- 3)
	Occupational Therapy: Assessment, intervention, advice/consultation for children and young people presenting with fine and gross motor difficulties, parent advice clinics	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
	Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology Services: Assessment and treatment services for children from birth to 18 years with mild to moderate psychological presentations, such as anxiety, grief/loss, behavioural and emotional difficulties	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)

The Health Service Executive (HSE) cont.	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
	Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention: support for the implementation of Local Connecting for Life Action Plan; response to deaths by suspected suicide.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 -3)
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): Assessment and therapeutic interventions for children and their families with a range of mental health disorders.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 and 3)
	For young people over 18 and adults, a GP will refer to the Adult Mental Health (MH) Services in Kerry which includes a MH Assessment Hub. There are five adult teams which are organised by geographical area.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 3 and 4)
	Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) is a short-term counselling service for over 18s that provides up to 8 counselling sessions with a professionally qualified and accredited Counsellor/Therapist.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2 and 3)

Mental Health			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Jigsaw Kerry	Jigsaw Kerry is an early intervention, primary care service for young people's mental health. They provide expert mental health advice and free one-to-one therapeutic support for 12–25-year-olds, both online and in person. Jigsaw Kerry works with communities, professionals and schools offering information, training and support which helps build confidence in supporting and promoting young people's mental health.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1,2, 3)
Kerry Adolescent Counselling Service (KACS)	KACS provides Counselling/ Psychotherapy for adolescents and play therapy for children / young people aged 3-18 including group work. KACS also provides counselling and psychotherapy for adults.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1,2, 3)
South West Counselling Centre (SWCC)	SWCC Provides affordable counselling and play therapy for children and adolescents as well as adult counselling and psychotherapy services.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1,2, 3)
Pieta House	Pieta House provides free, therapeutic supports to people (children, young people and adults) who have suicidal ideation, who have attempted suicide and those who engage in self-harm. Pieta House also provides counselling supports to those bereaved by suicide.	Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1,2, 3)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Child Protection, Welfare and Family Support			
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Social Work and Child Care Teams are based in Tralee and Killarney. They provide child protection and welfare, adoption, fostering and aftercare services to children and families in Kerry.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 3 and 4)
	Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support Services are provided through three network areas in the County: Tralee /West Kerry, Killarney / South Kerry and Listowel /North Kerry. These services provide needs-led support to children and families who are experiencing adversity in their lives. A key component of family support is prevention and early intervention to develop strengths and build supports. 12 FRC based Family Support Workers are funded through Tusla PPFS Kerry. In addition there is a Tusla PPFS Integration Support team serving the county to support families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection or in IPSS accommodation.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
	One Family Welfare Conference Co-ordinator covers county Kerry and has the responsibility for convening family meetings to develop plans for children.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
	Barnahus South (Cork and Kerry) brings together Tusla, the HSE and Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU), and An Garda Síochána, enabling the services to work together in the best interest of the child; share information, gather the best evidence and help prevent any further trauma to the child by limiting the number of times they must tell professionals what has happened to them.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 3 and 4)
Family Mediation Service	The Family Mediation helps couples who have decided to divorce or separate to negotiate their own terms of agreement, considering the needs and interests of all involved including children. The Family Mediation Service helps separating couples to cooperate with each other to agree acceptable arrangements on: parenting, financial support, family home and property, pensions and any other issues related to separation / divorce.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)

Community, Integration and Social Services			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Family Resource Centres (FRCs)	Fourteen FRCs (12 Tusla core funded and 2 Tusla locally funded) provide a range of health and wellbeing supports including breast-feeding support groups, Parent and Toddler Groups, Family Support and parenting programmes.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Support children and families who are affected by separation or bereavement, which can include the delivery of the Rainbows programme.	Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)
Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)	Kerry County Council's LAIT supports International Protection Applicants, refugees, and other migrants in becoming independent, settling into their new communities, and actively participating in Irish society. Through outreach the team connects individuals to essential services that facilitate integration. Additionally, LAIT delivers various projects under the Community Integration Forum, fostering inclusion and community engagement.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Kerry Sports and Recreation Partnership	Practical supports for greater physical activity of children, young people and families. Targets particularly groups likely to be excluded from participation in regular sports activities.	Statutory and Voluntary Partnership	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)
Kerry Traveller Health and Community Development Project (KTHCDP)	Kerry Traveller Health and CDP works with the Traveller community to promote and improve Traveller health and education opportunities in Kerry. KTHCDP is a Traveller-led organisation, where Traveller ethnicity is championed, and where Travellers are proud of their identity and are actively engaged in community life. They are working towards developing a clear and pro-active position in relation to Traveller issues and rights to improve the quality of life of the Traveller Community in Kerry.	Community/ Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Killarney Asylum Seekers Initiative (KASI)	KASI provides supports to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and other Migrants including Drop-in service, information and advice, administrative support, advocacy, outreach to Direct Provision centres, awareness raising in schools and local community, free English classes, after-school support, training and workshops, volunteering opportunities and intercultural events	Community /Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)
Tralee International Resource Centre (TIRC)	TIRC provides a welcoming environment in which people from the international community can access information, advice and practical supports. As well as a drop-in service and one to one support, TIRC provides English classes and a variety of support groups and activities. Training, intercultural events and awareness raising are part of their core work to support integration between local and international communities.	Community /Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)
Local Development Companies (LDCs)	North, East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD), South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) and IRD Duhallow deliver community and rural development, labour market activation, social inclusion, climate action and social enterprise services via a range of funding programmes including Leader, SICAP etc.	Community /Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)

Drugs and Alcohol			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Southern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	Provides support to existing services working in the field of drugs and alcohol; gathers and collates up-to-date information; works to improve the provision of drug and alcohol services.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 and 2)
Drugs Alcohol and Sexual Health (DASH)	The DASH project combines the work of the Sexual Health Centre and the Drug and Alcohol Task Force. DASH is an outreach service which brings sexual health, drugs and alcohol information and support directly to communities across Cork and Kerry. DASH is an information and signposting service. Services include – Rapid HIV testing, Free Period Products, Free Condoms/lube, Information Sessions, Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health info.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 and 2)
Coolmine Kerry	Coolmine Kerry is a support service for those (16+) impacted by problem substance use. The service provides assessment, Individual and Group Support, Here and Now Group, Community Outreach, Family Support, Skills for Recovery Programme, Prosocial Activities, and Signposting, Referral and Brief Intervention.	Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)

Youth Supports and Clubs			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
GAA Clubs	82 Clubs throughout the County offer opportunities for physical exercise, social interaction and community engagement.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Sports Clubs	There is a wide range of sporting club opportunities in Kerry including: 13 Athletics, 8 Rugby, 17 Golf, 7 Badminton, 23 Basketball, and Rowing Clubs in the county.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Kerry ETB Funded Youth Services	Kerry Community Youth Service (KCYS) provides a range of youth support services to young people in Kerry including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBU Your Place Your Space projects for youth aged 10-24 in Castleisland, Killarney, Listowel, Tralee and North Kerry. • Youth Information Centres in Tralee and Killarney. • Migrant Integration Support for youth from Ukraine. • Local Youth Club Grant Scheme supports for 23 volunteer led youth clubs in Kerry. • Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative (TYESI) supports for 15-24 year olds not in education, employment or training in Kerry. 	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 and 2)
	Foróige supports the provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBU Your Place Your Space project in West Iveragh / Cahersiveen. • Migrant Integration Support for youth from Ukraine in west Iveragh / Cahersiveen • Countywide Youth Mentoring Service 	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Levels 1 and 2)
	Irish Girl Guides (IGG) offers a varied and exciting programme for girls and young women aged 5-30, and opportunities for women of all ages. There are 13 clubs in Kerry, 6 receive funding from Kerry ETB.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Scouting Ireland is one of the largest national youth organisations in Ireland, dedicated to the development of life skills for young people aged 6-25. There are 8	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

Kerry ETB Funded Youth Services	clubs in Kerry, 5 receive funding via Kerry ETB.		
	Music Generation Kerry is a performance music education service for children and young people that provides opportunities to access a range of subsidised music tuition in Kerry.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) is part of Creative Youth an initiative under Creative Ireland to enable the creative potential of every child and young person in Ireland.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

Education			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kerry County Council	Library Branches x 9 and two Mobile library Services that travel to schools, and events across the County.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	The Arts Office is responsible for the development and implementation of services which provide support to the diverse arts sector in Kerry, such as programming, funding, information, advice, promotion and policy. Support and Funding is provided to Festivals, events i.e. Culture Night, Cruinniú na nÓg, Film, public and visual arts. Kerry County Museum welcomes 30,000 visitors and users per annum and offers a wide range of tailored education activities and learning opportunities throughout the year to primary and secondary school students; it also works in partnership with MTU, Kerry ETB and the NLN.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Tusla	The Early Years Inspectorate assesses compliance of pre-school services with the Child Care (Pre-school Services) Regulations 2006.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Kerry County Childcare Committee	Supports implementation of national childcare programmes at local level; coordinates and assists the development of quality childcare services; provides accredited training and in-service training for childcare providers/staff; provides information and resources for childcare providers, parents and the general public.	Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Early Years Services	There are 152 Early Learning and Care (ELC) services in county Kerry, which offer full day care (x 57 services), offer part time care (x 15 services), sessional pre-school services (x 48 services) and 31 provide school age childcare. (Of these services 100 are private and 52 are community services). There is 1 Tusla registered childminder but an additional 34 childminders are known to Kerry CCC not registered with Tusla.	Private and Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	22 Parent and Toddler Groups.	Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level1)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Department of Education and Youth (DEY)	DEY funds 130 Primary Schools including 22 DEIS primary schools and 26 Post Primary Schools, including 5 DEIS Secondary Schools. There are also 3 Special Schools in Kerry located in Tralee, Listowel and Beaufort. All secondary school students in the county have access to a qualified Guidance Counsellor, registered with the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC). They are qualified, insured, and supervised to provide counselling and support within the school.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Munster Technological University (MTU) Tralee	Munster Technological University (MTU) is a multi-campus technological university with six campuses across the South-West region in Cork and Kerry. The course and programme provision at MTU spans from apprenticeships to PhD, with a diversity of Irish and international students. With a shared vision of leading transformation through education, MTU strives to be an inclusive, accessible university that places the learner at the centre of all it does.	Statutory	Universal
Tusla – TESS Tusla Educational Support Services	-There are 3 Education Welfare Officers based in the County serving all schools. -There are 9 Home School Community Liaison Officers in the county serving 16 schools in Kerry. -There are 2 School Completion Projects in the county one in Listowel serving North Kerry and the second in Tralee serving Tralee and South Kerry.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
National Educational Psychological Service	NEPS provides an educational psychology service to schools to support students with developmental, learning, social, emotional and behavioural issues impacting their learning. NEPS also provides critical incident support and consultative service to schools.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kerry Education and Training Board (KETB)	<p>Kerry Education and Training Board funds youth projects and services across the county supported by Kerry ETB's Youth Officer.</p> <p>Second chance education opportunities are provided via 4 Youthreach Centres in Tralee (x2), Listowel and Killarney. Further Education and Training Opportunities are Provided in Kerry in 21 locations throughout the county. Education provision includes: full-time, part-time and evening courses, apprenticeship programmes, adult literacy, community education and English language.</p> <p>Kerry ETB's Admissions Office provides information, guidance and support to all learners on education, training and employment options as well as funding available to support them.</p>	Statutory and Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)
Local Development Companies (LDCs)	North East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD), South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) and Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Duhallow administer the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme for the County on behalf of Kerry LCDC. This programme provides supports for young people to get back to education or training, job activation and support and lifelong learning opportunities.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
National Learning Network (NLN)	Training courses and support services for people 18 years+ who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, people with an illness or disability) in Tralee.	Community/ Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Level 2)

Policing and Youth Justice			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
An Garda Síochána	25 Garda Stations providing policing services across the County.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
	There are 4 Juvenile Liaison Officers based in Kerry. Juvenile Liaison Officers work with children (U.18s) who have committed offences and liaise with their families and victims about their behaviour.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
Kerry Community Youth Service (KCYS): Youth Justice Project	The KCYS Youth Justice Project (YJP) service is a divisional Youth Diversion Programme consisting of 13 Youth Justice Workers and 1 Co-ordinator. KCYS partners with An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice to ensure this service is available for all young people in the Kerry Garda Division. Youth Justice work involves working with young people involved in, or at risk of being involved in, crime and anti-social behaviour to help them make positive life choices. The service also has a remit for early intervention work with children aged 8-11 years old.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
The Probation Service	The Probation Service protects the public and creates safer communities by helping offenders to desist from committing more crime. They work to reduce re-offending, manage offenders safely in the community, and reintegrate prisoners after release. The Kerry Probation Service regularly funds the delivery of the Strengthening Families Programme in Kerry.	Statutory	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
Kerry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Kerry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre provides professional, free and confidential counselling, information and support to victims of rape and sexual abuse and their non-abusing partners, families and friends. The service is based in Tralee, but outreach support is also provided.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Adapt Domestic Abuse Services	Support for victims of domestic abuse is provided by Adapt Kerry. Adapt works with women experiencing coercive control /domestic abuse through the provision of refuge services, outreach and therapeutic supports to them and their children.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)
Local Community Safety Partnerships	The new Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 provides for the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP). The LCSPs aim to prioritise the voice of local people in identifying and addressing community safety issues in collaboration with broad range of relevant stakeholders including local councillors, An Garda Síochána, community representatives, business and education representatives, and a range of statutory agencies including the HSE, Tusla and each local authority.	Statutory	
Local Authority Services			
Kerry County Council	<p>Kerry County Council is the Local Authority in Kerry and provides a broad range of services to the county including: Housing, Planning, Roads, Environment, Community, Economic, Tourism, Rural and Town Regeneration.</p> <p>Kerry County Council supports Kerry Comhairle na nOg via KCYS which gives young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. It is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area.</p> <p>There are 44 Playgrounds, 7 Multi-Use Games Area's (MUGA's), 16 Adult Exercise Equipment Areas, 2 Sports Exercise Equipment Areas and 2 Skate Parks in county Kerry supported by Kerry County Council in partnership with local communities.</p>	Statutory	Universal and Targeted

Social Welfare Services			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
The Department of Social Protection	DSP serves a wide and diverse group of clients including families, people in employment, unemployed people, people with disabilities, carers and pensioners. Intreo Offices are located in Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Cahersiveen and Kenmare which provide single point of contact for all income and employment supports. There are two DSP offices located in Dingle and Killorglin.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
EmployAbility Kerry	EmployAbility Service Kerry is an employment and recruitment service, funded by the Department of Social Protection that helps people who have a Disability, Mental Health Difficulty, Injury, Illness or are in Recovery from Addiction to get and retain a job in the open labour market. It provides a number of supports, including a dedicated Job Coach who works with both jobseekers and employers providing ongoing supports.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
Money Advice and Budgeting Service	The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State's money advice service, guiding people through dealing with problem debt. Services are in Killarney and Tralee.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Local Employment Service	Local Development Companies NEWKD, SKDP and IRD Duhallow provide the local Employment Service, Enterprise Supports, CV Clinics, Employment Skills Workshops and Work Experience Agreements for young people.	Community / Voluntary	Targeted (Hardiker Levels 2 and 3)

Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Local Development Companies	NEWKD, SKDP and IRD Duhallow are responsible for local and community development and provide services to children via the development of youth spaces in rural areas via Leader funding.	Community/Voluntary	Universal
Family Resource Centres	Family Resource Centres provide a range of services such as adult education, meals on wheels and food supports to families, home visit programmes, counselling, information provision and support, advocacy and networking and employment support. FRCs also provide developmental opportunities including peer support groups and community groups.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1, 2 and 3)
South Kerry Women's Network	Promoting women's equality and access to education, social and economic life by providing a range of supports and services including: Information, advice and guidance to services; Supporting the development of women's groups; Activities and events for women; Women's health and wellbeing; and Awareness raising.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted Services Hardiker Level 1 and 2
Kerry County Council	Kerry County Council is leading out on the delivery of <i>Creative Ireland Kerry</i> . The initiative will work in partnership with the Local Youth Creative Partnership and Music Generation to achieve key goals. A key focus is on providing opportunities for young people to creatively express themselves and build on the success of Cruinniu na nÓg.	Statutory	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Kerry Sports and Recreation Partnership	Practical supports for greater physical activity of children, young people and families. Targets particularly groups likely to be excluded from participation in regular sports activities.	Statutory and Voluntary Partnership	Universal and Targeted (Hardiker Level 1 and 2)

Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Music Generation Kerry	Music Generation Kerry is a performance music education service for children and young people that provides opportunities to access a range of subsidised music tuition in Kerry.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Local Creative Youth Partnership (LYCP)	Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) is part of Creative Youth an initiative under Creative Ireland to enable the creative potential of every child and young person in Ireland.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
GAA Clubs	82 Clubs throughout the County offer opportunities for physical exercise, social interaction and community engagement.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Sports Clubs	There is a wide range of sporting club opportunities in Kerry including: 13 Athletics, 8 Rugby, 17 Golf, 7 Badminton, 23 Basketball, and Rowing Clubs in the county.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Irish Girl Guides	Irish Girl Guides (IGG) offers a varied and exciting programme for girls and young women aged 5-30, and opportunities for women of all ages. There are 13 clubs in Kerry, 6 receive funding from Kerry ETB.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Scouting Ireland Kerry	Scouting Ireland is one of the largest national youth organisations in Ireland, dedicated to the development of life skills for young people aged 6-25. There are 8 clubs in Kerry, 5 receive funding via Kerry ETB.	Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)

Youth Services			
Organisation / Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kerry Community Youth Service (KCYS)	Kerry Community Youth Service is a countywide youth service for 10–24-year-olds in Kerry. The aim of the service is to provide support for young people living in the county who are at risk of not reaching their full potential due to a variety of social factors including economic disadvantage, marginalisation, rural isolation, social isolation, mental health concerns or disability. The organisation offers a range of approaches including small and large group work, individual work, outreach and advocacy work. Funded Initiatives include: Kerry Youth Justice Project; Youth Clubs; UBU Your Space Your Place; Youth Information; LGBTQI+ supports; Ukraine Integration Supports; and Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative (TYESI) supports.	Community / Voluntary	Universal (Hardiker Level 1)
Foróige	Foróige is the leading youth organisation in Ireland and has been working with young people since 1952. Its purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society. In Kerry Foróige supports young people aged 10 to 24 years in West Iveragh / Cahersiveen.	Community / Voluntary	Universal and Targeted Services Hardiker Level 1 and 2

Killarney House: by Sinead 5th Class

In summary there is a range of child, youth and family support services across all 5 national outcome areas: Services are provided across the spectrum from Hardiker Level 1: community level, universal, primary care services to Hardiker Level 4: intensive and long-term support and protection services for children young people and families in the county. While services are available, accessing services remains a challenge (waiting lists and geography), especially for those children, young people and families who are most at risk. An infographic devised by Kerry CYPSC outlining the key services for children, young people and families has been included overleaf in Figure 9.



Dingle Lighthouse: by Daniel 6th Class

MODEL PATHWAY

STEP 1

UNIVERSAL

- Parent & Toddler Groups
- Parents Plus Programme
- Workshops ie Baby Reflexology/Massage, Baby weaning workshops, First Aid
- Breast Feeding Support
- Immunisation and developmental checks/School Based Public Health Nurse (PHN) immunisation & developmental checks
- Ante-natal visits up to -9 months to birth (Kerry University Hospital (KUH))
- Local post-natal check-up: PHN visits mum & baby within 72 hours of discharge & ongoing as required
- FRC universal supports: Parenting Programmes, information & signposting, workshops, support groups, activity programmes etc.
- Talks and seminars
- Kerry CYPSC website
- Kerry County Childcare Committee
- Information from other sources eg internet, leaflets and newspapers
- The National Healthy Childhood Programme (www.hse.ie)
- Kerry Parenting Hub supports (in development from 2024)
- Community Families Support Service (All parents of children aged 0-3 years) coordinated by PHN
- Education Pre-school (3-5) , primary (5-12) and secondary (12-18/19, Further Education & Training (Kerry Education and Training Board (ETB), Youthreach)
- Youth clubs/groups (KDYS/Scouts/Girl Guides etc)
- Youth Information Centres (www.kdys.ie)



1st Year	School Team	2 contacts
8-9 y	Dental	3 contacts
5 y	GP	
4 1/2 - 5 y	School Team	2 contacts
46 - 48 m	PHN	CMO ⁺
24 - 36 m	GP	
21 - 24 m	PHN	CMO
13 m	GP	
12 m	GP	
9 - 11 m	PHN	CMO
6 m	GP	
4 m	GP	
3 m	PHN	CMO
2 m	GP	
6 w	GP	
2 w	GP	
<1 w	PHN	
Birth	H	

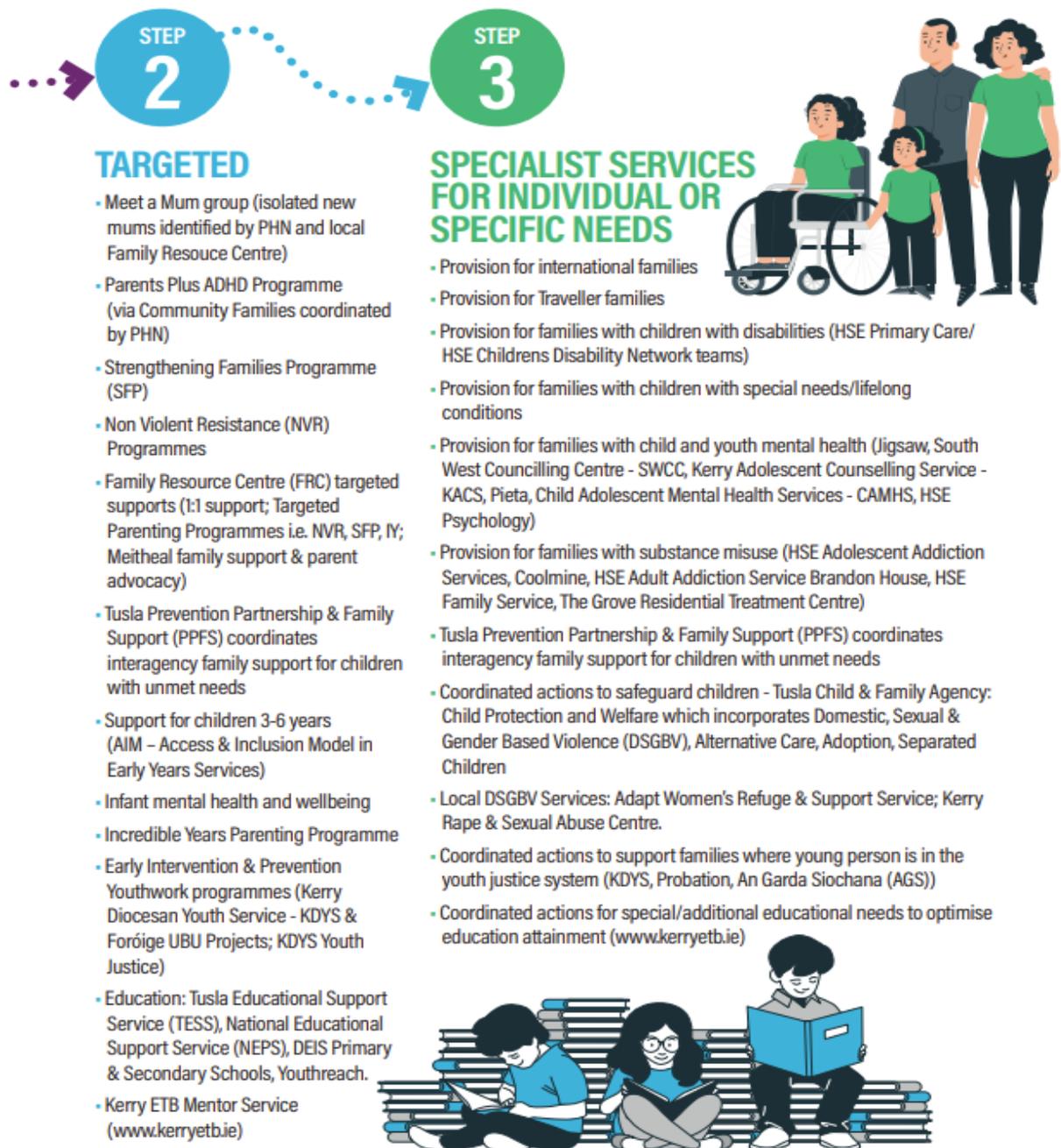


Figure 9: Service Pathway

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in County Kerry

To assess local needs for the CYPP, a consultation process with children, young people and parents was facilitated in the period September to December 2024. Children and young people played a central role in shaping this plan. Consultations were guided by Lundy's Model of Participation, ensuring that their voice was not only heard, but meaningfully acted upon. Insights gathered have directly informed the identification of local priorities and the design of actions across all five national outcomes. A succinct summary of the process and findings is outlined below followed by a comprehensive thematic analysis with additional details in Appendix 3 and 4. The findings from this needs analysis combined with the data contained in sections 1-3 were important enablers which assisted in the identification of priorities and actions for the final Kerry CYPP.

Age Group	Method	No.	Findings
Early Years (2-6 yrs) facilitated by Kerry County Childcare Committee	Each ECCE service in Co. Kerry was sent a consultation pack with three questions to be considered by the children.	159	Positive: Close to nature and family, local amenities and facilities. Areas for Improvement: Distance from facilities, pollution, traffic, too much noise.
Primary School Age 5-12	A standard survey to Primary Schools across the County	81	Positive: Part of a community, local sports clubs, living in country, being around nature, quiet and peaceful Areas for Improvement: lack of transport, vaping, homelessness, dereliction, anti-social behaviour, bullying.
Children and Young People (4-24)	Kerry CYPSC Young Persons Consultation in 2022	253	Top 10 issues identified. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Wellbeing and Access to Services 2. Lack of Youth Spaces and Facilities 3. Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping 4. Education pressures 5. Bullying/Cyber Bullying 6. Peer Pressure 7. Personal Safety 8. Poverty 9. Lack of accessible transport 10. Not feeling included

Age Group	Method	No.	Findings
Young People (13-18)	Survey disseminated by Comhairle Na nÓg in September 2024	70	<p>Positives included family, friends, sports, activities, school, scenery and tourism, opportunities in education and being ambitious for the future.</p> <p>Top 10 issues for young people living in Kerry identified through the Parents Survey</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health 2. School/Education Challenges 3. Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol 4. Lack of Youth Spaces 5. Unhealthy Lifestyle 6. Peer Pressure 7. Personal Safety 8. On-line issues and challenges 9. Accessible services and activities for those not involved in sports. 10. Integration into a new area if recently arrived in the County.
Parents	Survey disseminated via Kerry CYPSC	475	<p>Top 10 issues for Parents in Kerry from the Parents Survey</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and guidance on child and youth mental health 2. Navigating the system for children/young people with additional needs 3. Access and cost of childcare 4. Financial challenges 5. Parental self-care and wellbeing 6. Managing children's screentime 7. Concerns about drugs and alcohol. 8. Specific needs of traveller and recently arrived parents. 9. Parenting Alone

Age Group	Method	No.	Findings
Parents	Survey disseminated via Kerry CYPSC	475	10. Supports for first time parents. Advocating for parents, a one stop shop for information and guidance and forums for Peer Support were suggestions as to how Kerry CYPSC could most effectively support Parents across the County.

Table 11: Consultation Summary

The remainder of this section is a thematic analysis under each of the five national outcomes of the findings from the desk review and consultations with CYP, parents, and 52 professionals. Metrics and outcomes from the socio-demographic profile, data from services and insights from contributors have been used to determine how children and young people in Co. Kerry are doing against each outcome. Measures used such as rate of school completion, increase/decrease in Tusla referrals, increased/reduced self-harm and changes in youth unemployment should be part of the data repository proposed under the action in Change Management.

While it is not possible to review all services and supports for 0–24-year-olds in the Kerry CYPSC area, we highlight successful approaches and targeted interventions for children, young people and families in specific circumstances and areas where more resources are needed. The analysis in relation to Outcome 5 reflects on the extent to which services and supports are inclusive of the voice and perspectives of the children, young people and families who use them.



Valentia: by Daniel 5th Class

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

How are children and young people in Kerry doing in relation to this outcome.

Physical Health

Kerry is well served with sports facilities, leisure centres, greenways and outdoor spaces. There has been a strong focus through Healthy Ireland funded projects to connect young people to nature and outdoor spaces and projects relating to physical activity programmes for young people engaged with CAMHS. Birthrates, ante natal care, breastfeeding and immunisations are in line with the national average which are positive indicators of wellbeing. The rates of neonatal and youth mortality are similar to the national average.

Mental Health

- There are 531 CYP with an intellectual disability in Kerry which is among the highest in the country with 75 having a physical disability.
- Young people are a priority group in the Connecting for Life Kerry 2022-2024 Action Plan. The three-year suicide moving average for Kerry at 10.3.
- In 2021 there were significantly more females aged under 24 (n=87) than males under 24 (n=51) presenting to Kerry University Hospital with self-harm.
- The Jigsaw Kerry mental health service for young people aged 12-25 in Kerry received 579 referrals in 2023 from which 484 received an intervention with 95 signposted to other services and supports. The current wait time for assessment from the service is 7-8 weeks.

Substance Use

10 young people aged under 18 and 68 aged 18-24 residing in County Kerry received treatment for substance use in 2023. Cannabis was the most common drug for those aged 18-24 followed by cocaine and alcohol. A 2024 report on 'Alcohol and Drug Use among Young People in Greater Kenmare¹⁷' found that use of alcohol and other drugs is problematic, among young people, in Greater Kenmare area.

Smoking, vaping, drinking alcohol and the consumption of illicit drugs are associated with age; the older students are (aged 15+) the more likely they are to engage in risky and / or illegal behaviours according to the findings. Teenagers find it easy to access alcohol in social and commercial settings in Kenmare according to the report. Vaping is on the increase and teenagers are not aware of the dangers. Teenagers reported social media use and peer pressure are factors in driving risky and illegal behaviours and that local community and support services are inadequate.

¹⁷ <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/kerry/south-kerry-news/kerry-teen-report-reveals-widespread-drinking-and-cannabis-is-drug-of-choice-among-students/a243167238.html>

What do children, young people, parents and professionals think

Young people across County Kerry highlighted a range of factors that negatively affect their mental health such as exam and peer pressure, transitioning to secondary school, bullying, body image, unhealthy lifestyles, lack of facilities, drug use, discrimination, poor transport, cost of living, worry about being liked/ judged, climate change, their future and wars in the world.

Concerns around drug/alcohol use and associated anti-social behaviour were expressed by parents. The growth of vaping in and outside of school is a worry for parents due to its potential as a gateway drug. They highlighted that the absence of affordable accessible activities locally led to boredom, which can increase the likelihood of drug/alcohol use and antisocial behaviour.

Parents are worried about issues affecting the mental health and wellbeing of their children. In addition to the challenges mentioned by young people above, parents highlighted gender identity, technology and social media. They felt that parental mental health, including during the perinatal period should be a priority. The ongoing need for tailored supports and information for parents of children with additional needs was a recurring theme though the work of Kerry CYPSC in highlighting pathways to services was acknowledged.

In a focus group in 2024 with parents of children with additional needs, the key themes to emerge were

- Having to experience the same assessment process on multiple occasions was demoralising for parents. There was no acknowledgement of the details in previous assessments resulting in parents having to go through the ordeal of documenting their child's challenges and behaviours in each new assessment.
- Waiting time for assessment has increased due to a reduction in capacity among the agencies appointed to undertake the assessments. This is impacting decisions in relation to education and securing places in special schools.
- Where a child/young person has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, they are deemed ineligible for CAMHS as it is not a mental health diagnosis. This is confusing for parents.
- Early intervention is crucial, where issues were identified in pre-school, the experience and outcomes with Youth Mental Health services were positive.
- Parents having to finance private therapies/assessments was a recurring theme
- The experience of dealing with Youth Mental Health services has taken a profound toll on parents and in many cases siblings. Schools were the parents biggest advocate and support.

Professionals identified the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people as a primary concern, with specific reference to anxiety, self-harm, domestic violence, social media, alienation of minority groups, poverty, financial pressure, time pressure, normalisation of drug use and vaping, health inequalities and limited opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities.

Professionals and parents identified a deficit in resilience among young people which may be a Covid legacy. Service access is a significant challenge with a perception of long waiting lists particularly for mental health services such as CAMHS, counselling and therapeutic interventions. Supports for primary school aged children, 18-24 years old with undiagnosed issues and for young people with a disability are perceived to be limited.

Finding out what support services are available can be challenging for parents and professionals, and when known can be difficult to navigate. Concern about the impact on children and young people of living in a home where there is problematic substance use and the complexity of responding to the needs of these children was highlighted. This is interwoven into many of the issues identified: violence, trauma and intergenerational addiction.

Professionals cited trauma-informed approaches as a valuable means of effectively understanding and responding to the needs of children, young people and families and expressed a keen interest in further developing knowledge and experience in this area. The physical and mental health needs of children, young people and families in specific circumstances need to be addressed, including for example: Traveller community, non-Irish national families in direct provision, children with disabilities and their parents (mothers, fathers, foster parents); grandparents and other family carers.

There are unfilled vacancies in CDNT's which is negatively impacting capacity and increasing waiting lists. Professionals working with parents in a support rather than clinical setting emphasised the marked increase in parental disclosure of Anxiety, Depression, ADHD, Autism, Neurodevelopmental and Developmental coordination disorders being experienced by their children.

In the 2022 Kerry CYPSC youth consultation over one fifth highlighted challenges with mental health services in respect of suitability and access. Many felt that there was an information deficit on available services or couldn't access them easily due to their location, eligibility criteria and waiting times.

Professionals highlighted the challenges with getting the under 18s and the 18-24 age cohorts impacted by substance use into residential services (clean for 30 days) believe that a day service would be very impactful.

Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in all areas of Learning and Development

How are children and young people in Kerry doing in relation to this outcome

Early Years, School attendance and retention

In Kerry, 9,454 (33%) of those aged under 15 were in childcare in 2022. There were 3,888 children in a crèche/Montessori/playgroup/after school service in the county (41%). Over one in four (2,818) were being cared for by an unpaid relative or family member. A further 1,544 (16%) were being cared for by a childminder (in the childminder's home).

There are 130 Primary Schools, 26 Secondary Schools and 3 Special Schools in Kerry. In 2022 an additional 15 schools in Kerry were granted DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) status. This will enable them to avail of a range of targeted supports aimed at tackling educational disadvantage, including additional classroom teaching posts, home-school community liaison coordinator posts, DEIS grant funding and access to the School Completion Programme (SCP). It also takes into consideration the significant educational disadvantage experienced by Traveller and Roma learners and of students residing in direct provision or emergency homeless accommodation.

In primary schools, Kerry has higher rates of absences, and a lower rate of suspensions compared to Munster and the national average. At post primary, Kerry has similar rates of absences and suspensions compared to Munster and the national average¹⁸. The proportion of students within the second level system who complete Junior Certificate (97%) and Leaving Certificate (92%) in Kerry is similar to the national average.

- 36.5% of the adult population have a third-level qualification with 11.4% educated to primary level only.
- Early school leavers are three times as likely to be unemployed than the general population aged 18-24 (CSO, 2019).
- 1,107 Irish Travellers live in Kerry, up from 960 in 2016 and they continue to have very low school attendance and retention.

Third Level

342 students at MTU Kerry Campus availed of the Service for Students with Learning Difference in the 2023/24 academic year representing a 31% increase from the previous year. Just under 50% had dyslexia, 57 had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with 42 reporting Attention-deficit, hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The DoE's *Statement of Strategy 2021-2023* emphasises the need to support students, who are at risk of exclusion or early school leaving. During 2023, 48 young people in Co Kerry aged 24 years or under were referred to Probation Services. In 2022, 224 young people in Kerry were referred to youth diversion programmes.

¹⁸ Tusla Education Support Service, School Attendance Data Primary and Post-Primary Schools and Student Absence Reports Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022

What do children, young people, parents and professionals think.

Young people highlighted exam stress and pressure and the relentless focus on getting the points for university. The need for more Guidance Counsellors and more training for them in promoting the range of educational, vocational, and training opportunities available was reinforced by young people. Parents highlighted challenges in relation to school transport. There is a need for increased support for parents of children with additional needs and more Special Needs Assistants for students. There are 3 special schools in Kerry with insufficient places to meet needs. Children with additional needs are travelling from Dingle to Listowel (160km return) and Kenmare to Beaufort (116km return) to access special school places.

Professionals reported reductions in school attendance (shorter days or attending 2-3 days per week) and increase in school refusers in Kerry. A range of factors contribute to low school attendance including anxiety, family issues, school issues, additional needs, literacy/ numeracy concerns and cultural issues. There is an increasing trend of young people not going to 3rd level and going straight into work to contribute to the household income. Some in third level are experiencing food poverty which in some cases is being exacerbated by students sending home part of their grant to help their family financially.

The need for support for children and young people when making the transition across the levels of education was reinforced with a tailored approach for cohorts of children such as Travellers and children with disability warranted. It was acknowledged by parents and professionals that transition programmes are in place but are not universal and vary from school to school. Low participation in education of children from the Traveller and Roma community remains a concern and additional English language provision for children recently arrived is essential to help them integrate in school.

Professionals felt that the education system had adapted quickly to the needs of Ukrainian CYP who can choose to pursue the Irish curriculum and examinations system or remain within the Ukrainian system which is facilitated online. Over 600 Ukrainian students living in Ireland sat the UKR state exams in 2024 which were hosted by the MTU campus in Tralee and the SETU campus in Carlow.

Professionals and parents felt that access to support and navigating the system is particularly challenging for young people with ASD and their families due to number of issues – limited or no available services, eligibility criteria, and poor transport infrastructure. Both stakeholders felt that parents must be involved in the process of identifying the needs of their child and the type of service/setting which would best support them to optimise their learning potential.

Professionals, parents, and young people referenced that access to good quality broadband is vital for the education of children and young people. While they acknowledged broadband had improved greatly in Kerry in recent years, they highlighted that poor coverage persists in some rural areas. Professionals highlighted that there are programmes operating in the county for those who have left school early (Youthreach, Local Training Initiatives, Community Education Programmes) that are very effective for reengaging with and progression in education and training. However, there is no Youthreach in South Kerry.

The increasing numbers of young people accessing apprenticeships was welcomed. There remains uncertainty about the numbers of young people who are not in employment, education or training and associated supports. This is an area that Kerry ETB lead on, and Kerry CYPSC can support future profiling and support initiatives.

The 2022 Kerry CYPSC youth consultation identified education, employment supports as the 4th most prevalent need. This included

- A reform of the Leaving Certificate as it is outdated, doesn't suit learners of all abilities and puts too much pressure on students.
- A lack of free training/guidance in school on life and practical skills such as managing money, starting a business, CV, job searching and interview skills.
- More support with homework and college work and exam stress
- Better access to educational assessments and public libraries.



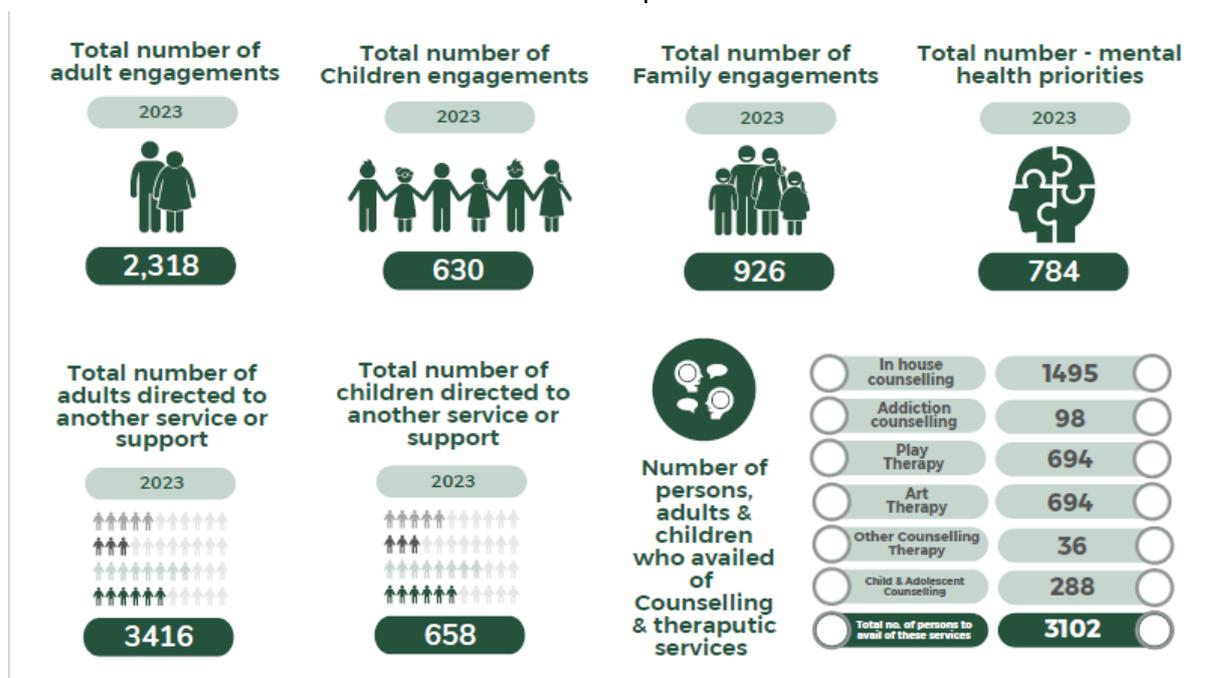
Staigue Fort: by Niamh 6th Class

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

How are children and young people in Kerry doing in relation to this outcome

Child Protection and Safety in County Kerry

- In 2023, there were 2,204 child protection referrals to Tusla Social Work, 1323 were for a child welfare concern, 219 related to emotional issues, 320 were due to a physical concern, 226 were sexual related concerns with 176 for neglect.
- At the end of 2023 in Kerry, there were 174 children in care, 150 in foster care and 18 in residential care. 42 children in care had a disability.
- In 2023, there were 174 Meitheal Requests processed in Kerry (<https://data.tusla.ie/>).
- As per the sociodemographic profile in section 2, in September 2024 there were 2294 foreign national children in Kerry living in 7 x Direct Provision Centres, 8 x Emergency Direct Provision Centres, private arrangements and community settings.
- Tralee International Resource Centre (TIRC) and Killarney Asylum Seekers Initiative (KASI) provide services to International Protection Applicants (IPAs), refugees and broader migrant communities. In 2024, TIRC have supported 75 parents and 190 CYP an increase from 65 parents and 148 CYP.
- There are 14 Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in Kerry providing a range of community development, social inclusion and family supports across the lifecycle. See 2023 data below for 11 FRCs extracted from the SPEAK portal.



- In 2022 there were 151 applications granted for domestic violence barring orders in Kerry, a rate of 39.5% per 10,000 this rate is significantly lower than the state average of 70.6 per 10,000
- The Kerry Family Mediation service provided by the legal aid board has in the three-year period 2021-24 facilitated 646 cases of mediation involving 1,292 individuals using the service.

Emergency Accommodation

Emergency Accommodation is provided for families in private hostels and consists of shared dorms. This involves parent(s) and children sharing the one room and using shared kitchen facilities. Therefore, space and privacy is limited. Family Support Services, HAP supports, and Outreach and Resettlement Supports are made available to families to assist them to source alternative accommodation and supports so that their time in emergency accommodation is limited. The lack of availability of private rental housing in Kerry is significantly impacting families and individuals from transitions out of state sponsored accommodation into independent living arrangements. According to data from the Kerry County Council Housing Department.

- As at 23/10/2024, there are 5 single parent families with 13 children in emergency accommodation in Kerry. The children range in age from 3 months to 16 years old.
- During 2023, 15 families were provided with emergency accommodation comprising 22 adults and 35 children. Of those, 9 families were single parent families with 19 children. 6 couples were accommodated with 16 children who ranged in age from under 12 months to 17 years old.
- During 2023, 32 families comprising 47 adults with 59 children did not meet the criteria for emergency accommodation. These families were advised of alternative supports available.

Community Families

Community Families is a community based home visiting programme available in Kerry, which puts Parents First, empowering them through trusted relationships with a Home Visitor. It provides information and support, and it builds friendships and connectivity in local communities. The programme is offered to parents in pregnancy and up to the child's 3rd birthday. Parents/Guardians can self-refer or can be referred by their Public Health Nurse. Information provided by the initiative in September 2024 reported that:

- Up to September 2024, 139 parents and 188 children had used the service with a waiting list of 5 families.
- In 2023, 156 parents and 226 children were supported.

What do children, young people, parents and professionals think

Children under 5 years highlighted the role of parents in keeping them safe and their sense of the family home as a place of security. Children aged 5 – 12 years, ranked having a great family as one of the best things in their lives. Many positive features of family life were reported such as close relationships, emotional and financial security, and having parents, siblings to approach for help. Professionals highlighted the essential role of parents in keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm is reinforced in Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. They added that Tusla PPFs in Kerry are engaged in ongoing family support provision, liaising with parents on their experiences and their needs.

Crime and safety challenges were highlighted in the 2024 young person's survey and the 2022 Kerry CYPSC youth consultation. Young people don't feel safe in their locality (especially at night). They have worries about stranger danger, being robbed and beaten up, road safety, farm safety, bullying, gender-based violence, racism, anti-social behaviour, and drug-related activity. Information and guidance for online safety was a priority for parents. The Office for Internet Safety provides a range of resources for parents, teachers and young people to ensure that they can use technology safely. Barnardos also deliver online safety programmes¹⁹.

Professionals highlighted that care leavers are often placed into emergency accommodation when there is no alternative, and they continue to need far more support than is available in emergency accommodation and it is proving difficult for practitioners to move them onto independent living as they have not learned or mastered living skills. Professionals indicated that due to lack of space at Kerry Women's Refuge, families who have experienced domestic violence are accommodated by homeless services from time to time. They emphasised that emergency accommodation is unsuitable for families fleeing domestic violence.

Contributors felt that there were vulnerable groups requiring additional protection and support such as: homeless families, those affected by domestic violence, families affected by substance use, families with children with additional needs and migrant, Traveller and Roma families. The value of adopting approaches that are trauma-informed, focus on early intervention and prevention, provide peer support and are culturally sensitive was highlighted.

Parents and professionals pointed to the changing composition of the family unit in Kerry with more homes headed by a single parent. Professionals felt that parental relationship breakdowns are on the increase with a corresponding increase in the number of blended families. Targeting support at fathers was identified as an emerging priority by professionals adding that fathers have a profound and lasting impact on their children's development. They highlighted that many parenting supports have been designed for, targeted at, and attended by mothers, and consequently fathers have traditionally been less likely to engage in such supports.

¹⁹ <https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme/>

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

How are children and young people in Kerry doing in relation to this outcome.

Economic Indicators

- Kerry ranks as the 14th most disadvantaged county in the state with a deprivation score of -1.86 (-1.31 in 2016) and a classification of Marginally Below Average (MBA). It is the 2nd most disadvantaged county in Munster.
- There are seven Electoral Districts (EDs) within Kerry categorised as ‘disadvantaged’ with a total of 8, 151 people living in an ED which is disadvantaged of which 75% (n= 6,104) live in Tralee Urban.
- 6,468 or 17.4% of families are headed by a lone parent.
- Less than one in five children, aged 0 – 17 years in Kerry live in families dependent on Social Welfare. (*DSP, 2022*)
- In 2022, there were 456 lone parent social housing applicants with one or more children.
- There was a net decline in youth unemployment figures for Kerry over the last two years 2022-24. As of August 2024, there were 683 young people aged under 24 on the live register.
- There is a high demand for childcare places in Kerry with increasing waiting lists and pressures on the community childcare sector.

First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children, and their Families 2019-2028 outlines measures to tackle early childhood poverty including expanded access to free and subsidised Early Learning and Care (ELC).

A key tenet of the Kerry County Development and Local Economic and Community Plans is to support and facilitate the provision of good quality and accessible childcare facilities across the county. The Government Pathways to Work Strategy (2021-2025) recognises the importance of supporting young people to develop general and transferable skills to gain and sustain employment.

The Local Youth Employment Strategies Report (OECD, 2014) recommends mapping local options and pathways, strengthening the role of existing linkers and brokers and integrating community and youth work more fully into networks of employment, education, and training.

What do children, young people, parents and professionals think.

Parents ranked financial issues as among their biggest concerns. For young adults, financial issues reported related to the costs of undertaking 3rd-level education or further training. Employment prospects, debt, and cost of living were their main concerns. Money was also a challenge for some children and young people who cannot access recreational and sporting activities due to the cost.

Obstacles to employment in County Kerry highlighted by young people include not having the requisite experience, not enough jobs, not knowing how to access available jobs, limited social connections hindering opportunities to get work experience, let alone the prospect of employment. Lack of transport further reduces the possibilities of getting employment. Young people from the Traveller community struggle to secure Transition Year work experience while those in aftercare often struggle to secure further education, training and employment opportunities.

Professionals identified a need for evidence based timely data in relation to the incidence of young people who are not in education, employment or training in Kerry. The importance of developing key life, soft and transferable skills, especially for more vulnerable young people was highlighted as key to access and progression in education, employment and training.

Professionals highlighted the gaps in childcare service provision, which is not meeting current demand in many areas. Full day childcare places for 0-3 years is a particular need across County Kerry. Many children in this age are unable to access early years care and education when needed. Parents with the skills and commitment to work must be able to access affordable childcare.

Professionals felt that the Traveller community had many unmet need and that sustaining their children in education, dealing with escalating drug and alcohol problems, the lack of life progression opportunities for young mothers (aged 18 upwards) and mental health issues should be priority areas for targeted support.

Professionals indicated that the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living impacts has led to the greater visibility of financial hardship among families on low income and concerns about escalating child poverty. While there is some variation within the county, overall as per the HP Deprivation Index, Kerry is not characterised by extremes of affluence or deprivation. However some professionals felt that this conceals hidden disadvantage in areas of Kenmare, Dingle and Killarney where high value holiday homes are in close proximity to areas of disadvantage. Parents in some cases are working long hours in hotel and catering in the holiday season to make ends up meet which can mean older children left unsupervised and looking after younger siblings.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

How are children and young people in Kerry doing in relation to this outcome.

Connected

A significant proportion of children and young people under 18 years and aged 18-24 in Kerry live in a rural setting. (CSO 2022). This is a real issue for children, young people and families. Accessing services outside the main urban centres with limited public transport necessary for their social, emotional and personal development was a recurring theme. (AIRO, 2017)

Youth Participation

- 618 children and young people contributed to this mixed method consultation. Statutory and non-statutory organisations are obliged to seek children's views and take them seriously under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as under specific Irish legislative provisions and the National Participation Strategy.
- Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Strategy (2019-2023) describes the benefits of including children and young people in decision-making on issues affecting their lives.
- While internet access has improved, there are still circa 7,000 homes in the county without any internet connection. The critical importance of internet access was amplified by the COVID crisis and early research on the impact of the pandemic is presenting lack of internet access as a poverty indicator that can significantly impact access to education and social connectivity.

The underfunding of youth work was raised during consultations with particular concerns highlighted about the gaps in targeted provision (with no UBU service in mid-Kerry, Greater Kenmare and the Dingle peninsula). Concerns were also raised regarding the increased focus on targeted provision which has resulted in limited funding to support universal supports. Universal youth work provides a forum for young people to socialise, learn and develop in their own communities; it is inclusive and preventative and provides valuable supports to young people across the county. Kerry CYPSC members have expressed concern regarding the depletion of broad-based open access universal, community youth supports.

Youth Space and Place

The provision of outdoor play spaces for younger children has received considerable attention in research, policy and planning. However, the topic has not been given the same level of consideration in relation to teenagers. Providing outdoor spaces for teenage recreation and consulting them regularly, helps to facilitate societal benefits including improved inter-generational relations between adults and teenagers, a reduction in anti-social behaviour and environmental and community improvements²⁰.

²⁰ Somewhere to hang out" Published by Dublin City University

Kerry County Council is developing the Kerry Play and Recreation Policy to support free entry and publicly available play and recreation opportunities in the county. It seeks to build on the success of the previous Kerry Play Policy (2004) and expands its focus to include infants, children and young people in line with national policies, strategies and structures.

What do children, young people, parents and professionals think.

All contributors agreed that the need for more amenities, facilities and activities for children and young people in Co. Kerry is a priority. There is a clear demand for social activities outside of sport with 20% of respondents to the 13–24-year-old survey indicating a desire for participation in clubs involving arts/theatre, arts/crafts and music. In the 2022 Kerry CYPSC youth consultation, respondents ranked “youth facilities and amenities” as the biggest gap in provision for young people. This was highlighted as preventative in supporting young people’s physical and mental wellbeing and reducing negative thoughts, behaviours and habits. This chimes with another headline finding from the 2022 study which was that children and young people need better, more targeted and accessible mental health services and supports.

When asked “what would you change to make things better”? Respondents from the 2022 Kerry CYPSC consultation ranked the following.

1. More/better access to services and more information.
2. More/better mental health services.
3. Youth facilities and amenities (incl. sports)
4. Education and employment supports.
5. Safer and cleaner locality.
6. Financial support/lower costs.

Safe “hang out” spaces; covered areas with benches; parks; trees, music studios; plants and wildlife areas; forest walks; sports, facilities – basketball, football, tennis, horse riding, trampoline, swimming were mentioned. Children and young people in Kerry want better transport options so that they can meet friends and access services when needed. They also want a cleaner environment to live in.

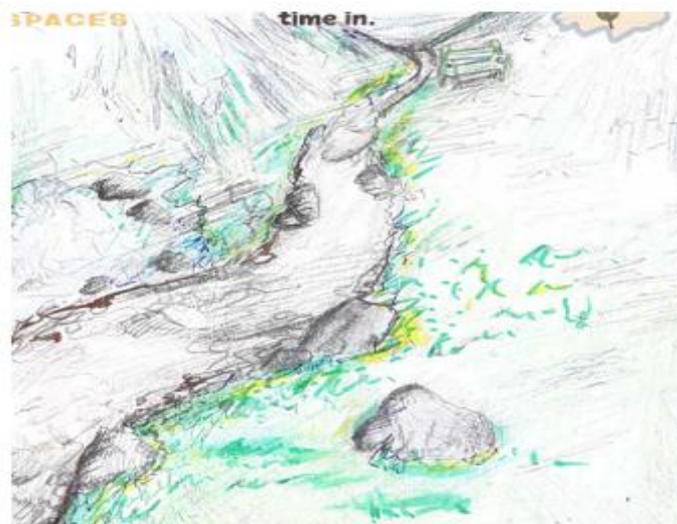
Kerry CYPSC engages regularly with Comhairle na nÓg (CnN) and must continue to explore innovative methods of engaging young people from seldom heard communities. Hearing the voice of children, young people and families living in IPAS centres to identify and respond to their needs was recognised as requiring a coordinated focus. Kerry CYPSC should encourage agencies to develop and implement policies that promote listening to the voice of children and young people in service planning, delivery and in decision making affecting their lives.

Young people very clearly throughout the consultation for this Kerry CYPP are asking to be treated equally, with more respect and understanding from adults. They want to be heard and make positive changes in their communities. Young people referenced and are acutely aware of the inequalities in society. They want to see these addressed with supports targeted to the most disadvantaged areas and cohorts such as those who are homeless and living in poverty.

Change Management

The key priorities to emerge from the consultation relating to change management included.

- Availability and access to county wide data is challenging. There is considerable onus placed on the Census data, however there are a broad range of other datasets relevant to the planning of children and young person's services. With additional resources, Kerry CYPSC could become the hosting site for all data relating to children and young people in the county.
- Within the Kerry CYPP, there should be a focus on strategic outcome focussed priorities which can be measured. This may result in less defined actions in the CYPP with the scope and flexibility to respond to changing need and policy.
- Ensure all agencies necessary to the achievement of the Kerry CYPP 2026-2028 are fully engaging as CYPSC members. Kerry CYPSC should have policy makers and funders as members while the subgroups can be more operational.
- If it transpires, the proposed addition of a Grade 5 resource to each County CYPSC will increase the capacity of CYPSCs to deliver and demonstrate the difference they are making to the lives of children and young people.



The Windy Gap, Glenbeigh: by Blaithín 6th Class

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for County Kerry

Based on the socio-demographic profile, overview of services and the findings from the local needs analysis, Kerry CYPSC have identified priority areas under each of the five national outcomes.

Outcome Area	Local Priority Area
Active and healthy, physical, and mental wellbeing	Child and Youth Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Healthy Eating, Active Living, Drugs and Alcohol, Trauma Informed Practice, Additional Needs, Social Prescribing
Achieving full potential in learning and development	Early Childhood Education, Transitions through the Education System, 3 rd Level Participation, Traveller and Roma Education, Young People not in the Education System, Educational Opportunity
Safe and protected from harm	Parenting Support, Family Support, Trauma and Children recently arrived, Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), Online Safety, Child Safety, Child Protection
Economic security and opportunity	Young People Not in Employment, Education, and Training (NEET), Young Travellers, Young people coming out of the care system, Child/Food Poverty.
Connected, respected, and contributing to their world.	Participation of children and young people, Children’s Rights, New Communities, Youth Work, Youth Spaces
Change Management	Inter-Agency Communication, Research, Data, CYPSC Membership, Subgroups.

Kerry CYPSC's approach to delivering against each priority area of the CYPP, is underpinned by a series of strategic considerations.

Context for Setting Priorities

The 2026-2028 Kerry CYPP has fewer objectives, indicators and activities than its predecessors. This emanates from a recognition that Kerry CYPSC has mature structures with a lot happening through business as usual or through the work of member organisations which does not need to be documented in the plan. The challenges of disadvantage in Kerry are masked by the HP Deprivation Index. High value holiday homes and seasonal tourism in areas which are otherwise disadvantaged can skew the HP classification which makes rural disadvantage difficult to evidence.

Kerry CYPSC must continue to advocate for additional resources such as DEIS schools, Family Resource Centres and healthcare services based on the Department of Health (DoH) population-based resource allocation model. It is challenging to anticipate and plan for all scenarios over a three-year period; hence Kerry CYPSC must retain the flexibility to pivot quickly to prioritise an objective/action based on need. The new Healthy Ireland Framework coming into effect in 2026 will inform activities in health and wellbeing in this plan

Prevention and Early Intervention

This approach recognises the body of evidence that robustly demonstrates the value of intervening in the early years of a child's life where vulnerability exists. Coupled with this is the concept of progressive universalism which advocates strengthening services and supports for all, with bespoke measures for those who need additional support through services and interventions that are proportionate to the level of need.

Where children and young people are referenced as a homogeneous group in the five outcomes in Section 6, it is understood that tailored interventions may be required for disabled children and young people, those recently arrived in Ireland, members of the Traveller community, LGBTQIA+ and those who are living in IPAS Centres. In some cases, there are bespoke objectives and actions relating to these groups.

Geographic Need

Kerry CYPSC acknowledges that there are areas of the county where meeting the needs of children and families can be particularly challenging for a variety of reasons. Some examples include higher levels of deprivation in Tralee, low levels of service provision, population growth pressures, rural depopulation or high prevalence of critical incidents. This will be given due consideration in the implementation of this plan.

Collaboration

Improving the way in which existing services coordinate their inter-agency response, can secure benefits for the children, young people and families they support. Strengthening partnership and collaboration is key to achieving this. Establishing and maintaining good relationships across all levels and aspects of CYPSC work and structures is essential. Positive relationships with other relevant organisations and agencies throughout the county ensures effective collaboration, identifies gaps and emerging needs in services and avoids duplication.

Community Development

Kerry CYPSC acknowledges that communities can drive change and improvement internally by mobilising existing, but often unrecognised assets. They will listen to and be guided by the community and voluntary sector as to how best to implement improvements in local communities. Family Resource Centres are outstanding exemplars of how bottom-up community development can improve health and well-being outcomes in communities.

Reconfiguration of Subgroups

Kerry CYPSC will consider how best to structure subgroups to ensure alignment with each of the five national outcomes and the priorities and actions set out in Section 6. Creating a new subgroups for education which is cross cutting across all five outcome areas should be considered. More discussion is needed with Kerry ETB on how CYPSC can collaborate and support priorities in relation to Outcome 2 and Outcome 4 priorities. These include enhanced 3rd level participation from disadvantaged communities, Traveller and Roma education and engaging young people who are NEET. This can be progressed through the proposed new education subgroup.



Lerrig Lough, Kilmoyley: by Lydia 5th Class

Section 6: Action Plan for County Kerry CYPSC

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH)	Ensure accessible information on CYMH is available to CYP, Parents and all stakeholders	Accessible, user friendly information and best practice on CYMH is available via the Kerry CYPSC Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub on the Kerry CYPSC Website	Increased website traffic year on year Increase social media presence	Ongoing development of the Kerry CYPSC website Build capacity of CYPSC members on social media Update resources for parents on CYMH with schools, parents, FRCs and professionals	2026-2028 2026-2028 End of 2026	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: NEPS, HSE, NOSP, Jigsaw Kerry, SWCC, KACS, IGC Kerry Branch, Schools, FRCs	Babies, Young Children and Their Families 2019-2028 Sharing the Vision – a revised Mental Health Policy for everyone 2020 -2030	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	Develop a Mental Health Hub providing in-person, supports for parents to access the appropriate CYMH service in Kerry.	Kerry Mental Health Hub in place	Mental Health Hub operational in 2028	Mental Health Hub providing in-person, supports for parents to access the appropriate YMH service in Kerry.	End of 2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: NEPS, HSE, NOSP, Jigsaw Kerry, SWCC, KACS, IGC Kerry Branch, Schools, FRCs		

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH)	To enhance and promote the range of mental health supports available for young people in Co. Kerry	No of networking events and professionals attending	2 networking events over the course of the CYPSC with 100 professionals attending each	Co-design and deliver networking event with stakeholders to promote services available	2026-2028	Lead: YMH Working Group Partners: Kerry CYPSC, SKDP, NEWKD	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
		Student Support Team training and networking for secondary schools in place	Annual Student Support Team training and networking for secondary schools delivered	Student Support Team training and networking for secondary schools	Annually - 2026-2028			
		Social Prescribing for young people in place	1 Social Prescribing pilot site established	Co-design and deliver a Social Prescribing model for youth in Kerry	2026-2028			
Suicide Prevention	To support the roll out of Kerry CFL Action Plan	CFL priorities in relation to young people are set	Effective collaboration between Kerry CYPSC and CFL	CYPSC supports roll out of the Kerry CFL plan	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention Partners: Kerry CYPSC,	Connecting for Life Kerry 2022-2024	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention Outcome 3
			CFL initiatives for YP are actioned	Promote suicide awareness training (SafeTALK, ASIST)	2026-2028			

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Healthy Eating	To increase knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating among children and young people	Participation in campaigns that support the Healthy Weight of children	Increased knowledge of healthy eating in Early Years, Schools, Youth Services and MTU	<p>Promote <i>101 Square Meals</i> by Safefood via CYPSC website and stakeholders</p> <p>Promote the implementation of the <i>Healthy Weight for Children Framework</i>, by publicising key Messages via CYPSC website and stakeholders</p> <p>Explore food poverty programme with MTU</p>	2026-2028	<p>Lead: Kerry CYPSC</p> <p>Partners: HSE, FRCs, schools, youth organisations, MTU</p>	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Active Living	Children and young people (CYP) to become more physically active	Children and young people in Kerry become more physically active	Increased engagement in physical activity among CYP who don't engage in sports	<p>Implement Great Places Great Spaces Project</p> <p>Implement Fun Fit Project</p>	End of 2026	<p>Lead: YMH Working Group</p> <p>Partners: HSE, Kerry Local Recreation and Sports Partnership</p>	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health Wellbeing 2013 – 2025	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Additional Needs	Recommendations from the 2024 Kerry YMH consultation implemented	Recommendations reviewed	Review clearly identifies what recommendations Kerry CYPSC can progress	Actions identified and delegated to Kerry CYPSC YMH subgroup	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC YMH Subgroup Partners: CFSN's HSE Disability Services, Disability Organisations, Schools, NEPS	National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-22 (Extended)	TG: Supporting Parents TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	To promote the services and supports available in Kerry for children and young people (0-24) with Additional needs.	Increased awareness of resources among parents and stakeholders	Increased website traffic year on year To promote resources on Additional Needs to all stakeholders and parents via website and information seminars	Resources are prominent on Kerry CYPSC website and CYPSC members social media platforms Update resources for parents. Annual info seminar organised	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: HSE, CDNTs, DEASP, Kerry ETB, Schools, FRCs, CFSNs, Tusla	National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-22 (Extended)	TG: Supporting Parents TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Substance Use	To improve prevention, education and awareness on the harms of substance use	No. of prevention programmes delivered	Schools, Youthreach, MTU, Youth Services	Ensure continuation of the Drugs and Alcohol Education and Prevention Worker post Identify and promote effective drug education and prevention programmes to the target groups	2026-2028	Lead: HSE D&A, SRDATF Partners: Kerry CYPSC, schools, Youthreach, MTU, Youth Services	Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	Create a wrap-around day service for under 18s in Kerry	Wraparound day service for under 18s in place	Wraparound day service for under 18s in place by 2027	Day service activities supporting under 18s in Kerry	By end of 2027	Lead: HSE Drug and Alcohol (D&A) SRDATF Partners: Kerry CYPSC		
	Create a wrap-around day service for 18-24s in Kerry.	Wraparound day service for 18-24s in Kerry.	Wraparound day service for 18-24s in Kerry in place by 2027	Day service activities supporting 18-24s in Kerry	By end of 2027	Lead: HSE D&A, SRDATF Partners: Kerry CYPSC		

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Substance Use	To ensure that effective services and supports are in place for young people and families impacted by substance use	No. of drug treatment and family support services in place for young people	Those impacted by substance use	<p>Mainstreaming of the Adolescent Drugs and Alcohol Education and Prevention Project Worker post</p> <p>Map the services which are in place for young people and families impacted by substance use.</p> <p>Work with service providers to extend and develop Drug and Alcohol support services (0-24) to include wrap-around services for children, young people and families</p>	2026-2028	<p>Lead: HSE Drug and Alcohol, SRDATF</p> <p>Partners: Kerry CYPSC, schools, Youthreach, MTU, Youth Services</p>	Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Trauma Informed Practice	To ensure that professionals working with CYP across Kerry are trauma informed	Trauma informed training in place The number of professionals who are trauma informed	All professionals working with CYP are trauma informed One trauma informed training programme delivered per year	Map understanding and prevalence of trauma informed training across CYPSC membership Select an appropriate trauma informed training programme and coordinate delivery to CYPSC members and other CYP stakeholders	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Tusla PPFS, Kerry CFSNs, FRCs	Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Early Childhood Education	To support literacy, numeracy and digital development for children in early years and parents	Enhanced numeracy, literacy and digital capacity in early years	Children (0-5) and families	<p>Use CYSPC website to promote free literacy & numeracy programmes in the home</p> <p>Work with parents on programme to promote children's oral language development</p> <p>Deliver 12 language & play programmes per year</p> <p>Children are encouraged to use the library to access general and specific supports (dyslexia)</p>	2026-2028	<p>Lead: Kerry CYPSC</p> <p>Partners: Kerry County Childcare Committee (KCCC)</p>	<p>National Strategy for Numeracy and Literacy</p> <p>The Library is the Place: information, recreation, inspiration. National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027</p>	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Early Childhood Education	To gain understanding of the gaps in childcare provision and advocate accordingly	Understanding of the capacity of the childcare sector in Kerry	Enhanced knowledge of all childcare provision in Kerry and associated gaps	Work with KCCC on this needs analysis of the Kerry childcare sector	<p>Completion of needs analysis by end of 2026</p> <p>Advocating on need will then be ongoing</p>	<p>Lead: KCCC</p> <p>Partners: Kerry CYPSC</p>	First 5 -Whole of government strategy for babies, children and their families	<p>TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention</p> <p>TG: Support Parents</p>

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicator	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility & Partners	Links to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Transitions through the Education System	Children are supported to transition from pre-school to primary school	No. of schools, teachers, preschools and children engaged	All schools, teachers, preschools and children involved in the transition	Support the KCCC with the roll out of the national Mo Scéal transition programme from pre-school to primary school	2026-2028	Lead KCCC Partners Kerry CYPSC, Educators, PHNs,	NCCA Preschool to Primary School Transition Initiative First 5 Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Transitions through the Education System	To look at best practice in transition programmes from primary to secondary	Number of schools targeted	All primary schools in Co. Kerry	Map Transition Programmes currently used by primary schools in County Kerry To bring schools together to network and share these good practices	End of 2026	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: NEPS, TESS, Primary and Post Primary Schools	Statement of Strategy 2023-25 Department of Education	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Parenting Support	The Kerry Parents Hub (KPH) is established	Kerry Parents Hub in place and resourced	Set up of Kerry Parents Hub	Business case presented to resource the KPH Agree the offering of KPH (Website/Digital platforms, In-person support, advocacy, peer support groups, parenting programmes, targeted support)	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Tusla, CYPSC member organisations, FRCs	A National Model of Parenting Support Services Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028	TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Parenting Support	Programmes and supports that meet the needs of parents in County Kerry are in place	The number and impact of programmes and supports in place for parents	A database of programmes and supports for parents in Kerry is in place	Map out programmes and supports for parents in Kerry	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Tusla, CYPSC member organisations, FRCs	A National Model of Parenting Support Services	TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Family Support	To provide a co-ordinated inter-agency response to the family support needs of children and families in IPSS Accommodation Centres, BOTP and new communities	The number of inter-agency family support initiatives delivered	One family support initiative is delivered to residents of IPSS Accommodation Centres each year	Consult with families to identify gaps in services for children and families. Develop and deliver appropriate responses	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC, Tusla PPFS Partners: New Communities Working Group, TIRC, KASI, KCC LAIT, NEWKD, SKDP, PHNs	Kerry LECP 2025-30 and Kerry County Council (KCC) Integration Strategy	TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Family Support	<p>To ensure that families who are experiencing homelessness are aware of Family Support services.</p> <p>Increase frontline worker's awareness of the Housing System</p>	<p>Greater awareness of housing system and family supports</p> <p>Increase mutual understanding between the housing service and family support providers</p>	<p>Increased understanding of housing system and capacity for frontline workers to signpost to family support services.</p>	<p>Map available homeless support services in Kerry.</p> <p>Organise networking / information sharing event</p>	2026-2028	<p>Lead: Kerry CYPSC, Tusla</p> <p>Partners: Kerry County Council, Homeless NGOs, Housing Associations, CFSN's,</p>	Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025	<p>TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination</p> <p>Outcome 1</p>

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Online Safety	Promote awareness for parents on safe internet use	No. of parents reached	All parents in Co. Kerry	Work collaboratively to identify appropriate information for parents Disseminate through CYPSC networks, CFSN's	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC, Partners: Tusla PPFS Kerry Parents Hub, KCYS, KCCC	Government Action Plan for Online Safety	TG: Support Parents
	Promote safe and healthy online activity by young people	Number of children and young people reached	All children and young people in Co. Kerry	Annual Internet Safety Campaign Distribute available booklets via services Target schools for distribution of information	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Schools, TESS	Government Action Plan for Online Safety	Outcome 1 TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	To improve the capacity of CYPSC member organisations to understand and respond to DSGBV	The number of courses provided The number of participants	One course delivered 20 participants	Collaborate with MTU and partners to deliver Certificate in "Understanding and Responding to DSGBV" training course	End of 2027	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge, MTU, FRC's, CFSN's	Zero Tolerance – Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2022-2026	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Identify the specific needs of CYP in relation to DSGBV and raise awareness of same	Needs identified	All CYP impacted by DSGBV	Undertake a needs analysis of CYP in relation to DSGBV and disseminate findings. The needs analysis should include identification of training programmes to support CYP impacted	End of 2026	Lead: Kerry CYPSC, ADAPT Kerry Partners: FRC's, TESS, Tusla	Zero Tolerance – Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2022-2026	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Young People Not in Education, Training or Employment	Increased knowledge on the profile, needs and options for NEET young people	Clarity on numbers, needs and progression opportunities for NEET young people Supports and options identified in Kerry NEETS Profile and Needs Analysis	Kerry NEETS Profile and Needs Analysis presented by end of 2026	Undertake a NEETS profile and needs analysis Engage all stakeholders with a remit to support NEET young people in the needs analysis Dissemination of findings and implementation of recommendations	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Kerry ETB, SKDP, NEWKD, DEIS Schools, TESS, KCYS	Kerry LECP 2023-2028 SICAP Plan 2023-2028	Outcome 2

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Participation of Children and Young People	Promote participation opportunities for children and young people in Kerry	Number of young people engaged Number participation opportunities for young people promoted	50 young people engaged	Identify participation opportunities in partnership with young people Promote opportunities via local media and social media.	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Kerry ETB, KCYS, Foróige, Jigsaw Kerry, Radio Kerry, KCC	National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making	Listen to and involve children and young people
Comhairle na nÓg	To embed strategic linkages with Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg contributes to CYPSC plans and meetings	CNN rep will give presentation at CYPSC meeting once per year	Comhairle na nÓg representatives will attend CYPSC meetings once per year and participate in CYPSC sub-groups as appropriate.	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: KCYS, Comhairle na nÓg	Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2020-2028	Listen to and involve children and young people

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
New Communities	Migrant children, young people and their families feel welcome, included and can participate fully in their community	Increased participation of migrant children, young people and families in their local communities	To implement a range of locally responsive, inclusion and integration initiatives in partnership with local stakeholders	Cork and Kerry Anti Racism resource promoted and social media campaign implemented Locally responsive interagency initiatives developed and implemented	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners Kerry Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT), TIRC, KASI, KCYS, LYCP	Kerry Integration Strategy	Listen to and involve children and young people
Youth Spaces	To enhance the availability of safe teen friendly spaces and places in local communities	Increase in available youth spaces	Additional safe youth spaces	To work with local stakeholders re: development and provision of youth friendly spaces	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Kerry ETB, Kerry County Council, KCYS, Foróige, FRCs, Local Development Companies	National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making	Listen to and involve children and young people

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Membership	Ensure all agencies necessary to the achievement of the Kerry CYPP 2026-2028 are fully engaging as CYPSC members	All key statutory agencies represented	All agencies influential in the delivery of the Kerry CYPP are represented	Map those agencies that are not currently represented and extend invitations Membership to be a standing agenda item at CYPSC meetings	2026-2028 2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028	Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
Subgroup	Review Subgroups	Relevant subgroups are in place and are implementing agreed CYPP actions	Subgroups reflect the priorities and ambitions of the Kerry CYPP	Subgroups reviewed with new Subgroups operational in early 2026 Education Subgroup in place by early 2025 to progress Outcome 2 actions	Early 2026	Lead: Kerry CYPSC	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028	Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Research and Evaluation	Ensure evidence-based research to inform CYPSC priorities Kerry CYPSC projects to be evaluated to support mainstreaming of successful initiatives	Number of research projects commissioned Number of projects evaluated	1 research project per year 1 Kerry CYPSC project to be evaluated annually	Secure additional resources for research Work with Working Groups to identify research areas to be pursued Undertake project evaluation and disseminate findings	2026-2028	Lead: CYPSC Co-ordinator Partners: CYPSC members	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028 Healthy Ireland Framework	Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
Data	Advocate for Kerry CYPSC to be resourced to become the repository for all data relating to 0–24-year-olds in Kerry	Resources for data collection advocated for	Data collection template in place by the end of 2026	Advocate for additional resources for data collection and analysis	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC Partners: Kerry ETB, KCC, SKDP, NEWKD.	Kerry LECP and County Development Plans	Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and /or Transformational Goals
Inter-Agency Communication	To ensure that information on the services and supports available to CYP and families is accessible online	Website traffic and Google Analytics	500 users per week	Maintenance and updating of kerrychildrenservices.com/ Hyperlinks in place to Kerry CYPSC members websites	2026-2028	Lead: Kerry CYPSC	Kerry CYPSC members strategic plans	Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will guide the work of the Kerry CYPSC from 2026 to 2028. The actions will be implemented through the Sub Groups with the respective chairpersons providing regular updates to the CYPSC. The CYPP is a live document and therefore may be amended to respond to changing needs or circumstances throughout the 3-year span, if agreed by the CYPSC. Kerry CYPSC will ensure the National Office will be kept updated in the event of any significant changes to action in CYPP as a result of changing local needs. Progress updates will be provided to Kerry CYPSC by the Kerry CYPSC Coordinator and the Chairperson of each Sub Group at Kerry CYPSC meetings (5 times per year) to ensure the work is progressing and any barriers encountered are addressed. Kerry CYPSC will ensure that the Action Plan is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in accordance with the *CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework*:

- **CYPSC Mid-Year Progress Update:** Kerry CYPSC will produce a Mid-Year Progress Update to Tusla Child and Family Agency, as the nominated agent of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Mid-Year Progress Update will be utilised by CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. It will be utilised as a monitoring tool to determine whether the CYPSC annual programme of work is on schedule. This Mid-Year Progress Update will also provide the CYPSC with a mid-year opportunity to highlight to national level structures any issues or challenges being experienced locally.
- **Annual Review of the CYPP:** The plan will be reviewed at a facilitated session of the CYPSC to identify what actions have been completed, what actions are underway, and any barriers or challenges which may be preventing the implementation of the Plan. The review report will be available to CYPSC members. Any necessary adjustments and actions to address barriers and challenges will be integrated in the annual programme of work for the subsequent year.
- **Annual Programme of Work:** An Annual Programme of Work will be prepared at the start of each calendar year. This will provide a statement of the high-level goals and CYPP actions planned for the coming year using the National CYPSC Annual Programme of Work template. This will also be submitted to the National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees.
- **CYPSC Annual Progress Report:** An Annual Progress Report will be produced to report on the work for the year, whether the actions were carried out and any barriers encountered. It will also highlight any developments locally or nationally during the year and any changes to the CYPP which may be necessary as a result. The report will follow the template designed by the National CYPSC office and give an update on interagency working, work of Sub Groups and participation of children and young people throughout the year. This will also be submitted to the National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees.

CYPSC’s planning and reporting framework is illustrated in Figure 10.

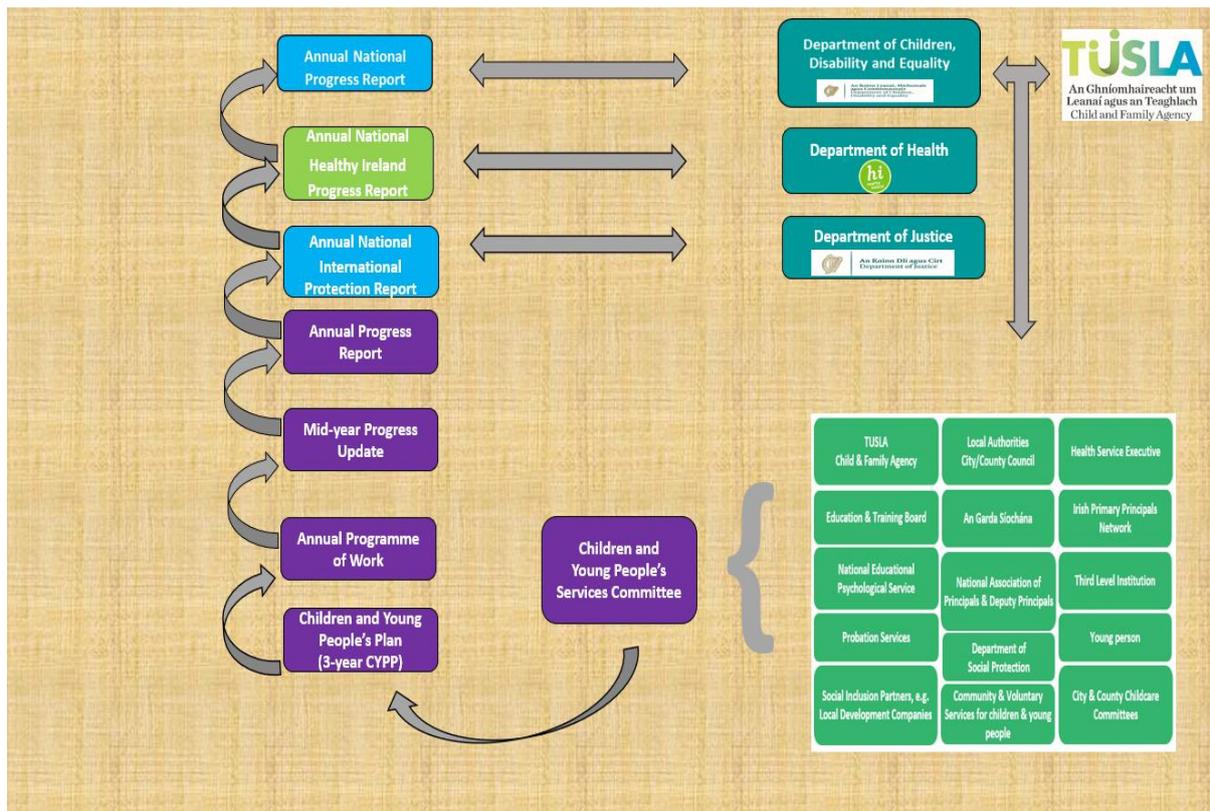


Figure 10: CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework

Section 8: Appendices

- **Appendix 1: Bibliography and References**
- **Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for County Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee**
- **Appendix 3: Consultation Documents**
- **Appendix 4: Consultation Results**



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Appendix 1: Bibliography and References

1. Apprenticeship Action Plan 2021-2025
2. A socio-demographic profile of Kerry, 2019
3. Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People. 2014-2020
4. Caregiving among young adults in Ireland Research Series No.168 January 2024 Helen Russell & Emer Smyth
5. Connecting for Life - Kerry County Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2017-2020
6. CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019–2024
7. Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Statement of Strategy, 2021-2023
8. Department of Education and Skills “Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practise 2018-2023
9. Department of Education Statement of Strategy 2021-2023
10. First 5: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children, and their Families 2019-2028
11. Government Action Plan for Online Safety
12. Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health & Wellbeing. 2013-2025
13. Healthy Ireland Framework 2013-2025
14. HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2015 – 2021 Drug Treatment Data
15. HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2015 – 2021 Alcohol Treatment Data
16. Ireland’s National Skills Strategy 2025
17. LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020²¹
18. National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028.
19. National Drug Treatment and Reporting System Health Research Board
20. National Strategy on Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020²²
21. National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 – Dept. of Education and Skills
22. National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021
23. National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025
24. New Skills Agenda 2020 (VET)
25. Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022 Tusla Education Support Services
26. Review of the National Sexual Health Strategy Department of Health January 2023

²¹ Both policies are coming up for renewal during 2021. The LGBTI+ Youth Strategy was extended by one year to allow actions delayed by Covid-19 to be completed.

²² This strategy is primarily aimed at children and young people under the age of 18 and embraces the voice of young people in the transition to adulthood up to the age of 24. The strategy is guided and influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

27. School Attendance Data Primary and Post-Primary Schools And Student Absence Reports Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022 Tusla Education Support Services
28. Sharing the Vision — Mental Health Policy for Everyone 2020-2030 designed to address the whole needs of the person.
29. SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024
30. Strategic Plan for Aftercare Services for Young People and Young Adults 2023-26
31. Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024
32. Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020
33. Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2023-28
34. Tusla Integrated Reform Programme Local Integrated Service Delivery Model Networks, Front Door & Local Integrated Teams
35. The National Youth Strategy 2015 -2020
36. Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028
37. Kerry Local Leader Development Strategy 2023-2027
38. Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for County Kerry CYPSC

Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in September 2010. Membership includes representation from all statutory and community and voluntary organisations in the county which provide services and supports to children, young people and families in Kerry. CYPSC provides a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services. The role of CYPSCs is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in the **Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028**

1. **Active and healthy with physical and mental well being**
2. **Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
3. **Safe and protected from harm**
4. **Have economic security and opportunity**
5. **Connected, respected and contributing to their world**

To implement actions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in the county, Kerry CYPSC has established several working groups.

Functions of the Kerry CYPSC

The central purpose of Kerry CYPSC is to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people (0-24) in Kerry. Kerry CYPSC works with its strategic partners and through its working groups to:

- Ensure that the needs of children and young people are identified and addressed;
- Plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people;
- Ensure effective collaboration and interagency working;
- Promote quality, evidence-informed planning and practice;
- Optimise the use of resources;
- Promote best participation practice;
- Influence practice and policy development at local, regional & national level.
- Provide financial oversight and ensure best practice and compliance with all relevant accounting and legislative requirements for all Kerry CYPSC monies

Governance & Leadership

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) provides strategic and policy direction to the development of CYPSCs. The mandate for CYPSCs has derived from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of the Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028. As CYPSCs form an integral part of the structures provided for in this policy framework, they are accountable to the CYPSC National Steering Group and the DCDE, and in turn to the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium.

Chair of the CYPSC

Each CYPSC is chaired by the Tusla local Area Manager, with a representative from the Local Authority (Kerry County Council) holding the role of Vice-Chairperson. The Kerry CYPSC Chairperson will provide strategic leadership and direction for the CYPSC and ensure its priorities are addressed and that objectives are actioned and achieved. The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Chairperson are to:

- Provide leadership and direction for Kerry CYPSC.
- Ensure the effectiveness of the committee in all aspects of its role, including delivery of our Kerry Children and Young People's Plan.
- Ensure the active participation and contributions from all members across all sectors.
- Ensure appropriate interaction between the committee and external stakeholders.
- Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairperson's organisation and that of other member organisations

Kerry CYPSC Vice-Chairperson

The Vice-Chairperson of Kerry CYPSC is the Kerry County Council representative on Kerry CYPSC. The responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson are to:

- Support the CYPSC Chairperson in the performance of his or her duties.
- In the case of unavailability of the Chairperson at any committee meeting, to take the role of Chairperson for that meeting.
- Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairperson's organisation and that of other member organisations.

The CYPSC Coordinator

The CYPSC Co-ordinator will support Kerry CYPSC in its work to bring together a diverse group of agencies in Kerry to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people. The Co-ordinator role is essential to realising the potential of a CYPSC. The key responsibilities of the Kerry CYPSC Co-ordinator are to:

- Support the establishment and development of Kerry CYPSC and its sub-groups.
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of Kerry CYPSC.
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of the Kerry CYPSC three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.
- Assist the overall committee and sub-groups to implement the three-year work plan and monitor and report progress in line with the Planning and Reporting Framework (2017).

Membership

Kerry CYPSC is made up of representatives from Community, Voluntary and Statutory agencies that provide support, and /or service delivery to children in County Kerry. To ensure that Kerry CYPSC can address issues relating to the national outcomes for children and young people; senior managers from all the major statutory and community and voluntary agencies are represented on Kerry CYPSC.

Kerry CYPSC membership is comprised of senior managers from Tusla Child and Family Agency; Health Service Executive (HSE) Primary Care; Kerry County Council; An Garda Síochána; Kerry Education and Training Board; Tusla Educational Support Service; Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support; Kerry County Childcare Committee; Munster Technological University (MTU) Tralee; Youth Probation Service; Kerry Network of Family Resource Centres; Kerry Community Youth Service; North East and West Kerry Development Partnership; South Kerry Development Partnership; HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service; HSE Drugs and Alcohol Services; Kerry Traveller Health and Community Development Project; Adapt Women's Refuge Service and South West Counselling Service.

CYPSC Meetings and Working Groups

Kerry CYPSC will meet 5 times per year in February, April, June, October and December. A meeting quorum will be 50% plus one. Decisions will be made by consensus; if this is not possible the Chairperson will make the final decision. Meetings agendas and minutes will be provided by the Coordinator of Kerry CYPSC and will be circulated at least one week in advance of meetings. Members are required to commit to a minimum of three meetings per year. No Substitutions are allowed for Kerry CYPSC meetings.

Kerry CYPSC will develop and implement a 3-year Workplan and establish working groups around specific outcomes/issues to ensure the Workplan is implemented effectively. Each of the working groups will be chaired by a member of the CYPSC (who is accountable to the CYPSC for the working group). The working groups can include organisations and individuals who have a particular expertise in the working groups topic, but who are not members of the CYPSC. The working groups will meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis as appropriate and agreed by their membership.

Accountability & Confidentiality

Kerry CYPSC and its working groups endeavour to conduct all meetings and work with respect, openness and transparency. Members are asked to be respectful of this, to have respectful communication both at and outside of Kerry CYPSC meetings in relation to our work; to act with integrity; and to avoid any conflicts of interest which may arise. Members agree to treat all confidential information and confidential documents under conditions of strict confidentiality. To instil confidence, it is vital that Kerry CYPSC is accountable to all our stakeholders. This accountability is about being honest, fair, respectful and open to public scrutiny and inspection. Kerry CYPSC will be as transparent as possible. There is a 'no secrets' culture, whereby as much organisational information is made public as possible, but it is essential that members respect confidentiality when required.

Executive Committee of Kerry CYPSC

Kerry CYPSC may call a meeting of its Executive to make decisions on behalf of the committee when a given situation requires same i.e. approval of a funding application if such approval is required outside of scheduled Kerry CYPSC meetings. The Executive Committee of Kerry CYPSC may also be convened by Kerry CYPSC to deal with matters designated by them i.e. recruitment. Any decisions that are made by the Executive are being made on behalf of Kerry CYPSC and will require formal approval at the next scheduled CYPSC meeting. Members of the Executive will include 2 representatives from statutory agencies and 2 representatives from community and voluntary agencies.

Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from April 30th, 2025, and will continue until April 30th, 2026, when they will be reviewed /continued by Kerry CYPSC or when they will be terminated by agreement between all parties. The Terms of Reference can be amended, modified or varied in writing after consultation and agreement by Kerry CYPSC members.

Appendix 3: Consultation Documents

Kerry Children & Young People's Plan 2024-2027

Consultation with young people aged 13-24 years

1. Which area of the County do you live in

North Kerry

South Kerry

East Kerry

West Kerry

Mid Kerry

2. Do you live in

A town

Village

Countryside

3. What age are you

Aged 13-15

Aged 16-18

Aged 19-24

4. Are you in

School

Training

Employment

Other Please Specify -----

None of the above

5 What clubs/group/ services are you involved in ? Please tick the relevant boxes

Club / Group / Supports	Please tick here
Counselling Service	
Drug & Alcohol Services	
Homework Club	
Sports Club	
Scouts / Guides	
Youth Arts (Dance , theatre, art, music etc)	
Youth Club	
Youth Project	
Other (please specify)	
Not involved in any group/club	

If you are not involved in any group/club, what is preventing/stopping you from becoming involved

Please tell us about any other club/group that you would like to participate in

6 In your view, what are the 5 main issues affecting young people in Kerry. Please number in order of priority from 1-5

Issue	Rating
Education (Exam stress, education choices)	
Accessible Public Transport	
Alcohol Use	
Bullying / Cyberbullying	
Crime	
Drug Use	
Vaping/smoking	
Gender Based Violence	
Housing Issues	
Mental Health Issues	
Peer Pressure	
Poverty / Not having enough money	
Relationship Issues	
Unhealthy Lifestyles (Nutrition/Inactivity)	
Youth Unemployment	
Accessible youth friendly activities	
Other (Please Specify)	

Please use the comment box below to tell us your reasons for how/why you rated the issues the way you did.

7. What are the good things about the place you live? (Your town, village, community)

8. What are the not so good things about the place you live (Your town, village, community)

9. What would make life better?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire 😊

Kerry Parents Survey

1. Which part of the County do you live in

- North Kerry
- South Kerry
- East Kerry
- West Kerry
- Mid Kerry

Do you live in a Rural area Urban area?

2. Age

- 18-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50 years or over

3. Ethnicity

White Irish

White Irish Traveller

Any other White Background

Black or Black Irish – African

Black or Black Irish – Any other Black Background

Asian or Asian Irish – Chinese

Asian or Asian Irish – Any other Asian Background

Other/incl mixed backgrounds

4. Family Type

- Two parents.
- Single parent
- Co parenting
- Fostering
- Carer / guardian

5. Number of children

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- More than 4

6. Children ages?

- 0-6
- 7-12
- 13-17
- 18-24

If you have children aged 18-24, are they living at home Yes No

7. What do you feel are currently the main needs that are presenting for parents in your area?

8. What do you feel are currently the main needs that are presenting for your children

9. Have you completed any Parenting Programme Yes No?

If Yes, please let us know the programme that you participated in and how effective you found it to be.

10. Which of the following parenting groups/family supports do you currently attend or have done so in the recent past.

Parent & Toddler Groups

Meet a Mum Groups

Parenting Support Peer Groups

Community Parent Support Programme

Breast Feeding Groups

Other

Please tell us about how useful you find these groups/supports

11. Please identify how Kerry CYPSC could most effectively support Parents across the County. (Please tick all that apply)

Deliver Parenting Programme

Be a one stop information shop for issues relating to Parents & Children

Disseminate information and advice through social/digital media

Host a Parenting Support Peer Group

Advocate for Parents

Other

Please comment further

12. Please rate the quality and level of supports that are available to parents currently in County Kerry.

Very Good
Good
Adequate
Poor
Very Poor

Please comment further

13. If you needed information on your role as a parent, where would you go to get it

Family
Friends/Other Parents
Social Media
Kerry CYPSC website
MABS
Citizens Information Centre
Elected Representatives
Family Resource Centre
HSE Local Health Centre/Primary Care Centre
School
Other Please Specify

Please comment further

14. Please use the section below for any further comments that you feel are relevant to this research

Appendix 4: Consultation Results

Early Years Consultation Results

No. of Children consulted: 159

Age Range: 2-6 year olds.

Methodologies Used

- Observation and non-verbal gestures/cues (non-verbal children in attendance)
- General discussion
- Chatting with children in small groups (approx. 4) during circle time and lunch
- Interview with children
- Asking parents to discuss with children at home and send photographs. Photographs then used during show and tell.

Areas: Children from the following areas were consulted.

Listowel FRC, Na Leanai Childcare Centre, Danu Childcare, Naionea an Chaisleaini, Cordal Community Preschool, Cumann Iosaef Community Preschool, Curam Leanai na Dromoda, Kilmoyley Afterschool, Ballyheigue FRC, Meadows Childcare, Laune Childcare Service, Naionra Gael Scoil Aogain, Milltown Childcare Centre, Milltown Childcare Centre, Naionra Annascaul

1. What is your favourite thing about the place you live?

- **Facilities/Activities:** playgrounds, basketball courts, GAA/soccer pitches, skate park, swimming pools/community complexes, walking/cycling paths
- **Local facilities/amenities:** schools, local shops/cafes, the mart
- **Being active/in nature:** beaches, trees/flowers, greenway for walking/cycling
- **Unique local events/places:** the puck fair, amusements, St. Patrick's Day parade, the iron bridge,
- **Family/social life:** family members, friends, school community, friendly neighbours

In the children's words:

"People are kind – neighbors let us in."

"I love the Greenway; I ride my bike on it."

"The playground, the beach, and surfing!"

"Puck Fair – there's loads of games."

"I like the skate park – I go on small bumps and big bumps."

"The people are everywhere and always friendly."

2. Is there anything you don't like about where you live?

- **Bad weather**
- **Animals/environment:** birds/cats/dogs fouling, dogs off leashes
- **Infrastructure/facilities:** lack of toilets/picnic benches in parks, locked football pitches, potholes on roads, insufficient shops
- **Traffic/safety:** busy traffic, speeding cars
- **Lack of facilities/clubs:** missing camogie team, insufficient entertainment/amusement facilities
- **Community concerns:** antisocial behaviour and litter

In the children's words:

"We have no fairground, and big boys stop us from playing in the park."

"The cage in the football pitch is always locked and is meant to be available to the public."

"No picnic benches to have lunch."

"Dogs are dangerous, and cars go too fast."

3. If you had a magic wand, what would you do to make life better?

<p>Facilities/Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build new sports teams like Camogie and football teams. • Add bigger/nicer playgrounds, trampoline parks, and swimming pools. • Establish places for bowling, cinemas, and toy/ice-cream shops. • Provide safe and sheltered spaces for activities (e.g., roofs over playgrounds for rainy days). 	<p>Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create areas like forests or green spaces. • Improve parks with more features like fairy gardens or sparkles on trees. • Remove rain to allow more outdoor activities. • Want to spend time close to nature • More school classes about the countryside
<p>Community/Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner streets with less rubbish and no vandalism. • Treat the environment better (cutting back ditches, filling potholes). • Introduce streetlights and safer crossings. 	<p>Infrastructure/Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make towns safer with better road infrastructure and lighting. • Build somewhere safe to cross to playgrounds. • Less traffic and make it safe to walk and cycle

In the children's words:

"Add in Smyths Toys Shop and an ice-cream shop."

"Roof over the playground for rainy days."

"Make everyone kind and treat everyone how you want to be treated."

"The whole town would be turned into a football pitch."

"We need a pet farm and animal shop on the greenway."

"Less rubbish on the streets."

"Treat the environment better and fill up potholes."

Primary School Consultation Results

Responses from: Lauragh NS, Scoil Eoin Balloonagh NS, Firies NS, Lauragh NS, Kiltallagh NS, Kiltallagh NS

Total responses: 81

Age Cohort: 5-12 years

1. What is your favourite thing about the place you live?

<p>Nature/Scenery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful views, mountains, and trees. • Gardens and flowers around homes. • Parks, plants, and animals in the local area. 	<p>Local Facilities/Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football pitches and playgrounds nearby. • Shops, supermarkets, and cafés (e.g., SuperValu, local stores). • Community spaces like the town park.
<p>Community/Social Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living close to friends and people of the same age. • Nice neighbors and friendly people in the town. • Community spirit and activities for children. 	<p>Peaceful Town Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beauty of local towns and well-kept surroundings. • Safety and Garda protection in towns like Kenmare. • Peaceful and quiet atmosphere.

In the children's words:

"I have a good view of the mountains from my bedroom."

"All of the trees, plants, and animals."

"There is a football pitch 5 minutes away from where I live."

"Kenmare is very beautiful and has Garda on the maximum level of protection."

"I like downtown, the mix of old and new buildings."

"My favourite thing about my community is how supportive the people are."

"That there is a festival every year."

2. Is there anything you don't like about where you live?

Infrastructure/Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous roads (cars speeding) • Lack of footpaths • Derelict buildings • Traffic 	Local Amenities/Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of shopping variety • Lack of coffee shops • Lack of parks • Not enough to do
Community Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rude people • Antisocial behaviour • Dog/cat poo on the streets 	Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not near family • Far from bigger towns, e.g. Tralee

In the children's words:

"It makes me really upset that the village has so much potential and its being tainted by the many derelict buildings."

"The cars go too fast, and we could get knocked down. I think we need more footpaths in Castlemaine."

"I don't like the litter, graffiti and antisocial behaviour."

"There is nothing I don't like about living here"

3. If you had a magic wand, what would you like to change or wish for?

Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Youth club • Trampoline park • Swimming pool • Cinema 	Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle trail & Nature walks • Roads • Funfair • Minecraft • Christmas every day
Economic Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money for family • Cheaper rent • High Prices 	Societal Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop homelessness • Stop hunger • Climate change
Social Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth groups with activities • Combined secondary schools • Community garden 	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better weather in Ireland • Cleaner town • Less big cars

In the children's words:

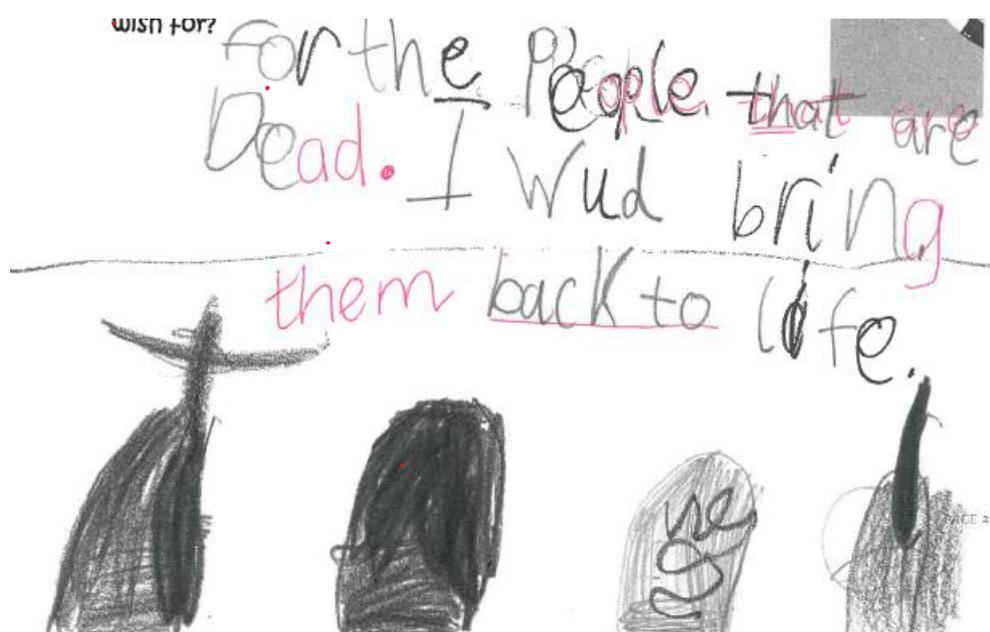
"A group to be set up to encourage young people to volunteer in their area, example: help the elderly."

"There are barely any proper green spaces in my town, I think a community garden would give it a lift!"









Kerry CYPSC Young Persons Consultation

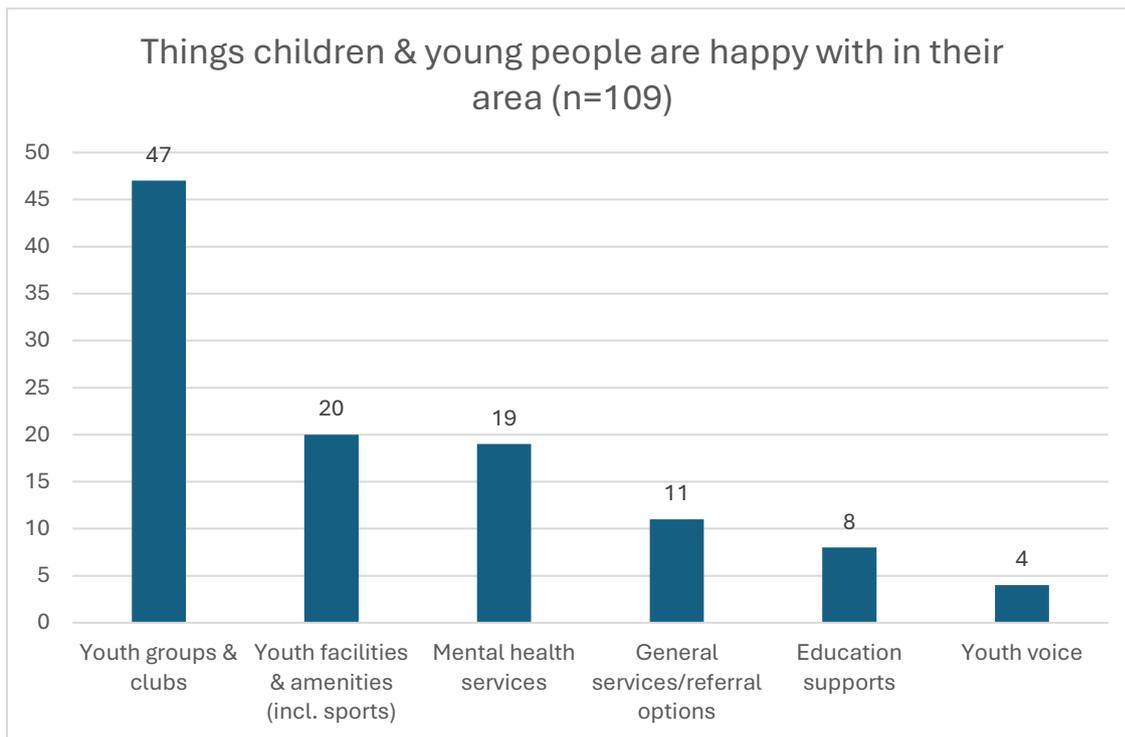
No. of people responding (to at least one question): 253.

Age Range: 4- 24 years of age.

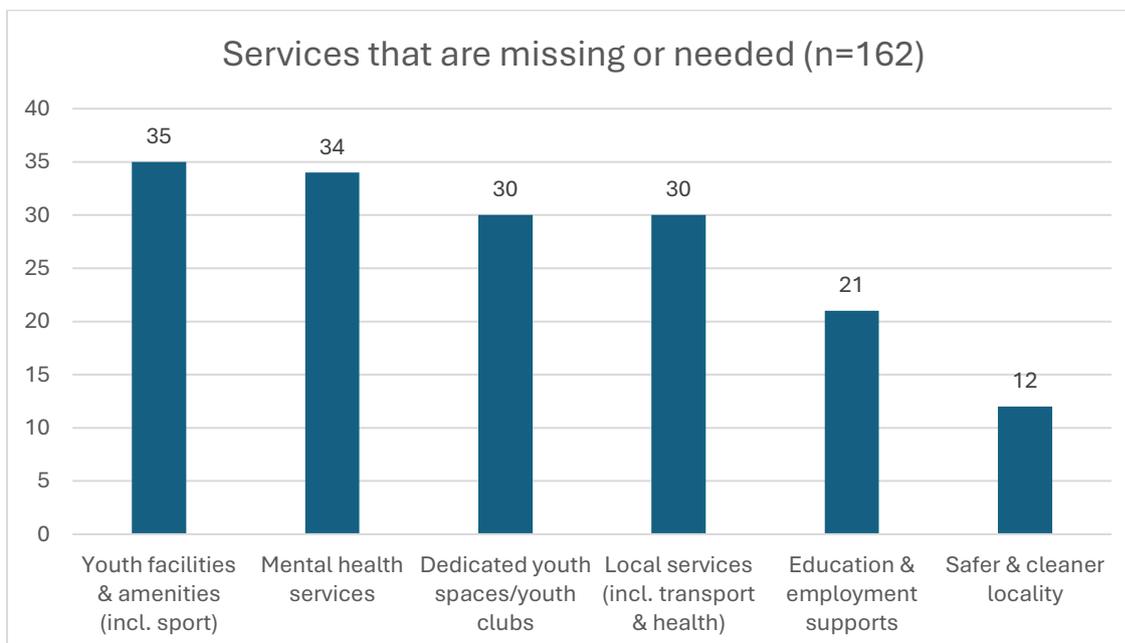
Areas: Young people surveyed were from the following areas:

1. Tralee	38%
2. Killarney	19%
3. Killorglin	9%
4. Listowel	8%
5. Castleisland	7%
6. Abbeydorney	5%
7. Kenmare	5%
8. Lyreacrompane	4%
9. North Kerry	3%
10. Brosna	2%

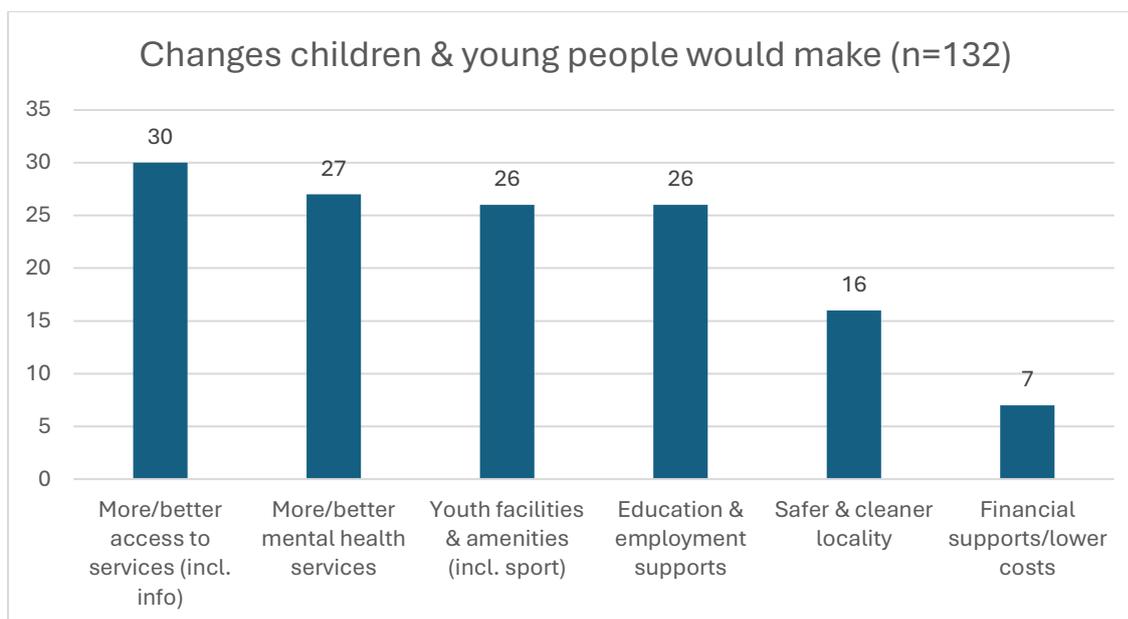
1. What are you happy about in terms of services & supports for children & young people in your area?



2. What services are you missing?



3. If you had a magic wand or superpower, what would you change to make things better?



Outcome 1 – Active and Healthy (Physical and Mental Health)

- Youth spaces, facilities, amenities and activities – there is a strong need for more indoor and safe outdoor spaces for children and young people to hang out and play together:
 - Youth clubs that are there are great but are not available all the time and not everyone wants to go to them.
 - Some parts of Kerry don't have youth clubs at all.
 - Some are interested in non-organised spaces to just hang out/play that are alternative to sport (e.g. cookery, music, art, life skills, gardening).
- Mental health services – children and young people need better; more targeted and more accessible mental health services and supports:
 - Lower cost and more flexible.
 - Time/access: shorter waiting lists and either more dispersed or centralised.
 - Geographically accessible (transport services to more dispersed services).
 - Age-appropriate services
- Better access/information – services need to be more accessible generally (cost, location and availability), with more information made available:
 - Located where young people are, more spread around county with better transport provided within county.
 - Wrap-around centres with various services in one place
 - Specific services for specific needs/demographics (ASD, LGBTQI+)

In the young people's own words:

"There are very few activities available for young people...not enough investments in this area. This would reduce crime and drug-related activities, which often come from boredom."

"There isn't a lot to do if you aren't into sports so I would have more things like that for the ones that don't do sports, they can be part of other groups."

"There is nowhere for young people to hang out in Kenmare after school hours/weekends."

"I feel they (mental health service) don't live up to the expectations they portray, e.g. very short appointments – 10 to 15 minutes."

"I have used mental health services & in my experience it seemed that staff forget they are talking with young people...This can make the experience hostile & intimidating."

"It's not always easy to understand where to go or how to access services. It can be difficult to take the first step."

"Include more activities & supports for people with ADHD/ASD & cut waiting times."

"The locations of services in Kerry tend to be based in Tralee or Killarney. Better outreach is key or having services based in other locations around the county. Especially important in a large county with a poor transport system."

"Many services don't realise the power of social media. It can act as a space for youth voice and can be very effective in raising awareness of what services exist and breaking the stigma of help-seeking."

Outcome 2 – Achieving in Learning and Development

- Young people are looking for a reform of the school curriculum:
 - Reform of the leaving cert – it is outdated, doesn't suit all and puts too much pressure on students.
 - Looking for more education and awareness raising on certain issues including LGBTQI+ awareness, anti-bullying, addiction and gambling.
 - More free support with homework
 - Support for exam stress
 - More home school liaison services

In the young people's own words:

"They should teach us about addiction & gambling addiction & what to do if an adult in your life has it."

"Change the education system, it is stressful. The approach doesn't work for everyone."

"I would like to see free or heavily discounted classes run through KDYS – providing classes in art, music, drama, debating – especially important for parents who can't afford this."

"I wish all teachers would be nice."

Outcome 3 – Safe and Protected from Harm

- Some participants don't feel safe in their locality. They are looking for safer spaces and more supports for young people to feel safer in their community:
 - Safer parks for young people to hang out with better supervision or Garda presence.
 - Better lighting and cameras on streets.
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour and bullying, including a suggestion of an app to report antisocial behaviour.
 - Older teens kept out of playgrounds, so they are safe for young people.
 - Follow up from Garda in cases of theft, violence or antisocial behaviour

In the young people's own words:

"There needs to be better lighting at night & cameras in walkways & paths for safety."

“I had my bike stolen and nothing was done about it.”

“If I had a magic wand, I would make it so that you could be comfortable in town. The town is overrun sometimes with rough people who ruin it for everyone else. It’s not safe to go into the park later in the day or feel safe going into town by yourself. I would feel scared.”

“I would like better, safe cycling paths.”

Outcome 4 – Economic Security

- Young people are looking for more affordable employment and life skill supports:
 - There is a lack of free training/guidance on life and practical skills in schools, such as managing money, starting a business, CV and interview skills.
 - More choice in third-level courses.
 - An interest in non-academic courses such as art, cookery, mindfulness.
 - Access to a public library.

In the young people’s own words:

“In school there should be a dedicated class to life skills, teach us how to pay bills, taxes, etc. All skills we require as adults. It can increase feelings of security.”

“There is a lack of education around managing finances and CV/interview skills.”

Outcome 5 – Connected, Respected and Contributing

- Public transport and environment – young people are looking for better transport options to meet friends and access services, as well as a cleaner environment to live:
 - More frequent buses during the day between towns within the county.
 - More frequent connections to inter-city transport from rural areas.
 - More freedom to go places like the beach, by public transport.
 - More cycling infrastructure such as safe cycling paths.
 - Estates, parks and communities to be cleaner with adequate bins, seating, lighting and more green spaces.

- Youth participation, equality and community – young people are asking to be treated equally, with more respect and understanding by adults to be heard and make positive changes in their communities:
 - Adults working with young people (incl. service providers/teachers) need to be more respectful, understanding and patient with them. Training is needed.
 - Give young people the opportunity to be heard and to create change and influence services/other activities that are aimed at or impact them.
 - Reduce inequality and poverty in society and provide supports where needed, especially to the most disadvantaged, e.g. homeless.

In the young people's own words:

"Little services and activities for people in rural areas. We need buses."

"More bins and seats in parks."

"Young people should be more involved in services because it can help make the services more appealing to young people, it can be easier to reach out to young people. It means staff of services are not working off assumptions and that they can work with young people for direction and guidance."

"I'd like to help people in poverty & homelessness. I think it's becoming a bigger issue that needs to be looked upon."