

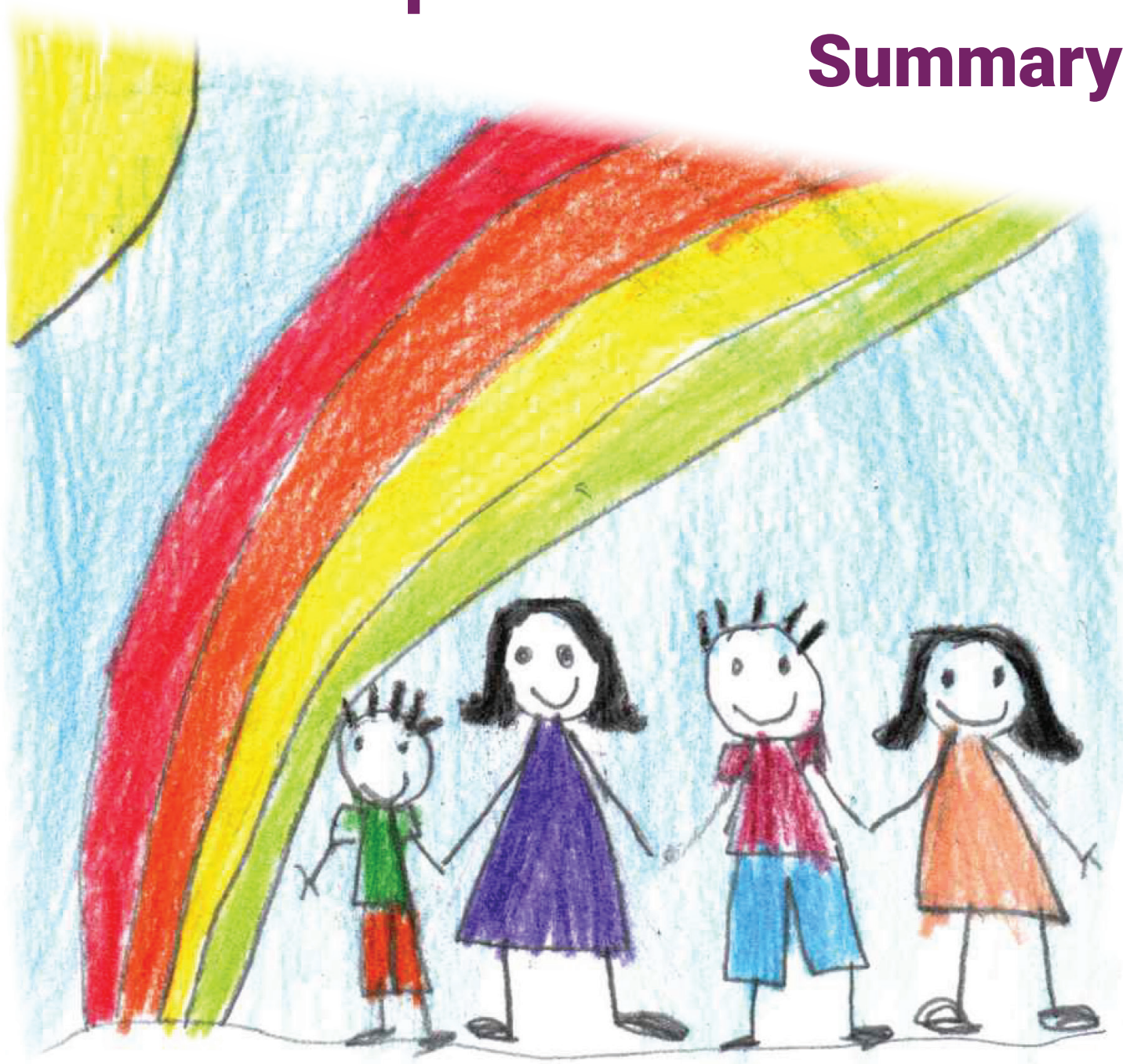
**KILDARE CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SERVICES COMMITTEE**



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Kildare

Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2025: Summary



March 2023



CONTACT

The Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

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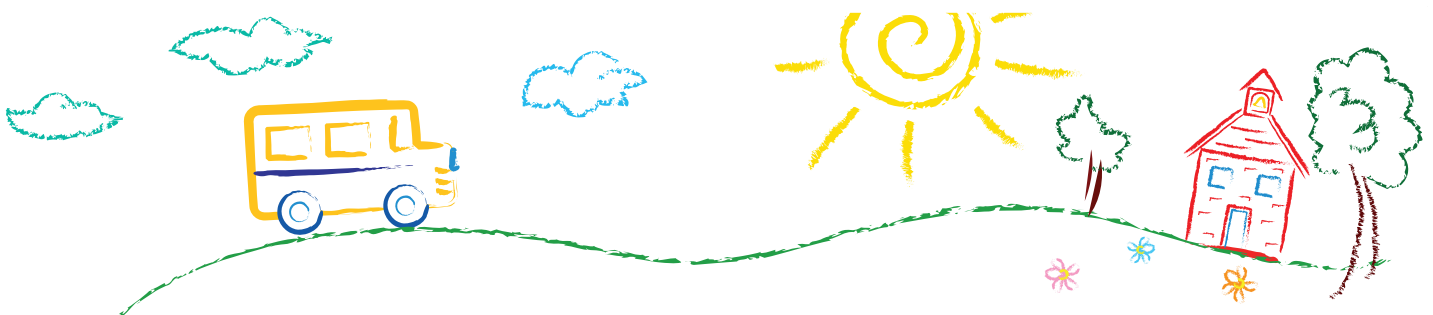
Copies of the Full Plan and the Summary Plan are available on:
www.cypsc.ie

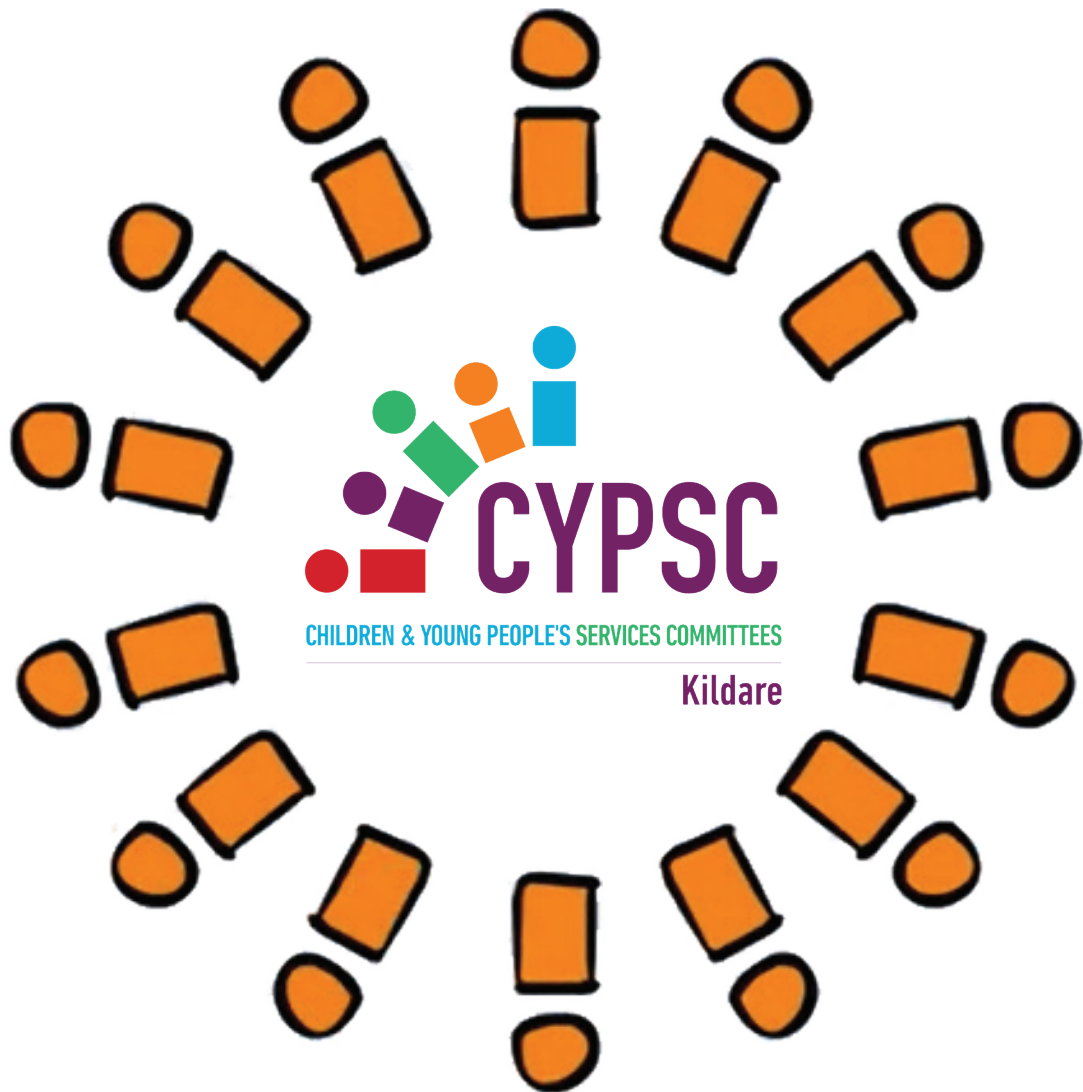


Many thanks to the students from St. Patricks National School, Morrinstown, Newbridge for the beautiful artwork.

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ACRONYMS

AGM: Annual General Meeting
ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorder
BOBF: Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures
BOTP: Beneficiary of Temporary Protection
CAMHS: Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CEO: Chief Executive Officer
CHO: Community Healthcare Organisation
CKLP: Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership
CNN: Comhairle na nÓg
CSO: Central Statistics Office
CYPP: Children & Young People's Plan
CYPSC: Children & Young People's Services Committee
DCEDIY: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
DP: Direct Provision
DSP: Department of Social Protection
ECCE: Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme
ELC: Early Learning & Care
ESPAD: European School Survey Project on Alcohol & Other Drugs
ESRI: Economic & Social Research Institute
FRC: Family Resource Centre
HAP: Housing Assistance Payment
HBSC: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study
HPI: Health Promotion & Improvement
HSE: Health Service Executive
IPA: International Protection Applicant
JPC: Joint Policing Committee
KCCC: Kildare County Childcare Committee
KCoCo: Kildare County Council
KWETB: Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board
LCDC: Local Community Development Committee
LECP: Local Economic & Community Plan
NASS: National Ability Supports System
NEET: Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training
NEPS: National Educational Psychological Service
OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development
OMCYA: Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs
SICAP: Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SWRDATF: South Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
TD: Teachta Dála, member of the Oireachtas
TESS: Tusla Education Support Service
WITH: Wellness in the Home project

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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

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

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



BACKGROUND TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (formerly Children's Services Committees) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Since then CYPSC have increased incrementally in number and are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people, aged 0 – 24 years, in every county in Ireland.

CYPSC bring together a diverse group of agencies across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors in local county areas to engage in joint planning of services for children and young people. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. These committees work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*¹ underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this regard.

¹ *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020, Department of Children and Youth Affairs*

Children and Young People's Services Committee in Co. Kildare

- Kildare joined Phase II of the initiative, along with 5 other areas, in 2009. Following the establishment stage, the inaugural meeting of the Kildare CYPSC took place in June 2010.
- In March 2011, a Coordinator was appointed to support the work of the Committee.
- In September 2011, the Committee's first 3 –Year Plan was submitted to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
- In June 2014, the Children's Services Committee became the Children and Young People's Services Committee, reflecting policy change at national level, which expanded the age remit of the work of the Committee from 0-18 years to 0-24 years.
- A second 3-Year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for Co. Kildare was submitted in 2015, and a third 3-Year CYPP in 2019.
- This is the fourth CYPP for Kildare CYPSC.



WHO WE ARE

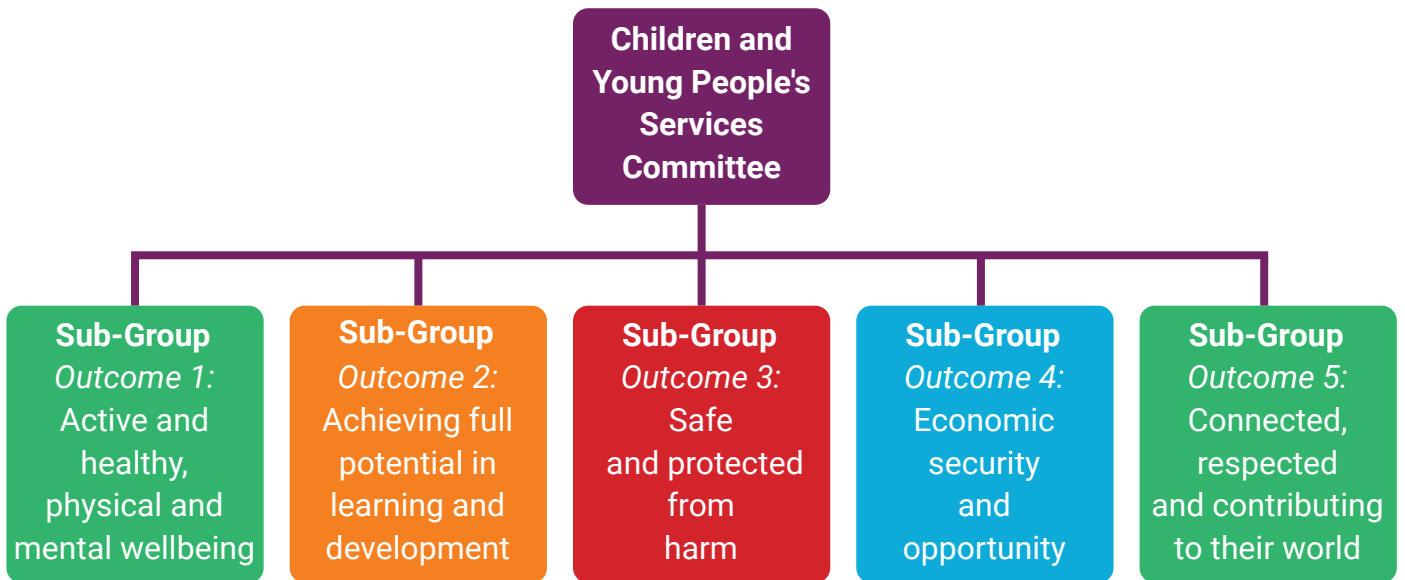
Table 1: Kildare CYPSC membership

ORGANISATION	MEMBER	ROLE
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Breda Stewart	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Coordinator
Department of Social Protection	Ruth Langan	Employment Services Manager
Family Resource Centres	(Rotating) Angela Morrissey Kenny Ellen Duggan Sarah Shakespeare	Manager, Curragh Family Resource Centre Manager, Newbridge Family Resource Centre Manager, Teach Dara Community & Family Resource Centre
Garda Síochána	Gavin Dunphy	Inspector
HSE	Maura Harrington Amanda Hade Denise Croke	Enhanced Community Care Network Manager, Primary Care Occupational Therapy Manager, CAMHS Health Promotion and Improvement Officer, Health and Wellbeing
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	Eric Caffrey	Youth Officer
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Julie McNamara	Chief Executive
Kildare County Council	Marian Higgins (Vice Chair)	Director of Service
In Sync Youth and Family Services	Tom Dunne	CEO
Maynooth University	Catriona O'Toole	Associate Professor
National Educational Psychological Service	(Rotating) Elizabeth De Forge Miriam O' Donohue	Educational Psychologist
Probation Service	Deirdre Matthews	Senior Probation Officer
South Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Lisa Baggott	Coordinator
Teach Tearmainn	Niamh Booth	Children's Service & Service Development Manager
Tusla, Child and Family Agency	Audrey Warren (Chair) Caroline Sheehan	Area Manager Senior Manager, Prevention Partnership and Family Support
Tusla, Educational Welfare Service	Linda Leavy	Senior Education Welfare Officer

In addition to the main Committee, Kildare CYPSC has a number of Sub-Groups to support the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan, based on the five national outcomes contained in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People*.



Figure 1: Current Kildare CYPSC Structure



Actions are grouped under outcomes. Lead and partner agencies under each action are invited to identify the link person from their organisation for the particular action.

The role of the Sub-Groups is to support the implementation of the actions in the Plan; provide progress updates to the main Committee and highlight issues, concerns and gaps emerging from the work to CYPSC.

In addition to the CYPSC Sub-Groups, the implementation of specific actions is supported by a number of defined task groups, themed Steering Groups and linked inter-agency structures such as the local Parenting Forum.

Formal links exist with the Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Steering Committee via the Sub-Group structure, as well as through the local Child and Family Support Networks throughout the county.

Working Groups, Task Groups and linked groups reflect the priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) therefore, new groups will be established e.g. Early Years Forum, and current groups disbanded as required to align with the new Plan.

Strategic Partnership


Kildare CYPSC has a Memorandum of Understanding with Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which guides the positive collaborative relationship between the two structures. This is a mutually valued strategic partnership working towards the shared goal of enhancing the lives of children, young people and families in Co. Kildare.

Kildare CYPSC links formally with LCDC to support the promotion and implementation of Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare via the LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub Group.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Table 2 below outlines some of the key achievements of the past 4 years (2019-2022) along with examples and the related impact.

ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
<p>Leveraging additional resources into the county</p>	<p>Below are the range of funding streams through which resources were leveraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYPSC-BOBF Funding Healthy Ireland Fund Rounds 2 and 3 Community Resilience Fund Tusla Participation Fund Dormant Accounts Fund Tusla National HSE National Mental Health Division What Works Learning Together Fund What Works Sharing Knowledge Fund 	<p>These funding streams facilitated a range of initiatives as described throughout this table of Achievements including: iScoil places for 10 students, health and wellbeing initiatives, development of resources, awareness raising campaigns, parent and family support initiatives, research, continuous professional development training, promotional materials.</p>
<p>Establishment of new services and infrastructure for children, young people and families in the county</p>	<p>New iScoil blended learning location in Athy, hosted by new partner agency, Extern.</p> <p>Outdoor Teen Facilities project in Celbridge: CYPSC Coordinator Chairs the Project Steering Group; supporting participation of young people; support for development of <i>Somewhere to Hang Out: Teenagers' Outdoor recreational Needs in Celbridge. A Partnership Perspective.</i></p>	<p>Enhanced accredited education options for young people aged 13-16 years in Athy who are disengaged from mainstream education. Enhanced youth participation in planning and development of services.</p>
<p>Improved Coordination of inter-agency response</p>	<p>Joint application and implementation of Healthy Ireland in partnership with Kildare LCDC.</p> <p>Establishment of new inter-agency structures linked to CYPSC priorities, to support the implementation of CYPSC actions: Kildare Direct Provision Working Group; Kildare West Wicklow Domestic Violence and Abuse Network; Infant Mental Health Planning Forum, Newbridge Forum and Childcare Infrastructure Working Group.</p> <p>Participation and support for inter-agency networks: Kildare Community Response Forum, iScoil Working Group, Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum, Kildare Ukraine Response Forum, LEADER Evaluation Committee, Naas Youth Diversion Programme Steering Group, Connecting for Life Implementation Group, Peri-natal Mental Health Committee, Child and Family Support Networks, Health and Wellbeing Sub Group, Traveller/Roma Inter-Agency Group, Integration Strategy Implementation Group.</p>	<p>A coordinated approach to Healthy Ireland between CYPSC and LCDC optimised the impact of the resources in the county.</p> <p>Enhanced opportunities for inter-agency information sharing, relationship-building, planning and coordination of response in relation to key areas of focus.</p>

ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
<p>Development of new practice tools and resources</p>	<p>'Cannabis and You' website www.cannabisandyou.ie</p> <p>'Cannabis and You' Key Messages posters x 4</p> <p>'Looking After Your Mental Health in Pregnancy and Beyond' booklet.</p> <p>'Post Birth Wellbeing Plan Workbook' (including translations in French, Arabic, Romanian and Polish)</p> <p>'Looking After Your Mental Health in Pregnancy and Beyond' video. www.parentingsupport.ie/mmh</p> <p>5 x Online Safety videos for parents</p> <p>9 x Videos profiling services that provide Bereavement Support https://fb.watch/l1wOBhSRUg</p>	<p>A range of relevant resources are available to parents, young people and professionals in the areas of substance use, perinatal mental health, online safety and bereavement.</p> <p>The resources provide information on supports and services, guidance on particular issues, self-assessment and intervention tools and awareness raising.</p>
<p>Youth Participation</p>	<p>Kildare Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2025: 392 children and young people were consulted for the development of the Plan.</p> <p>Comhairle nan Óg (CNN): participation on Steering Group, ongoing support for AGM, ongoing 2-way communication and consultation.</p> <p>Celbridge Outdoor Facilities Project: 541 children and young people were consulted to identify their views, with a view to co-design and production of facilities.</p> <p>WITH (Wellness in the Home) Project: young people worked with the planning team to identify how best to promote the video resources developed in Co. Mayo, to young people in Co. Kildare. www.insync.ie/with</p> <p>Planet Youth: young people were consulted as part of the feasibility study for Planet Youth.</p> <p>Healthy Kildare Plan: young people were consulted as part of the development of the Plan.</p> <p>Cannabis and You website and posters: young people supported the planning team in design of website and resources.</p> <p>Bereavement Support campaign: young people supported the planning team in the development of campaign materials.</p> <p>Digital Access survey: young people participated in the digital access survey.</p> <p>Widening the Lens Domestic Violence seminar: young people facilitated workshops at the event.</p>	<p>The views of children and young people have informed and guided the work of CYPSC and member organisations.</p> <p>The priorities of CYPSC reflect the needs and priorities of children in the county.</p> <p>The relationship between Kildare Comhairle nan Óg and Kildare CYPSC has been strengthened.</p> <p>CYPSC has highlighted and reinforced the importance and value of youth voice in planning and delivery of supports and services.</p> 

ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
<p>Contributing to Evidence base: Research and Data</p>	<p>CYPSC commissioned research report, completed by Maynooth University: <i>Committed, Caring and Compassionate: Co. Kildare Workforce Wellbeing, Attitudes toward Trauma-informed Care, COVID concerns and Ongoing Training Needs</i></p> <p>Food Poverty Survey</p> <p>Digital Access Survey</p> <p><i>'Redressing the Balance: The Business Case for Investment in Integrated Youth Mental Health Service Provision in Kildare West Wicklow'</i></p> <p><i>'Somewhere to Hang Out: Teenagers' Outdoor Recreational Needs in Celbridge. A Partnership Perspective</i></p> <p>Framework for the Development of iScoil in County Kildare</p>	<p>Relevant data is available to inform the work of Kildare CYPSC and its member organisations to guide actions and priorities and to target resources to respond to identified need.</p> <p>Kildare CYPSC has a clearer picture of the issues and needs in the county e.g. what the young people in Celbridge require in respect of outdoor space.</p> <p>Clear, documented evidence is available to support leveraging of additional resources to respond to need.</p> <p>Additional resourcing has been leveraged based on the research evidence of need e.g. What Works funding for training, networking and continuous professional development.</p>
<p>Provision of targeted inter-agency intervention</p>	<p>Strengthening Families Programme – a 14-week family skills programme to enhance family relationships, communication and functioning.</p> <p><i>'I AM BABA'</i> – a theatrical and sensory adventure for parents and their babies under 12 months old.</p> <p><i>'My Play to Play'</i> – local implementation of a national initiative – toys and play mats for babies and toddlers living in IPAS Centres, Homeless accommodation, refuge and/or cramped living conditions.</p> <p><i>'Minding Me: Supporting New and Expectant Mothers in Kildare West Wicklow'</i>: information, campaigns, resources and webinars.</p> <p>Healthy Ireland programme of work: diverse range of universal and targeted health and wellbeing initiatives across the county for children, young people and families.</p>	<p>A range of supports and interventions have been provided to children, young people and families with a focus on achieving the 5 national outcomes.</p> <p>Family communication and functioning has been enhanced.</p> <p>Parents and young babies have been provided with the opportunity to engage in a positive way through the arts.</p> <p>New and expectant mothers and their supporters are more aware of the importance of self-care in the perinatal period and supports</p>

ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
	<p>Play Day – annual activities to promote the benefits of play in the community as part of National Play Day initiative.</p> <p>Yellow Flag Programme – promoting diversity and inclusion in schools.</p>	<p>and services available to them.</p> <p>Children, young people and families have been afforded the opportunity to engage in health and wellbeing activities to enhance their physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Parents have a greater understanding of the importance of play in child development.</p> <p>The understanding of diversity and inclusion in schools has been enhanced.</p>
<p>Information dissemination and awareness raising</p>	<p>Positive Parenting Messaging Campaign (online and outdoor billboard campaign)</p> <p><i>'Cannabis and You: Is it Time for a Change?'</i> (Online campaign)</p> <p>Cyber-safety campaign for parents (online)</p> <p>Bereavement Support Campaign #HereForYou (online)</p> <p>Maternal Mental Health campaign: Let's Break the Silence (online and community activity)</p> <p>WITH (Wellness in the Home): #Knowing More Helps (online)</p> <p>Teach Tearmainn Radio Ads</p> <p>Meet and Greet event for services and residents of the Hazel Direct Provision Centre in Monasterevin</p>	<p>Quality-assured evidence-based messaging developed and delivered to inform, support and guide children, young people, parents and professionals in a number of key areas: parenting, substance use, online safety, bereavement, mental health and domestic violence.</p> <p>Enhanced awareness of supports and services available among parents, young people and professionals.</p>
<p>Contributing to key policy and strategy development</p>	<p>Kildare Children and Young People's Plan (2019-2021)</p> <p>Co. Kildare Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy</p> <p>Co. Kildare Integration Strategy</p> <p>Healthy Kildare Plan (2022-2026)</p> <p>Community Response to Death by Suspected Suicide CH07 (publication pending)</p> <p>Review of the Child Care Act 1991</p>	<p>The needs and priorities of children, young people and families in Kildare are reflected in policies and strategies, to enable the best possible outcomes.</p> <p>Enhanced coordination in planning and delivery of supports and services in the county.</p>

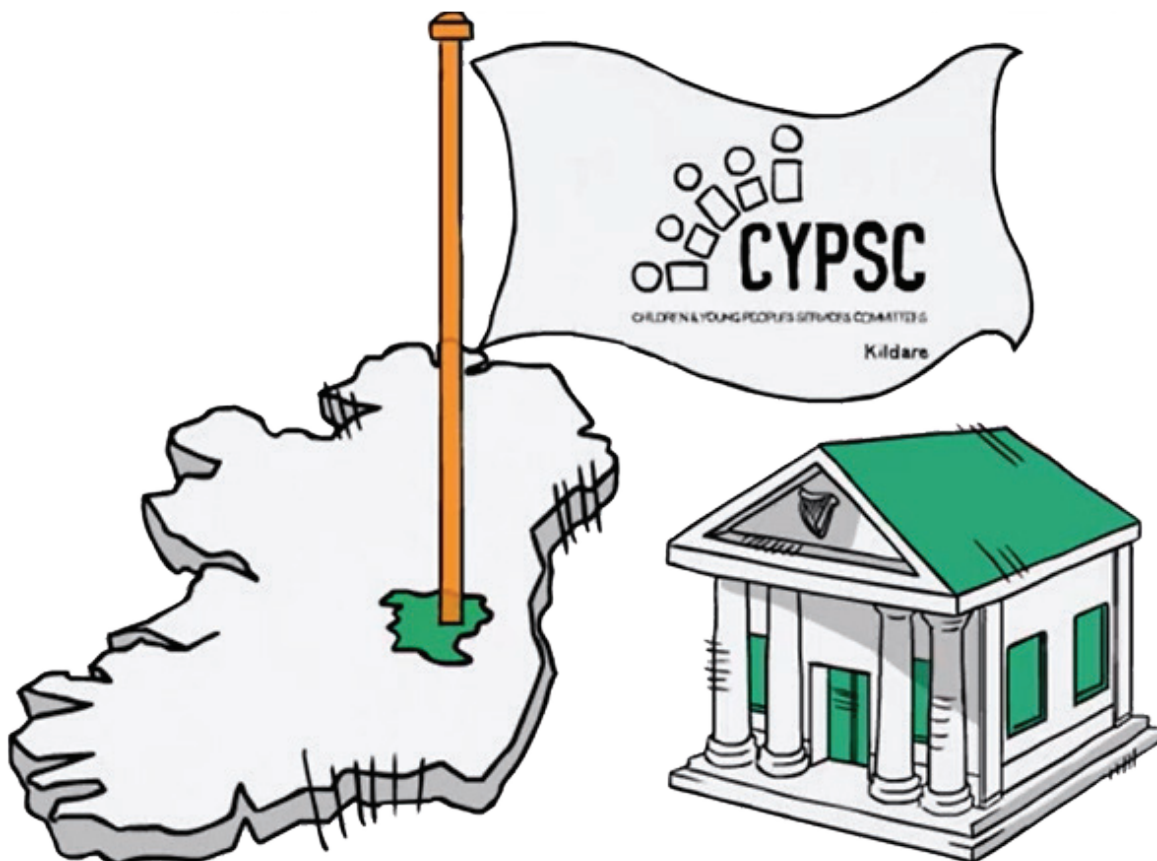
ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
<p>Continuous Professional Development and Training</p>	<p>A range of Continuous professional development and training opportunities have been provided in response to identified need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant Mental Health Seminar Infant Mental Health Masterclass Reflective Practice Introduction to Trauma-Informed Practice <i>'Learning Together: Strengthening Frontline Workers Response to Domestic Violence'</i> (Conference) Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Workshop for statutory agencies Supporting Families online and by phone Youth Mental Health First Aid Motivational Interviewing <i>'Steps 2 Cope'</i> Media Training Parents Plus Facilitator Training <i>'Widening the Lens: A Closer Look at Perpetrator Accountability in Keeping Families Safe'</i> (Domestic Violence Conference) Safe and Together Domestic Violence training 	<p>The Co. Kildare inter-agency workforce has been supported to access quality, no-cost Continuous Professional Development and Training opportunities locally, in response to identified need.</p> <p>Enhanced understanding, knowledge, skills and confidence to effectively support children, young people and families. Greater opportunity for networking, relationship-building, peer support and knowledge-sharing via inter-agency, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral training, to strengthen referral pathways and enhance service response.</p> <p>Acknowledgement and valuing of individual and collective work of local professionals by providing quality training, supporting them in their role and enhancing their professional development.</p>
<p>Provision of practical resources for groups who need extra support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food and personal care hampers for families in need Outdoor play materials and equipment for vulnerable families Cooking ingredients for young people on Youth Employment and Ability Programmes IT equipment for students in need Baby massage equipment and resources for parents Storage and sports equipment for disadvantaged community Transport costs to support youth participation in physical literacy leadership training; youth wellness event and Comhairle na nÓg AGM. Summer activities for children and young people from Ukraine and those living in Direct Provision Centres. 	<p>Vulnerable children, young people and families have received practical supports in response to need.</p> <p>CYPSC partner organisations have been resourced to respond to some of the identified practical needs of the children, young people and families they support.</p>

ACHIEVEMENT	EXAMPLE	IMPACT
<p>Communication and Promotion</p>	<p>Kildare CYPSC – Twitter, Facebook, cypsc.ie website https://www.cypsc.ie/kildare/resources.308.html www.facebook.com/kildarecypsc Twitter @kildarecypsc</p> <p>Parenting Support – website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter www.facebook.com/parentingsupport Twitter @parentingsupp Instagram @parentingsupport</p> <p>Information Provision via email networks www.parentingsupport.ie promotional materials <i>'Together is Better!'</i> Kildare CYPSC Animated Short https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/kildare.238.html <i>'A Year in the Life of Kildare CYPSC!'</i> (Animated short) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Zk6rpLu25s</p> <p>The Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare (Animated short – release pending) Teach Tearmainn Desk Calendar</p>	<p>Enhanced understanding, knowledge and awareness of the work of Kildare CYPSC and its members organisations among parents, young people and professionals.</p> <p>Greater awareness among parents and professionals of supports and services available.</p>



OVERALL IMPACT

- Increased awareness at all levels – local, regional and national - of the particular needs and challenges in Co. Kildare for children, young people and families.
- Greater coherence of “message” across agencies and structures as to needs of Co. Kildare ie collective priorities of CYPSC, shared priorities with LCDC.
- Strengthening of inter-agency relationships, referral pathways and creation of increasingly supportive environment for inter-agency working in the county.
- Increased level of resourcing into the county to respond to identified needs.
- Enhanced range and scope of supports and interventions in the county in response to need.
- Enhanced coordination in planning and delivery of supports and services.
- Increased support for our workforce through provision of training, information, tools and resources.
- Greater awareness of among young people, parents and professionals of available supports and services.
- Strengthening of youth voice and youth participation in work of CYPSC and its member organisations.
- Clearer picture of needs of children, young people and families and shared priorities across organisations.
- Strengthening of structures, processes, tools and resources for inter-agency working to improve lives of children, young people and families.



CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE	Underinvestment in CYPSC initiative nationally poses a challenge to sustainability, in context of demands that are increasing in volume and complexity.
	The nature of many of the national funding streams is challenging i.e. fragmented, once-off, small grants as opposed to what is needed to support meaningful change – multi annual core funding. It is time consuming in terms of administration, poses limitations in terms of impact and is not conducive to good practice, especially in relation to salaried posts.
	Severe difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff in both community/ voluntary and statutory services affects consistency, quality and access.
	Strategic engagement with certain sectors via CYPSC structure.
	Emergence of radical and extreme political sentiment and activity: locally and nationally.
	Ongoing issues in relation to access to services, waiting lists, absence of services.
	The population of Co Kildare continues to grow at a rapid rate, in the absence of parallel growth in resourcing, infrastructure and service provision.
	Effecting positive change at local level when systems change is required at national policy level.
	Influencing change at national level.
	The absence of basic essential service infrastructure means that leveraging in new additional supports – programmes and funding – is challenging.
	Low service levels affect capacity to avail of resourcing opportunities when they become available i.e. identifying an appropriate applicant; identifying an appropriate implementer.
	Securing core mainstream funding for proven initiatives is a challenge.
	Restrictive and unfeasible timeframes and processes for some national funding streams.
	Ensuring ongoing meaningful participation of children, young people and parents in guiding the work of CYPSC.
	Keeping abreast of new strategy, policy and practice developments in the sector.
	Ongoing promotion and awareness-raising in relation to CYPSC and its work.
	Ever-growing and competing demands on CYPSC structure from local, regional and national levels.
	The physical scale of Co. Kildare is a challenge for service planning and delivery.
	The perception of affluence in relation to Co. Kildare, which obscures the true picture of need in the county.
	Measuring the overall impact of the work of Kildare CYPSC.
	Balancing alignment with agency plans and supporting other interagency plans while ensuring that CYPSC has a unique contribution and body of work.
	Achieving a mandate and “top down” recognition of their role on CYPSC is a challenge for some member organisations.
	Impacts of COVID19 on service provision and working on the impacts of lockdown with children, young people and families.
Responding to the Ukraine crisis – complexity of need of displaced families and impact on services and resources.	

LEARNING

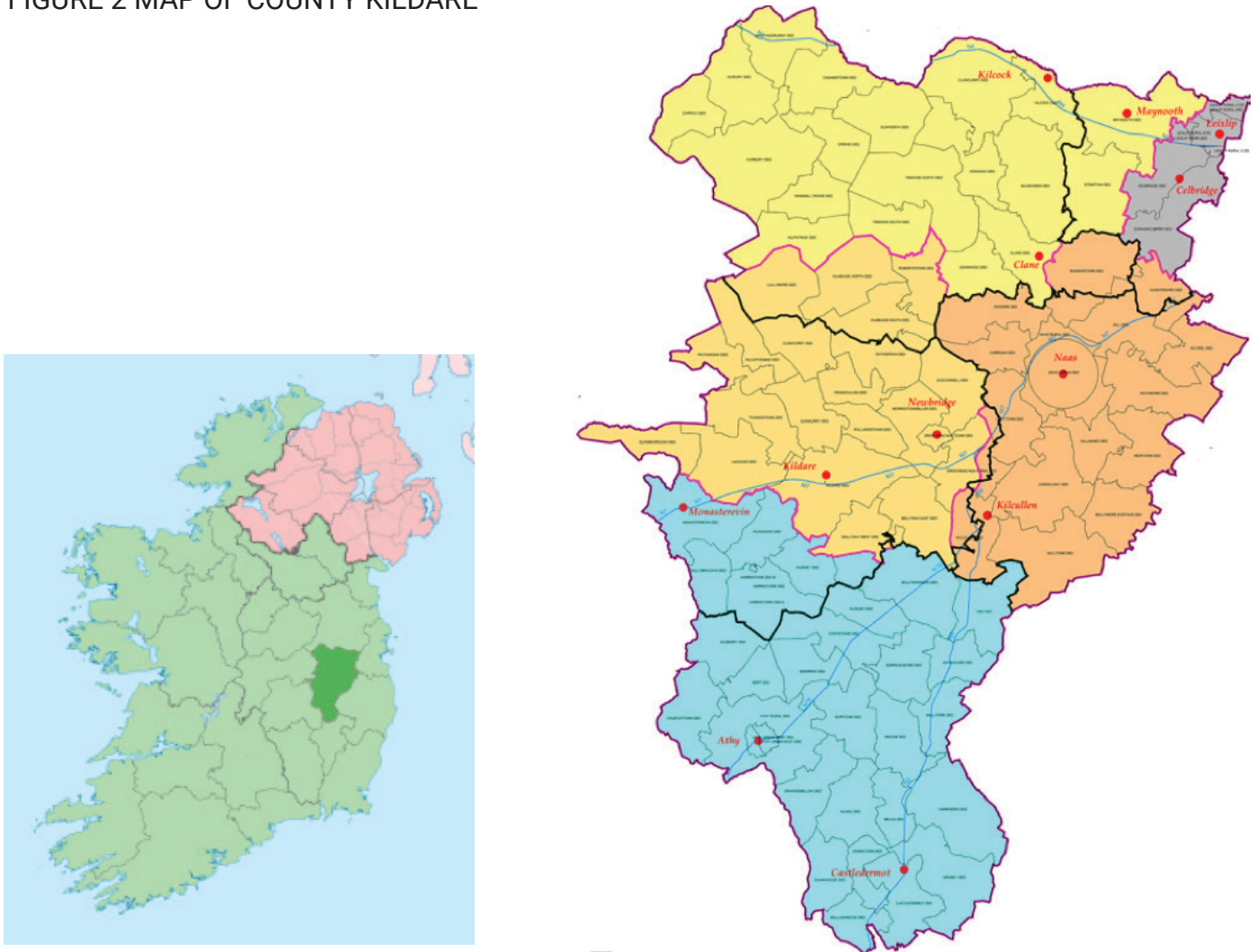
LEARNING

Collective strength in championing shared priorities can bring about positive change.
When collective action at local level is allied with political will at national level, change is possible.
A clear, strong, shared case, underpinned by evidence, is more difficult to discount.
Having the voice of young people heard in a more evidence-based way strengthens the work of CYPSC and its member organisations.
Investing in continuous professional development of our workforce has a number of purposes and benefits: upskilling, relationship-building, valuing the work (individual and collective), enhancing morale, enhancing quality of service.
The use of technology and hybrid working can enhance engagement and participation in a positive way, but may also pose some challenges.
Having an understanding and awareness of Trauma and trauma-informed approaches is important in supporting children, young people and families and staff/colleagues.
It is important to strike a balance between the strategic focus of the work of the CYPSC and the action focus of the work – both elements are required to maintain commitment, momentum and to facilitate positive change.
It is important to establish key service infrastructure hubs around which to build community and family supports.
Maintaining a strong focus on the needs of children, young people and parents, as opposed to service or organisational needs, supports constructive engagement and productive inter-agency partnership.
Building and maintaining positive inter-agency relationships is essential to the work of the Committee.
Alignment of CYPSC and member organisation plans in terms of objectives and actions is key to clearly demonstrating to members their contribution and relevance to the work of CYPSC.
In order for actions from the plan to be implemented, it is essential that a sole lead agency is identified to drive the initiative forward.
In order for collaborative actions to be implemented, it is important that they appear in individual organisational work plans, to reaffirm that they are a priority for the organisation that will be taken into account when allocating resources (financial and human).



SUMMARY PROFILE OF CO. KILDARE

FIGURE 2 MAP OF COUNTY KILDARE²



NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS & FEATURES OF CO. KILDARE

Census 2022 data was limited to preliminary findings only at the time of publication of this Plan and so where Census data is referenced below, it is 2016 data unless otherwise stated.

More up-to-date datasets from other data sources were accessed and included where available and relevant.

Co. Kildare has a rapidly growing population. Over a 20-year period (1996 to 2016), Co. Kildare experienced a 64.8% (+87,512) increase in its population base - the second highest rate in the State.

Preliminary results from the 2022 Census highlight a growth rate of **11% (24,473 people) since 2016**, the **third highest population rate increase** in the State. The total recorded population of the county in the Census of 2022 is **246,977**.

The population of Co. Kildare is expected to rise by approximately 44,000 persons between 2016 and 2031, which equates to a 19.7% increase.³

Kildare has the highest rate of young people aged 0 to 24 years in the State. According to the 2016 Census, the population aged 0 to 24 years residing in Kildare was 81,517 and represents 36.6% of the total population.

² Source – Kildare CYPSC CYPP 2019-2021

³ <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-kildare-county-development-plan-2023-2029>

NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS & FEATURES OF CO. KILDARE

In fact, **the number of young people under 25 years in Co. Kildare is higher than the total population of each of the following counties:** (2016): **Offaly** (77,961), **Cavan** (76,176), **Sligo** (65,535), **Roscommon** (64,544), **Monaghan** (61,386), **Carlow** (56,932), **Longford** (40,873) and **Leitrim** (30,044).

Given the size and significance of Co. Kildare's population cohorts in the 0-4, 5-12 and 13-17 age ranges in the 2016 Census, and the 11% increase in population from 2016-2022, it is evident that the profile of the county's population has not yet peaked, and that there is likely to be an increased demand for children's and young people's services over the next decade.

The scale of need in Co. Kildare is not reflected in current national resource allocation. Investment and development has not kept pace with population growth or level of need. Historic & persistent under-resourcing continues to affect services' ability to respond to need.

In Quarter 1 of 2022, Co. Kildare is third highest county in terms of number of births, accounting for 5.2% of all births in the quarter, behind Dublin (12.7%) and Cork (8.4%).⁴

The number of mothers aged 20 years or under made up 1.3% of the births in Kildare in 2019, (39). Of these births, 6 were to children aged between 10-17 years.

8,856 children in Co. Kildare are living in lone parent households (2016).

18.6% of the total population of Co. Kildare was born outside of Ireland (2022).

In 2016, the top 4 most common languages, other than English, spoken in Co. Kildare were Polish, French, Romanian and Spanish.

There are three Direct Provision Centres for people seeking international protection (asylum seekers) in operation in County Kildare: the Hazel Hotel, Monasterevin; Eyre Powell, Newbridge and Celbridge Manor Hotel. The capacity of the 3 centres in Kildare is 529, with occupancy of 451 individuals in October 2022, of which 81 were under 18 years of age.

According to CSO figures (September 2022) there are 954 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from the Ukraine in Co. Kildare. Department of Education enrolment figures indicate that there are 123 Ukrainian children enrolled in primary schools in Kildare and 80 in secondary schools. (September 2022).

Overall, in the State, 61.0% of infants in 2019 were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital and this percentage was higher for Kildare (64.7%).

In 2020, Kildare reported a marginally lower percentage of low birth weight babies as a percentage of all births (5.2%) compared to the State (5.5%).

The data available for immunisation uptake for 12 months of age show Kildare as having consistently higher immunisation uptake than the national average, with Co. Kildare achieving over 90% immunisation in all categories. When examining the uptake of immunisation at 24 months of age, Kildare is slightly behind the state rate in all but one category.

In 2020, there were 29 (46.1 per 100,000 children) admitted to a psychiatric unit or a child/adolescent unit in Co. Kildare. This is higher than the state rate of 40.4, and the seventh highest admittance rate in Ireland.⁵

⁴ Vital Statistics First Quarter 2022 24.8.22

⁵ SONC 2021

NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS & FEATURES OF CO. KILDARE

The waiting list for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), in the HSE service area of CH07 (covers all of Co. Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, and Dublin South West), was 270 in Dec 2021, which has almost doubled from the 144 people waiting in Dec 2019.⁶

In Sync Youth and Family Services, serving Kildare and West Wicklow, provides counselling services for young people. In 2021, there were 2,516 appointments offered by the Youth Counselling Service.⁷ There were 245 Telephone Assessments in the same year.

In 2021 there were a total of 24 suicides in Co. Kildare (all ages), 15 Males and 9 Females⁸. Only 4 areas recorded a higher number: Galway, Cork, Tipperary and Dublin city.

The rate of suicide in Kildare has exceeded the national average for all years from 2011 (based on three year moving averages).⁹

The number of cases treated for cocaine in Kildare increased by 125% from 2019 to 2021 (from 44 to 99 cases).

The Halo Project, an adolescent substance misuse treatment service, had a total of 110 people who were assessed or in receipt of intervention in the Kildare/West Wicklow area. Of these, 55 were for drugs and 10 were for alcohol, while 45 were concerned people.

Of the 55 referred for drug use, 50 of these were using cannabis, with the remaining 5 using opiates, cocaine or inhalants. Of those referred with alcohol as a drug of concern, the average number of drinks being consumed in a typical session was 6.¹⁰

A total of 6,040 children and young people (0-24 years) in Kildare (7.4% of the total number of children and young people in this age category) were documented as having a disability in the 2016 Census data. In the State there is a slightly lower percentage, with 7.1%.

A report published by the ESRI in July 2019¹¹ found that Co. Kildare has a lower relative supply (at least 10% lower than the national average) for all 8 non-acute community and primary care services measured in the study, which includes GPs, Psychologists, Public Health Nurses and Occupational Therapists, amongst others.

Of the 182 childcare services registered with Tusla, 8 are community-based services, with the remainder being private commercial services.

According to Census 2016, 10% of people aged 15 and over in Co. Kildare, had not been educated beyond primary level.

From January to December 2021, Teach Tearmainn Domestic Violence Support Service provided support to 474 women, an average of 39 per month. 86 children accessed support over the same period. A total of 48 women and 35 children spent time in the refuge. There were 135 unmet requests for refuge space.

⁶ *Redressing the Balance: The business case for investment in integrated youth mental health service provision in Kildare West Wicklow October 2020 – CYPSC Kildare by email 22.10.22*

⁷ *In Sync Youth Counselling Service Profile and Annual Report Template 2021 – by email from in Sync 1.11.22*

⁸ *CSO vital statistics – VSD20 – accessed 16.11.22*

⁹ *National Office for Suicide Prevention – briefing note - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/nosp-briefing-cso-data-nov-2019.pdf>*

¹⁰ *Report to National Drug Treatment Reporting System from the SWRDATF Halo Project for 2021 by email 3.11.22*

¹¹ *Geographic profile of healthcare needs and non-acute healthcare supply in Ireland (ESRI, 2019)*

NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS & FEATURES OF CO. KILDARE

The service had a total of 1,867 support calls on their helpline, with first time callers making up 307 of those.

93 women from Co. Kildare were referred to the Tusla Domestic Violence Support Service in 2021.

Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow was one of the areas that reported the highest number of referrals to the Tusla Child Protection & Welfare service in 2021 (6,834), with the rate of referral exceeding the national average.

At the end of Quarter 1 2022, there were 415 children and young people (0-17 years) in the care of Tusla in the Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow area. This is 5th highest rate of children in care in the 17 Tusla areas nationally.

According to Kildare County Council data (October, 2022) there were 260 individuals living in emergency homeless accommodation in Co. Kildare, of which 66 were under 18 years of age.

The total number of individuals in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is 2,068 (October 2022). The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support for people who have a long-term housing need and are on the social housing list.

According to the CSO Live Register data for October 2022, there were a total of 6,633 persons on the Live Register in Kildare, 665 of whom are under 25 years.

Although the county Deprivation score is marginally above average, the number of people living in areas of disadvantage is high. There are **20,592** people living in small areas deemed to be disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged, which represents **9.25%** of the total population. (2016)

According to Kildare Data Hub¹², over 40% of the total workforce living in Kildare work outside the county, mostly in Dublin (73% of all commuters).

Kildare has the third highest level of commuting times in the state, with 15% of all workers having a daily return commute of greater than 2 hours and 47% having a daily return commute of greater than 1 hour. Private transport is used by 66% of Kildare residents, with a further 16% walking or cycling to work, school or college.

Findings from the consultation completed for the *Kildare Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (2019-2023)*¹³ demonstrated that 83% of Traveller people strongly disagreed or disagreed that they feel fully included as an equal citizen in Co Kildare. Of those surveyed, 100% agreed that they face barriers to inclusion in Kildare. Young people under 20 years of age made up 17% those consulted.

In a report of the findings from the *Growing up in Ireland* longitudinal study, Kildare ranked 3rd highest nationally in relation to levels of parental stress among mothers of 9-month-old infants.

¹² <https://kildarecoco.ie/KildareDataHub/CountyStats/4Commuting/KeyNotes/>

¹³ <http://www.kildarelcdc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Kildare-Traveller-Roma-Inclusion-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

LOCAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

The local needs analysis takes account of:

- Key evidence from the socio-demographic profile, overview of services, data analysis and literature review.
- Key priorities emerging from the consultation.

It is important to note that the analysis takes account of what children and young people identified as the good things about living and growing up in Co. Kildare (sample below), as well as the gaps and concerns, with a commitment to building on these where possible.

WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT GROWING UP IN CO. KILDARE?

- The river Liffey, the Curragh, parks, countryside, trees, flowers, walks, fields
- Home, family, friends, cousins, Grandparents, school
- Quiet, safe, beautiful, friendly, fun, clean
- Lots to do & places to visit
- Sports, swimming pool
- Close to Dublin
- Shops – Whitewater, Penneys
- Playground, skate park, swings
- Horses
- There's no war, no shooting
- History & culture
- Sense of community, welcoming, mix of cultures, good people, nice people, neighbours

KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

The local needs analysis identified that a concerted inter-agency approach is required in relation to a number of key priority areas over the next 3 years:

Mental Health and Wellbeing	Trauma Informed Practice
Substance Misuse	Educational Opportunity and Inclusion
Domestic Violence and Abuse	Family Support
Parent Support	Safety
Community Infrastructure	Youth Participation
Interagency Coordination	Workforce Development
Resources	Promotion

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ACHIEVING NATIONAL OUTCOMES

Kildare CYPSC's approach to addressing the stated priorities above, is underpinned by the following strategic considerations identified by Kildare CYPSC locally to guide this work:

Enhancing Coordination and 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.

Achieving Sustainability

Identifying the existing supports and interventions in our county that are proven as valuable and ensuring that they are put on a secure footing in terms of ongoing resourcing, core funding and mainstreaming.

Innovation

Incorporating innovation into existing services and establishing new services and interventions is a core part of the plan.

Increasing Access to Services

Making services and supports more widely available to those who need them is an important theme in this plan.

Continuous Professional Development

Supporting our workforce to build their capacity to deliver quality services and supports to families through enhancing knowledge, skills and experience. Valuing and acknowledging our workforce through the provision of free and low-cost quality training in response to identified needs.

Progressive Universalism

Strengthening services and supports for all, with particular measures for those who need additional support, with services and interventions that are proportionate to the level of need.

Early Intervention and Prevention

The approach recognises the impact of adverse childhood experiences on later outcomes for children, young people and families and takes account of the the body of evidence that strongly demonstrates the value of intervening in the early years of a child's life and early in the development of the need.

Geographic Focus

Kildare 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 e.g. high levels of deprivation, low levels of service provision, population growth pressures, rural depopulation, high prevalence of critical incidents, and this will be given due consideration in the implementation of this plan.

Trauma-Informed Approach

Trauma informed approaches to care shift the focus from *"What's wrong with you?"* to *"What happened to you?"* by:

- Realising the widespread impact of trauma and understanding potential paths for recovery
- Recognising the signs and symptoms of trauma in individuals, clients, families and staff.
- Integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures and practices.
- Seeking to actively resist re-traumatisation.

Asset Based Community Development

Asset Based Community Development's (ABCD) premise is that communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilising existing, but often unrecognised assets. ABCD is a localised and bottom-up way of strengthening communities through recognising, identifying and harnessing existing assets i.e. skills, knowledge, capacity, resources, experience, enthusiasm. Individuals and communities identify and share their strengths & then work together to create their own innovative responses.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/CONTEXT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

There are several key considerations that provide context for the implementation of this CYPP.

Census 2022

The first official report – the Census 2022 Summary Report – will be published in April 2023. Further results will be published up to December 2023. The up-to-date data will be taken into consideration in the implementation of this CYPP.

Child Care Act (1991) Review

The Child Care Act 1991 is undergoing a review at present. There are specific proposals in relation to the role of CYPSC contained within the review, including putting CYPSC on a statutory footing.

Betters Outcomes Brighter Futures 2

The National Policy Framework for children and young people, which guides the work of CYPSC, is being updated and once published, will be taken into consideration in the implementation of this CYPP.

National Review of CYPSC initiative

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), in partnership with Tusla, is intending to complete a national review of the CYPSC initiative. The outcomes of this evaluation will be considered in the implementation of this CYPP where relevant.

EU Child Guarantee National Action Plan

The European Commission established European Child Guarantee in 2021. The objective of the European Child Guarantee is to prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing effective access of children in need to a set of key services. EU Member States are required to develop a national action plan. The Irish Government published its National Action Plan in June 2022. One of the proposed actions is the development of Local Child Poverty Action Plans in partnership with CYPSC and LCDCs in a number of pilot areas (not yet identified). Should Kildare be identified as a pilot site, this will be incorporated into the implementation of this Plan.

Out-of-School Education Provision Review

The Report from the Review of Out-of-School Education Provision was published by the Department of Education in May 2022. This review focused on the education provision in the State for learners under 16 years of age who have encountered difficulties staying in mainstream education. The review makes recommendations to inform future policy to provide a sustainable option within the education system to further serve this group of learners. It contains six recommendations, and an implementation plan. This will be taken into account in relation to the Outcome 2 and other relevant action areas.

Just Transition

Just Transition is a feature of the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan. Just Transition focuses on developing a series of economic and social interventions to shift economic and social activity in an area dependent on an extractive economy to jobs and activities relating to a regenerative economy. In a Co. Kildare context, a Just Transition Plan has been developed covering the three Municipal Districts of Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, and Clane-Maynooth. The vision is to build a strong consensus and strategically position communities in these areas to realise future opportunities, particularly those hardest impacted by the departure of Bord na Móna from peat harvesting activities. Areas include, but are not confined to, Allenwood, Coill Dubh, Kilberry (Athy), Lullymore, Newbridge, Rathangan, Monasterevin and its hinterlands and Timahoe. There is a broad focus encompassing three key themes: Economy, Society and Environment. This presents an opportunity to develop responses in these areas that complement the work under Just Transition in relation to children, young people and families, including identifying resources under Just Transition to support this work.

White Paper to End Direct Provision

The White Paper outlines the new system of accommodation and supports that will be put in place for applicants for International Protection, along with the stated intention that all existing Direct Provision Centres will close by the end of 2024. The implementation of the White Paper, and the challenges with same, provides an important context within which the CYPSC response to children, young people and families seeking International Protection in Co. Kildare is developed and supported.

Post COVID environment

The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact, not yet fully known or understood, and continues to be a key consideration in the implementation of this CYPP.

Ukraine crisis

The ongoing conflict in the Ukraine and the arrival of displaced people to Ireland and Kildare provides important context for the implementation of this CYPP.

Emergence of Extremism/Radicalism/Fundamentalism

The emergence and visibility of radical and extreme political sentiment and activity – locally and nationally – is a new consideration since the implementation of the previous CYPP.

Community Safety Partnerships

Community Safety Partnerships are currently being piloted in a number of areas throughout Ireland. Pending the outcome of the evaluation of the pilot phase, it is proposed that this structure will replace the existing Joint Policing Committees. It is intended that young people and communities will play an active role in this new structure. There is an important role for CYPSC in amplifying and supporting the voice of children and young people in this new structure and working with the new structure on shared priorities.

Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Work is underway by Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) on the development of the new LECP for the county. This provides a positive opportunity to build on the strong relationship between the two structures and continue to champion shared priorities for children, young people and communities in Co. Kildare.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PRIORITY AREAS AND RELATED ACTIONS

603 individuals engaged in the consultation process for the Kildare Children & Young People’s Plan, of which 392 were children and young people under 25 years of age. The 392 under 25s included pre-schoolers, primary school-aged children, teens and 18-25 years olds.

Below is a summary of the analysis that informed the identification of each priority area and the related actions, listed under each of the 5 Outcomes.

OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING

What is the data and research telling us?

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- In 2021 there were a total of 24 suicides in Co. Kildare (all ages), 15 Males and 9 Females¹⁴. Only 4 areas recorded a higher number: Galway, Cork, Tipperary and Dublin city.
- The rate of suicide in Kildare has exceeded the national average for all years from 2011 (based on three year moving averages).¹⁵
- The total number of referrals to In Sync Youth counselling service in 2021 was 376 people. The main reason for referral to In Sync was stress and anxiety, followed by interpersonal relationships, problems in school/work, changes in family structure and self-esteem issues.
- In 2020, there were 29 (46.1 per 100,000 children) admitted to a psychiatric unit or a child/adolescent unit in Co Kildare. This is higher than the state rate of 40.4, and the seventh highest admittance rate in Ireland.¹⁶
- The waiting list for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), in the HSE service area of CHO7 (covers all of Co. Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, and Dublin South West), was 270 in Dec 2021, which has almost doubled from the 144 people waiting in Dec 2019.¹⁷
- A 2019 analysis of data from the Growing Up in Ireland study¹⁸ ranked Kildare as 3rd highest in relation to levels of parental stress among mothers of 9-month-old infants.

In a recent Report capturing the views of parents of young children in Kildare/West Wicklow: I Say, You Say, We All Have a Say Together (2021), over 90% of respondents identified feelings of isolation, loneliness and anxiety as key issues for parents of infants and young children.

Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 outlines the vision for a Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.



¹⁴CSO vital statistics – VSD20 – accessed 16.11.22

¹⁵National Office for Suicide Prevention – briefing note - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/nosp-briefing-cso-data-nov-2019.pdf>

¹⁶SONC 2021

¹⁷Redressing the Balance: The business case for investment in integrated youth mental health service provision in Kildare West Wicklow October 2020 – CYPSC Kildare by email 22.10.22

¹⁸<https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/County-Variation-in-the-Outcomes-of-Children-and-Young-People.pdf>

OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING

Trauma-Informed Practice

- Committed, Caring and Compassionate: Co. Kildare Workforce Wellbeing, Attitudes toward Trauma-informed Care, COVID concerns and Ongoing Training Needs (2020) – a report commissioned by Kildare CYPSC identified that training in Trauma-informed approaches in the top 3 training needs among the professionals surveyed.
<https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/13911>
- According to Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020-2030) Trauma-informed service delivery means that everyone at all levels of the mental health services and wider mental health provision has a basic understanding of trauma and how it can affect families, groups, organisations, communities and individuals.

Substance Misuse

- According to the HSBC report on school aged children study (2021) vaping is twice as common as tobacco smoking. 22% of 12–17-year-olds report that they have ever used e-cigarettes (vaped). The ESPAD study (2020) identified that one in 5 (18%) are current users.
- The Halo Project under 18 treatment service treated 65 young people in 2021, with 55 referred for drug use (50 for cannabis) and 10 for alcohol.
- An Irish study (Comiskey and Galligan, 2019) estimates that 15-24% of children are potentially impacted by illicit drug use in the home. Based on 2016 Census population figures for under 18s in Co. Kildare this is between 9,400 – 15,000 children.
- The study estimates 14-37% of children are possibly impacted by parental alcohol dependency. Based on 2016 Census population figures for under 18s in Co. Kildare this is between 8,800 – 23,000 children.
- The growing acknowledgement of the impact for children living in families where substance misuse exists is reflected in the development of the national Hidden Harm Strategy ¹⁹ (Tusla/HSE, 2019).

What do children, young people and parents think?

Young people indicated that a greater emphasis on mental health and wellbeing in the school curriculum would be a positive development. They identified a lack of accessible supports for young people in need (both in and outside of school). Young people highlighted a range of factors that negatively affect their mental health such as exam pressure, peer pressure, starting secondary school, bullying, body image, traffic, crime, lack of facilities, drug use, discrimination, poor transport, cost of living, school system, worry about being liked, concern of being judged, climate change, worry about the future, worry about war in Ukraine.

¹⁹Hidden Harm Practice Guide and Strategic Statement. Tusla/HSE (2019)

OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING

	<p>Younger children shared some of the same concerns and also expressed worry about pets, Grandparents and other family members becoming ill and or dying, as well as concerns about stranger danger and personal safety.</p> <p>Concerns around drug/alcohol misuse and associated anti-social behaviour were expressed as a significant concern for young people. This impacted on their feelings of personal and community safety. The growth of vaping and schools' response to it were also highlighted as challenging. Young people indicated that the absence of affordable accessible activities locally led to boredom, which can increase the likelihood of drug/alcohol use and engagement in anti-social behaviour for some.</p> <p>Parents were concerned about the issues affecting the mental health and wellbeing of their children, which reflect those identified by young people themselves (above). In addition to those mentioned above, parents highlighted gender identity, technology and social media, class sizes and access to school places.</p> <p>Parents noted the increased prevalence and visibility of drug-related activity and anti-social behaviour in local communities as a significant issue and a growing cause for concern.</p>
<p>What do people working with children, young people and families think?</p>	<p>Service providers identified the mental health and wellbeing of children and young as a primary concern, with specific reference to anxiety, self-harm, domestic violence, social media, alienation of minority groups, poverty, financial pressure, time pressure, health inequalities and limited opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Parental mental health, including during the perinatal period was also highlighted.</p> <p>Service access is a significant challenge with limited or no services in some areas and long waiting lists. Particularly for mental health services such as CAMHS, for counselling and therapeutic supports, supports for primary school aged children and 18-24years olds, for young people with a disability.</p> <p>Finding out what support services are available can be challenging for parents and professionals, and when known can be difficult to navigate.</p> <p>Increasing normalisation of drug/alcohol use and vaping was noted as a concern for service providers. Accessing information, assessment and treatment was identified as a challenge.</p>

OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING

	<p>Concern about the impact on children and young people of living in a home where there is problematic substance misuse and the complexity of responding to the needs of these children was highlighted.</p> <p>Service providers identified a trauma-informed approach 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.</p>
<p>Priorities emerging?</p>	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and update the Business Case for Integrated Youth Mental Health Provision to reflect current needs, gaps and priorities. • To develop an information resource for parents and professionals in relation to referral pathways for mental health services and supports. • To support and promote the inter-agency Minding Me initiative for new and expectant mothers and their supporters. • To support the continued implementation of the Healthy Ireland programme in Co. Kildare. • To support and promote the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Co. Kildare. • To raise awareness among schools and early years services of the external supports available to them to support the health and wellbeing of their students/children in their care. • To support the development of an Infant Mental Health Strategy for Co. Kildare. • To support the provision of information and support for parents of young people that self-harm. <p>Trauma Informed Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To convene an inter-agency group to collectively consider the role of a trauma-informed approach in supporting children, young people & families in Co. Kildare. • To explore the development of a new micro-credentials course in relation to trauma-informed practice. <p>Substance Misuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the development of an information campaign for young people, parents and professionals in relation to vaping. • To explore a collaborative inter-agency approach to the implementation of the Hidden Harm Strategy, to include supports for children, young people and families where problematic substance misuse is present.

What is the data and research telling us?

School Attendance and Retention

7.5% of students who commenced post primary school in Co. Kildare in 2015, did not complete the Leaving Certificate. 2.9% did not complete a Junior Certificate.

The mean of primary school children, absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year 2017/18, reported for Co. Kildare is 5.8%.

The mean of post-primary school children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year 2017/18 in Kildare is 7.8%.

One of the key priorities in the *County Kildare Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (2019-2023)* is that: *Access, participation and outcomes for Travellers and Roma in education will be improved to achieve outcomes that are equal to those for the majority population.*

Factors affecting school attendance are complex and varied, including mental health issues, physical health issues, special educational needs, bullying, poor school transitions, school culture and environment.

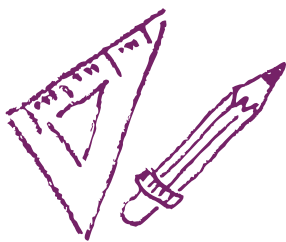
Out-of-School Provision

The Report from the Review of Out-of-School Education Provision was published by the Department of Education in May 2022. This review focused on the education provision in the State for learners under 16 years of age who have encountered difficulties staying in mainstream education. The review makes recommendations to inform future policy to provide a sustainable option within the education system to further serve this group of learners. It contains six recommendations, and an implementation plan.

The Department of Education's *Statement of Strategy 2021-2023* continues to emphasise the need to support all students, including those who need extra support, or who are at risk of exclusion or early school leaving.

The *Youth Justice Strategy (2021-2027)* has a specific objective to '*... address the effects of disengagement from education and early school leaving, and support those who may be vulnerable to disengagement...*' which includes an action on alternative out of school provision (Objective 2.2, action 2.2.3, page 21).

A recent evaluation of iScoil @home service (2021) highlighted positive outcomes for students in respect of engagement, accreditation, attitudes and behaviour.



OUTCOME 2: ACHIEVING FULL POTENTIAL IN AREAS OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Framework for the Development of iScoil in Co. Kildare (2022) recommends enhanced resourcing for iScoil in order to respond to identified need in the county.

Findings from a survey of post-primary schools undertaken by Kildare CYPSC in 2015, identified that of the 321 students who left any of the schools in that academic year, 73 (23%) were potential NEETS (i.e. not in education, employment or training). Of these 73, 17 had left before their Junior Cycle.

Play

First 5: A Whole-of- Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028 is underpinned by the evidence that nurturing family relationships, along with play and discovery are at the heart of a child's development.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

A Department of Health report (2018) estimates the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder as 1-1.5%. Based on Census 2016 population figures for under 25s, this is between 815 and 1,223 individuals in Co. Kildare.

Nationally, 5,753 individuals of all ages with autism registered on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) in 2020. Of these, 3,804 identified autism as their primary disability. 3,436 (90%) were under 25 years.

CH07 (Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West) has the most service users registered: 1,019 (27%).

What do children, young people and parents think?

School has a significant role in the lives of children and young people and so unsurprisingly, views in relation to school made up a large part of the contribution for children and young people during the consultation. Children worried about moving into secondary school, getting a place in the school of their choice, bullying, traffic and road safety. Young people highlighted exam stress and pressure, the need for better facilities in schools, including upkeep of school buildings and better food. Some school's response to vaping was questioned, as was the perceived over-prioritisation of uniform over other issues of greater concern to students. The need for more Guidance Counsellors and more training for Guidance Counsellors was noted. The need to listen to students, via Student Councils and other means, was viewed as very important. Free after school study and access to home tuition for students who are unable to engage in school were suggested.

OUTCOME 2: ACHIEVING FULL POTENTIAL IN AREAS OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

	<p>For parents, access to school places was identified as a concern, with significant pressure on places in some areas. Challenges in relation to school transport was also highlighted. Large class sizes and the impact on young people was noted. Some schools have limited facilities and are housed in buildings that are in need of significant upgrading. There is a need for increased support for parents of children with additional needs and more Special Needs Assistants for students in need. Exam pressure on young people is a key concern for parents. Enhanced support at the transition phase from primary to secondary school would be valuable.</p>
<p>What do people working with children, young people and families think?</p>	<p>Service providers perceive school non-attendance as a growing issue, with a range of contributory factors including anxiety, impact of COVID pandemic, family issues, school issues, additional needs, literacy/ numeracy concerns, cultural issues.</p> <p>There is limited alternative education provision available in the county to meet the identified need.</p> <p>Schools are sometimes unaware of the external supports available to them and their students.</p> <p>Early intervention and prevention are key, especially in the early years, as is support at the transition stages of education lifecycle – home to pre-school, pre-school to primary, primary to secondary, secondary to third level.</p> <p>Access to support and navigating the system is particularly challenging for young people with ASD as their families due to number of issues – limited or no available service, long waiting lists/ times, eligibility criteria, service pressures, fragmented services, poor transport infrastructure.</p>
<p>Priorities emerging?</p>	<p>Educational Opportunity and Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a local school attendance task force to gain a clear picture of the current situation in relation to school attendance and to explore potential inter-agency responses. • To support the implementation of the iScoil Framework for Co. Kildare. • To continue to support the roll out of national play-based initiatives such as I AM BABA, My Place to Play, Play Day. • To provide a range of supportive, developmental and recreational activities for young people with ASD and their families.

OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

What is the data and research telling us?

Parent Support

In 2021, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the 3rd highest number of referrals to Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Services of the 17 Tusla areas (6,834).

The rate of referral per 1000 is 63.2, which exceeds the national rate of 61.4.

At the end of 2021, there were 415 children and young people (0-17 years) in the care of Tusla, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow.

In a recent Report capturing the views of parents of young children in Kildare/West Wicklow: *I Say, You Say, We All Have a Say Together (2021)*: 72% of respondents identified a safe place to share and talk about the experience of being a parent as very important. 42% identified the most important benefit of engaging in community supports as support for yourself as a parent – to talk and ask questions.

In the pregnancy stage, the top-rated supports by parents are information about supports available and getting to know other parents.

After the birth of a child, the top-rated supports are parent and baby/toddler groups and coffee mornings with guest speakers.

The report highlighted the importance of further engagement with fathers.

Needs and Concerns of Parents in Co. Kildare (2017) highlighted a number of key areas identified by parents as those where most help is needed: Access to services, finances/cost of living, childcare, social media and education (especially for children with special needs).

The report recommends building community resilience and peer support for parents in Co. Kildare.

Family Support

Evaluation of the Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare (2017) reported a range of benefits for families, including improved family relationships, enhanced parental wellbeing and parenting competencies, and improved child behaviour.

Several factors were identified in the Evaluation Report as key for the sustainability of the Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare, including managerial and funding structures to be put in place, finding and retaining a pool of trained facilitators and sourcing additional funding.

OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

There are 260 people living in Kildare County Council Emergency accommodation (October, 2022). 25% (66) are under 18s. 8 are adult dependants. There are 38 families, of which 16 are one-parent families.

11 families are living in the Peter McVerry Trust Family Hubs, with 19 under 18s.

The negative impact of homelessness on child and family wellbeing has been well evidenced in research (e.g. Children's Rights Alliance, 2018, Heslin, J. 2019).

Findings from a recent research report (ESRI, 2023) show poorer-quality accommodation, more disorderly neighbourhoods, and living in social housing can negatively affect child wellbeing and cognitive development.

Ireland's EU Child Guarantee National Action Plan (2022)'s housing action highlights that the main barrier is timely access to adequate accommodation for children in need.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Coercive Control became an offence on 1st January 2019, with the commencement of the Domestic Violence Act 2018. Nationally, between 2019 and 2021, 259 incidents of coercive control were reported.

Data from a recent national report from the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (2022) identifies that for 84% of females and 61% of males who died by homicide, the perpetrator was known to them.

474 women and 86 children accessed support from Teach Tearmainn Domestic Violence Support Service in 2021. There were 1,867 calls to the Helpline, 307 of which were first-time callers.

48 women and 69 children accessed Refuge Accommodation. There were 135 unmet refuge requests in 2021.

There were 221 referrals to the Tusla Domestic Violence Support Service in Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow in 2021, of which 42% (93) were from Co. Kildare.

According to the Immigrant Council of Ireland (November, 2022) cases of domestic violence experienced by migrant women are increasingly complex due to mixed immigration statuses and barriers to accessing mainstream services. The Council reports that the number of domestic violence cases experienced by migrant women increased by 12% between 2020 and 2021.

OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

Committed, Caring and Compassionate: Co. Kildare Workforce Wellbeing, Attitudes toward Trauma-informed Care, COVID concerns, and Ongoing Training Needs (2020) highlights the need to prioritise training in areas of: Cultural diversity; Domestic violence, Family and parenting support.

Safety

Data from An Garda Síochána via the Joint Policing Committee highlighted an increase in reported incidents of crime in Co. Kildare (between Quarter 1 and 2, 2021 and Quarter 1 and 2, 2022) across a number of categories:

Property Crime (e.g., burglary, theft) 51% increase 984 to 1490.

Crimes Against the Person (e.g. Assault, Harassment, Threats to Kill, Murder) 34% increase 357 to 480.

Criminal Damage and Public Order 37% 632 to 866.

There was an overall decrease in reported incidents of Drugs and weapons Offences by -4% from 523 to 500. Within this category Possession of a Firearm increased by 300% from 2 to 8 incidents.

In a recent study (2019) about the perception of safety among people living in an area of Dublin, young people's safety concerns were linked to being *robbed, bullied, chased* as well as getting involved in physical and online fights.

What do children, young people and parents think?

Crime and safety featured as a significant concern for children and young people. This included worries about stranger danger, being robbed, being beaten up, road safety, bullying, gender-based violence, racism, anti-social behaviour and drug-related activity.

They identified a need for more Gardaí, street lights and cycles lanes.

Young people across all age ranges, parents and service providers all identified the need for safe spaces for young people to hang out as a priority.

In the main, parents' concerns in relation to crime and safety reflected those of children and young people.

In terms of support, peer support for parents and information about services was highlighted.

Children, young people and parents identified those that they viewed as requiring particular mention for support: homeless families, families affected by domestic violence, families affected by substance misuse, families with children with additional needs and migrant families.

OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

<p>What do people working with children, young people and families think?</p>	<p>Enhancing supports to parents and families was a key priority identified by service providers in the consultation. This includes exploring new provision, delivering programmes and interventions and providing information.</p> <p>Parents and families warranting particular attention were identified by services as those experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, substance misuse, with members with additional needs, migrant families, families from the Traveller/Roma community and fathers.</p> <p>The value of adopting approaches that are trauma-informed, focus on early intervention and prevention, provide peer support and are culturally sensitive was highlighted.</p>
<p>Priorities emerging?</p>	<p>Parent Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to develop the parentingsupport.ie website and related social media sites as an information hub for parents and professionals who work with them. • To explore the feasibility of developing a Parenting Hub in Co. Kildare. • To support the sustainability of existing parent and toddler groups and the development of new groups in response to need. • To deliver a range of supports for parents to include information, peer support and culturally appropriate parenting programmes, with a specific focus on migrant parents, parents of children with additional needs, parents from the Traveller and Roma communities and fathers. <p>Family Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the future role of the Strengthening Families Programme in the county. • To identify the supports currently provided to families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including B&Bs and hotels and consider how any identified gaps can be addressed. <p>Domestic Violence and Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the roll out of <i>Safe and Together</i> Domestic violence training for professionals. • To support the development of a domestic violence and abuse resource for Co. Kildare. • To support the delivery of training for professionals in relation to culturally sensitive response to individuals from ethnic minority groups who are experiencing domestic violence. <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore young people’s perception and experience of personal and community safety and potential responses.

OUTCOME 4: ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

What is the data and research telling us?

Young people not in employment, education or training

There were 6,633 on the Live Register in Co. Kildare in October 2022. Of these, 665 (10%) are under 25 years old.

A study undertaken in Co. Kildare in 2018 estimated the number of young people not engaged in employment, education or training aged 16-24 years in the county to be 1,100.

The Government Strategy Pathways to Work (2021-2025) recognises the importance of supporting young people to develop general and **transversal skills to gain and sustain employment.*

**Skills that can be used in a variety of situations in life and in work.*

Local Youth Employment Strategies report (OECD, 2014) recommends improved joint working among local stakeholders as a means to create more integrated supports and a continuum of interventions to help alleviate youth unemployment. Specifically, 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.

Family Resource Centres

According to Census 2016 data, there are **20,592** people in Co. Kildare living in small areas deemed to be disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged, which represents **9.25%** of the total population.

Family Resource Centres are recognised as key community infrastructure providing a range of community development, social inclusion and family supports across the lifecycle.

There are 4 Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare for a population of 222,130 (2016). In Kerry there are 12 for a population of 147,554 and in Donegal there are 10 for a population of 158,785.

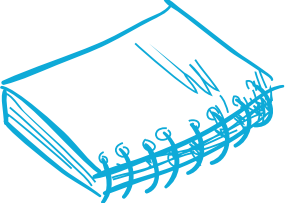
The Family Resource Centre National Forum report: *Our Story (2020)* identifies the requirement for a national, funded pre-development strategy for new Family Resource Centres in areas of need. The objective is an additional 10 Centres nationally by 2025.

Childcare

There are 182 childcare services in Co. Kildare registered with Tusla.

According to Kildare County Childcare Committee, there are pressures on services, with a high demand particularly in the north of the county, namely in Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and also Naas and Sallins. In Kildare, baby places (for under 1s) are severely limited. Vacant ECCE places are generally for afternoon sessions, which are not in high demand from parents (KCCC by email 20.10.22).

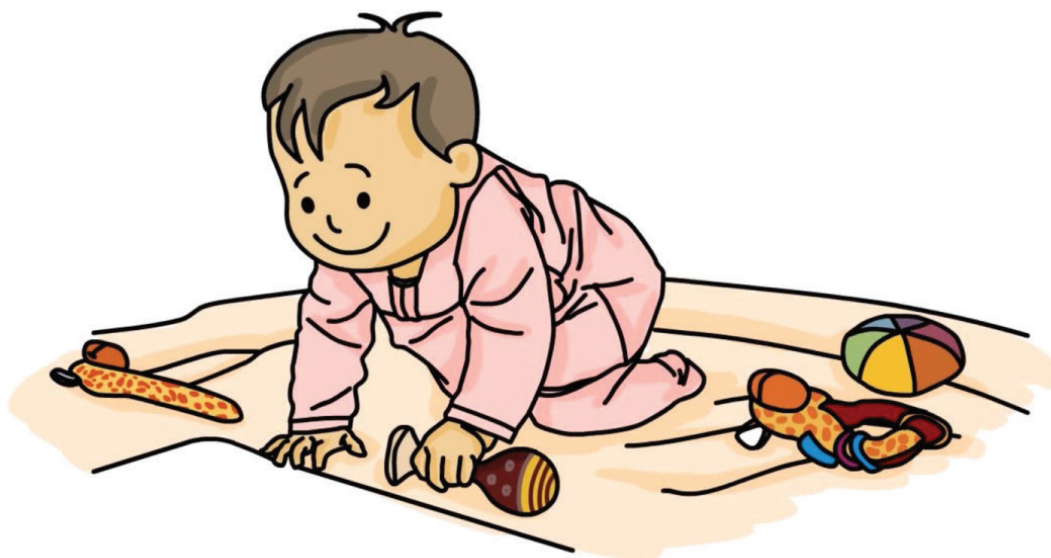
OUTCOME 4: ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

	<p>Pobal's Early Years Sector Report 20/21 recorded the percentage of vacant childcare places in Kildare at 18%, which was the joint 8th lowest county number of vacant places (the State average was 21%)²⁰. The same report explored capacity by stage of childhood. In terms of capacity for babies, Kildare has the 4th lowest capacity in the State at 0.7%.</p> <p>A key policy in the recently adopted Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029) is to support and facilitate the provision of good quality and accessible childcare facilities at suitable locations within the county.</p> <p><i>First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028</i> outlines measures to tackle early childhood poverty including expanded access to free and subsidised Early Learning and Care (ELC).</p>
<p>What do children, young people and parents think?</p> 	<p>Young people identified a number of items in relation to engagement in education, employment and training: need for enhanced support and resources for career guidance in school, life skills training for young people, work experience opportunities, support with identifying and accessing job opportunities.</p> <p>For some young people knowing what to do after school was a concern, resulting in them feeling confused, lost and hopeless.</p> <p>Extra support for young people with additional needs was highlighted by parents, young people and services.</p> <p>Young people outlined some issues that may affect school attendance and contribute toward disengagement from education for some young people, such as exam stress and pressure, bullying, literacy/numeracy issues, discrimination, school culture, learning difficulties and mental health.</p> <p>Parents and young people identified pressure on childcare places as an issue.</p> <p>Parents and young people identified financial pressure and cost of living as of significant concern.</p>

²⁰https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2022/05/Pobal_22_EY_20-21-Report_final_2.pdf

OUTCOME 4: ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

<p>What do people working with children, young people and families think?</p>	<p>Services identified a need for enhanced coordination of response and information sharing in relation to young people who are not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>The importance of developing key life skills, especially for more vulnerable young people was highlighted as key to successful access and progression in education, employment and training and to support independent living.</p> <p>Service providers value the supports offered by the Family Resource Centres and recognise their key role in supporting children, young people, families and communities. It is widely recognised that additional investment is required in order to expand the Family Resource Centre programme in the county in order to respond to need.</p> <p>Service providers highlighted the significant gaps in childcare service provision, which is not meeting current demand in many areas, and the impact on children and families of being unable to access early years care and education when needed.</p>
<p>Priorities emerging?</p>	<p>Educational Opportunity and Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To convene an inter-agency discussion to explore the barriers to young peoples' progression in education, training & employment. <p>Community Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support the expansion of the Family Resource Centre programme in the county.• To agree and promote the proposed approach to childcare infrastructure planning emerging from the commissioned research.



What is the data and research telling us?

Youth Participation

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. In addition to being a human right, the involvement of children and young people in decision-making facilitates the development of more effective policies, services and activities.

Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Strategy (2019-2023) describes the benefits derived from including children and young people in decision-making about issues that affect their lives as: improved services, improved decision-making, promoting children's protection, enhancing children and young people's skills, changing attitudes, personal development, a better-informed society.

The Lundy Model of Participation identifies 4 key elements required for meaningful participation of young people on decision-making: space, voice, audience and influence.

One of the key principles of participation identified by the Council of Europe is that: Particular efforts should be made to enable participation of children and young people with fewer opportunities, including those who are vulnerable or affected by discrimination.

The Planet Youth approach, also known as the "*Icelandic Model*" has been adopted in a number of locations throughout Ireland and elsewhere. It is an environmental prevention approach which aims to promote protective factors and reduce risk factors for young people at community level. Iceland, where the approach originally developed, has reported significant decline in substance misuse among its young people in recent years. The approach has a number of elements in the cycle: survey, analysis, reporting, consultation and action. Other data-driven models, such as Communities that Care, from the US are being adapted for a European context.

Direct Provision (DP)

There are 3 Direct Provision Centres in Co. Kildare, with a capacity for 529 residents. 90 residents are under 18 years (Dec, 2022).

The consultation undertaken for the development of the Irish Government's *White Paper to End Direct Provision* identified a number of issues pertaining to children and young people including: suitability of the accommodation for children with special needs; the particular impact of COVID-19 on children living in DP Centres and the lack of amenities in some centres.

The European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018, adopted by the Irish Government, recognise children under 18 years as a vulnerable group afforded additional rights and protections including that: *A standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development must be ensured.*

Key messages from the children and young people living in Direct Provision who participated in the Report by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (2020) as summarised in the report, are that: *they want to be a part of Irish society, they want to 'settle', they want to feel safe, be treated equally and make Ireland their home.*

Their isolation from Irish communities and wider society is not helping them achieve the inclusion that they crave. This can make them feel angry, hurt and ashamed. They are still happy and grateful to Ireland. They are proud of and want to share their own cultures and heritage, and also to participate fully all in parts of Irish life. They want to embrace and be embraced by Irish society.

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. Teenagers need places that offer opportunities to socialise, be with peers and explore their emerging independence. This is an important dimension for the development of their sense of identity and belonging.


541 young people aged 11-18 years in Celbridge (22% of the population in this age range) were consulted in the development of *Somewhere to Hang Out: Teenagers' Outdoor Recreational Needs in Celbridge (2022)*.

Providing outdoor spaces for teenage play and recreation and engaging them in consultation and design processes helps to create stewardship, ownership, respect and a sense of pride in their community. This has the potential to facilitate broad societal benefits including improved community relations between adults and teenagers, a reduction in anti-social behaviour, and environmental and community improvements.

A comprehensive consultation was undertaken with parents and young people as part of the development of the Co. Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028. One of the key findings from the consultation was that the belief held by the young people that they were 'not welcome' in certain public spaces e.g. playgrounds, shops, shopping centres, restaurants and cafes: *Young people growing up in Kildare feel a strong sense of exclusion from public and community spaces by virtue of being 'a young person'. (Barron, 2017)²¹.*

²¹Play and Recreation needs of children and young people growing up in Co. Kildare, Ireland (Carol Barron, 2017) [unpublished]

OUTCOME 5: CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD

	<p>The report recommends that <i>this should be addressed within the planning and development of play and recreational spaces and places throughout the county.</i></p> <p>Newbridge has experienced significant growth over recent decades. From 1996-2016 the total population of Co. Kildare grew by 68.4%, the second highest rate in the State, however over the same period, Newbridge grew by 189%. Newbridge is the town with the largest population in the county. According to the Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029) it will remain the town with the largest population into 2029.</p> <p>The need for youth space in Newbridge has been well documented in recent reports e.g. <i>Feasibility Study for the provision of open access, social, recreational, arts and culture space for young people in Newbridge (2017).</i></p> <p>It is stated policy in the Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029) to: <i>Ensure the needs of children and young people, including those with disabilities and additional needs, in the provision of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities are provided for in the community in which they live.</i></p> <p>It is a stated objective in the County Development Plan that Kildare County Council will: <i>Work with all target groups, such as young people (including among other networks, Comhairle na nÓg), older people, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, including Traveller and Roma communities, to advance, encourage and support their full participation in society.</i></p>
<p>What do children, young people and parents think?</p> 	<p>Young people were keen for their opinions to be sought and valued; that they be listened to and heard and that they would have an influence in matters affecting their lives.</p> <p>They suggested a number of ways of facilitating this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask young people to become involved/to engage • Anonymous surveys to gather opinions • Suggestion boxes in schools • Via Comhairle na nÓg • Increase confidence through buddy system, with support and encouragement from adults • Invite input into local plans and policies • Young people attend Kildare County Council meetings • Via Students Councils in schools • Raise awareness among young people of local decision making structures and processes • Enhance respect for young people in decision making • Develop more youth friendly processes

OUTCOME 5: CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD

- Develop better links between young people and decision makers e.g. TDs
- Listen to young people
- Establish Youth groups
- Group work/discussions in school
- Forums for young people
- Workshops/talks in the community
- Positive role models
- Effective ways to contact and communicate with young people
- Student Councils linked to Kildare County Council
- Clear mechanisms for young people to communicate with decision-makers

Some young people felt that adults are not seeking their opinions or listening and acting on their suggestions, even when communicated to them.

Children, young people and parents all agreed that the need for more amenities, facilities and activities (indoor and outdoor) for children and young people in Co. Kildare is a priority.

Some specific items were named:

Safe Hang out spaces (indoor and outdoor); covered areas with benches; parks; trees, plants and wildlife areas; forest walks; sports facilities – basketball, football, tennis, horse riding, trampoline, swimming pool; playgrounds; gym; zip wires; crazy golf; amusement park; indoor play centres; arcades; skateparks; roller skate rink; shops, circus, music facilities – recording studio, drama, festivals and family events.

What do people working with children, young people and families think?

The importance of the participation of young people in Co. Kildare in decision-making about issues that affect their lives was highlighted repeatedly by service providers.

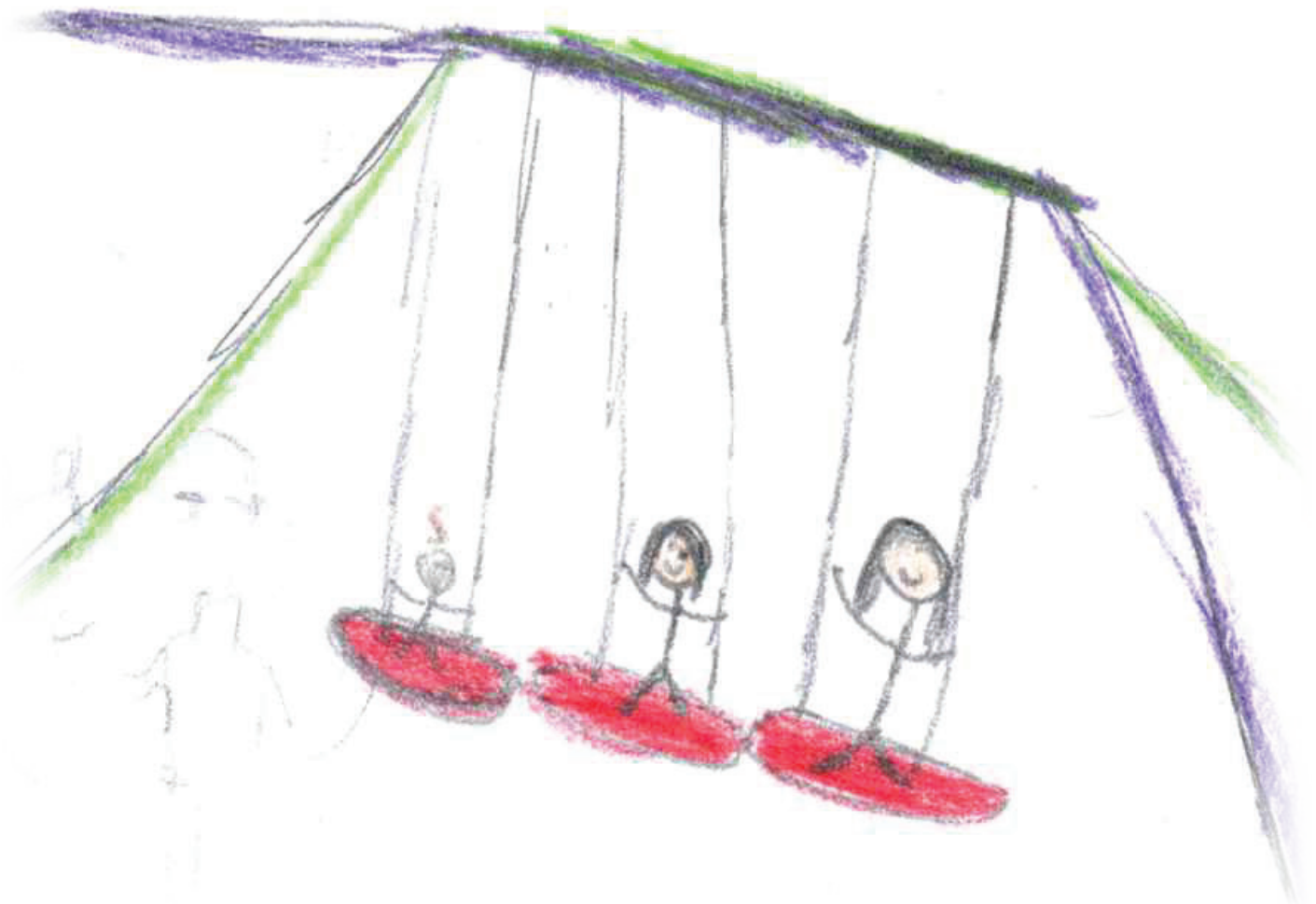
There is a keen interest in continuing to explore how best to facilitate youth participation in local structures and processes, including CYPSC.

This includes how young people can inform planning and delivery of responses to their needs and hearing how programmes, interventions and services impact their lives.

Hearing the voice of children, young people and families living in Direct Provision in order to identify and respond to their needs was recognised as requiring a coordinated focus.

OUTCOME 5: CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD

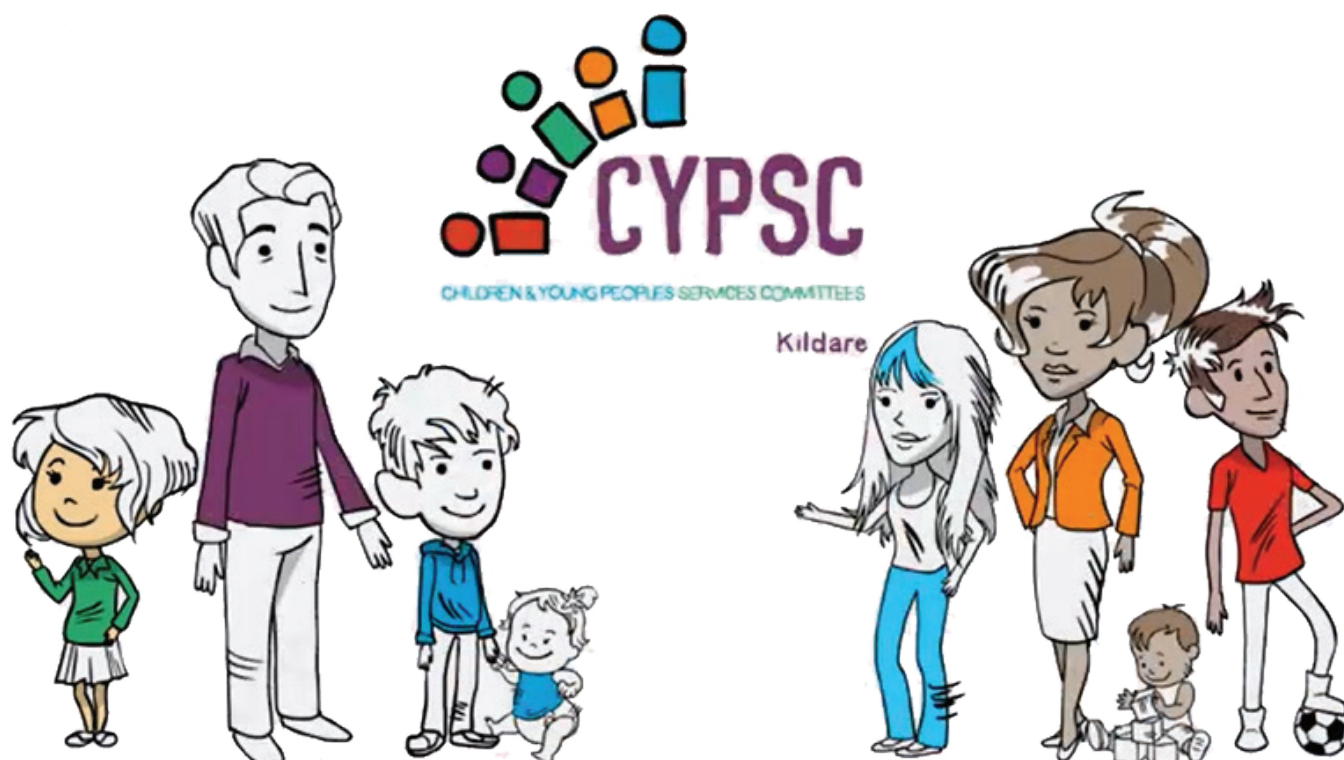
	<p>There is an interest in considering whether Planet Youth or another data-driven, prevention approach is appropriate and feasible in a Kildare context.</p> <p>Across the range of services, there was a strong acknowledgement of the need for safe youth-friendly spaces and places (indoor and outdoor) in our communities, with specific reference to Celbridge and Newbridge.</p>
Priorities emerging?	<p>Youth Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support the implementation of a data driven, evidence based approach in the county, taking account of the findings from the Planet Youth feasibility study.• To support the voice of children, young people and their families in Direct Provision and develop responses where appropriate.• To support the development of youth space and place in areas where a need has been identified e.g. Celbridge, Newbridge.



SUMMARY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR CO. KILDARE

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	Mental Health and Wellbeing, Trauma Informed Practice, Substance Misuse
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	Educational Opportunity and Inclusion
3. Safe and protected from harm	Parent Support, Family Support, Domestic Violence and Abuse, Safety
4. Economic security and opportunity	Educational Opportunity and Inclusion, Community Infrastructure
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Youth Participation

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management - CYPSC may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of interagency protocols, development of information sharing protocols, interagency training.	Workforce Development, Youth Participation, Resources, Promotion, Coordination



ACTION PLAN FOR CO. KILDARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY			
Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To enhance service levels and responsiveness via increased resourcing based on evidence of need.	To review and update the Business Case for Integrated Youth Mental Health Provision to reflect current needs, gaps and priorities.	HSE Tusla, KCoCo, In Sync, FRC Network, CKLP
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To enhance awareness of and access to mental health supports for young people.	To develop an information resource for parents and professionals in relation to referral pathways for mental health services and supports.	HSE FRC Network, In Sync
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To enhance the level and inter-agency nature of the support provided in the peri natal period.	To support and promote the inter-agency Minding Me initiative for new and expectant mothers and their supporters.	HSE In Sync, Tusla, FRCs
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To optimise the benefits to children, young people and families of the Healthy Ireland Fund investment in Co. Kildare	To support the continued implementation of the Healthy Ireland programme in Co. Kildare.	Kildare County Council HSE, Tusla, FRC Network, In Sync
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To optimise the benefits to children, young people and families of the Sláintecare investment in Co. Kildare.	To support and promote the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Co. Kildare.	Kildare County Council HSE, Tusla, FRCs, CKLP, In Sync, SWRDATF
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To enhance the capacity of schools and early years services to support the health and wellbeing of their students/children in their care.	To raise awareness among schools and early years services of the external supports available to them to support the health and wellbeing of their students/children in their care.	Tusla Teach Tearmainn, KCCC, SWRDATF, NEPS, HSE
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To develop shared goals in relation to Infant Mental Health and an agreed approach to achieving them.	To support the development of an Infant Mental Health Strategy for Co. Kildare.	HSE KCCC, In Sync, HSE, CKLP, Tusla
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To enhance the understanding, knowledge, skills and confidence of parents to respond to their young people who self-harm.	To support the provision of information and support for parents of young people that self-harm.	HSE Tusla, KWETB

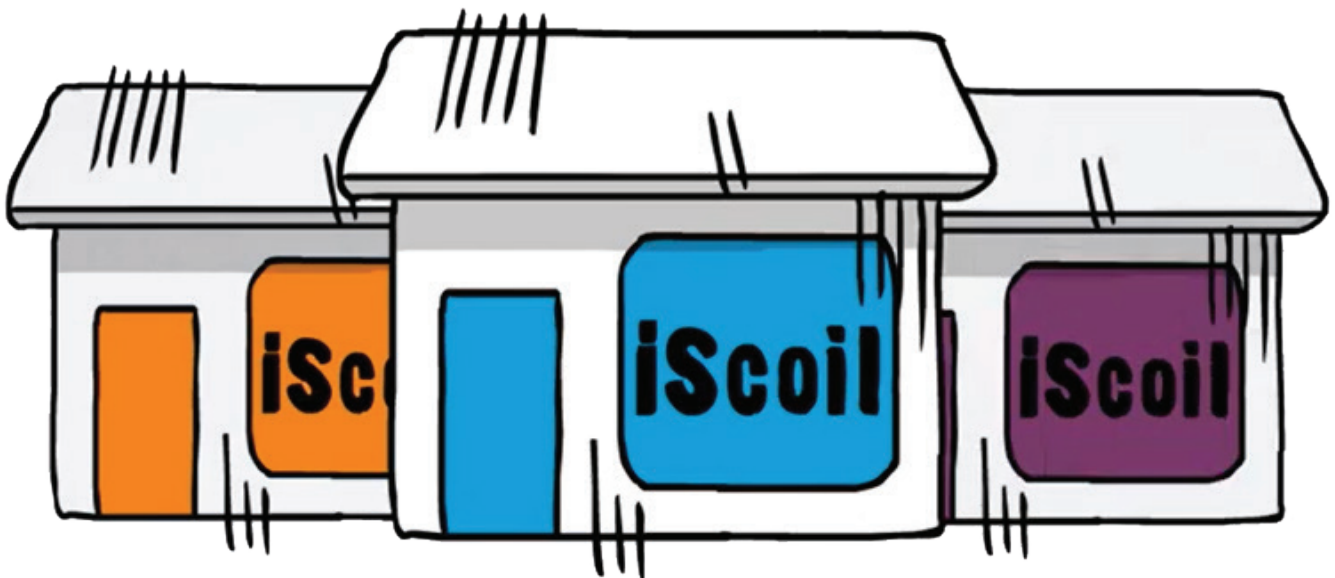
OUTCOME 1: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Trauma-Informed Practice	To increase skills, knowledge and understanding amongst our local services of a trauma-informed approach to supporting children, young people and families.	To convene an inter-agency group to collectively consider the role of a trauma-informed approach in supporting children, young people & families in Co. Kildare.	In Sync Youth & Family Services HSE, Tusla, Maynooth University, Kildare County Council, KWETB
Trauma-Informed Practice	To increase skills, knowledge and understanding amongst our local services of a trauma-informed approach to supporting children, young people and families.	To explore the development of a new micro-credentials course in relation to trauma-informed practice.	Maynooth University In Sync, KWETB, Tusla
Substance Misuse	To enhance awareness and knowledge among young people, parents and professionals about potential harms of vaping.	To support the development of an information campaign for young people, parents and professionals in relation to vaping.	SWRDATAF In Sync, And Garda Síochána, HSE
Substance Misuse	To enhance the level and collaborative nature of support to children, young people and families affected by problematic substance misuse.	To explore a collaborative inter-agency approach to the implementation of the Hidden Harm Strategy, to include supports for children, young people and families where problematic substance misuse is present.	SWRDATAF Tusla, HSE, FRC Network, In Sync



OUTCOME 2: ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion	To develop a common understanding and shared priorities in relation to school attendance.	To establish a local school attendance task force to gain a clearer picture of the current situation in relation to school non-attendance and to explore potential responses.	TESS Maynooth University, NEPS
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion	To enhance access to iScoil in response to identified need.	To support the implementation of the iScoil Framework for Co. Kildare.	TESS In Sync
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion	To enhance opportunities for parents and children to experience the benefits of shared play-based activities.	To continue to support the local roll out of I AM BABA, My Place to Play and Play Day.	FRC Network KCCC, In Sync, Kildare County Council
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion	To enhance the level and inter-agency nature of the support to young people with ASD and their families	To provide a range of supportive, developmental and recreational opportunities for young people with ASD and their families.	FRC Network KCCC, In Sync, Kildare County Council



OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Domestic violence and abuse	To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence.	To support the roll out of Safe and Together Domestic violence training for professionals.	In Sync Tusla, Teach Tearmainn
Domestic violence and abuse	To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence.	To support the development of a Domestic Violence and Abuse resource for Co. Kildare.	In Sync Tusla, Teach Tearmainn
Domestic violence and abuse	To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence.	To support the delivery of training for professionals in relation to culturally-sensitive response to individuals from ethnic minority groups who are experiencing domestic violence.	Teach Tearmainn Probation Service, CKLP
Family Support	To enhance the level and coordination of supports for families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including B&Bs and hotels.	To identify the supports currently provided to families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including B&Bs and hotels and consider how any identified gaps can be addressed.	Kildare County Council HSE
Family Support	To clarify the inter-agency commitment to continued implementation of the Strengthening Families Programme .	To consider the future role of the Strengthening Families Programme in the county.	SWRDATAF Tusla, CKLP, Foróige, KWETB
Parent Support	To enhance the level of awareness among parents and professionals of available services and supports in Co. Kildare.	To continue to develop the parentingsupport.ie website and related social media platforms as an information hub for parents and professionals who work with them.	In Sync HSE (HPandI), FRC Network, KCoCo (Library Service), KCCC
Parent Support	To enhance the level, coordination and accessibility of supports for parents.	To explore the feasibility of developing a Parenting Hub in Co. Kildare.	FRC Network KCCC, Tusla



OUTCOME 3: SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Parent Support	To enhance the level, coordination and accessibility of supports for parents.	To deliver a range of supports for parents to include information, peer support and culturally appropriate parenting programmes, with a specific focus on migrant parents, parents of children with additional needs, parents from the Traveller and Roma communities, and fathers.	FRC Network Tusla, KCCC, KCoCo (Library Service), In Sync, CKLP
Parent Support	To enhance opportunities for peer support for parents of young children.	To support the sustainability of existing parent and toddler groups and the development of new groups in response to need.	KCCC KCoCo, Tusla, CKLP, In Sync
Safety	To gain knowledge and understanding of young people's perception and experience of personal and community safety.	To explore young people's perception and experience of personal and community safety and potential responses.	An Garda Síochána In Sync, KCoCo (Community Team)

OUTCOME 4: ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Community Infrastructure	To increase the number and reach of Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare.	To support the expansion of the Family Resource Centre programme in the county.	Tusla FRC Network, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare County Council
Community Infrastructure	To enhance inter-agency coordination and effectiveness of forward planning for childcare infrastructure.	To agree and promote the proposed approach to childcare infrastructure planning emerging from the commissioned research.	Kildare County Childcare Committee Kildare County Council, Tusla
Educational Opportunity and Inclusion	To develop a common understanding and shared priorities in relation to young people aged 16-25years not engaged in employment, education or training.	To convene an inter-agency discussion to explore the barriers to young peoples' progression in education, training & employment.	CKLP DSP, In Sync, KWETB

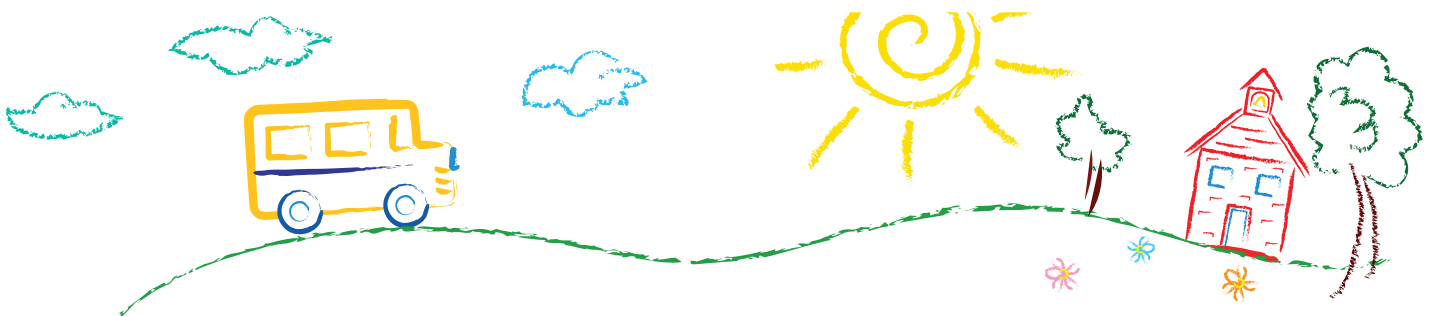
OUTCOME 5: CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR WORLD

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Youth Participation	To support the voice of young people in service planning, development and delivery.	To support the implementation of a data driven, evidence-based approach in the county, taking account of the findings from the Planet Youth feasibility study.	SWRDATAF Maynooth University, KWETB, In Sync
Youth Participation	To identify and respond to the support needs of children, young people and their families living in Direct Provision.	To support the voice of children, young people and their families in Direct Provision and develop responses where appropriate.	CKLP In Sync, Maynooth University
Youth Participation	To enhance the availability of teen-friendly space and place in our local communities.	To support the development of youth space and place in areas where a need has been identified e.g. Celbridge, Newbridge.	Kildare County Council In Sync, KWETB, Newbridge FRC



CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Lead Agency & Partners
Inter-agency Co-ordination	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a critical incident.	To develop an inter-agency Critical Incident Policy.	CYPSC member organisations
Workforce Development	To enhance skills, confidence, competence, morale and responsiveness of the local workforce.	To support the local inter-agency workforce through continuous professional development opportunities and training, as identified in the CYPSC-commissioned training needs analysis and in response to emerging needs.	CYPSC member organisations
Youth Participation	To ensure that the voice of children and young people informs the work of CYPSC.	To develop and agree processes and structures to support ongoing engagement of young people in the work of CYPSC.	CYPSC member organisations
Resources	To leverage additional funds to support the implementation of the CYPP.	To pursue opportunities to secure resources to support the implementation of the Kildare CYPP e.g. Healthy Ireland Fund, Dormant Accounts Fund, What Works Initiative, Just Transition.	CYPSC member organisations
Promotion	To enhance support for, and awareness of CYPSC work to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.	To highlight and promote the work of CYPSC through a variety of media.	CYPSC member organisations



MONITORING AND REVIEW

The monitoring and review of this plan will be undertaken in line with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework.

An annual Work Plan will be agreed for each of the 3 years of the plan and an Annual Programme of Work will be submitted to Tusla National CYPSC Office and will be available on www.cypsc.ie

A Work Plan Progress update will be presented at every Kildare CYPSC meeting.

A mid-term and annual review of the Work Plan will be completed. An Annual Progress Report will be submitted to the Tusla national CYPSC office and for the attention of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

An overall review of the 3-year Plan will be completed as part of the planning process for the next 3-year Plan.

The CYPSC website, www.cypsc.ie will be used as a tool to support the implementation of the CYPP (Children and Young People's Plan).

Both Main Committee and Sub-Groups will have a role in the ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan.







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