

Introduction:

This report has been prepared for the attention of the national CYPSC Steering Group. It provides a high level overview of CYPSC implementation to date in 2016. It includes a summary of the work of local CYPSC that returned progress updates (15) for the period January to April 2016 combined with work at national level through the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC.

There are now twenty-three CYPSC established or in formation as detailed in Table 1.

Carlow	Cavan Monaghan	Cork	Donegal	Dublin City North	Dublin City South
Fingal	Galway	Kerry	Kildare	Kilkenny	Limerick
Longford Westmeath	Louth	Mayo	Meath	Roscommon	Sligo Leitrim
South Dublin	Tipperary	Waterford	Wexford	Wicklow	

Overview of local CYPSC activities - January to April 2016

This overview offers a helicopter view of the expanse of local CYPSC activity. Below these headlines exists a depth and volume of activity undertaken by each CYPSC under each outcome. In reporting on their work there is an overlap across the five national outcomes, with varying interpretations by local CYPSC of what constitutes outcome 1 work versus outcome 2 work and many CYPSC aligning an activity to two or more national outcomes.

Outcome 1 Active & Healthy: The trend noted at the end of 2015 for the greatest number of local CYPSC activities being aligned to Outcome 1 persists. CYPSCs in particular are focussing on Child Health 0-6 years, Teen Health, Child and Youth Mental Health.

Outcome 3 Safe & Protected: Activities aligned to Outcome 3 are the second highest in number. Activities pertaining to this outcome include support for Prevention, Partnership and Family Support led by Tusla Child and Family Agency, some work concerning internet safety and work with An Garda Síochána's Safety Training for Transition Year students.

Outcome 2 Learning & Development: CYPSC reports in this period indicate that activity under this outcome includes supporting children in their Transitions from pre-school to primary school and from primary to post-primary school; as well as some local research activity with schools regarding Early School Leavers and Anti-bullying.

Outcome 5 Connected & Respected: A range of activity under Outcome 5 to ensure that the voices and opinions of children and young people are heard and responded to is taking place. This activity includes work on a proposal for funding to deliver an orientation programme to 10-18 year olds living in an Emergency Reception & Orientation Centre.

All Outcomes: This is the next highest classification of activity by local CYPSC with activity concerning the development of three-year Children and Young People's Plans and specific tasks within this process such as Mapping of Services and Needs Analyses reported by local CYPSC.

Outcome 4 Economic Security: Two CYPSC reported activity under Outcome 4 in this reporting period. This is an increase of 1 on the last reporting period. A Youth Employment Programme planned in 2015 is now in operation and the establishment of a CYPSC Sub Group to address Outcome 4 have been reported.

Children and Young People's Plans

Each CYPSC is required to develop an evidence informed three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which is submitted to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for quality assurance purposes. The following briefly outlines this process.

Overview of the Quality Assurance Process for CYPPs:

CYPPs are sent to the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC who screens and provides informal feedback to the CYPSC prior to submission for Quality Assurance (QA). CYPSC can make changes based on the feedback provided. CYPSC then formally submit their CYPP to the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC, on behalf of DCYA. The National Co-ordinator convenes a Review Group comprising DCYA, Centre for Effective Services and Tusla to review the CYPP for Quality Assurance. The review applies a QA framework that considers:

1. The extent to which the CYPSC adhered to the template for CYPPs
2. The quality of the content of the CYPP
3. The degree to which the needs analysis informed the priority areas of the action plan
4. How aligned the priority areas are to the five outcome areas for children and young people
5. The quality of planning
6. Common themes and challenges emerging across CYPSC plans.

CYPSC whose plans complete the QA process receive written feedback from the Review Group. CYPSC whose plans do not complete the QA process receive Review Group feedback to their Chairperson through a meeting with the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC, and are asked to consider this feedback for incorporation into their CYPP.

CYPPs are a rich source of local information pertaining to children and young people in any county and pertaining to the services for children and young people provided in respective CYPSC areas. They also provide information to national on system-wide capacity regarding evidence informed, strategic planning; pointing to a need for the development of skills at service level in using evidence, conducting needs analysis, and specificity and measurability in planning.

National activity to date in 2016

The National Co-ordinator for CYPSC's role involves leading and implementation of the strategic plan for CYPSC. Some headline activity during the reporting period includes:

- Implementation of the national Communications Plan 2016 including development and dissemination of *CYPSCine* which was issued in March 2016 to promote awareness of CYPSC.
- Preparation of the Work Plan 2016-17 for the national CYPSC Steering Group.
- Facilitation of the CYPSC Co-ordinators national network: The first meeting of 2016 was held in March. The purpose is to support CYPSC Co-ordinators in their implementation role, assisting them to locate their work within a national context and provide a forum for learning and knowledge exchange.
- Support has been provided to DCYA on their work regarding
 - Guidance for the participation of children and young people in CYPSC
 - CYPSC National Steering Group
 - Community and voluntary sector Sub Group
 - A CYPSC National Implementation Group
- Screening of draft CYPPs prior to their submission to DCYA for quality assurance
- Scoping work for the development of a CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework
- Management of the national website www.cypsc.ie

Challenges

- The absence of CYPSC Co-ordinators in a number of areas is directly impacting the CYPSC initiative in a number of ways including
 - Prevention of completion of the national roll-out of CYPSC through establishment of CYPSC in Clare, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and Laois-Offaly
 - Lack of local capacity to support local CYPSC meetings resulting in some CYPSC being put on hold i.e. not meeting
 - Absence of personnel to co-ordinate the development of Children and Young People's Plans or new sub groups

Development opportunities

- Establishment of a CYPSC Chairpersons Learning Forum or Network to promote information exchange and best practice across CYPSC.
- Provision of education and training to primary CYPSC leadership - Chairpersons, vice Chairpersons and Co-ordinators.