

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Children and Young People's Plan

September 2024-September 2027

SUMMARY



What are Children and Young People's Services Committees?

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.

CYPSC ensure the connection of national policy with local implementation in their areas through planning and co-ordinating the provision of services for children and young people and by informing the deployment of resources, taking into account locally identified needs and those identified at national level. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the National Outcomes set out in Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2023-2028¹. The five National Outcomes that we want for all children and young people are:

1. Active & Healthy
2. Achieving in Learning & Development
3. Safe & Protected from Harm
4. Economic Security & Opportunity
5. Connected, Respected & Contributing to their World

As well as the DLR CYPSC main committee there is a subgroup dedicated to each outcome area.

What are CYPSC Children and Young People's Plans?

Each local committee develops and oversees the implementation of a strategic, evidence informed, three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), which is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in the area.

Action plans to improve the 5 National Outcomes are at the heart of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) CYPP Sept 2024-Sept 2027. The CYPP has been developed through consultation and planning with babies, children, young people, parents and staff members of statutory, community and voluntary services throughout the county. This second DLR CYPSC CYPP brings together a wide range of stakeholder services who are committed to working on an interagency basis to address the identified priority needs of the child and youth population. This plan also aspires to build the capacity of services in a range of sectors to hear and respond to the voice of diverse young service users in meaningful ways. See below for CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework.

¹ www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/280807/66d25198-b019-4734-b516-0014a119e261.pdf#page=null

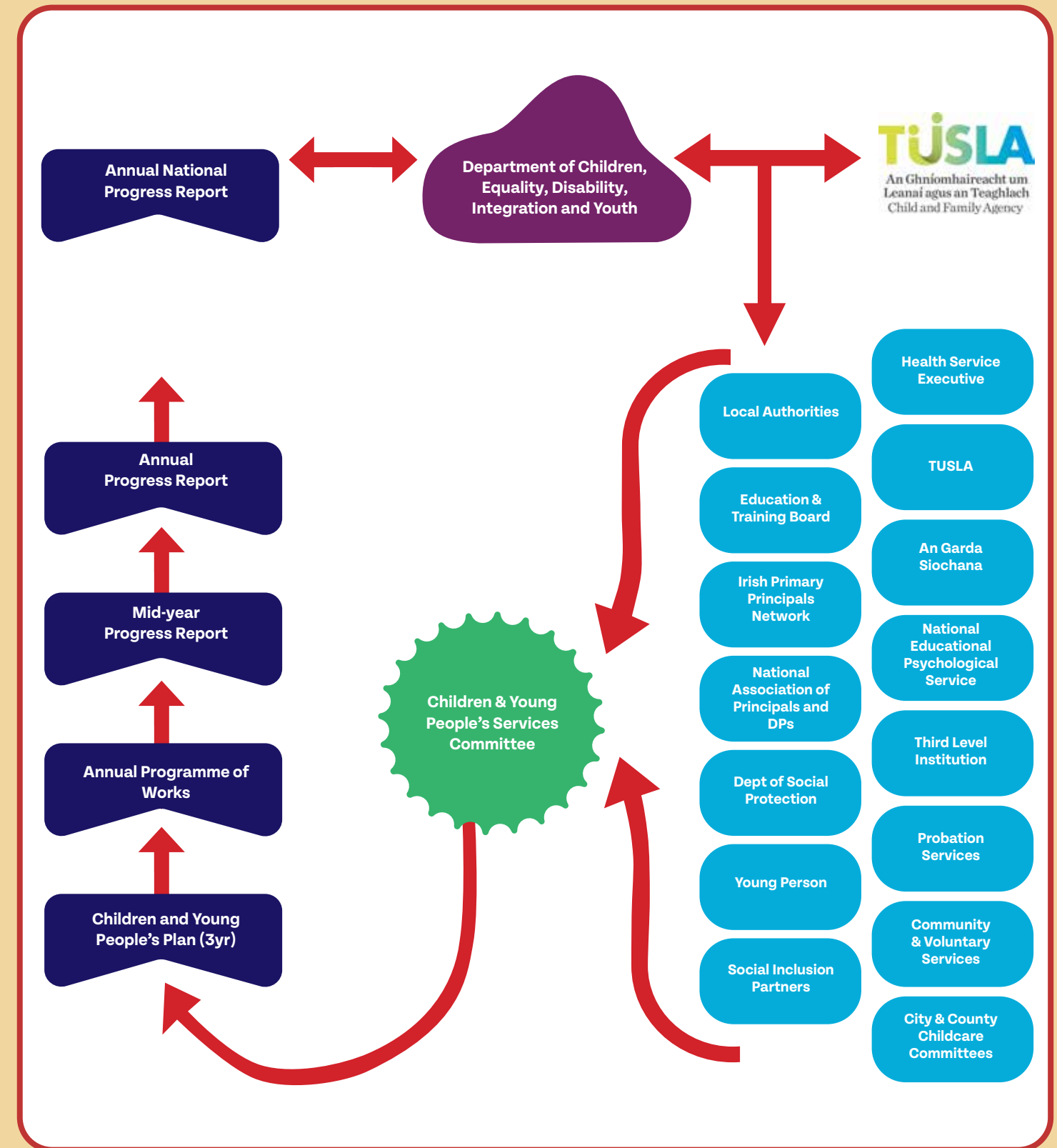


Figure 1: CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework

The full DLR CYPSC CYPP September 2024-September 2027 is available on the DLR CYPSC website (www.cypsc.ie) and this document is a summary of the process and action plan

Summary of the Developmental Phases of DLR CYPSC Children and Young People’s Plan from 2023-2024



Our Area – Children and Young People in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown – The Facts



Figure 2: Map of regions in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown area

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown is a county in the Dublin Region. It was established as its own county in 1994. Children and young people aged 0 to 24 years of age constitute approximately a third (72,777) of the entire population of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (233,860).

	Number in DLR	% of DLR Population
Child and Youth Population 0-24 years	72,777	31.1%
Child Population 0-17 years	50,583	21.6%
Young Adult Population 18-24 years	22,194	9.5%

Notable Population Characteristics in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown



Good/Very Good Health – The highest proportion of people in the country who report their health as being “good” or “very good” was in DLR at 88% (Census 2022).



Early Learning and Care – Almost 80% of children in DLR aged 3-4 years are enrolled in Early Learning and Care (Census, 2022).



Low rate of services for 0-2 year olds – Just under 60% of 0-2 year olds receive care from Early Learning and Care services; a number which may be skewed by the fact that very few childcare services actually offer care for babies under 1 year of age³.



Higher Levels of Disability for 15-24 years – The percentage of the population aged 0-24 with a disability to any extent is higher nationally than in DLR for the younger age groups, while from age 15 years upwards the DLR young people state higher levels of disability than the national average. In the age group 0-14 there are 3,344 children with a self-reported disability at any level of severity in DLR and in the 15-24 age group 6,244. (Census 2022)



Highest rates of Third Level Education – The highest proportion of people aged 15 years and over who had a third level education was in DLR at 65% (Census, 2022).



Lowest Unemployment Rate – DLR had the joint lowest unemployment rate nationally at 6% and joint lowest long-term unemployment rate at 3% (Census 2022).



Highest Rent in State – The highest average weekly rent in the country was in DLR at €442 (Census, 2022).

Highest Childcare Fees – The fees for all types of Early Learning and Care (0-5 years) provision in DLR are the highest nationally⁴.



Hidden pockets of Disadvantage – DLR includes areas of high socio-economic deprivation. Thirty-three of the 760 Small Areas in DLR are classified as disadvantaged (27) or very disadvantaged (6). Very Disadvantaged went from two Small Areas in the 2016 Census to 6 Small Areas in 2022 Census. In these areas, unemployment level is 21.4%. Twenty-eight per cent of the population aged 15+ has had education to primary level only, 44.3% are living in social housing and the lone parent ratio is at 42.4%. (Pobal Index)



Climate Action – Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council adopted its new Climate Action Plan in 2024. The Plan covers the period 2024-2029 and seeks to address the current and future impacts of climate change on its residents, visitors, businesses, workers and the County as a whole. The Council has signed up to the European Circular Cities Declaration, **being the first local authority in Ireland to do so**². (DLR LECP, 2023)



Working from Home – 57% of DLR residents worked from home at least some of the time. This was the highest rate in the State, and significantly above the average of 32% (Census 2022).



Lone Parents – Of the 8,476 families headed by a single parent, 85% were headed by a female (Census 2022).

6 2. https://www.dlrco.ie/sites/dlrco/files/2024-09/2024-09-09%20LECP%202024-2029%202023-2028_0.pdf

3. https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2022/05/Pobal_22_EV_20-21Report_final_2.pdf
4. Microsoft BI

Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing (Outcome 1)



"Better mental health services for young people and access to support to help people cope with their lives."

Young Person in Online Survey

"I like the park behind my house, we bring our own music and hang out there, use the swings. It's good for the mind."

Young Traveller Woman

"If I could change one thing it would be for everyone to get along and not fight over social media making it worse because it is worse on social media."

Young Person's Comment in Online Survey

"More youth clubs for children with a moderate-severe intellectual disability."

Teacher in Special School

Priority Actions

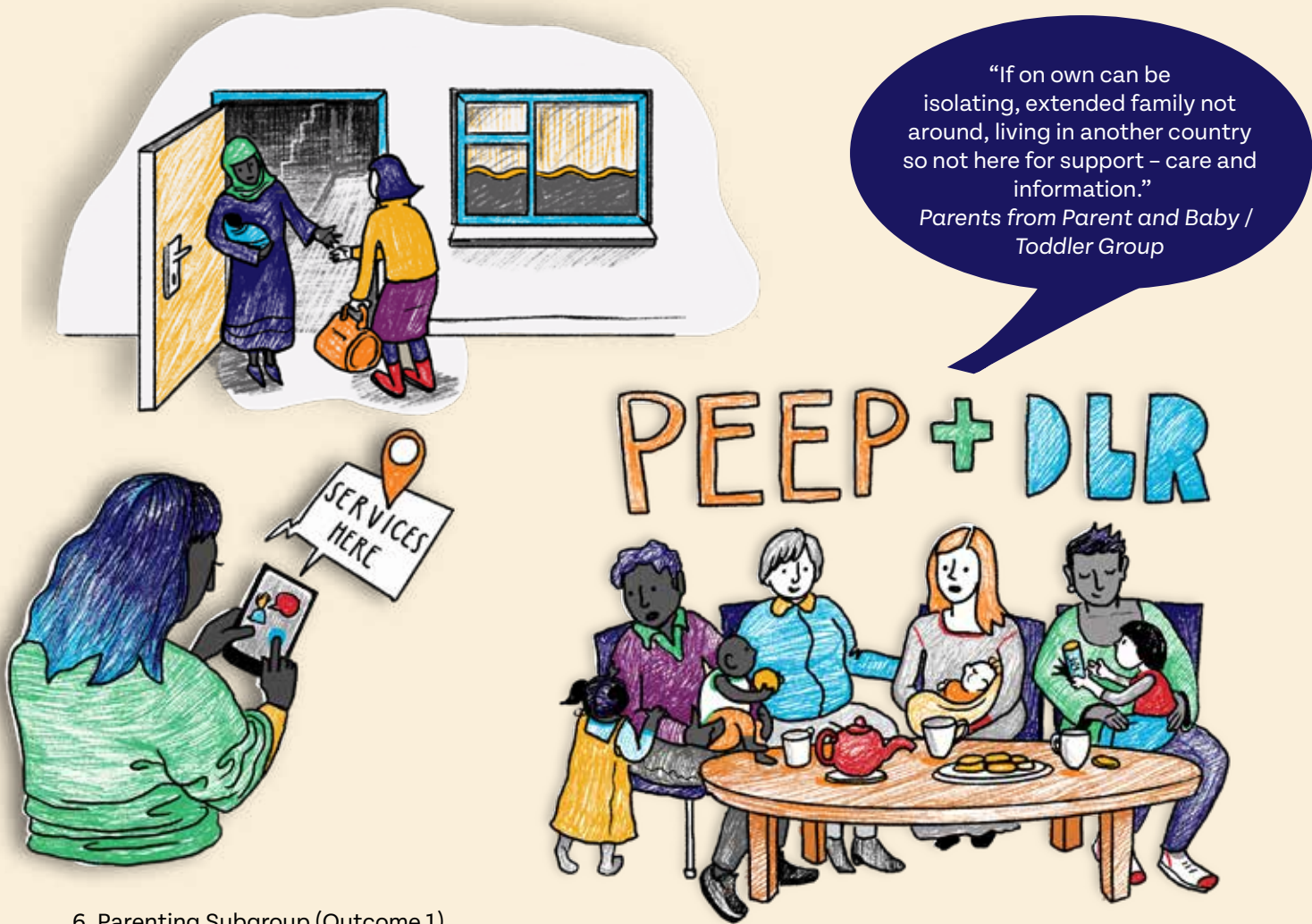




Outcome 1: Active and healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

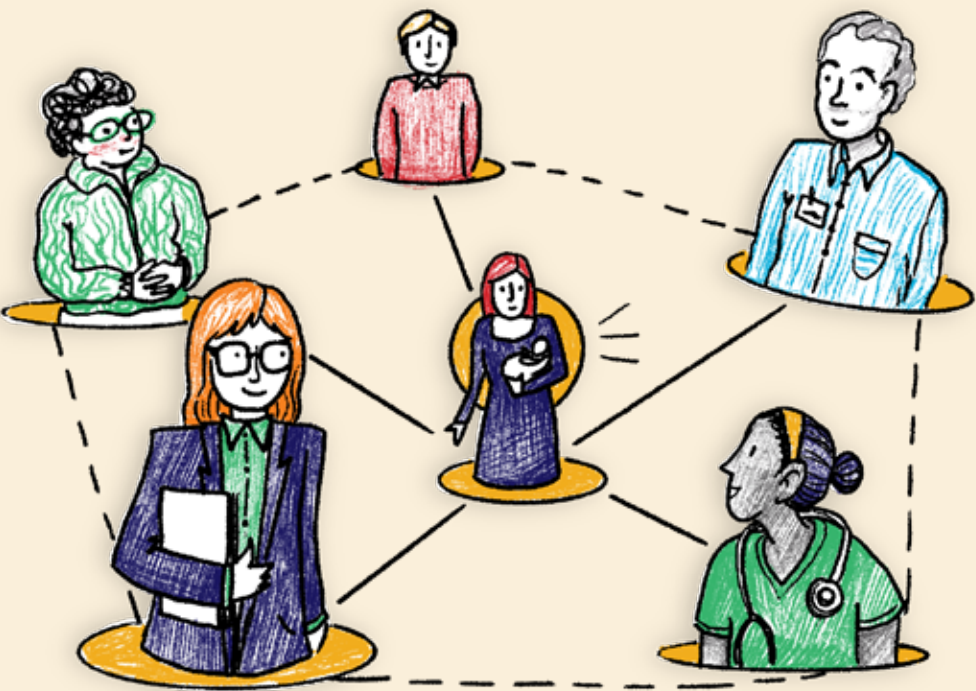
Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Body Image	1. Rolling out effective school-based interventions to address body image issues. 2. Research the benefit of early intervention programmes to improve positive body image in younger children.
Disability Waiting Lists	3. Support those on waiting lists through strengthening of mainstream inclusivity (community and youth services) for neurodiverse children and disabled young people.
Mental Health	4. Support development of low-level mental health interventions in DLR. 5. Develop mental health project with Traveller young people.
Vaping	6. Advocate for changes in vaping information, availability and advertising.

Parenting Subgroup (Outcome 1)



6. Parenting Subgroup (Outcome 1)

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Body Image	1. Support parents’ knowledge and skills in relation to body image and how to talk about it with children / young people.
Early Parenting Support	2. Support and strengthen vulnerable families with children aged 0-2. 3. Support vulnerable (new) families in DLR (Home visiting). 4. Re-establish a vibrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Network Group for infant practitioners in DLR.
Services for families in homeless accommodation in DLR	5. Develop better wrap-around services and support to parents and children in homeless accommodation. 6. Support parents in homeless accommodation to enhance attachment, self-esteem, trust in others, and joyful engagement. 7. Provide opportunity for play, activities, events within homeless hubs and local communities.

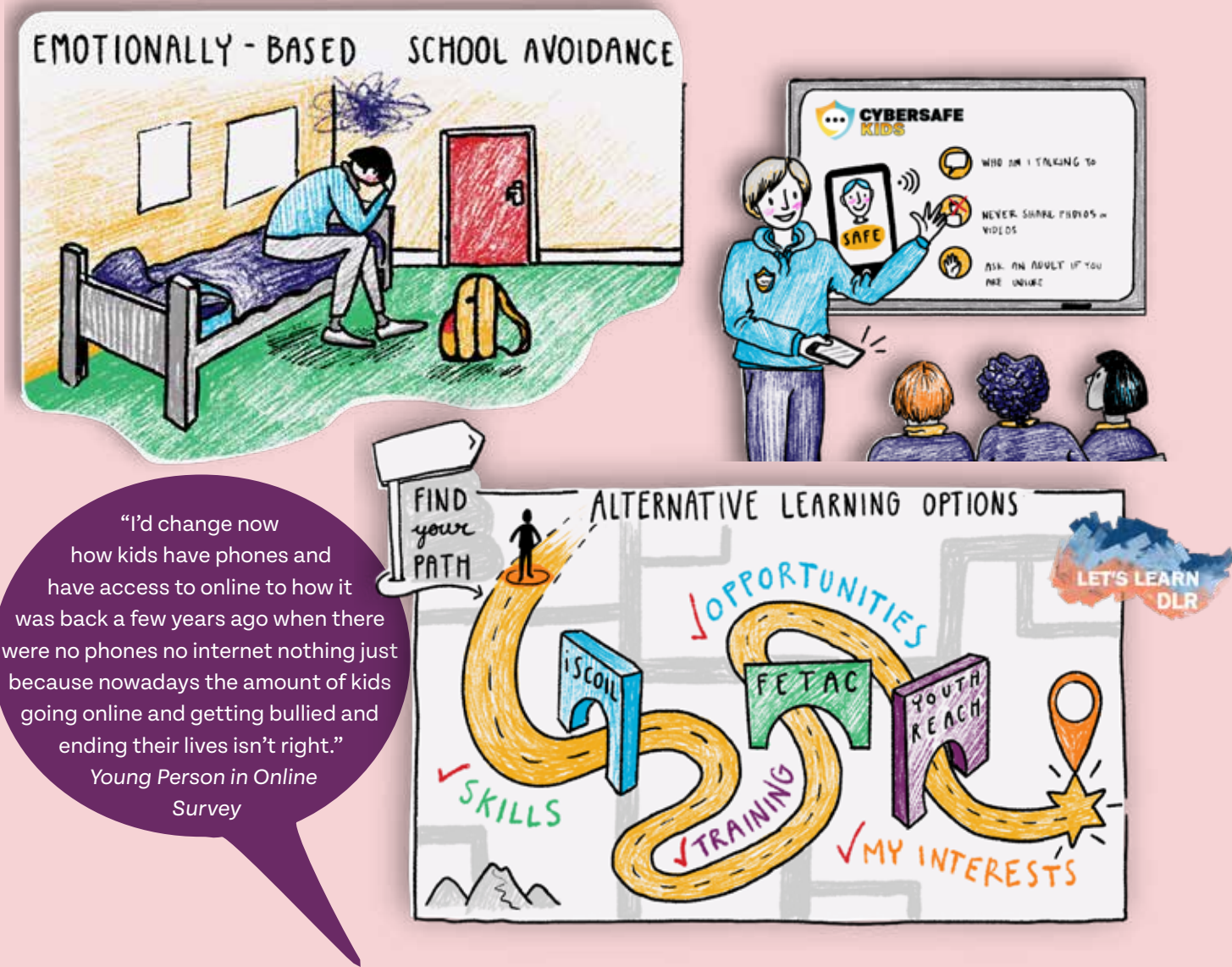


“Parenting groups with a variety of speakers coming along to cover various topics for example; gentle parenting, dealing with bullying/pre-bullying, how to support children’s emotional growth, preparing for the pre-teen years, inclusive parenting, mindful parenting.”
Parent in Online Survey



Social Media / Screen Use	8. Strengthen parents’ understanding and skills in safe social media use.
Mental Health	9. Strengthen parents’ understanding and skills in managing mental health problems of their children 0-24.
Disability	10. Strengthen parents’ understanding of services, referral processes and waiting lists. 11. Strengthen parents’ skills in supporting their child with a disability (while on waiting lists).
Parent participation in CYPSC and local services	12. Include effective parenting voice in CYPSC actions.

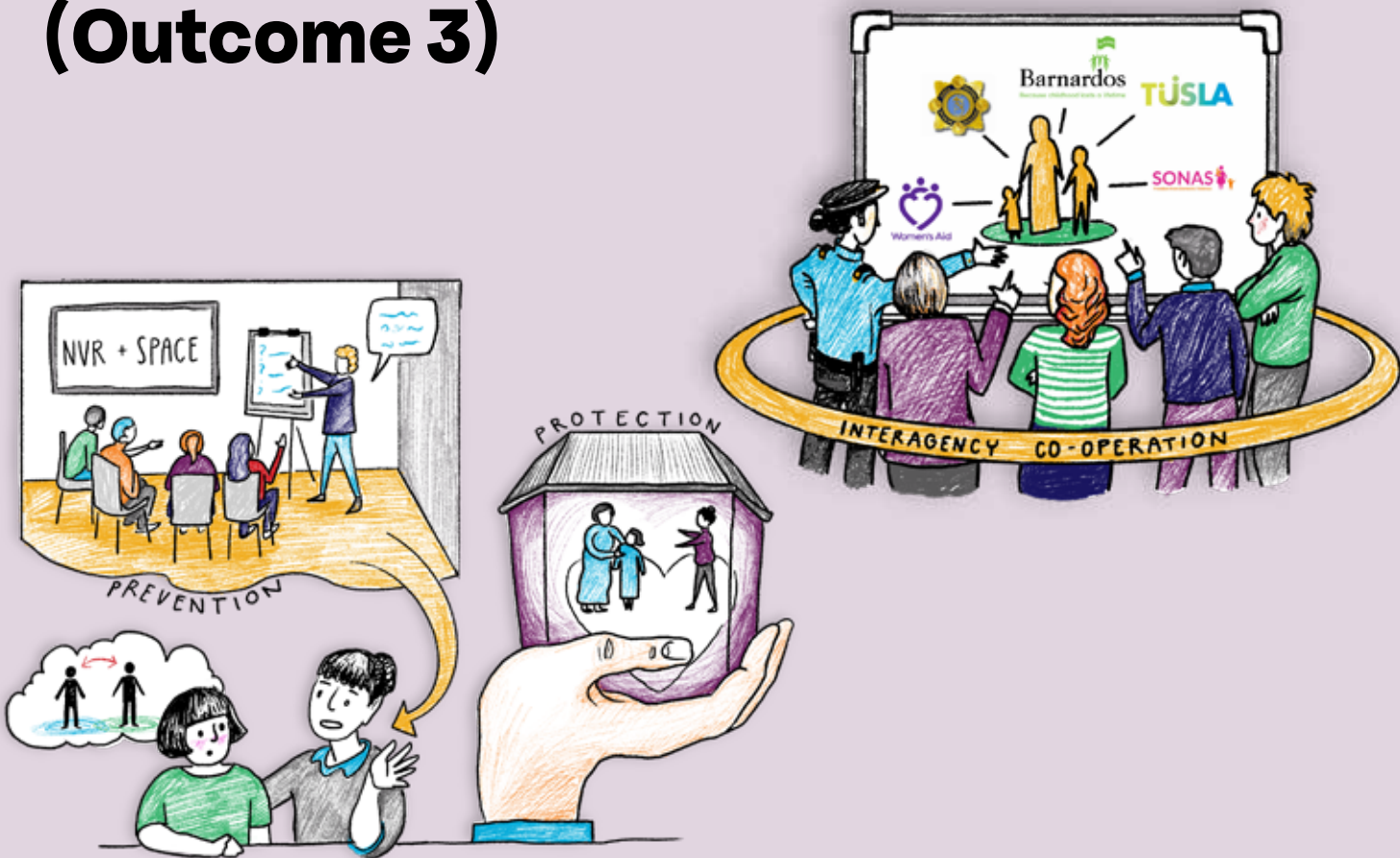
Achieving Full Potential in Learning & Development (Outcome 2)



Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in Learning and Development

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)	1. Strengthen EBSA responses. 2. Identify scale of EBSA in DLR.
Social Media	3. Strengthen healthy use of social media / phones tablets and delay use of smart phones until post-primary age.

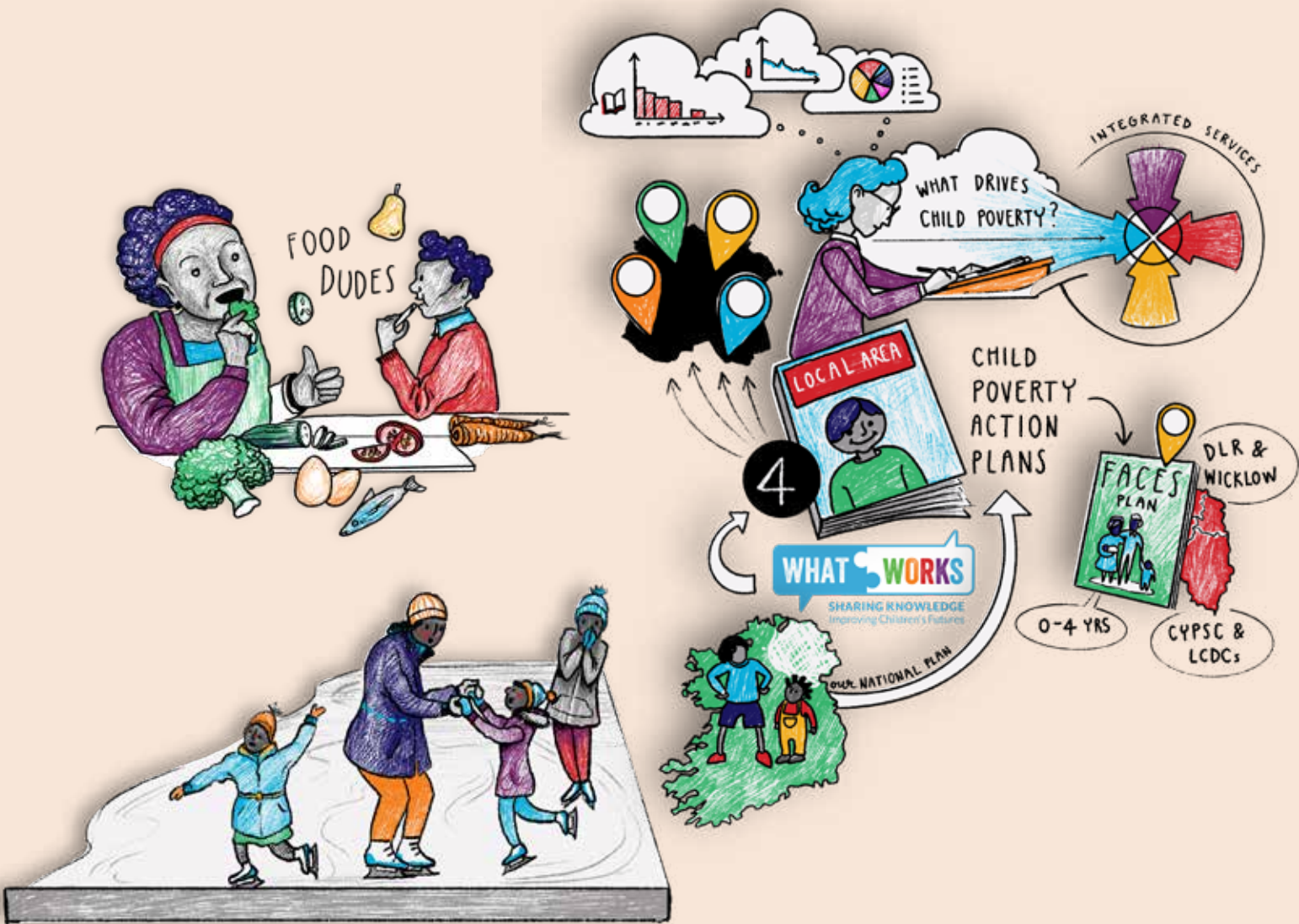
Safe & Protected from Harm (Outcome 3)



Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Collaboration with the DLR Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	1. To explore the needs of young people and their drug and alcohol use.
Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and Child to Parent Violence	2. Support the role out of Non Violent Resistance and SPACE training across the county by providing advanced training and supervision.
Domestic, Sexual, Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)	3. Support effective service delivery in and around the local Domestic, Sexual, Gender-Based Violence refuge. 4. Strengthen Young People's understanding of healthy relationships and DSGBV preventative project. 5. Strengthen services for people at high risk of DSGBV through interagency cooperation and case management.

Economic Security (Outcome 4)



Outcome 4: Economic Security

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Child Poverty	1. Reduce child poverty in DLR by supporting cross county collaboration addressing a number of key parent/family drivers of child poverty. Linked to Early Parenting Development action.
Food Poverty	2. Encourage uptake of Hot School Meals programme in Primary Schools and enhance skills-based programmes Healthy Food Made Easy and Food Dudes that address food poverty and nutrition.
International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection	3. Support International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and their integration to DLR.

Connected, Respected & Contributing to their World (Outcome 5)



Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Places and Spaces	1. Identify existing spaces and explore use by young people.
Youth Voice and Participation in CYPSC and local services	2. Young people have an effective input in relevant CYPSC actions.
Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups in Activities	3. Promote LGBTIQ+ activities and events in the local community. 4. Increase inclusivity of activities for disabled / neurodiverse children and young people. 5. Increase inclusivity of sports and physical activity opportunities for vulnerable children and young people. 6. Engage and offer connection to children who are isolated / not leaving their room. 7. Increase activities for 0-24 years and their parents in the Arts in particular for vulnerable groups.
Climate Action	8. Engage young people in climate activities.

Change Management



7. Change Management

Identified Unmet Need	Strategic Priority Action Agreed
Support Main CYPSC and Subgroups	1. Maintain working relationships. 2. Secure statutory membership on main CYPSC. 3. Secure membership on subgroups.
Resources	4. Support extra resources for CYPSC Co-ordinators. 5. Respond to and leverage funding opportunities to implement the DLR CYPSC Children and Young People’s Plan 2024-2026.
Collaborations	6. Collaborate with fellow Dublin CYPSC and Wicklow CYPSC to enhance advocacy and reach. 7. Get sign off for DLR CYPSC Critical Incident Plan (CIP) from HSE Chief Officer.
Communications	8. Establish and implement an agreed mechanism for information sharing with CYPSC Members and Child and Family Support Networks.

Membership of DLR CYPSC

The current members of DLR CYPSC include:

Agency	Representative
Chair: Tusla Child and Family Agency	Michelle Mc Nicholas
Deputy Chair: DLR County Council	Therese Langan
An Garda Síochana	Trevor Scanlon
Barnardos	Kerri Smith
Blackrock Education Centre	Niamh Murray
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Sarah Donnelly
Crosscare	Ger Magee
DLR County Council (Chief Officer LCDC)	Mary Ruane
DLR County Childcare Committee	Harriet Massey
DLR Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	John Doyle
Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board	Claire Barkey
Healthy Service Executive (HSE Health and Wellbeing)	Imelda Halton
HSE (Mental Health-South East)	Aisling White
HSE (Mental Health-South)	Eithne Ní Longphuirt
HSE (Disability)	Philippa Lansdown
Irish Primary Principals’ Network	Lisa Breen
Southside Partnership	Lorraine Stewart
Southside Travellers Action Group	Geraldine Dunne
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Kevin Webster
Tusla Education Support Service	Glenn Perry
University College Dublin (UCD)	Jason Last
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Orla Condren
National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)	TBC
Department of Social Protection	TBC
Probation Service	TBC
Young Person	TBC

DLR CYPSC Subgroups

There currently are 4 interagency CYPSC subgroups, each with a specific thematic focus:

- 1. Health and Mental Health Subgroup (Outcome 1)
- 2. Education and Learning Subgroup (Outcome 2)
- 3. Safety Subgroup* (Outcome 3)
- 4. Economic Security Subgroup* (Outcome 4)
- 5. Parenting Subgroup¹ (Outcome 1)

Another subgroup will be developed in DLR CYPSC in 2025 and is aligned with Connected, respected and contributing to the world, the fifth outcome area of Young Ireland². Different working groups are developed to work on specific actions of each subgroup area. *The Safety and Economic Security Subgroups are merged due to the high level of membership overlap.

1 DLR CYPSC has established an additional subgroup of Outcome 1: Active and Healthy that focuses specifically on Parenting which is recommended by Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Supports available: [www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/221981/a8e73d11-c910-4abf-9f80-95bd46e641a0.pdf#page=null](https://assets.gov.ie/221981/a8e73d11-c910-4abf-9f80-95bd46e641a0.pdf#page=null)
2 www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/280807/66d25198-b019-4734-b516-0014a119e261.pdf#page=null

Subgroup Membership (Organisations)

Health and Mental Health Subgroup

- HSE (Primary Care, Mental Health Co-ord for Travellers, Youth Drugs and Alcohol Service [YoDA], Senior Health Promotion and Improvement Officer, Children's Disability Network Team)
- Lucena CAMHS
- Barnardos
- My Project Minding You
- Springboard
- Crosscare Teen Counselling
- Crosscare Youth Service
- Exchange House
- Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG)
- National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS)
- DLR Sports Partnership
- Rosemount Family Resource Centre (FRC)
- UCD Resilience and Health Lab
- Childline
- Children's Disability Network Team



Safety, Economic Security and Prevention Partnership and Family Support

- Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (Tusla)
- FRC (Rosemount, Hillview, Balally, Ballyogan)
- My Project Minding You
- Springboard
- Le Cheile
- Southside Partnership
- Southside Addressing Violence Effectively (SAVE)
- An Garda Síochána
- Women's Aid
- Sonas
- Sophia House
- Peter Mc Verry
- DLR County Council
- Barnardos
- Carrs Child and Family Service
- Lucena CAMHS
- Crosscare
- Foroige
- DLR Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (DATF)

Education and Learning Subgroup

- UCD
- Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT)
- Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) Education Welfare Office (EWO)
- Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDLETB)
- Youthreach
- Dún Laoghaire Community Training Centre (DLCTC)
- Crosscare Youth Service
- NEPS
- School Completion Officer
- Home School Liaison
- Guidance Councillor
- Blackrock Education Centre
- Airfield Estate Education Officer
- Young Social Innovators
- CyberSafeKids
- Rosemount FRC
- Child and Family Support Network Co-ordinator (Tusla)



Parenting Subgroup

- HSE (psychology)
- Child and Family Support Network Co-ordinator (Tusla)
- TESS EWO
- Barnardos
- Southside Partnership
- FRC (Rosemount, Hillview, Balally, Ballyogan)
- Springboard
- My Project Minding You
- DLR County Childcare Committee (CCC)
- Lucena CAMHS

