



Welcome Pack for New Members

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Donegal Children & Young People's Services Committee

Improving the lives of Children and Young People Across Donegal

Children and young people services committees (CYPSC) are set up in every county across Ireland as part of the Government's plan to get the best outcomes for children and young people from birth to 24 years of age. The purpose of the CYPSCs is to bring statutory, community and voluntary agencies providing services to children and young people together, to cooperate and plan and work in the coordinated way.

Donegal CYPSC has a countrywide structure, which supports this joint planning and coordination across all of Donegal. This will ensure that our children, young people, and their families receive improved add accessible services. This in turn will help Donegal children and young people to achieve they **National Outcomes** set out in better outcomes brighter futures the national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020:

National Outcomes: That children and young people are:

- ❖ active and healthy with physical and mental well-being
- ❖ achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
- ❖ safe and protected from harm.
- ❖ have economic security and opportunity.
- ❖ connected respected and contributing to their world.

Coistí Seirbhísí Do Leanaí & Dhaoine Ogá Dhún na nGall

Ag feabhsú saol Leanaí agus Óige ar fud Dhún na nGall

Tá Coisteún na nGall Seirbhísí Leanaí & Oige Dhún na nGall (CSLÓ) bunaithe i ngach condáe in Éirinn mar pháirt de Phelan an Rialtais, chun na torthaí is fearr a bhaint amach do leanaí agus don óige ó bhreith go dtí go shroicheann said ceithre bliana is fiche d'aois. Is é cuspóir an CSLÓ ná na Gníomhaireachtaí Reáchtúla, Pobail agus Deonacha a bhfuil seirbhísí á gcur ar fail acu do leanaí agus don óige a thabhairt le chéile le comhoibriú ar bhealach comhordaithe. Tá structúr uile-condáe ag **CSLÓ Dhún na nGall** a chuidíonn leis an chomhphleanáil agus leis an chomhordú seo ar fud Dhún na nGall.

Cinntoidh seo go bhfaighfidh ár gcuid páistí, daoine óga agus teaghlaigh acu, seirbhísí níos fearrgur féidir teacht orthu go furast. Cuideoidh sé seo le leanaí agus leis an óige, na torthaí náisiúnta a bhaint amach mar atá leagtha amach dóibh sa chaipéis Torthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos gile: an create polasaí náisiúnta do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga 2014- 2020:

Spriocanna / Torthaí Náisiúnta: Go mbeith páistí agus daoine óga:

- ❖ Gníomhach le dea-sláinte mheabhrach agus fhisiciúil.
- ❖ Ábalta cumas foghlama agus forbartha iomlán s'acu a bhaint amach.
- ❖ Slán sábháilte agus cosanta ó aon dochar.
- ❖ Ábalta leas a bhaint as deiseanna forbartha eacnamaíochta.
- ❖ Nasctha lena chéile, go mbeidh meas orthu agus iad rannpháirteach ina bpobal.

What is a Children and Young People's Services Committee?

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are a structure for bringing together a diverse group of agencies in local county areas to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people.

The overall purpose of CYPSC is to secure better outcomes for children and young people.

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. Children and Young People's Services Committees promote, support, and deliver national and local interagency working across services that work with and for children and young people in Ireland.

Children and Young People's Services Committees secure better outcomes for children and young people by:

- *Coordinating the implementation of national and regional policies and strategies that relate to children, young people, and families.*
- *Planning and coordinating services for children and young people in the area covered by the CYPSC.*
- *Eliminating fragmentation and duplication of services by ensuring more effective collaboration between children, young people, and family services within the area*
- *Influencing the allocation of resources*
- *Strengthening the decision-making capacity at local level*

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, Youth (DCEDIY) provides funding, and strategic and policy direction for CYPSC. Four original sites were chosen to pilot this interagency work in 2007 (Dublin City, South Dublin, Donegal, and Limerick City). Since then, a national roll-out has seen CYPSCs established in all counties.

CYPSC have led and supported inspiring and positive programmes and activities in the fields of Literacy Development, Parenting Support, Early Childhood Development, Transitions to school, Youth Mental Health and much more.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee is presented in Appendix 1.

CYPSC Website

The national CYPSC website www.cypsc.ie provides a focal point for national and local information relating to CYPSC. Information on CYPSC news and events are listed and key CYPSC documents are available for download.

www.cypsc.ie > Donegal

Each individual CYPSC has its own space within the national CYPSC website.

The screenshot shows the Donegal CYPSC website. On the left, a light blue box contains annotations with arrows pointing to specific website features:

- Priority areas identified during the planning process for the Donegal Children and Young People's Plan → Points to the 'Priorities' link in the 'DONEGAL' sidebar.
- Current Membership → Points to the 'Membership' link in the 'DONEGAL' sidebar.
- Active Working Groups → Points to the 'Sub-Groups' link in the 'DONEGAL' sidebar.
- Download materials and resources developed → Points to the 'Local Resources' link in the 'DONEGAL' sidebar.
- Links to local CYPSC related websites → Points to the 'Local Links' link in the 'DONEGAL' sidebar.
- Download the current Children and Young People's Plan → Points to the 'CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN' button.
- Local contact details → Points to the 'CONTACT US' section.

The website layout includes:

- Header:** CYPSC logo, 'CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES', a 'Join our mailing list' button, and a search bar.
- Navigation Bar:** HOME, ABOUT US, YOUR COUNTY CYPSC (active), RESOURCES, NEWS & EVENTS, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE, CONTACT US.
- Main Content Area:**
 - DONEGAL Sidebar:** Priorities, Membership, Sub-Groups, Local Resources, Local Links.
 - CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN:** A button to download the plan.
 - CONTACT US:** Co-ordinator: Anne Timony Meehan; Office: +353 74 91 04 512; Mobile: +353 (0) 87 352 7651; Email: anne.timonymeehan@tusla.ie; Address: CYPSC Office, Scally Place, Justice Walsh Rd., Letterkenny, County Donegal, Ireland.
 - Donegal Children & Young People's Services Committee:** A large photo of a stone wall with people, followed by text about the committee's history and purpose.
 - Improving the Lives of Children and Young People Across Donegal:** A section explaining the role of CYPSCs in providing services and coordinating work.

Role of CYPSC Members

Representatives from a wide range of organisations within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors

contribute to local CYPSCs. Principally, the role of a CYPSC representative is to:

- Represent their department / organisation / programme / sector.
- Input to the education agenda of the CYPSC
- Share professional observations, knowledge, and experience.
- Advocate on behalf of their service users
- Advise on how the CYPSC can engage with children, young people, and families.
- Understand and appreciate ways that the CYPSC and its structures work.

A Children and Young People's Plan for Donegal

Each CYPSC is required to develop and then deliver on a three-year Children and Young People's Plan for the county. Each plan:

- Details how children and young people in the county are doing (**a socio demographic profile**)
- Describes what services, supports and groups are currently available in the county for children and young people (**an audit of services**)
- Identifies gaps and provides direction as to what the county can do better to improve services and improve outcomes for children and young people (**a needs analysis**)
- Sets out what the CYPSC will do over a three-year period to improve outcomes under the five national outcomes for children and young people (**an action plan**).

With a comprehensive picture of the needs of children, young people, and families in the county, CYPSCs then identify appropriate evidence informed and /or evidence-based responses. CYPSC projects and initiatives have contributed to improving outcomes for children and young people under a range of themes including Literacy, Parenting Support, Consultation with children and young people and Identification and assessment of the needs of children and young people.

Consultation with children and young people has been an integral part of the development of Children and Young People Plans.

National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees

A National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees provides leadership for CYPSC at national level and supports local CYPSC through their CYPSC Chairperson and CYPSC Co-Ordinator.

National CYPSC Contact Details

National Co-ordinator for CYPSC
Colma Nic Lughadha
Email: colma.niclughadha@tusla.ie
Tel: 01 77 18500

Donegal CYPSC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Each CYPSC is chaired by the relevant Tusla Area Manager for Children and Families. Donegal CYPSC is chaired by:

Marie Crawley
Marie.crawley@tusla.ie

CYPSC Vice chairpersons are drawn from relevant local authorities. The Vice Chairpersonship of Donegal CYPSC is Donegal County Council

Liam Ward
Director of Community Development & Planning Services
Donegal County Council
lward@Donegalcoco.ie

Donegal CYPSC Co-ordinator

Each CYPSC has a co-ordinator. The CYPSC Co-ordinator is responsible for communication, developing relationships, reporting, information provision and organisation and administration of meetings on behalf of their CYPSC.

Contact details for the Donegal CYPSC Coordinator are:

Anne Timony Meehan
Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee, Coordinator
Tusla, Scally Place , Justice Walsh Rd, Letterkenny , Donegal
✉ Anne.Timonymeehan@tusla.ie
☎ 087 3527651

CYPSC Membership

Each CYPSC comprises senior managers at county level representing a range of agencies and services including:

Tusla - Child and Family Agency	Local Authority (City/County Council)	Health Service Executive (HSE)
An Garda Síochána	Education and Training Board	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
Irish Primary Principals Network	City / County Childcare Committee	Social Inclusion Partners e.g., Local Development Companies
Community and voluntary organisations	Probation Services	Department of Social Protection
Third Level Institution	Young person 18 - 24	

A list of the current membership of Donegal CYPSC is available in Appendix 2.

Five National Outcomes for Children and Young People

The Government launched *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020* on 16th April 2014. It is the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people aged 0 - 24 years. It recognises that almost all policy has a direct or indirect effect on children and young people's lives, underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) with a key role in this regard.

The work of Children and Young People's Services Committees is informed by the 5 national outcomes for children and young people as set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. The five national outcomes we want for all children and young people are that they are:

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

Children and Young People's Services Committees National Steering Group

The Children and Young People's Services Committees National Steering Group (CYPSC SG) was established in 2012 to support the effective operation and practical implementation of Children and Young People's Services Committees at local level. It has reconfigured to align with the implementation structures in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. It has an independent chairperson.

The CYPSC SG chairperson is a member of the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium, representing and reporting on behalf of CYPSC.

Interagency Working

The need for interagency work is well recognised. International literature tells us that where evidence of the impact of interagency working does exist, it is mostly positive; although it takes time to become embedded in practice. When implemented well, interagency working achieves changes in the way we and our organisations work. Effective interagency working acts to create the 'permitting circumstances' for better functioning of front-line services and front-line staff. It is a vitally important part of improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families, by means of its potential to improve all the front-line services that support them.

The 3 key interagency messages of the CYPSC Initiative are:

When we work together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of our children and young people.

Working together in a sustained way is challenging, takes time and requires continuous learning; but it's worth it.

We are doing this through Children and Young People's Services Committees.

Policy Origins

Children and Young People's Services Committees are underpinned by several major Government policies including:

- Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020
- National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives 2011-2016
- The Agenda for Children's Services – A Policy Handbook
- Towards 2016
- National Children's Strategy

Key Documents

There are several key resources that have been developed to support Children and Young People's Services Committees. These are available for download in the Resources section of the CYPSC website at www.cypsc.ie.

CYPSC Information Leaflet

This is a short information leaflet which gives an overview of CYPSC.

Effective Interagency Working by Children and Young People's Services Committees

This document provides information on interagency working and the work of CYPSC.

Shared Vision, Next Steps (2019)

Provides a succinct road map for the further development of the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) initiative.

An introductory guide to the key terms and interagency initiatives in use in the Children's Services Committees in Ireland (2010)

Contains explanations and definitions of the differing terms relating to interagency initiatives that have been in use in the CYPSC.

A review of International Evidence on Interagency Working, to Inform the Development of Children's Services Committees in Ireland (2011)

This report focuses on specific aspects of interagency working that have already been adopted by existing CYPSC or are being considered, and within that on models of particular interest. The primary aim of this review is to contribute to the evidence base for developing CYPSC in Ireland.

Learning from Experience to Inform the Future - Findings Emerging from the Initial Phase of the Children's Services Committees in Ireland (2010)

The report presents the findings from the early implementation of CYPSC in four pilot areas, with a view to informing the future development CYPSC, both existing and new

Appendix 1 – Donegal CYPSC Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for Donegal Children and Young People’s Services Committee

1. Purpose

The purpose of Donegal Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC) will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in Donegal.

2. Donegal CYPSC Vision and Principals

The vision of Donegal CYPSC is that outcomes for Children and Young People are improved through inter-agency working.

The principles that underpin the work of Donegal Children and Young People’s Services Committee are:

- That Donegal CYPSC puts the best available evidence at the heart of planning and reporting processes.
- That Donegal CYPSC planning is outcomes based, i.e., its purpose is to achieve agreed outcomes.
- That Donegal CYPSC members own and direct the work of the committee and hold themselves and others accountable to the common agenda as expressed in this plan.
- Donegal CYPSC is committed to collecting and using data to make informed decisions. Alongside quantitative data, the committee recognizes the value of qualitative research to understand the experiences, meaning and views of children and young people and service providers.
- Donegal CYPSC stakeholders are open to learning through reflection on how well the work has lived up to performance expectation.
- Regular and open communications will flow - bottom up, top down and across the CYPSC initiative.
- The work of Donegal CYPSC will be children-centered and children and young people will participate in a structured and supported way.
- Donegal CYPSC has a commitment to equality and human rights, and this will be reflected in its work.

3. Term

These Terms of Reference will be effective for the period of implementation of the Donegal Children and Young People’s Plan 2021 – 2023.

4. Membership

Donegal CYPSC will comprise representatives from the principal statutory, community and voluntary organisations providing services to children and young people in Donegal.

Organisations may be invited to join the committee at the discretion of the Chairperson or by decision of the committee.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Chair of the CYPSC

The Donegal CYPSC will be chaired by the Tusla Area Manager.

The key responsibilities of the Chair include:

- To provide leadership and direction for the Committee
- To ensure the effectiveness of the Committee in all aspects of its role
- To take a lead role in determining and reviewing the process regarding the composition, structure, and performance of the Committee

Vice Chairs of the CYPSC

The Local Authority representative from Donegal County Council will act as Vice Chair of the CYPSC. The Vice Chairs will support the Chairperson in carrying out his/her responsibilities. The Vice Chairs will deputise for the Chairperson when required.

The CYPSC Co-ordinator

The key responsibilities of the Co-ordinator include:

- To communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the Committee
- To foster and develop relationships with key personnel, including committee members and other stakeholders.
- To ensure the collection, provision and reporting of relevant data and information
- To organise and administer meetings of the CYPSC and its subgroups.

CYPSC Members

The responsibilities of CYPSC members include:

- Understanding the role of CYPSC and how its structures work
- Inputting to the agenda of the CYPSC
- Representing their department / organisation / programme / sector
- Sharing professional observations, knowledge, and experience
- Advocating on behalf of their service users
- Feeding back to their department / organisation / programme / sector on the work of CYPSC
- Ensuring their department / organisation / programme / sector is contributing to the delivery of relevant CYPSC projects through contributions to CYPSC Sub-Groups and Task Groups
- Advising on how the CYPSC can engage with children, young people, and families.

6. Meetings

- All meetings will be chaired by the Tusla Area Manager for Donegal and Roscommon.
- A meeting quorum will be 16 members of the CYPSC.
- Decisions will be made by consensus. Where consensus is not possible, the CYPSC Chairperson will make the final decision.
- Where a member is unable to attend, they may nominate a representative who has decision-making responsibilities.
- Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the CYPSC Coordinator.
- Meetings will be held 6 times per year and will last 2 hours.

- If required, task group meetings will be arranged outside of these times at a time convenient to members.

7. Amendment, Modification or Variation

The Terms of Reference may be amended, modified, or varied in writing after consultation and agreement at a CYPSC meeting.

Appendix 2 – Membership of Donegal Children and Young People’s Services Committee

Member Organisation	Representative	
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Marie Crawley	<i>Chair</i>
Donegal County Council	Liam Ward	<i>Vice Chair</i>
An Garda Síochána	Paul McGee	
Young Representative	Eadaoin Ni Conn Úladh	
Family Resource Centres, Donegal	Martina Doyle	
Foróige	Susan McLoughlin	
Donegal Childcare Committee	Trish McLaughlin	
Atlantic Technical University Letterkenny	Brian McGonagle	
Families Matter	Donna Butler	
Donegal Education and Training Board	Anne McHugh	
CDSN	Gerard Gallagher	
PPN	Gina Grant	
Tusla , PSW	Janique Burden	
HSE, Disability Services	Alvin Doherty	
Donegal Educational Centre	John McGroarty	
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals	John McGuinness	
Educational Training Board	Martin Gallen	
Lifestart Services CLG	Mary Walker Callaghan	
Donegal Local Development Company	Padraig Fingleton	
Jigsaw Donegal	Laura McKitterick	
HSE -	Samantha Ibbs	
National Educational Psychological Service	Deirdre McHugh	
IPPA	Pauric Cannon	
The Probation Service	Shauna Hawes	
Young Adult Support	Michael McDevitt	
Inishowen Development Partnership	Shauna McCleneghan	
Údarás na Gaeltachta	Martina Ní Chanainn	

Appendix 3 – Glossary of Initialisms and Acronyms

- **ABC** Area Based Childhood Programme
- **ARM** Alternative Response Model
- **BOBF** Better Outcome Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People
- **C&V** Community and Voluntary
- **CAF** Common Assessment Framework
- **CAMHS** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- **CAWT** Co-operation and Working Together
- **CCC** City and County Childcare Committees
- **CES** Centre for Effective Services
- **CFSN** Child and Family Support Network
- **CVS** Community and Voluntary sector
- **CYPP** Children and Young People's Plan
- **CYPSC** Children and Young People's Services Committees
- **CYPSC SG** National Children and Young People's Services Committees Steering Group
- **DCYA** Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- **DECLG** Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
- **DEIS** Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
- **DES** Department of Education and Skills
- **DOH** Department of Health
- **DRM** Differential Response Model
- **DSP** Department of Social Protection
- **DTF** Drugs Task Force
- **ECCE** Early Childhood Care and Education
- **ESL** Early School Leaving
- **ETB** Education and Training Board
- **EWS** Educational Welfare Services
- **FRC** Family Resource Centre
- **HEA** Higher Education Authority
- **HI** Healthy Ireland
- **HIQA** Health Information and Quality Authority
- **HSE** Health Service Executive
- **ILDN** Irish Local Development Network
- **IPPN** Irish Primary Principals' Network
- **IYJS** Irish Youth Justice Service
- **LA** Local Authority
- **LAP** Local Area Pathway
- **LCDC** Local Community Development Committee
- **LDC** Local Development Company
- **LDTF** Local Drugs Task Force

- **LECP** Local Economic and Community Plan (compiled by LCDC)
- **NAPD** National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
- **NEPS** National Educational Psychological Service
- **NGO** Non-Governmental Organisation
- **PEI** Prevention and Early Intervention
- **PPFS** Prevention Partnership and Family Support
- **PPN** Public Participation Network
- **RDTF** Regional Drugs Task Force
- **SCO** Sustainable Community Objective
- **SCP** School Completion Programme
- **SEDO** Sustainable Economic Development Objective
- **SICAP** Social Inclusion Activation Programme
- **SPC** Strategic Policy Committee
- **Tusla CFA** Tusla the Child and Family Agency