

## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of County Donegal

This section presents the socio-demographic information required for effective planning and monitoring of services for children and young people in Donegal.

### Summary of Key Indicators

This table presents the basic socio-demographic indicators included in the State of the Nation's Children reports. It compares how children and young people are doing in Donegal with those in the State. Following this summary table, more extensive indicators are presented based on the five national outcomes.

| Deprivation Indices and Key Components                                | Donegal | State     |
|---|---------|-----------|
| <i>Pobal HP Index 2016 Relative Deprivation Score</i>                 | -6.4    | 0.6       |
| <i>Population Change 2016 (%)</i>                                     | -1.20%  | 3.80%     |
| <i>Age Dependency Rate</i>  | 37.7%   | 34.5%     |
| <i>Lone parent ratio 2016 (%)</i>                                     | 20.9%   | 19.9%     |
| <i>Primary Education 2016( %)</i>                                     | 21.6%   | 13.0%     |
| <i>Third Level Education 2016 ( %)</i>                                | 28.3%   | 35.9%     |
| <i>Professional Classes 2016(%)</i>                                   | 29.9%   | 36.2%     |
| <i>Semi/Unskilled Class 2016 ( %)</i>                                 | 21.0%   | 17.9%     |
| <i>Unemployment rate - male 2016(%)</i>                               | 20.2%   | 14.1%     |
| <i>Unemployment rate - female 2016 (%)</i>                            | 15.9%   | 12.2%     |
| <i>LA Rented Housing 2016</i>   | 8.8%    | 8.7%      |
| <i>Private Rented Housing 2016</i>                                    | 13.3%   | 19.4%     |
| Other Key Indicators  | Donegal | State     |
| <i>Child and Youth population 0-17 years</i>                          | 42,042  | 1,190,502 |
| <i>Child and Youth population 18-24 years</i>                         | 11,407  | 392,502   |
| <i>Child and Youth population 0-24 years</i>                          | 53,449  | 1,583,004 |
| <i>Child and youth population 0-24 years as % of total population</i> | 33.6%   | 33.2%     |
| <i>Child and Youth population under 18 on the Islands off</i>         | 286     |           |
| <i>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>                 | 3.7     | 3.3       |
| <i>Rate of neonatal infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>        | 2.6     | 2.4       |
| <i>Children from Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and</i>          | 16.32%  | 5.9%      |
| <i>Children of other nationalities ( excluding United Kingdom)</i>    | 4.78%   | 11.37%    |
| <i>Young Carers as percentage of population 0-24 years</i>            | 4.5     | 4.1       |
| <i>Leaving cert retention rates (of 2006 entry cohort)source DES</i>  | 88.99%  | 90.22%    |
| <i>% of population aged 15+ whose education ceased under 15</i>       | 3.9%    | 3.6%      |

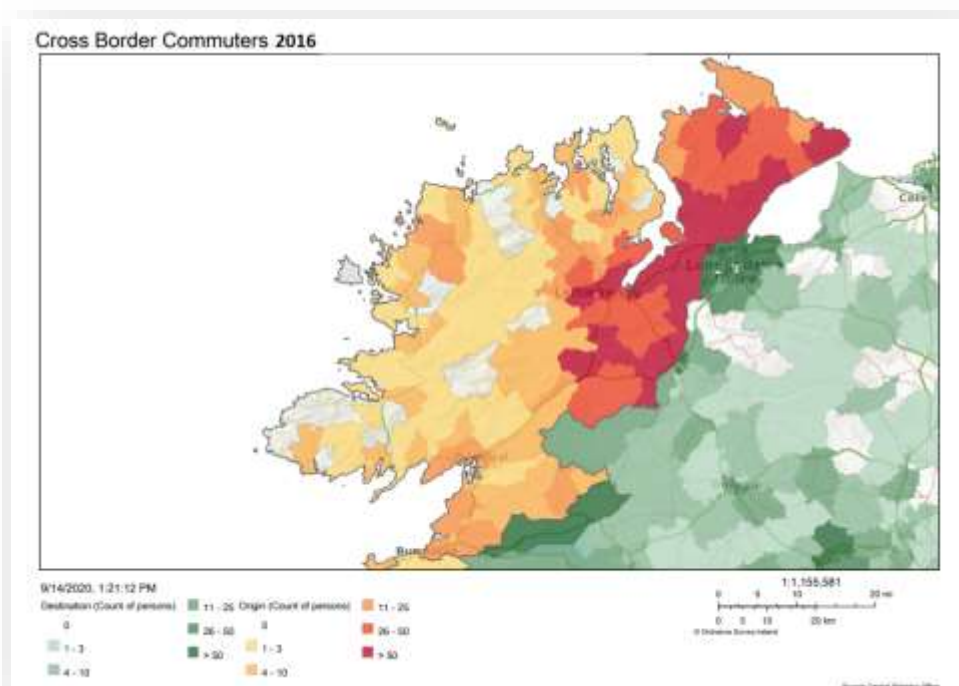
## Geographical Context

In planning children and young people's services, it is important to understand the geographical context for delivering services to children and young people in County Donegal in 2020. Donegal's landscape is varied and dramatic, comprising of mountains, valleys, and fertile plains with a deeply indented coastline and many islands both inhabited and uninhabited. Donegal is the most northerly County in Ireland and has a land mass of 4,861 sq. km's or 6.9% of the total land area of the State. It is the fourth largest county in Ireland with a sparse population density (32.3 persons per sq. km compared to 70 persons per sq. km in the State) and is predominately a rural county (27 % of the total population living in aggregate urban areas compared to 63% in the State). Given the physical size of the County, its weak urban structure and low population density, accessing and providing services to children, young people and their families can be challenging. These challenges are an important context in developing efficient, sustainable and economically viable services. Overcoming them often requires creative and innovative methods to sustain children and young person's services in Donegal.

Figure 7



The County shares 181km of border with Northern Ireland (adjoining the Councils of Derry City and Strabane and; Fermanagh and Omagh) and a further 11km of border with County Leitrim as well as 65 road crossings which include a number of important strategic transport connections. Therefore it is not surprising that the population of the North West City Region functions on a cross border basis (See Figure 8 below). There are many reasons for the movement and interaction of people, business and goods across the border including access to health, education, entertainment, leisure, social and community facilities, retail activity, access to economic markets and access to international transport hubs as examples. **Figure 8** below illustrates a cross border commuter map for the purposes of work or study. It shows the areas in County Donegal in dark red where there are higher concentrations of persons originating in Donegal and travelling across the land boundary for work and study. This is particularly evident in the east of the County in the Inishowen<sup>i</sup>, Letterkenny and Stranorlar Municipal Districts thus demonstrating the intensity of cross border interactions in the areas closest to the border<sup>ii</sup>. Donegal Co. Council has continued with the engagement with Derry City & Strabane District Council in the context of identifying and seeking to mitigate the potential negative impacts that may arise as an outcome of Brexit. This situation will become clearer by the end of 2020. Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that any barrier to / restriction on movement of people between Donegal and Northern Ireland as a consequence of Brexit will have a significant negative impact on children and young people, and in particular those who live in close proximity to the border.

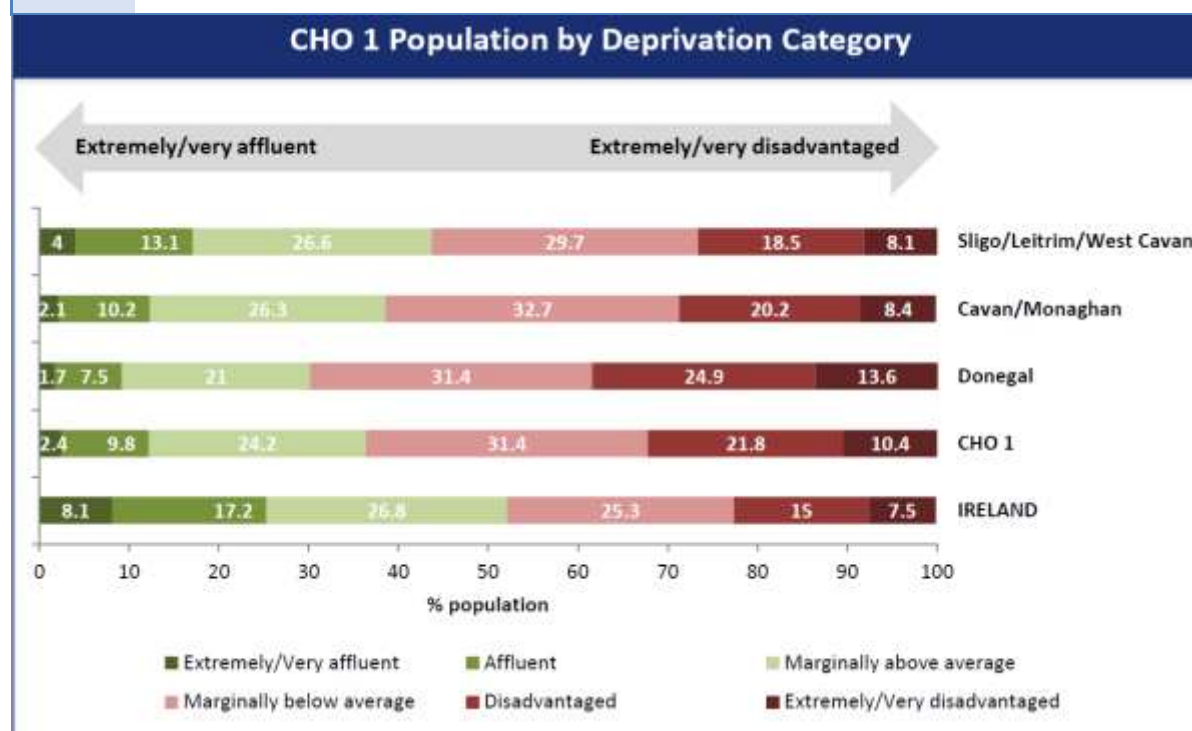


**Figure 8**

## Demographic Context

Donegal accounts for the largest share of the Border Regions Population<sup>1</sup> at 40% in 2016. Donegal is home to 159,192 people and although the population decreased by -1.2% (1,945 persons) over the period 2011 – 2016, it grew by 8.1% over the previous 10 years (or 11,928 persons).

|                           | 2006      | 2011      | 2016      | 2016      | 2016      | % Chg   | % Chg    | % Nat  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
|                           |           |           |           | Male      | Female    | 2011/16 | 2006 /16 | 2016   |
| <b>Donegal</b>            | 147,264   | 161,137   | 159,192   | 77,510    | 78,659    | -1.2%   | 8.1%     | 3.3%   |
| <b>Border<sup>2</sup></b> | 357,108   | 391,994   | 394,333   | 196,647   | 197,686   | 0.6%    | 10.4%    | 8.3%   |
| <b>Region</b>             |           |           |           |           |           |         |          |        |
| <b>State</b>              | 4,239,848 | 4,588,252 | 4,761,865 | 2,354,428 | 2,407,437 | 3.8%    | 12.3%    | 100.0% |



<sup>1</sup> The NUTS 3 boundaries were amended on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 (Regulation (EC) No 2066/2016). The changes resulting from the amendment are that Louth has moved from the Border to the Mid-East

<sup>2</sup> The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) was drawn up by Eurostat in order to define territorial units for the production of regional statistics across the European Union. The NUTS classification has been used in EU legislation since 1988, but it was only in 2003 that the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission established the NUTS regions within a legal framework (Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003). The NUTS 3 boundaries were amended on 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 (Regulation (EC) No 2066/2016). The changes resulting from the amendment are that Louth has moved from the Border to the Mid-East and what was formerly South Tipperary has moved from the South-East to the Mid-West. The regional authorities and the two regional assemblies were abolished in the Local Government Act 2014 and were replaced with three regional assemblies. The three regional assemblies are groupings of the new NUTS 3 boundaries.

The chart above <sup>3</sup> indicates that each Local Health Office area in HSE in Community Health Office Area 1 (CHO1) and CHO 1 as a whole, has a higher proportion of population categorised as disadvantaged to some extent than the national average. Donegal has the highest level of disadvantage in CHO1.

### *Children and Young People*

There are 53, 449 Children and Young People aged 0 to 24 years in County Donegal and they are the primary focus for developing this Children and Young People's Plan. This cohort has decreased by 5.8% over the 2011 – 2016 period. Children and young people require a range of different services at different stages in their lives and it is important to understand trends in population and the consequent changing need for services. In the last census there was a:

- 15.3% decrease in the number of children aged 0-4 years (pre-school)
- 1% increase in the number of children aged 5 – 12 years (primary School)
- 2.1 % increase in the number of teenagers aged 13-18 years (secondary School)
- 16.2% decrease in young adults age 19 – 24 years.

### *Family Structure*

Census 2016 illustrates the diverse composition of families in County Donegal. In 2016, 12.2% of households in Donegal or 7,120 households were headed by 'one parent' and the vast majority, 86% or 6,122 were one parent mothers. The number of one parent households in Donegal declined by- 4.6% or 342 people over the period 2011 – 2016 census. During the period 2011-2016 Donegal experienced an 11% increase in the number of households comprising of cohabiting couples, from 3,247 to 3,603. This equated to 6.2 % of all households. There were children in 28,619 households (49% of all households). Table 7 shows households with children by type of family composition.

| <b>Table 2: Family Composition</b>                       | <b>State</b> | <b>Donegal</b> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| <b>All persons in private households with children</b>   | 3,159,982    | 109,917        |
| <b>Married couple with children</b>                      | 68.8%        | 71.6%          |
| <b>Cohabiting couple with children</b>                   | 8.4%         | 7.3%           |
| <b>One parent mother with children</b>                   | 13.1%        | 14.0%          |
| <b>One parent father with children</b>                   | 2.0%         | 2.2%           |
| <b>Married couple with children and other persons</b>    | 4.6%         | 2.9%           |
| <b>Cohabiting couple with children and other persons</b> | 0.7%         | 0.3%           |
| <b>One parent mother with children and other persons</b> | 2.0%         | 1.4%           |
| <b>One parent father with children and other persons</b> | 0.4%         | 0.2%           |

<sup>3</sup> CH01 Child Health Profile 2018

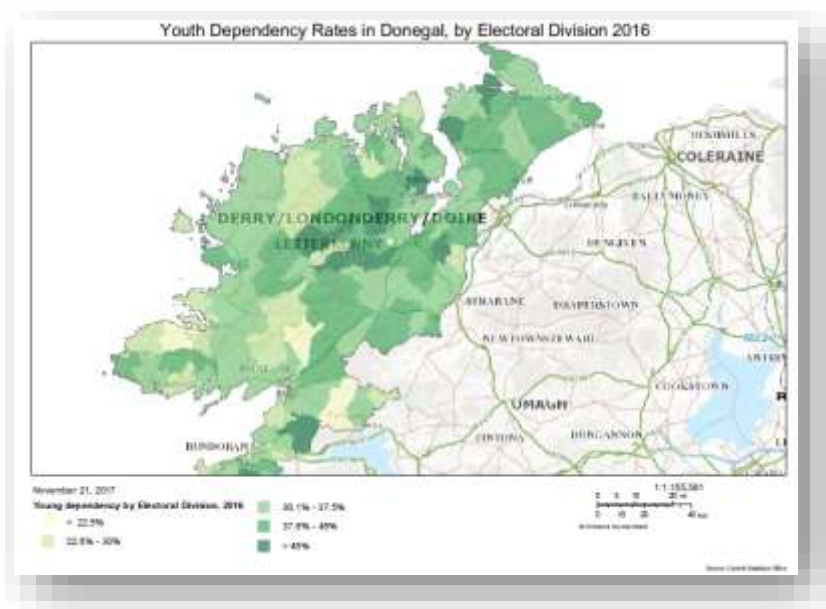


**Table 3: Children and Young People Age Profile of Population<sup>4</sup> 2016**

| Age Range | Donegal | % County Population |
|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| 0-24      | 53,449  | 33.6%               |
| 0-4       | 10,776  | 6.8%                |
| 5-9       | 12,445  | 7.8%                |
| 10-14     | 11,821  | 7.4%                |
| 15-19     | 10,857  | 6.8%                |
| 20-24     | 7,550   | 4.7%                |

The youth dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0 -14 as a percentage of the population of working age, as shown on the map (Figure 9) ‘ *Youth Dependency Rates in Donegal, by Electoral Division 2016*. It illustrates higher concentrations of young people towards the north east of the county which corresponds with stronger urban structure and weaker concentrations towards the North West of the county. Donegal’s geographical context has been central to the evolution of a unique Gaeltacht and Island culture.

**Figure 9**



<sup>4</sup> CSO (2016)

*Population of the Gaeltacht Areas* Donegal's Gaeltacht is located mainly in the west of the county and experienced a population decrease of -5.6% over the period 2011-2016. There are 15, 879 Irish Speakers, aged 3 years and over, in Donegal's Gaeltacht (Decline of 743 persons). In this area, Irish is a living language with 30% or 4,771 persons speaking Irish daily outside of the educational systems or accessing a wide range of services including children and young people's services through Irish in 2016 compared to 5,514 or 32% in 2011.

| <b>Table 4: Population of the Gaeltacht Areas</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>% Chg</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>County Donegal</b>                             | 24,744      | 23,346      | -5.6%        |
| <b>All Gaeltacht Areas</b>                        | 100,716     | 99,617      | -1.1%        |

#### *Population of the inhabited Islands off Donegal Coast 2011-2016*

There were 666 persons living on the 12 inhabited islands off Donegal in 2016, decreasing by -14.9% from 2011 – 2016. Árainn Mhór Island and Toraigh Island account for 88% of the population

| <b>Table 5: Population of the Islands off Donegal Coast</b> | <b>2011</b>        | <b>2016</b>    |                    |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Population</b>                                     | 783                | 666            |                    |
|   | <b>Árainn Mhór</b> | <b>Toraigh</b> | <b>Árainn Mhór</b> |
| <b>All Ages</b>   | 514                | 144            | 469                |
| <b>0-18 years</b>   | 131                | 24             | 104                |
| <b>19-30 years</b>  | 28                 | 25             | 28                 |
| <b>31 – 40 years</b>  | 59                 | 18             | 33                 |
| <b>41 -50 years</b>   | 70                 | 25             | 73                 |
| <b>51 -55 years</b>   | 21                 | 14             | 30                 |
| <b>56 years +</b>   | 205                | 38             | 201                |

#### *Population of Inishowen Peninsula<sup>5</sup>*

Inishowen is the most northerly part of Donegal, and of Ireland. Inishowen has 25.47% of the total County Population of Donegal. Inishowen has a particularly young population with the proportion within the 0-14 years cohort with 9,711 young people in this category (23.95%) exceeding that of both the County and the State. 29.94% of the population is 18 and under and a further 5,811 (14.33%) are over 65. Inishowen has a high dependency ratio, those aged under 15 years and 65 years and over

<sup>5</sup> Census 2016 data and data gathered as part of Inishowen Development Partnership Strategy Consultation 2019

represents 38.28% of the Inishowen Population. In the 15-24 age group Inishowen is in line with the county and the State. However, in the 25- 44 age group, the situation compared to the State is reversed and Inishowen lags behind by 3.6% with 25.92% in this age range, (it is 29.5% for the State). A significant cohort of the population are in the 65+ category, with 1,214 people over 80 years of age. Almost 11% of families consist of retired people. The most significant type of household in Inishowen is the married couple with children at 35% of all households, followed by one person households at 25.6%. 11% of all households are headed by a lone parent.

#### *Resident Population by Place of Birth and Ethnicity*

In 2016, 95% of Donegal's usual resident population or 148,710 persons were born in Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Wales or Scotland compared to 89% in the State. 5% of the population (7,459) were born outside of the island of Ireland or the United Kingdom and the top 3 countries were Poland (1,858 persons); United States ( 976 persons) and India (517 persons). The top 5 growing communities were Indian, Pakistani, Romanian, Croatian and Afghanistan.

| <b>Table 6: Resident Population by Place of Birth 2016</b>   | <b>State</b> | <b>%</b> | <b>Donegal</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--|--------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| <b>All countries</b>   | 4,689,921    |          | 156,169        |          |
| <b>Ireland - county of usual residence</b>                   | 2,891,726    | 61.66%   | 110,424        | 70.71%   |
| <b>Ireland - county other than county of usual residence</b> | 987,789      | 21.06%   | 12,805         | 8.20%    |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>                                      | 57,389       | 1.22%    | 12,639         | 8.09%    |
| <b>England and Wales</b>                                     | 203,173      | 4.33%    | 8,102          | 5.19%    |
| <b>Scotland</b>  | 16,644       | 0.35%    | 4,740          | 3.04%    |
| <b>Other Nationalities</b>                                   | 533,200      | 11.37%   | 7,459          | 4.78%    |

A higher percentage (89.5%) of the population in Co. Donegal identified as White Irish than in the State (82.2%).



**Table 7: Population Usually Resident and Present 2011 to 2016**

| <b>All ages in the State</b>                    | <b>2011</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>% of Total</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| White Irish                                     | 3821995     | 84.5%             | 3854226     | 82.2%             |
| White Irish Traveller                           | 29495       | 0.7%              | 30987       | 0.7%              |
| Any other White background                      | 412975      | 9.1%              | 446727      | 9.5%              |
| Black/ Black Irish - African                    | 58697       | 1.3%              | 57850       | 1.2%              |
| Black/ Black Irish – Any other black background | 6381        | 0.1%              | 6789        | 0.1%              |
| Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese                  | 17832       | 0.4%              | 19447       | 0.4%              |
| Asian/ Asian Irish – any other Asian background | 19447       | 1.5%              | 79273       | 1.7%              |
| Other including mixed background                | 40724       | 0.1%              | 40724       | 1.5%              |
| Not stated                                      | 70324       | 1.6%              | 124019      | 2.6%              |
| Total ethnic or cultural backgrounds            | 45,25281    |                   | 46,89921    |                   |
| <b>All ages in Donegal</b>                      | <b>2011</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>% of Total</b> |
| White Irish                                     | 43850       | 90.59%            | 140196      | 89.48%            |
| White Irish Traveller                           | 724         | 0.46%             | 588         | 0.38%             |
| Any other White background                      | 9683        | 6.10%             | 8814        | 5.63%             |
| Black/ Black Irish - African                    | 843         | 0.53%             | 569         | 0.36%             |
| Black/Black Irish – Any other black background  | 101         | 0.06%             | 109         | 0.07%             |
| Asian /Asian Irish - Chinese                    | 196         | 0.12%             | 216         | 0.14%             |
| Asian/ Asian Irish – any other Asian background | 1103        | 0.69%             | 1311        | 0.84%             |
| Other including mixed background                | 716         | 0.45%             | 1357        | 0.87%             |
| Not stated                                      | 1576        | 0.99%             | 3515        | 2.24%             |
| Total ethnic or cultural backgrounds            | 158,7921    |                   | 156675      |                   |

(CSO Table E8001:)

There was a -19.3% decline in the population of *Irish Travellers* in Co. Donegal from 2011 to 2016.

| <b>Table 8: Traveller population<sup>6</sup> 2016</b>                 | <b>Donegal 2016</b> | <b>State 2016</b>     |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Traveller population (all) rate per 1,000 of population</b>        | 3.8                 | 6.6                   |
| <b>Traveller population (all) percentage of population in county</b>  | 726/159,217/0.4%    | 30,987/4,761,865/0.6% |
| <b>No. of Traveller children (-18 years) in 2016 (Designated PHN)</b> | 462                 | 30,497                |

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government facilitates the Annual Estimate of Traveller families nationally at the end of November every year. The most recent estimate by the Donegal County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme <sup>7</sup> at the end of November 2018 outlines that 287 Traveller families were resident in County Donegal at that time. In comparison to neighbouring Counties (as per most up-to-date information from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government), Donegal has a significantly larger number of Traveller families residing in its functional area with Sligo 139, Leitrim 68, Cavan 141 & Monaghan 161. The Donegal Travellers Project/Donegal Intercultural Platform estimate that there are between 250 – 350 Traveller families living in Donegal<sup>8</sup>. A breakdown of the various accommodation types of the families who were residing in the County at the end of November 2018 is as follows:

| <b>Table 9: Number of Traveller Families Residing in Co. Donegal by Accommodation Type NOV 2019</b> |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Standard Local Authority Social Housing</b>  | 176 |
| <b>Private Rented Accommodation</b>   | 36  |
| <b>HAP</b>  | 30  |
| <b>Halting Site</b>   | 12  |
| <b>Sharing with relatives</b>   | 16  |
| <b>Roadside</b>   | 9   |
| <b>Permanent Halt</b>   | 4   |
| <b>Hospital Care/ Emergency Accommodation</b>   | 4   |

<sup>6</sup> HSE, Designated PHN for Travellers, (2016)(email correspondence)

<sup>7</sup> Donegal County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024

<sup>8</sup> DTP/DIP Alternative Report November 2019

Donegal has two halting sites at Big Isle, Manorcunningham and Ballintra. Two Traveller-specific group housing schemes are located in Letterkenny with six permanent halts located in Letterkenny (4), Kerrykeel (1) & Ardara (1).

The *Roma Community* in Ireland consists of persons from a range of European countries, including Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic (Czechia). The Donegal Travellers Project/Donegal Intercultural Platform estimate that there are between 40 – 50 Roma families living in Donegal<sup>9</sup>.

Currently there is no census category for *Middle Eastern* population. Under the Refugee Resettlement Programme, 39 families have resettled in Donegal. This number comprises of 199 individuals (88 adults and 111 children). 37 families are Syrian (all speak Arabic). 2 families are Iraqi (do not speak Arabic 1 family speaks Kurdish Sorani and the other Kurdish Kurmanji). <sup>10</sup> These families have been resettled in a phased basis in different areas of the county including Letterkenny, Carndonagh, Ballybofey and Stranorlar with children attending local pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools. As well as support with day to day issues, the main challenges facing families relate to transport and language. A large number of men on the programme are interested in setting up their own business. There are 77 individuals currently (as at June 2020<sup>11</sup>) on the resettlement programme residing in Buncrana, Donegal Town and Letterkenny.

| Table 10: Numbers on the Refugee Resettlement Programme in Co. Donegal June 2020 |        |          |       |
|--|--------|----------|-------|
|  | Adults | Children | Total |
| <b>Buncrana</b>  | 18     | 20       | 38    |
| <b>Donegal Town</b>  | 7      | 6        | 13    |
| <b>Letterkenny</b>   | 15     | 11       | 26    |
| <b>Total</b>   | 40     | 37       | 77    |

<sup>9</sup> DTP/DIP Alternative Report November 2019

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.dldc.org/programmes/donegal-refugee-resettlement-project/> 22/6/2020

<sup>11</sup> Personal correspondence from Resettlement Support Worker 30/6/2020

## Health of Children and Young People in Donegal

Of the 51,755 Children and Young People aged 0-24 years of age in County Donegal whose general level of health was stated in 2016, 1,096 (or 2.1%) stated as 'fair, bad or very bad'. The comparable figure for 2011 was 998 children and young people. While 98% (50,659) general health was stated as 'good or very good' and the comparable figure for 2011 was 54,598.

**Table 11: General Health of Children and Young People in Donegal and State 2016**

|                   |         | All ages  | 0 - 4   | 5 - 9   | 10 - 14 | 15 -19  | 20 -24  |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>All</b>        | State   | 1,583,004 | 331,515 | 355,561 | 319,476 | 302,816 | 273,636 |
|                   | Donegal | 53,449    | 10,776  | 12,445  | 11,821  | 10,857  | 7,550   |
| <b>Very good</b>  | State   | 1,270,788 | 268,763 | 298,302 | 269,112 | 239,203 | 195,408 |
|                   | Donegal | 42,408    | 8,661   | 10,272  | 9,729   | 8,465   | 5,281   |
| <b>Good</b>       | State   | 221,666   | 37,743  | 40,744  | 36,738  | 47,095  | 59,346  |
|                   | Donegal | 8,251     | 1,371   | 1,619   | 1,645   | 1,843   | 1,773   |
| <b>Fair</b>       | State   | 26,555    | 3,360   | 4,080   | 3,733   | 6,482   | 8,900   |
|                   | Donegal | 977       | 126     | 155     | 169     | 252     | 275     |
| <b>Bad</b>        | State   | 2,963     | 439     | 441     | 412     | 729     | 942     |
|                   | Donegal | 91        | 6       | 16      | 10      | 30      | 29      |
| <b>Very Bad</b>   | State   | 833       | 196     | 149     | 109     | 185     | 194     |
|                   | Donegal | 28        | 7       | 6       | 0       | 7       | 8       |
| <b>Not stated</b> | State   | 60,199    | 21,014  | 11,845  | 9,372   | 9,122   | 8,846   |
|                   | Donegal | 1,694     | 605     | 377     | 268     | 260     | 184     |

## Births, Infant Mortality and Young Mothers

There were 1,864 babies born in County Donegal in 2017. In 2016, the percentage of children born with low birthweight in Donegal (4.7) was one of the lowest in the country (5.5 nationally).

**Table 12: Births in Donegal 2019**

|                           | Donegal |      | State  |      |
|---------------------------|---------|------|--------|------|
|                           | 2017    | 2019 | 2017   | 2019 |
| <b>Babies born number</b> | 1864    | 1817 | 62,053 |      |
| <b>Babies born Rate</b>   | 11.6    |      | 12.9   |      |

| <b>Table 13: Infant Mortality 2017</b>                | <b>Donegal</b> | <b>State</b>  |
|---|----------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Number</b>  | <b>Number</b> |
| <b>No. of infant mortalities</b>                      | 10             | 188           |
| <b>No. of neonatal mortalities</b>                    | 9              | 140           |
| <b>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</b> | 5.4            | 2.8           |
| <b>Rate of child mortality per 1,000 live births</b>  | 4.2            | 2.4           |

Donegal had a marginally higher infant mortality rate than the State in 2016 at 3.7 infant mortalities per 1000 of live births compared to 3.3 in the State. In addition, Donegal had a marginally higher rate of neonatal mortalities per 1000 live births at 2.6 compared to 2.4 in the State. The child mortality rate in Donegal (4.2) was higher than the 2017 national average (2.4), The 5 year standardised child mortality rate (2013-2017) in Donegal (2.2) was lower than the national rate (2.4) over the same period

| <b>Table 14: Age profile of mothers in Donegal at time of 2019 child's birth<sup>12</sup></b> |      |
|---|------|
| <b>Under 20 years</b>   | 10   |
| <b>20-24 years</b>  | 141  |
| <b>25-29 years</b>  | 334  |
| <b>30-39 years</b>  | 1130 |
| <b>40+ years</b>  | 202  |

<sup>12</sup> HSE, Child Health Personal Health Record System (2016) (email correspondence)  
Child Health Profile 2018

## Health Protection of Children and Young People

| <b>Table 15:<br/>Vaccination</b>                    | <b>Number<br/>Eligible</b> | <b>Number<br/>vaccinated</b> | <b>% Vaccinated<br/>Donegal</b> | <b>% Vaccinated<br/>State</b> | <b>Time period</b>                                   |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>MMR Vaccination: one dose at 24 months</b>       | 1978                       | 1696                         | 85.7                            |                               | Born 2017 reported 2019                              |
| <b>6-in-1 Vaccination: three doses at 24 months</b> | 1978                       | 1791                         | 90.5                            |                               | Born 2017 reported 2019                              |
| <b>HPV Vaccination: third dose (1st year girls)</b> |                            |                              |                                 |                               |  |
| <b>MMR Vaccination Junior Infants</b>               | 2216                       | 1977                         | 89.2                            |                               | Born 01 Sept 2012 to August 31st 2013, reported 2019 |

### Breast Feeding

Breastfeeding rates in Donegal have gone down over the last number of years. In 2019 Donegal had a lower percentage of mothers breastfeeding at the time of first contact with the PHN than the State (42.6% compared to 58%) and much less mothers in Donegal continued to breastfeed at time of 3 months contact with the PHN than the State (24.3% compared to 42.6%).

| <b>Table 16: Breastfeeding Rates 2016 &amp; 2019</b>         | <b>Donegal</b> |      | <b>State</b> |      |
|--|----------------|------|--------------|------|
|  | 2016           | 2019 | 2016         | 2019 |
| <b>Time of 1<sup>st</sup> contact by Public Health Nurse</b> | 51.4           | 42.6 | 56.8         | 58.0 |
| <b>Time of 3 month contact by Public Health Nurse</b>        | 41.8           | 24.3 | 38.8         | 42.6 |

| <b>Table 17: Breastfeeding Rates at Hospital Discharge</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Exclusive</b> | <b>Combined</b> |
|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2015 Donegal</b>  | 42.5         | 34.2             | 8.3             |
| <b>2016 Donegal</b>  | 44.9         | 37.5             | 7.4             |

### Children and Young People with Illness or Disabilities

Census 2016 reveals that there were 22,955 people with a physical/intellectual disability in County Donegal in 2016 of which 16% or 3,777 were children or young people aged 0-24 years. 20% of all males with a disability and 13% of all females with a disability in Donegal were aged 0-24 years. There were 250 more children and young people with a disability in 2016 than in 2011.



In 2020 the Autism Service, identified 694 children aged 6-18 years who had a confirmed diagnosis of ASD. This number included children that have been referred to the service and who may not be receiving a service, but they still have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD<sup>13</sup>.

### **Hospital Discharges for Injuries in Children (0-14 years)**

In 2017, rates of hospital discharges caused by injuries in children aged 0-14 years were higher in Donegal 109, than the national average of 82 (per 10,000 0-14-year olds).

### **Hospital Emergency Admissions for Asthma (0-18 years)**

Donegal had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for asthma in children in the country and this was significantly higher than the national average (412/100,000 vs 134/100,000 nationally)<sup>14</sup>.

## **Health and Risk Behaviour of Young People in County Donegal**

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes, and health behaviours, as well as the context of health for young people. The most recent HBSC Ireland study was conducted in 2018 and included 15,557 school children from 3rd class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary school. Collectively, 255 primary and post-primary schools across Ireland participated in this study. The following data presents some indicators of health and well-being in young people from Donegal, compared to the same findings from other counties of Republic of Ireland (ROI). See Appendix 5 for full report<sup>15</sup>. Within tables showing overall findings and those broken down to age groups, prevalence data are presented for young people from Donegal ( $n = 414$ , 3.52%) compared to national data, Donegal included ( $n = 11,758$ )<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Personal communication Donegal Early Intervention Team 16 September 2020

<sup>14</sup> CHO1 Child Health Profile 2018

<sup>15</sup> Short Report: Health and Well-being of young people in Donegal András Költő, Divya Ravikumar & Saoirse Nic Gabhainn *HBSC Ireland, Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland Galway* June 2020

<sup>16</sup> In interpreting the data presented below, it is important to recognise that the sample was drawn to be representative at a national level and not a county level.

| <b>Table 18:</b>   |                  |                          |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>HBSC Survey</b>   | <b>% Donegal</b> | <b>% National sample</b> |
| <b>Not having breakfast on weekdays</b>                                  |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 16.1             | 12.3                     |
| 10-14 years  | 11.9             | 9.6                      |
| 15-17 years  | 20.5             | 17.8                     |
| <b>Participating in vigorous exercise four or more times per week</b>    |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 42.9             | 49.3                     |
| 10-14 years  | 52.3             | 54.6                     |
| 15-17 years  | 33.3             | 38.7                     |
| <b>Ever smoking tobacco</b>  |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 7.9              | 10.6                     |
| 10-14 years  | 2.4              | 4.1                      |
| 15-17 years  | 13.6             | 23.9                     |
| <b>Ever having been 'really drunk'</b>                                   |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 17.6             | 16.5                     |
| 10-14 years  | 3.3              | 4.7                      |
| 15-17 years  | 32.7             | 40.7                     |
| <b>Agree that in their school children take part in making the rules</b> |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 21.4             | 28.5                     |
| 10-14 years  | 26.1             | 34.8                     |
| 15-17 years  | 16.6             | 15.7                     |
| <b>High life satisfaction</b>  |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 75.0             | 73.3                     |
| 10-14 years  | 83.9             | 78.2                     |
| 15-17 years  | 65.8             | 63.5                     |
| <b>Feel that their body is too thin or too fat</b>                       |                  |                          |
| Overall  | 48.2             | 43.3                     |
| 10-14 years  | 42.3             | 39.1                     |
| 15-17 years  | 54.4             | 51.5                     |

| Having a disability or chronic condition                  |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| Overall   | 24.6 | 21.1 |
| 10-14 years   | 25.4 | 20.4 |
| 15-17 years   | 23.9 | 22.5 |
| Ever being bullied at school in the past couple of months |      |      |
| Overall   | 27.5 | 30.0 |
| 10-14 years   | 28.5 | 30.8 |
| 15-17 years   | 26.5 | 28.5 |
| The area in which they live is safe                       |      |      |
| Overall   | 94.8 | 89.4 |
| 10-14 years   | 96.6 | 90.3 |
| 15-17 years   | 92.9 | 87.7 |

| Table 18 cont.:  |           |                   |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| HBSC Survey  | % Donegal | % National sample |
| There are good places to spend free time (e.g. leisure centre, parks, shops) |           |                   |
| Overall  | 52.1      | 63.9              |
| 10-14 years  | 63.2      | 70.2              |
| 15-17 years  | 40.5      | 51.4              |
| Their friends try to help them   |           |                   |
| Overall  | 65.3      | 70.9              |
| 10-14 years  | 68.6      | 71.6              |
| 15-17 years  | 61.9      | 69.3              |
| Comfortable with talking about their sexuality                               |           |                   |
| 15-17 years  | 73.2      | 80.8              |
| Had sexual intercourse   |           |                   |
| 15-17 years  | 21.1      | 25.0              |

## Young People Mental Health and Deliberate Self Harm

In Donegal in 2017, there were 51 hospital treated episodes of deliberate self-harm for young people age < 16 - 17 years and 96 in the 18 - 24 age category.

| <b>Table 19: Hospital Treated Episodes of Self-harm 2017</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Letterkenny University Hospital</b>                       |             |               |
| <b>&lt; 16 years</b>   | 10          | 16            |
| <b>16-17 years</b>   | 7           | 18            |
| <b>18-24 years</b>   | 46          | 50            |

| <b>Table 20: Recommended Next Care by Hospital 2017 (all ages)</b> | <b>Letterkenny University Hospital (n=391)</b> | <b>State</b> |
|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Admitted (general and psychiatric)</b>                          | 55.0%  | 31.6%        |
| <b>Patient would not allow admission</b>                           | 0.5%   | 0.6%         |
| <b>Left before recommendation</b>                                  | 6.4%   | 12%          |
| <b>Not admitted</b>  | 38.1%  | 55.9%        |

| <b>Table 21: Statistics from Jigsaw Donegal</b> | <b>1/1/13 -31/12/19</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Referrals</b>                                | 1592   |
| <b>Male</b>                                     | 37.2%  |
| <b>Female</b>                                   | 62.8%  |
| <b>Top 5 presenting issues</b>                  | 1 Anxiety<br>2 Low Mood<br>3 Sleep Issues<br>4 Stress<br>5 Family Problems |
| <b>Top 3 age at entry to service</b>            | 1 16 years (466)<br>2 17 years (444)<br>3 15 years (380)                   |
| <b>Referral pathway</b>                         | 1 Parent<br>2 Self<br>3 GP   |

Jigsaw Donegal provides a free and confidential support service for young people aged 15–25.

## Children and Young People's Welfare

48 children were listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System at the end of 2018, down from 60 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. Numbers on CPNS had decreased to 34 at the beginning of 2020 but had increased to 61 by the end of September 2020. Much of the increase was a result of children listed in other jurisdictions or other parts of Ireland moving into the Area. The main concerns resulting in referrals to Tusla remains alcohol abuse, domestic violence and deficits in parenting skills. Other significant factors are issues to do with child mental health and relationship difficulties within the home. Alcohol abuse and domestic violence remain the core reasons resulting in children requiring alternative care.

**Table 22: Child Protection and Welfare Referrals to Tusla in Donegal <sup>17</sup>**

| <b>2019</b>   |           |           |           |           |              |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|   | <b>Q1</b> | <b>Q2</b> | <b>Q3</b> | <b>Q4</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Total Number of Referrals<br/>Child Abuse/Welfare</b>  | 294       | 450       | 343       | 237       | 1324         |
| <b>Total Referrals – Number<br/>that had a preliminary<br/>enquiry</b>                                    | 293       | 449       | 339       | 236       | 1317         |
| <b>Total Referrals – Number<br/>that required an Initial<br/>Assessment after<br/>preliminary enquiry</b> | 42        | 70        | 39        | 44        | 195          |

**Table 23: Child Protection and Welfare Referrals to Tusla in Donegal <sup>18</sup>**

|  | <b>2016</b>                 |                          |              | <b>2017</b>                 |                          |              | <b>2018</b>                 |                          |              |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|  | <b>Child<br/>Protection</b> | <b>Child<br/>Welfare</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Child<br/>Protection</b> | <b>Child<br/>Welfare</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Child<br/>Protection</b> | <b>Child<br/>Welfare</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Total Number of<br/>Referrals<br/>received during<br/>reporting period</b>                                | 249                         | 673                      | 922          | 468                         | 1,001                    | 1,469        | 314                         | 633                      | 947          |
| <b>Number of<br/>referrals<br/>received that<br/>requiring an<br/>initial<br/>assessment<br/>following a</b> | 125                         | 183                      | 308          | 53                          | 130                      | 183          | 16                          | 8                        | 24           |

<sup>17</sup> data.tusla.ie and Tusla Childcare Information System

<sup>18</sup> Tusla Donegal Childcare Information System

| <b>Table 24: Top Primary Reasons for Welfare Concern (Cases completed in 2019)<sup>19</sup></b> | <b>Count</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Parents: (Children of parents) who misuse drugs or alcohol                                      | 209          |
| Family /Household (Children of Families) where domestic violence is a factor                    | 136          |
| Parents: (Children of Parents) who lack parenting skills  | 119          |
| Family /Household (Children of Families) with significant relationship difficulties             | 111          |
| Child with behavioral problems  | 63           |
| Parents: (Children of Parents) with mental health problems                                      | 47           |
| Child with emotional problems   | 42           |
| Child who is abusing drugs/alcohol  | 16           |
| Family /Household (Children of Families) with a known abuser                                    | 15           |
| Parents: (Children of Parents) whose accommodation is unstable or unsuitable                    | 13           |

## Children in Care

From the period 2017 – 2019, the number of children in care remained between 200 and 220. The majority of these children are based with general foster parents (between 78 – 80% in each of the three years. Under 20% of children in care are fostered with relatives; 16% in 2017, 15% in 2018 and 17% in 2019. The number of children requiring residential care has increased from 7 to 10 within the last three years.

| <b>Table 25: Children in Care <sup>20</sup></b> |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Donegal</b>                                  | <b>Dec 2017</b> | <b>Dec 2018</b> | <b>Dec 2019</b> |
| <b>Residential Care</b>                         | 7               | 8               | 10              |
| <b>Foster Care General</b>                      | 158             | 171             | 163             |
| <b>Foster Care Relative</b>                     | 31              | 31              | 35              |
| <b>Other</b>                                    | 4               | 4               | 2               |
| <b>Total Number of Children in Care</b>         | 200             | 214             | 210             |

<sup>19</sup> Tulsa Donegal Childcare Information System

<sup>20</sup> data.tusla.ie



## Child and Family Support<sup>21</sup>

### *Child and Family Support Networks / Meitheal*

The full complement of Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) has now been established in Donegal with every part of the county being served by a CFSN. Each Network has a membership of approximately 20-25, all of whom work to achieve outcomes for children and families.

The number of requests for Meitheal multi-agency processes with children / young people more than quadrupled in the period 2017 – 2019 (from 21 to 96). There has been a drop in 2020 figures <sup>22</sup>due to the Covid crisis but a return to face-to-face work with children and families is likely to see an end of year return to normal levels of Meitheal requests. As expected, the volume of Meitheal requests grew throughout the county in parallel with the development of the CFSN infrastructure. The primary source of Meitheal requests in County Donegal continues to be through direct requests from practitioners working with children, young people and families.

| <b>Table 26: Meitheals in Donegal</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>New Requests</b>                   | <b>21</b>   | <b>57</b>   | <b>96</b>   | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>Open (from previous year)</b>      | 3           | 13          | 47          | 73 (total)  |
| <b>Closed</b>                         | 18          | 42          | 44          | 2           |

| <b>Table 27: Meitheal requests per CFSN area</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>North Central</b>                             | 6           | 13          | 35          | 8           |
| <b>North West</b>                                | 2           | 3           | 8           | 0           |
| <b>Inishowen</b>                                 | 2           | 16          | 14          | 2           |
| <b>South Central</b>                             | 8           | 16          | 28          | 7           |
| <b>South West</b>                                | 3           | 9           | 11          | 5           |

| <b>Table 28: Top 5 Primary Presenting Issues 2018 - 2020</b> | <b>Top 5 Secondary Presenting Issues 2018 - 2020</b> |
|--|--|
| <b>Emotional problems</b>                                    | Parenting support                                    |
| <b>Behavioural problems</b>                                  | Educational issue (e.g. attendance)                  |
| <b>Mental health issue</b>                                   | Behavioural problems                                 |
| <b>Educational issue (e.g. attendance)</b>                   | Social isolation                                     |
| <b>Financial/Housing difficulties</b>                        | Family issues/Emotional problems                     |

<sup>21</sup> data.tusla.ie and Tusla Childcare Information System

<sup>22</sup> as of August 2020

## Vulnerable Young People

### Young Carers

The number and rate of children who provide regular unpaid personal help to a family member or friend with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in County Donegal continues to be higher than in the State.

| Table 29: Young Carers as percent of Population. |         | All | 0-9 yrs | 10-14 yrs | 15-19 yrs | 20-24 yrs |
|--|---------|-----|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2011   | State   | 4.1 | 0.3     | 0.8       | 1.5       | 1.9       |
|  | Donegal | 4.6 | 0.3     | 0.8       | 1.7       | 2.2       |
| 2016   | State   | 4.1 | 0.2     | 0.7       | 1.4       | 1.9       |
|  | Donegal | 4.5 | 0.2     | 0.8       | 1.5       | 2.2       |

### Young People's Involvement in Crime, Youth Referral Statistics for the Donegal Division

The total number of referrals relating to young people living in the Donegal Division catchment area of An Garda Síochána decreased from 619 in 2017 to 435 in 2018 but rose again to 682 in 2019. Public order offences were the biggest number of referrals in 2017 but were overtaken by theft and related offences in 2019. Controlled drug offences have increased from 15 in 2017 to 32 in 2019.

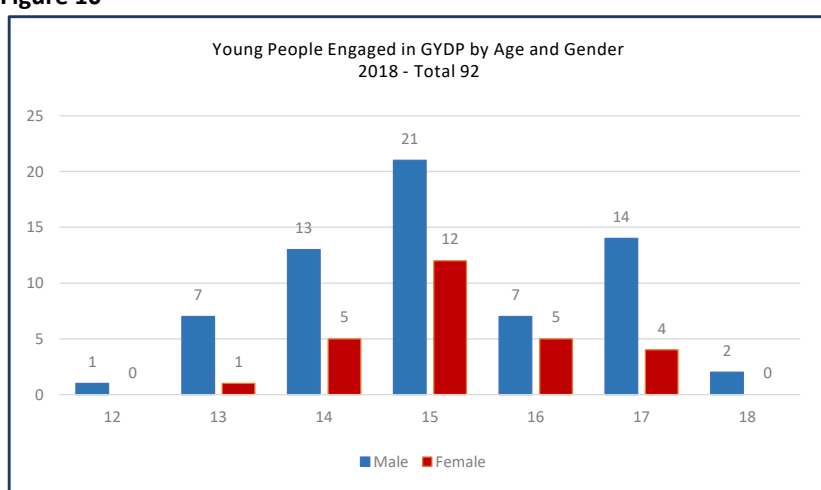
| Table 30: Number of Referrals per ICCS Group in 2017, 2018 and 2019 relating to young persons living in the Donegal Division catchment area |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|
| ICCS Group / Sub-Type / Type of Incident for Each Referral  | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| 13 - Public Order and other Social Code Offences  | 206  | 109  | 180  |
| 1312 - Public order offences  | 110  | 50   | 80   |
| 1313 - Drunkenness offences   | 47   | 49   | 52   |
| 08 - Theft and Related Offences   | 109  | 101  | 114  |
| 14 - Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)  | 84   | 32   | 62   |
| 03 - Attempts/Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments & Related Offences   | 57   | 65   | 67   |
| 12 - Damage to Property and to the Environment  | 51   | 23   | 57   |
| 04 - Dangerous or Negligent Acts  | 29   | 49   | 38   |
| 10 - Controlled Drug Offences   | 15   | 18   | 32   |
| All Other   | 68   | 38   | 132  |
| Total Number of Referrals   | 619  | 435  | 682  |

|  |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total Number of Incidents – relating to the Referrals above</b>   | <b>520</b> | <b>365</b> | <b>568</b> |
| <i>* These referrals relate to young persons with an address in the Donegal Division. Offences linked to these individuals may have occurred anywhere in the country</i> |            |            |            |

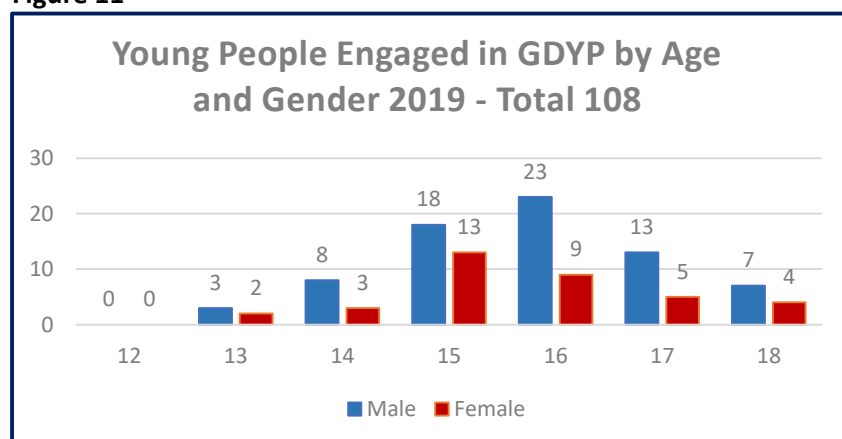
### Young people involved in Garda Diversion Project (GDYP)

The numbers of young people or under 18 years referred to the probation services from either Circuit or District Court is low as most referrals go to the Garda Diversion Projects. The figures are much greater under 24 years. These figures are not available locally. The numbers of young people engaged in the GDYP was 92 in 2018 and 108 in 2019. (Figure 10 & 11)

**Figure 10**



**Figure 11**



### Housing and Homelessness in Donegal

In 2019 346 households with children qualified for social housing support. In 13% of households qualifying for social housing support, the main applicant was under 25 years old. This compares to 8%

under 25 years old in the State. 19% of main applicants who qualified for housing support in Donegal were in employment compared to 27% in the State.

Figure 12

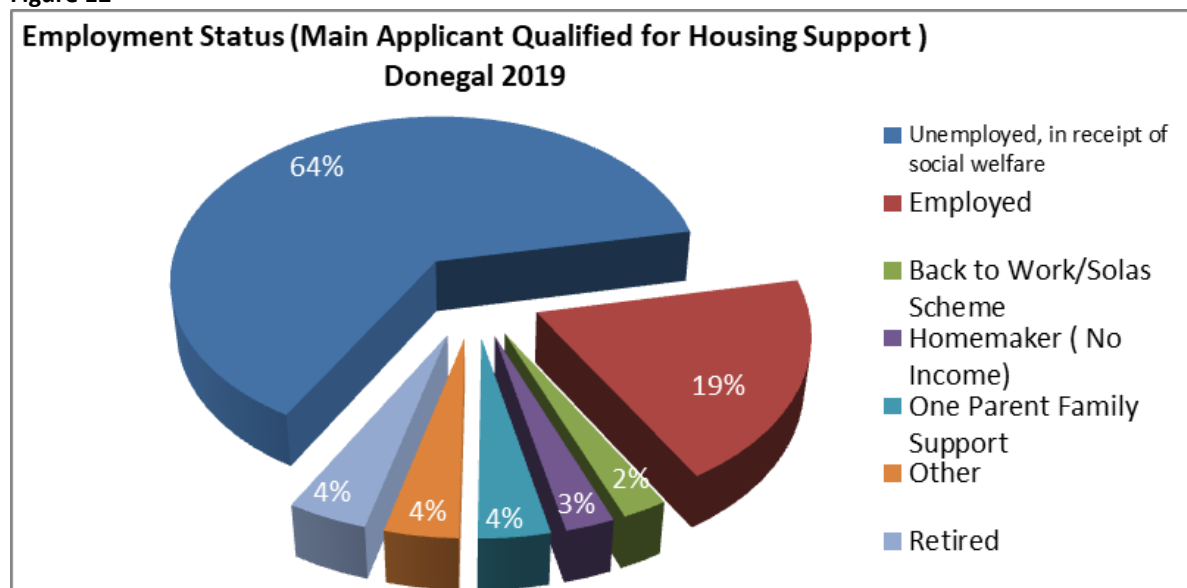
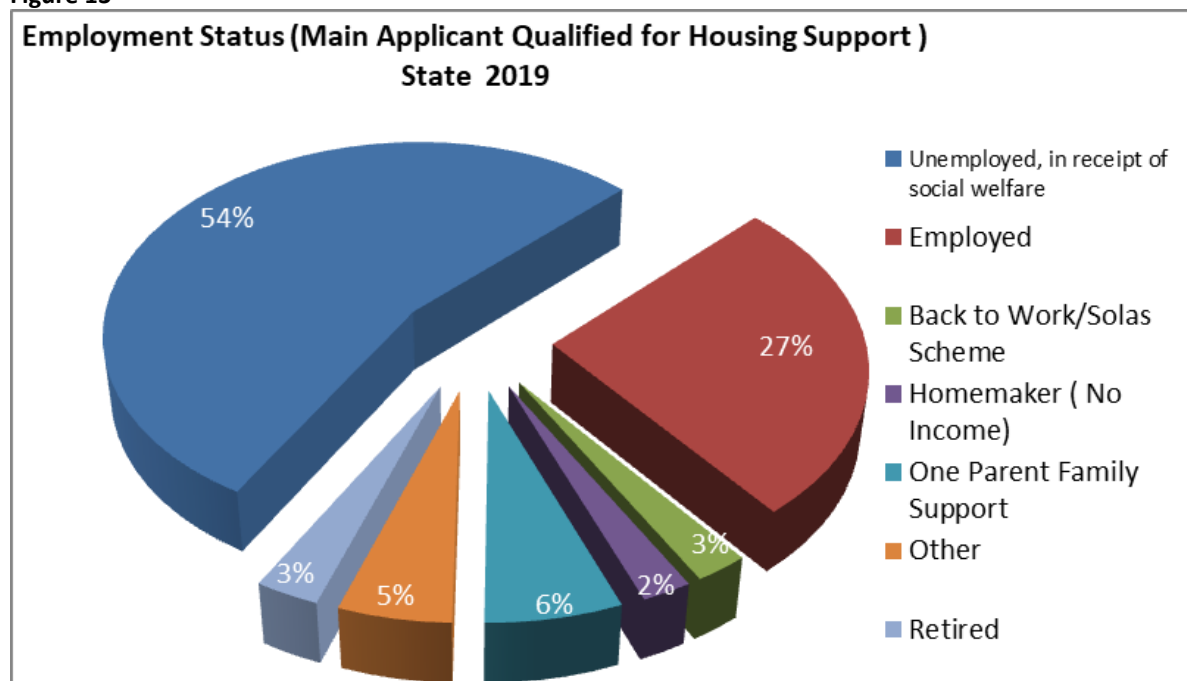


Figure 13



The main need for social housing support in Donegal was unsuitable accommodation – household circumstances.

Figure 14

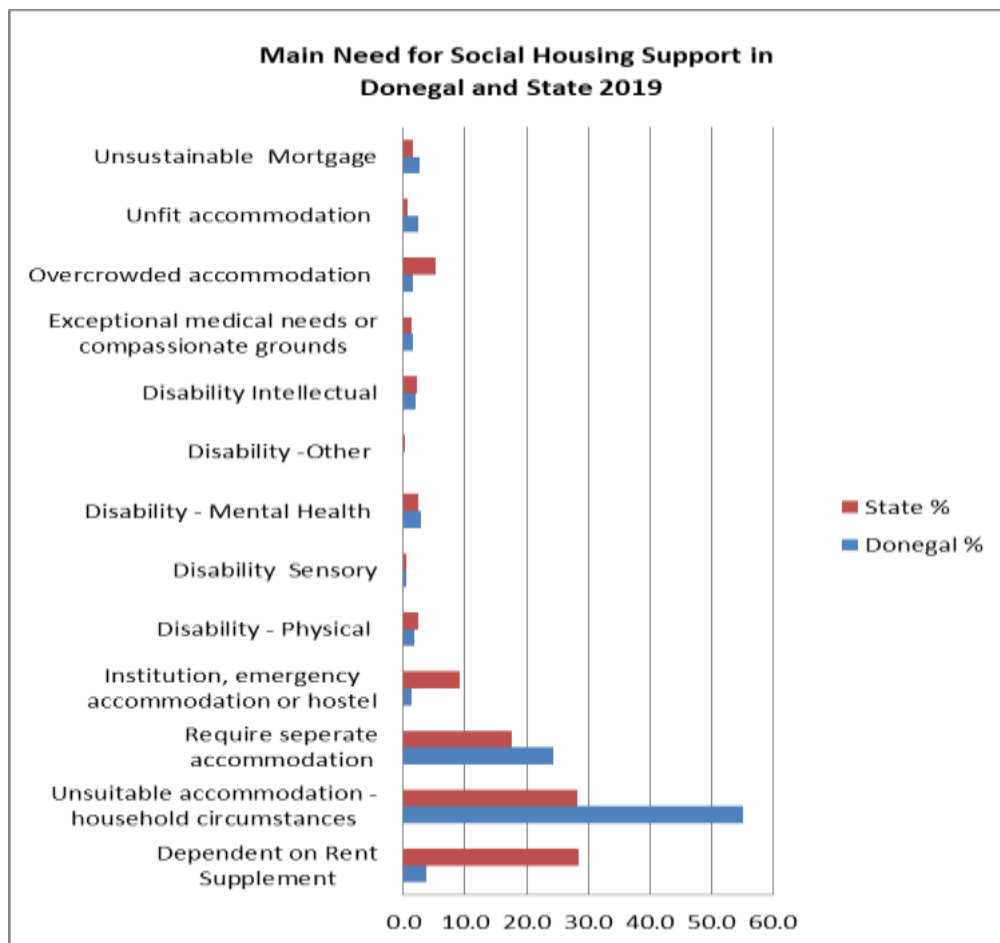
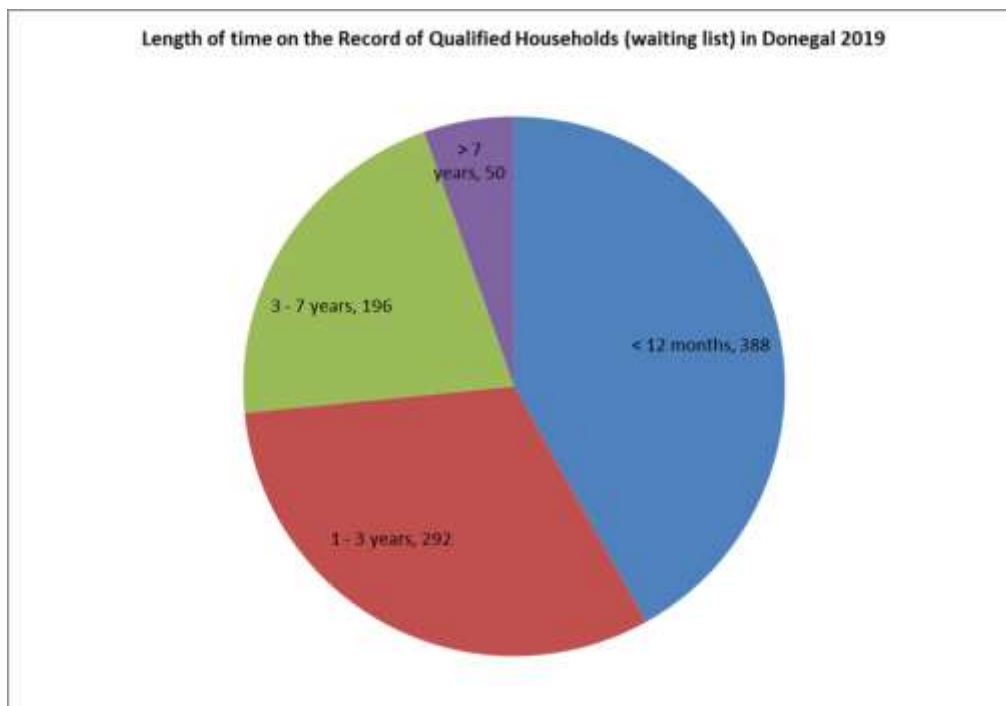


Figure 15



**Table 31: Homeless Clients for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017<sup>23</sup>**

| Service                | Visits to Service | Accommodated                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Donegal County Council | 32                | 25 (18 as a result of flooding in Inishowen) |
| SVP Hostel             | 10                | 18   |
| White Oaks             | 29                | 39   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>71</b>         | <b>82</b>                                    |

**Table 32:****Breakdown of specific accommodation requirements in Donegal**

| Year        | General,<br>(no specific req) | Enduring sensory, mental health or intellectual issue | physical, Homeless | Traveller | Aged 65 yrs or more | Total |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>2016</b> | 1,213                         | 26  | 2                  | 3         | 23                  | 1,267 |
| <b>2017</b> | 855                           | 28  | 5                  | 1         | 14                  | 903   |
| <b>2018</b> | 766                           | 25  | 4                  | 1         | 15                  | 811   |
| <b>2019</b> | 879                           | 26  | 6                  | 3         | 12                  | 926   |

Homelessness as a main need for social housing support has increased in Donegal over the last number of years but the figures are still quite low. However, numbers of homeless clients recorded by homeless services is higher than this.

<sup>23</sup>: Donegal County Council



## Educational Opportunities for Children, Young People and their Families

### Early Childhood Care and Education

**Table 35: Early Childhood Care and Education – 2018 – 2019**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>Total number attending</b>                                  | 7030 |
| <b>No. of children availing of ECCE (free pre-School year)</b> | 3661 |
| <b>No. of childcare services</b>                               | 155  |

In 2017/2018, Donegal had the highest vacancy rate in early years services at 13% compared to a national rate of 5%. Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme is primarily aimed at supporting parents on a low income to avail of reduced childcare costs. Counties with larger population centres tend to have the highest numbers of registrations for CCS. However, Donegal has been identified as a 'surprising outlier' recording 7% of registrations (comparable to Cork).

The average hourly wages in the early years sector was second lowest in the country in Donegal at €11.29 per hour. The annual staff turnover rate for staff in the early years sector in Donegal was one of the highest in Ireland at 34% compared to 25% nationally<sup>24</sup>.

### Educational Attainment

In Donegal, there were 124,150 people aged 15 years and over in 2016, of which 104,708 had finished their full time education<sup>25</sup> and 19,422 had not. Table 36 highlights that 22% of our population (21,333), who have finished their full time education left with no formal or primary education compared to 13% in the State and these figures are higher for Males at 24.9% than Females at 19%. However, compared with comparable figures for 2011, it illustrates that this figure has reduced by 5,028 people. 33.4% of the population, 15 years and over in Donegal (32,552), who have finished their full time education did so with a Higher Educational Qualification<sup>26</sup> compared to 42% in the State. Females in Donegal outperformed Males in terms of higher educational attainment at 37.5% and 19.3% respectively. The number attaining higher educational attainment increased by 3,794 persons<sup>26</sup> over the 2011 – 2016.

Over the twenty year period 1999 to 2019<sup>27</sup> there was an increase of 27.8% in enrolments in primary schools (mainstream and special) nationally. Donegal was the only area that saw a decrease (-0.7%) in that period. Enrolments are projected to fall over the coming fifteen years.

<sup>24</sup> Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017-2018, Pobal

<sup>25</sup> This figure includes 7,340 persons who did not state their highest level of educational attainment. Percentages as calculated in this factsheet exclude that non stated category.

<sup>26</sup> Table 36 illustrates that 32,552 persons in Donegal had attained a third level education in 2016 which equates to 33.4% of the population aged 15 years and over. The corresponding figure for 2011 was 28, 758 persons or 28.5% of the population.

<sup>27</sup> Department of Education and Science Statistical Bulletin – July 2020 Overview of Education 1999 – 2019

**Table 36: Highest level of education 15yrs and over**

|  | State, 2016 |           |           | Donegal, 2016 |        |        |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|
|  | Total       | Male      | Female    | Total         | Male   | Female |
| <b>Total education ceased and not ceased</b>                       | 3,755,313   | 1,839,849 | 1,915,464 | 124,150       | 60,966 | 63,184 |
| <b>No formal education</b>   | 52,214      | 28,296    | 23,918    | 3,869         | 2,204  | 1,665  |
| <b>Primary</b>   | 334,284     | 175,603   | 158,681   | 17,464        | 9,717  | 7,747  |
| <b>Lower secondary</b>   | 449,766     | 243,128   | 206,638   | 17,594        | 9,897  | 7,697  |
| <b>Upper secondary</b>   | 573,643     | 268,675   | 304,968   | 17,393        | 8,474  | 8,919  |
| <b>Technical/vocational</b>  | 271,532     | 122,938   | 148,594   | 8,496         | 3,575  | 4,921  |
| <b>Advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship</b>               | 182,318     | 119,588   | 62,730    | 5,284         | 3,214  | 2,070  |
| <b>Higher certificate</b>  | 153,351     | 66,290    | 87,061    | 5,023         | 2,067  | 2,956  |
| <b>Ordinary bachelor degree/professional qualification or both</b> | 237,117     | 106,692   | 130,425   | 6,699         | 2,668  | 4,031  |
| <b>Honours bachelor degree/professional qualification or both</b>  | 331,293     | 147,460   | 183,833   | 8,529         | 3,312  | 5,217  |
| <b>Postgraduate diploma or degree</b>                              | 284,107     | 119,676   | 164,431   | 6,543         | 2,480  | 4,063  |
| <b>Doctorate (Ph.D.)</b>   | 28,759      | 16,016    | 12,743    | 474           | 271    | 203    |
| <b>Not stated</b>  | 198,668     | 99,422    | 99,246    | 7,340         | 3,581  | 3,759  |
| <b>Economic status - total at School, university, etc.</b>         | 427,128     | 211,054   | 216,074   | 13,329        | 6,530  | 6,799  |
| <b>Economic status - other</b>                                     | 231,133     | 115,011   | 116,122   | 6,113         | 2,976  | 3,137  |

## Educational Participation

**Table 37:****National Schools by County 2020**

|   | State | Donegal |
|---|-------|---------|
| <b>Ordinary National Schools</b>                                | 3,106 | 174     |
| <b>Ordinary National Schools with Pupils with Special Needs</b> | 620   | 14      |
| <b>Special Schools</b>  | 134   | 2       |
| <b>All National Schools</b>                                     | 3,240 | 17      |

**Table 38:**  
**National School Pupils by County, School Programme 2020**

|   | State   | Donegal |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>All first level school programmes</b>                        |         |         |
| <b>Pupils in National Schools</b>                               | 567,716 | 18,789  |
| <b>Classes in National Schools</b>                              | 25,312  | 882     |
| <b>Pupils with special needs in mainstream national schools</b> |         |         |
| <b>Pupils in National Schools</b>                               | 6,822   | 242     |
| <b>Classes in National Schools</b>                              | 1,169   | 45      |
| <b>Pupils in special national schools</b>                       |         |         |
| <b>Pupils in National Schools</b>                               | 8,351   | 161     |
| <b>Classes in National Schools</b>                              | 1,173   | 28      |
| <b>All mainstream national school programmes</b>                |         |         |
| <b>Pupils in National Schools</b>                               | 552,543 | 18,386  |
| <b>Classes in National Schools</b>                              | 22,970  | 809     |

**Table 39:**  
**Second Level Schools and Pupils by County, Type of School, statistical indicator 2020<sup>28</sup>**

|                              |  | State  | Donegal |
|------------------------------|--|--------|---------|
| <b>Secondary schools</b>     | Schools providing Second Level Education | 381    | 4       |
|                              | Pupils receiving Second Level Education  | 201778 | 3377    |
| <b>Vocational schools</b>    | Schools providing Second Level Education | 246    | 15      |
|                              | Pupils receiving Second Level Education  | 108303 | 5085    |
| <b>Community schools</b>     | Schools providing Second Level Education | 82     | 6       |
|                              | Pupils receiving Second Level Education  | 53660  | 3783    |
| <b>Comprehensive schools</b> | Schools providing Second Level Education | 14     | 2       |
|                              | Pupils receiving Second Level Education  | 7709   | 922     |

<sup>28</sup> CSO

|  |  |        |       |
|--|--|--------|-------|
| <b>Second level education institutions aided by DoES</b> | Schools providing Second Level Education | 723    | 27    |
|  | Pupils receiving Second Level Education  | 371450 | 13167 |

## School population, attendance and retention

| <b>Table 40: School population, attendance and retention <sup>29</sup></b>                | <b>Donegal</b> | <b>State</b> |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Primary School (5-12 years):</b>   |                |              |
| • 2010-2011   | 19,463         | 504,267      |
| • 2015-2016   | 18,936         | 553,380      |
| • 2016-2017   | Not available  | 557,998      |
| <b>Post-Primary (12-18 years):</b>  |                |              |
| • 2010-2011   | 13,514         | 344,931      |
| • 2015-2016   | 12,675         | 345,550      |
| • 2016-2017   | Not available  | 351,816      |
| <b>Absenteeism rates (20 days or more):Primary Schools:</b>                               |                |              |
| • 2015-2016   | 7.9%           | 12.3%        |
| • 2016-2017   | 7.6%           | 11.8%        |
| <b>Post-Primary Schools:</b>  |                |              |
| • 2015-2016   | 17.1%          | 14.9%        |
| • 2016-2017   | 22.0%          | 14.7%        |
| <b>Leaving Certificate retention rates<sup>30</sup></b>                                   |                |              |
| <b>2012 entry cohort</b>  | 91.7%          | 91.5%        |
| <b>% of pop. aged 15+ whose education ceased before the age of 15 years <sup>31</sup></b> | 3.9%           | 3.6%         |

<sup>29</sup> Tusla AAR

<sup>30</sup> DES

<sup>31</sup> SONC, 2011

## School suspension and expulsion rates - Primary and Post-Primary 2016

School suspension rates in Donegal primary Schools decreased slightly in the academic year 2014-2015 from 0.06% compared to 0.09% in the previous year. This was also true for post-primary Schools from a rate of 3.37% compared to 3.56% the previous academic year.

School expulsion rates in Donegal are negligible in primary Schools. In post-primary Schools have seen an decrease in rates from 2014 – 2017 from above the State average to below it.

**Table 41: School suspension and expulsion rates – Primary and Post Primary**

| <i>Suspension Rate</i> | <i>Donegal primary</i> | <i>Suspension Rates</i> | <i>Donegal Post-Primary</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>2013-2014</b>       | 0.09%                  | <b>2013-2014</b>        | 3.56%                       |
| <b>2014-2015</b>       | 0.06%                  | <b>2014-2015</b>        | 3.37%                       |
| <b>2015-2016</b>       | 0.16%                  | <b>2015-2016</b>        | 3.48%                       |
| <b>2016-2017</b>       | 0.13%                  | <b>2016-2017</b>        | 3.86%                       |

**Table 42: School suspension and expulsion rates –Post Primary**

| <i>Expulsion rates Donegal Post Primary</i> |       | <i>Expulsion Rates State Post Primary</i> |
|---|-------|---|
| <b>2014-2015</b>                            | 0.06% | 0.040%                                    |
| <b>2016-2016</b>                            | 0.04% | 0.04%                                     |
| <b>2016-2017</b>                            | 0.02% | 0.048 %                                   |

### Programmes for school-age children

Youthreach is the Department of Further and Higher Education's official education, training and work experience programme for young people who have left school early and who have limited qualifications. Youthreach is managed locally by Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB). There are six centres in County Donegal; Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Glengad, Gortahork, Letterkenny and Lifford. There are 160 places available on the Youthreach programme in County Donegal and it operates a continuous intake policy all year around.

Daybreak is an individually tailored education programme to support young people to remain in education and is led out by the Donegal Youth Service. The programme is delivered in three locations in county Donegal; Letterkenny, Ballybofey and Raphoe. The programme is designed to support students from First Year to Junior Certificate who are at risk of school dropout and who attend the programme on individual days. Referrals are made by schools, social work, EWO, CAMHS, parents or by self-referral. There are 36 places on the Daybreak Programme in County Donegal.

Youthscape is a cross-border, cross-community interventionist programme in which the Donegal Youth Service is also involved. It is funded under the European Union's PEACE IV Programme and is run in partnership with South West College and TIDES TRAINING. Youthscape currently operates in Letterkenny and Ballybofey and supports 14-24 year olds from all backgrounds to build self-confidence, promote employability and develop cross-community engagement. It is an eighteen week programme and has supported twenty young people who were partial or non-school attenders over the past two academic years.



## Economic Opportunities for Young People and their Families

### Labour force Participation and Unemployment rates

According to Census 2016 Donegal has a lower rate of participation in the labour force<sup>32</sup> at 57.3% than the State at 61.4%. 18% of Donegal's labour force is unemployed or first-time job seekers significantly higher than the State at 12.9. %. Of the 12,829 people who were unemployed or first time job seekers, 1,931 people were under 25 years and 10,898 people 25 years and over. 32.6% of the labour force aged '15 – 24 years' were unemployed or first-time job seekers, compared to 18.2% aged 25-34 years; 13.9% aged 35-44 years; 15.7% aged 45-54 years and 22.6% aged 55-64 years. The unemployment rates for males were higher in all of these age categories than for females.

| <b>Table 33:</b><br><b>By County</b><br><b>2016</b> | <b>Total</b><br><b>Labour</b><br><b>Force</b><br><b>Participatio</b><br><b>n Rate (%)</b> | <b>Total</b><br><b>Unemploym</b><br><b>ent Rate (%)</b> | <b>Male Labour</b><br><b>Force</b><br><b>Participatio</b><br><b>n Rate (%)</b> | <b>Male</b><br><b>Unemployme</b><br><b>nt Rate (%)</b> | <b>Female</b><br><b>Labour Force</b><br><b>Participation</b><br><b>Rate (Rate)</b> | <b>Male</b><br><b>Unemploym</b><br><b>ent Rate</b><br><b>(Rate)</b> |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>State</b>  | 61.4  | 12.9  | 67.8   | 13.7   | 55.2   | 12  |
| <b>Leitrim</b>                                      | 59.3  | 14.5  | 64.6   | 16.5   | 53.9   | 12.2  |
| <b>Sligo</b>  | 57.9  | 14  | 63.1   | 15.9   | 53   | 12  |
| <b>Cavan</b>  | 61.3  | 15.1  | 68.7   | 15.1   | 54   | 15  |
| <b>Donegal</b>                                      | 57.3  | 18  | 63.4   | 19.9   | 51.4   | 15.8  |
| <b>Monaghan</b>                                     | 61.9  | 13  | 68.6   | 13.4   | 55.4   | 12.6  |

The Border<sup>33</sup> region has seen the most impressive labour force participation growth rate in Ireland since 2012 (4.2 compared to 1.3 in the State), with the exception, of Dublin, but even so it remains the region with the 2nd lowest rate, (59.3) and the rate has in fact fallen during 2017 - 2019<sup>34</sup>.

| <b>Table 34:</b><br><b>Persons on Live Register (Number) by Sex, Social Welfare Office, Age Group and Month</b> |                |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   |                | <b>Nov 2018</b> | <b>May 2019</b> | <b>Nov 2019</b> | <b>May 2020</b> |
| <b>State</b>  | Under 25 years | 19921           | 20347           | 18469           | 29617           |

<sup>32</sup> This is calculated as the sum ( persons at work + unemployed + first time jobseekers) / ( total population 15 years and over)

<sup>33</sup> Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo and Letirim

<sup>34</sup> CSO Labour Force Survey Q4 2019

|                       |                   |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                       | 25 years and over | 179748 | 169520 | 163527 | 196045 |
|                       | All ages          | 199669 | 189867 | 181996 | 225662 |
| <b>Donegal County</b> | Under 25 years    | 1235   | 1157   | 1086   | 1395   |
|                       | 25 years and over | 9305   | 8877   | 8498   | 9487   |
|                       | All ages          | 10540  | 10034  | 9584   | 10882  |

### Deprivation

In 2015 disposable income (€15,705 per person) was lowest in Donegal at 77.2% of the national average of €20,334. In 2016, Donegal, at -6.4, was the lowest Relative HP Deprivation score in Ireland and compared to the overall state score which was 0.6<sup>35</sup>. In 2016 Donegal had the highest proportion of households at 18.5%, where state pension was majority of income. The median gross income per household was €45,256 and households with the lowest incomes were in Donegal (€32,259).

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<sup>i</sup> According to Census 2016, 3,478 persons<sup>i</sup> in the Inishowen Municipal District cross the border each day for work or school purposes.

<sup>ii</sup> Donegal County Council September 2020