



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Laois Offaly

# SUMMARY OF LAOIS AND OFFALY YOUTH PARTICIPATION CONSULTATION 2019

Listening to the views and opinions of children and young people in their space.  
Hearing their collective voice.  
Highlighting the concerns and gaps where they believe appropriate action is needed to support them.

[www.cypsc.ie](http://www.cypsc.ie)

## What is CYPSC?

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.

## Who is it for?

Children and Young People's Services Committees are responsible for securing better outcomes for children and young people in their area through more effective integration of existing services and interventions.

Their age remit spans all children and young people aged from 0 to 24 years.

## Who is the CYPSC?

The CYPSC is a committee of adults who work in services and agencies in Laois and Offaly who support children and young people through various health, education, justice, community, youth and other services.

## What does it do?

The purpose of the CYPSC is to ensure better working together, sharing of ideas and funding, to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in their area.

The LaoisOffaly CYPSC works collectively to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people and promote the best interests of children and young people in Laois and Offaly.

The committee works towards the five National Outcomes for children and young people, as set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures; the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020.

## What are the 5 National Outcomes?

Active & healthy,  
physical & mental  
wellbeing

Achieving  
full potential  
in all areas of  
learning &  
development

Safe & protected  
from harm

Economic security  
& opportunity

Connected,  
respected &  
contributing to  
their world

## Key priority of the consultation:

to create opportunities for children and young people to be involved in influencing, designing and contributing to the development of policies, supports and services, and programmes within Counties Laois and Offaly.

## How we consulted with Children & Young People?

The Laois Offaly CYPSC established a Children and Youth Participation Subgroup to facilitate the active participation of young people in the development of the Children and Young People's three year plan for the area.

The Children and Youth Participation subgroup developed a Child and Youth Participation Consultation for Laois and Offaly, based on the "Lundy Model" of participation.

The aim was to facilitate participatory workshops to ensure the voices of young people were heard in both Counties and work to ensure decision makers engage with, listen to and incorporate the views of young people.

Workshops were designed by young people and adapted to suit the needs of all children and young people to maximise participation by creating a youth friendly safe space where they could voice their opinions and express themselves. Children and Young people were asked to discuss and highlight their concerns and issues across the 5 outcome areas.

Children and Young people were asked to express what's good and not so good about living in Co. Laois and Co. Offaly.

### "Lundy Model" of participation



This model provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC which is intended to focus educational decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order:

- **SPACE:** Children must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their view
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.



# SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION 2019

**503**  
from  
Co. Laois

**36**  
Service  
Providers\*

\* Service Providers List on pages 14-15



# WHO WAS INVOLVED?

**1,090**

children and young people took part in the participation via facilitated workshops

**587**

from  
Co. Offaly

The participants were aged

**2-24** years

and were from a range of settings including community crèches, primary schools, secondary schools, youth services/projects, and family resource centres.

**5**

Schools

# What's good about living in Laois?



## CLOSE COMMUNITY

"Everyone knows everyone and accepts each other... we look out for each other"  
Young person aged 17

## YOUTH CAFÉ

"It's great just to have somewhere to go...like on a Friday you can just drop in with friends and hang out and have food"  
Young person aged 14

## CENTRAL LOCATION

"It's easy to get everywhere... we have good access to motorways"  
Young person aged 16

EMO COURT



RECYCLING



CENTRAL LOCATION



YOUTH CAFÉ



# LAOIS

YOUTH CLUBS



ELECTRIC PICNIC



HOSPITAL



SHOPPING CENTRE



# WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT LIVING IN LAOIS?



## Supports

Youth friendly areas  
 Youth clubs  
 Youth services  
 Kids fun days  
 Youth groups  
 Knockmay youth club  
 Youth café

## Community

Family  
 Friendly people  
 Close community  
 Not too big  
 Quiet  
 Diverse cultures  
 Fundraisers  
 Charities

## Access

Central location  
 Easy access  
 Not far from Dublin  
 Not much traffic  
 Good roads

## Fitness

Sports  
 GAA  
 Gym  
 Cúl Camp  
 Leisure centre  
 Swimming pool  
 Football  
 Sports facilities

## Leisure

Shopping centres  
 Fast food  
 Cinema  
 Restaurants

## Landscape

Scenery  
 Rock of Dunamaise  
 Emo park  
 Park  
 Landscape  
 Heywood gardens  
 Slieve blooms  
 Glenbarrow  
 Scenery  
 Picnic spots

## Arts

Arts centre  
 Irish culture  
 Music Generation  
 Library  
 Electric Picnic

## Services

Schools  
 School education  
 Public transport  
 Town Link  
 Hospital

## Environment

Tidy Towns  
 Recycling centre  
 Clean  
 Agriculture  
 Growing opportunities





# What's good about living in Offaly?



## LOUGH BOORA

"It's a space to go and get lost in miles of Bog and freshness, clear the mind after a bad day or just go for a walk"  
Young person

## YOUTH CLUBS

"Youth club is our safe space to chill and be ourselves in a creative non-judgemental environment"  
Young person

## FRIENDLY PEOPLE

"Offaly people are Offaly nice, friendly and help people out and cheer our sports stars"  
Young person

## LIBRARIES



## SUPERMACS



## LOUGH BOORA



# OFFALY

## TIDY TOWNS



## CYCLING BIKES



## YOUTH CLUBS



## FRIENDLY PEOPLE





# WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT LIVING IN OFFALY?



## Supports

Teach na nÓg  
Youth Clubs  
Summer camps

## Community

Good place to raise kids  
Community spirit  
Safe  
Friendly people  
Family

## Access

Transport  
Location

## Fitness

Hurling  
Rugby  
Swimming pool  
Gym  
Cycling bikes  
Bowling  
Sports clubs

## Leisure

Shopping centres  
Fast food  
Cinema  
Restaurants  
Supermacs

## Landscape

Scenery  
Canal  
Tourism  
Fishing  
The park  
Nature  
Landmarks  
Lough Boora  
Edenderry Festival  
Fairgreen

## Agriculture

Farms  
Farming

## Services

Virtual reality centre  
Library  
Schools  
Hospitals  
Houses  
Churches

## Environment

Tidy Towns  
No pollution



# ANSWERS FROM YOUNGER GROUPS (2-5 YEAR OLDS)

We got some really great and interesting answers about living in Laois and Offaly from our younger participants!

## What makes your County a good place for young people to live in?

- Firemen
- Easter bunny
- Slide play / gym
- Communion party
- Parties
- Ponds/ducks
- Dancing
- Playing
- Dogs
- Playing
- Lake walks
- Gymnastics
- Football
- Cinema
- Dunamais



## What services/facilities would you put in your County to make it a better place for young people to live in?

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Surprise            | Batman costumes/ teddies |
| Unicorn costume     | Princess costumes        |
| Swimming pool       | Teddies of all sizes     |
| Presents            | Tractors in parks        |
| Playground          | Red ninja                |
| Loads of John Deere | Puppy parlour            |
| Elsa costume        | Adoption centre          |
| Climbing wall       | Indoor skate park        |
| Fire brigade        | Mini golf                |
| Bicycle             | Jumpzone                 |
| Teddies             | Beach Circus             |
| Unicorns            |                          |



# Participants from Laois and Offaly

# 503

children and young people from 2 primary schools and 17 services engaged in the participation piece.

# 587

children and young people from 2 Primary Schools, 1 Secondary school and 19 Services engaged in the participation piece.

Name of Service	Age
<b>Laois County Childcare</b>	
Ballinakill Childcare	4-6
Mountmellick Childcare	6-9
Suaimhneas Community Childcare	5-9
Sherpa Kids	8-10
<b>Youth Work Ireland Laois</b>	
Girl Talk	15-18
Drop In	5-18
Laois Comhairle na nÓg	12-18
Portarlinton Youth Club	11-18
Ballylinan Youth Club	11-18
<b>Family Resource Centres</b>	
Mountmellick FRC	6-18
Portlaoise FRC- Young Volunteers	14-18
Portlaoise FRC – Knockmay Youth Club	7-11
<b>Foróige</b>	
Laois Comhairle na nÓg - The Block Project	14-16
<b>TUSLA</b>	
Abbeyleix	16
<b>Laois Traveller Action Group</b>	
	12-15

Name of Service	Age
<b>Offaly County Childcare</b>	
Tullamore	2-3
Tullamore	4-7
<b>Youth Groups and Clubs</b>	
Rhode Youth Club	14-15
Edenderry Youth Club	15-16
Girls Group Eiscir Tullamore	13
The Sub Project Birr	12-18
Acorn Project Edenderry	9-16
Rahan Youth Club Foroige	12-16
Pullough Youth Club	10-17
Puttaghan Junior Club	10-13
Killbrook Jr/Sr Club	10-17
Tara Crescent Jr/Sr Club	13-18
Puttaghan Club	15-18
Fusion Travellers Group	15-18
St Mary's Youth Centre	10-12
Ballycumber	4-18
<b>Family Resource Centres</b>	
Clara	3-18
Arden View FRC	10-11



# PRIORITY AREAS

What are the priority areas from the consultations with children and young people?

Across both counties children young people identified similar gaps in services and supports relating to each outcome.

## Outcome 1.

### Active & healthy, physical & mental wellbeing

1. Mental Health Services/Counselling Services is needed, more information on mental health wellbeing and sexual health information including LGBTI+ (outside of School)
2. More Youth Services/Groups/Clubs, affordable Summer camps
3. Sports- More Sports Clubs needed, Teen Gym/sports pitches
4. Safe Parks & Safe Spaces for young people and those with additional needs
5. Activities – access to a wider range of activities and activity infrastructure e.g. cycle lanes

"I have a younger brother with additional needs. We can't go to a park as a family because there is nothing there for him to use"

Young person age 13

"Not every parent can afford the cost of some of the summer camps. It's too expensive, especially when you've other brothers and sisters"

Young person age 14

"We have no mental health services that are easy to get into...by the time you are seen you've already had to deal with it on your own"

Young person aged 16

## Outcome 2.

1. Life skills training, study skills and afterschool programmes
2. Mental Health & Sex Education - Mental Health services in school and Sex Ed including LGBTI+ Sex Ed. (outside of school)
3. Inclusive learning - more services for people with additional needs, different learning styles, and better school facilities
4. Post Leaving Certificate options- access to information on options, costs and stigma around Youthreach, PLC's, Apprenticeships
5. Youth clubs - More Youth Services/Groups/Clubs supports
6. Homeless & housing - More housing for homeless

## Achieving full potential in all areas of learning & development

"What am I going to do when I go to college? I need to learn how to cook and turn on a washing machine or even open a bank account... we're not taught this stuff"

Young person aged 15

"We need more sex education..especially around LGBTI+ sexual health... I don't want to go learn sexual health with a teacher and then have to see them after in maths or English class"

Young person age 17

"Not everyone wants to go to college. In school you're only told about access to college. You're never told about other options like PLC or apprenticeships"

Young person aged 16

## Outcome 3.

1. Gardaí and Crime – need to reduce crime regarding drug use and knife crime, need more Gardaí and faster Gardaí response time. Better relationships with Gardaí are needed.
2. Info on services to support & protect oneself- there is a wide range of info requests highlighted from bullying, abuse, neglect, online safety, knowledge of the consequences of crime. To have this information in an accessible space with key people to talk to who can help inform and support them.
3. Safe places for young people
4. CCTV & Community Alert
5. Infrastructure- better footpaths, roads and lighting especially in rural areas

## Safe & protected from harm

"We don't know the guards... like I never see them except when there is something wrong"

Young person aged 15

"There needs to be more CCTV, especially around Portlaoise town. It would make the place safer and there would be less crime"

Young person aged 16



## Outcome 4.

### Economic security & opportunity

"There needs to be more groups and services..especially in certain areas there is nothing for young people to do after school or during summer"  
Young person aged 13

"We need more work experience..it's hard to get a job without experience"  
Young person aged 18

1. Further Education options - more opportunities for further ed., training and apprenticeship courses. Youth focused material and accessible material and service.
2. More Job & work experience opportunities
3. Life skills training
4. More Youth Services/groups/ clubs
5. Student Grants - information about supports

## Outcome 5.

### Connected, respected & contributing to their world

1. Environment - Opportunity to engage in social and environmental situations, green environment, less litter, improve Tidy Towns
2. Opinions & input - Information on youth rights, responsibilities, services and supports and more opportunities to give opinions
3. Education System - having the opportunity to express yourself in the education system
4. Better Broadband
5. Access to youth services and better transportation

"We need to start looking after our towns and we need to go green. Every young person should start helping the environment more"  
Young person age 15

"Why aren't we allowed to express ourselves more?... even during local elections nobody comes and asks us what we need...why isn't there more youth committees?"  
Young person



# OVERALL ISSUES FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTED ACROSS THE 5 OUTCOME AREAS

1. Mental health, LGBTI+, Sexual Health information and supports & information to protect oneself from various harm factors
2. The need for more Youth Services, Clubs, Groups, child and youth activities and affordable camps
3. Safe & inclusive spaces for youth; safe parks, accessibility and inclusive spaces for those with additional needs
4. Life skills
5. Post leaving cert options, job & work opportunities, input to the education system, stigma regarding certain options

## BIGGEST SINGLE ISSUE TOPIC IN AN OUTCOME AREA - SAFE & PROTECTED FROM HARM

### Gardaí and Crime

Need to reduce crime regarding drug use and knife crime  
Need more Gardaí and faster Gardaí response time  
Better relationships with the Gardaí are needed



**Laois Offaly**



**For more information:**

<https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/laois-offaly.239.html>