Children and Young People’s Services Committees

Colma Nic Lughadha
National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People’s Services Committees
Children and Young People’s Services Committees

Local interagency structures to improve outcomes for children & young people


• Committees are responsible for improving the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level
• Bring together a diverse group of public and not-for-profit organisations in local county areas
• Engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people
• First four Committees established in 2007; currently 21 committees in 22 counties or 25 local authority areas.
• National roll out ongoing - all counties in Ireland will have a CYPSC
Similar International Initiatives

Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership, Northern Ireland

High & Complex Needs Interagency Strategy, New Zealand

National Program for Children and Youth at Risk, Israel

Children’s Trusts, United Kingdom

Montgomery Collaboration Council & Vermont Human Services, USA

Children and Young People’s Services Committees – the vehicle for interagency work in Ireland
Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSCs) 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 CYPSCs is to secure better outcomes for children and young people.
Children and Young People’s Services Committees – Purpose

- 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
Each Committee develops and implements an interagency 3 year Children and Young People’s Plan for the County, which is:

- Designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area
- Based on the 5 National Outcomes for children and young people in Ireland

1. **Active & healthy**, both physical and mental well being
2. **Achieving full potential in all areas of learning & development**
3. **Safe & protected** from harm
4. **Economic security & opportunity**
5. **Connected, respected & contributing to their world**
Membership of CYPSCs

Senior managers, representing a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tusla Child &amp; Family Agency</th>
<th>Local Authority (Executive)</th>
<th>An Garda Síochána</th>
<th>Health Services Executive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probation Services</td>
<td>Educational Welfare Services</td>
<td>Irish Primary Principals Network</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City / County Childcare Committee</td>
<td>National Association of Principals &amp; Deputies (Post Primary)</td>
<td>Social Inclusion Partners, e.g. Local Development Companies</td>
<td>Community &amp; Voluntary Services for children &amp; young people</td>
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</tbody>
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National picture of CYPSCs

All at differing stages of development and operation

2007-2010 Phase 1
2010-2011 Phase 2
2011-2013 Phase 3
2014 Phase 4

Work commenced
Work to be commenced
National to local operation

Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Children and Young People’s Policy Consortium
  - Children and Young People’s Services Committees National Steering Group
    - Individual County CYPSCs
      - Sub Group
      - Sub Group
      - Sub Group
      - Sub Group
      - Sub Group
      - Sub Group
Since July 2013 CES and the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC have been working with the staff of DCYA Research Unit to produce county level data centrally.

Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2014:

*G62. Deliver the County Level Data Analysis Initiative to support the Children’s Services Committees*
County Level Data Fact Sheets have been made available to all CYPSCs*
- basis of a socio demographic profile
- contribute to the needs analysis for the county
- supporting data supported decision making

Work has since commenced with Knowledge Management in Health & Well Being directorate, HSE
- Opportunity to automate the presentation of this data / information on-line.
- Centralised, integrated online data system to support data supported decision-making

* Except Dublin where there is one county and 5 CYPSC areas
Consultation with children and young people is an integral part of the development of Children and Young People Plans. This is manifested through cooperative work with Comhairle na nÓg and additional activities undertaken by a CYPSC and its members.
Evidence informed approach

• Using emerging evidence in a structured way

• Interagency approach – *Effective interagency working acts to create the ‘permitting circumstances’ for better functioning of front-line services and front-line staff.* (Statham, 2011)

• Learning from other structures nationally and in other jurisdictions

• Consultation with children and young people
When we work together we can make a positive difference to 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....

(Source: Internal Communications Plan 2010-2012)
Contact

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www.effectiveservices.org/our-work/children-and-young-peoples-services-committees

www.cypsc.ie (website in development and live by end of 2014)