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
- Age remit – 0 – 24 years
- 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 22 committees in 23 counties or 26 local authority areas – at 88% coverage.
- National roll out ongoing - all counties in Ireland will have a CYPSC

In alignment with Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020
Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

Transformational Goals:
- Support Parents
- Earlier Intervention & Prevention
- Listen to and Involve Children & Young People
- Ensure Quality Services
- Strengthen Transitions
- Cross-Government and Interagency Collaboration & Coordination

Better Outcomes:
- Active & Healthy
- Achieving in all Areas of Learning & Development
- Safe & Protected from Harm
- Economic Security & Opportunity
- Connected, Respected & Contributing

Brighter Futures
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
- Montgomery Collaboration Council & Vermont Human Services, USA
- Children’s Trusts, United Kingdom

Children and Young People’s Services Committees – the vehicle for interagency work in Ireland
Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC) are the key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland.

The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.
# Children and Young People’s Services Committees – Purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinating the implementation of national and regional policies and</td>
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<tr>
<td>strategies that relate to children, young people and families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and coordinating services for children and young people in</td>
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<td>the area covered by the CYPSC</td>
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<td>Eliminating fragmentation and duplication of services by ensuring</td>
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<td>more effective collaboration between children, young people and family</td>
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<td>services within the area</td>
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<td>Influencing the allocation of resources</td>
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<td>Strengthening the decision-making capacity at local level</td>
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Membership of CYPSCs

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organization/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILD &amp; FAMILY</td>
<td>Tusla</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUSTICE</td>
<td>Probation Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>EARLY YEARS</td>
<td>City &amp; County Childcare Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>City or County Council - executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL WELFARE</td>
<td>Tusla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Primary Schools (4-12 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Health Services Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUSTICE</td>
<td>Police - An Garda Síochána</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION</td>
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All at differing stages of development and operation.
Structures for Children and Young People's Services Committees
Each Committee develops and implements an *interagency* 3 year **Children and Young People’s Plan for the County** (CYPP), 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
- The CYPP includes:

| 1. | Socio-demographic profile |
| 2. | Audit of services |
| 3. | Needs analysis |
| 4. | Action plan |
| 5. | Review & monitoring |
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 Child and Youth Councils (called Comhairle na nÓg) and additional activities undertaken by a CYPSC and it’s members.
Benefits of CYPSCs

- CYPSC as a catalyst for reform within services
- Mobilisation of CYPSC member organisations efficiently and effectively: "Making links fast"
- Improved understanding of each others' organisations and roles
- Accountability to each other
- A sense of camaraderie and development of trust between members
- County level evidence and information used to inform service development
- Leveraging funding

Vehicle for all member organisations’ interagency work
Challenges

- Leadership
- Sustaining momentum
- Data
In practice

- Start Right – Limerick CYPSC
- Fingal Parenting Initiative – Fingal CYPSC, Dublin
- Junior Transition Programme – Kildare CYPSC
- Literacy & Early Years – Wicklow CYPSC
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)
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