

**Sligo Leitrim
Children and Young People's
Services Committee**

2024 Annual Report



Foreword

As the interim Tusla Area Manager for Sligo Leitrim & West Cavan, and as Chairperson of Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) I am delighted to introduce our 2024 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC annual report. I would like to acknowledge and wish my colleague and predecessor Liam Whyte well on his retirement, and on behalf of all our CYPSC members, thank him for his work with Sligo Leitrim CYPSC. The 2024 annual report provides an overview of work undertaken by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC during the last year and progress with the implementation of our current three-year children and young people's plan.

I would like to thank all CYPSC members for their active involvement in various sub-groups, in particular, our CYPSC Co-ordinator Maeve Whittington who retired at the end of 2024, for all her work and commitment with Sligo Leitrim CYPSC. This report outlines the breath of work and initiatives which Maeve working alongside CYPSC members have delivered. On behalf of all Sligo Leitrim CYPSC members, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Maeve for this work.

I would also like to thank our Vice Chairpersons, the chairs of each sub-group for their work over the past 12 months, and the National CYPSC Office for its support. This report set outs progress made over the last year with the implementation of current three-year plan. Work has progressed on a range of actions identified within the plan and a summary of work achieved by each of our sub-groups is outlined in this report. This includes work by each of our sub-groups and achievements during 2024. The report sets out some examples of the range of initiatives which have been progressed by CYPSC members This has included the provision of a dedicated Autism worker within Home Youth Liaison Service, A Year in Nature and Biking Programme delivered by Sligo CCC in collaboration with Leitrim CCC, digital hub project by Foróige, training supports for CYPSC members and the work of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC participation lab.

The range of projects and actions delivered by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC is as a result of the commitment and tireless work of the members of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, the quality and effectiveness of this work and the many benefits that flow from effective interagency collaboration and partnership working is evident from these various actions. CYPSC members are providing a strong and focused approach to delivering enhanced service provision that meets the needs of children and young people in this area. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC have also committed to ensuring the voice of children is heard and participation of children and young people is maximised. The work of our outcome 5 subgroup and the child and youth participation lab is clear tangible evidence of this approach. The impetus of promoting shared learning and using the collective knowledge and experience of all CYPSC members also underpins the success of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC

In conclusion, I look forward to working with my colleagues within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC during 2025 as we continue our important work. I strongly believe that by working together and in partnership, we can achieve better outcomes for our children and young people in Sligo & Leitrim. This report marks the mid-way point of the current three-year plan, and a more detailed midterm report will be prepared this year to track the implementation of the plan and to report on all actions within the plan. It is our collective aim to consolidate and build upon the positive work to date and cultivate leadership through 'joined up working' and 'joined up thinking' with all CYPSC members.

Marie Richardson

Chairperson Sligo Leitrim CYPSC

Interim Area Manager

Sligo Leitrim West Cavan

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at a local level.

This is achieved through enhanced planning, co-ordination, oversight of policy implementation and service provision locally. CYPSC acts as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals which bridge national policy with local provision.

A well-functioning CYPSC will harness the collective strengths of its member agencies to ensure a planned, co-ordinated and concerted response to the needs of children and young people at a local level. It is not the purpose of a CYPSC to displace existing structures of accountability which apply to member agencies. However, at local level, members will have the opportunity to test local implementation and to complement national planning by identifying opportunities for collaboration, reducing duplication of effort and ensuring that services are both flexible to locally identified needs and informed by identified national priorities.

CYPSC works towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These are that children and young people:

AN IRELAND WHICH FULLY RESPECTS AND REALISES THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

- 1 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY**
- 2 ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 3 SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM**
- 4 ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY**
- 5 CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR WORLD**



Structure & Governance

The Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was first established in 2014. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC is working to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people through more integrated planning and service delivery. Over the past number of years, the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has worked to develop a space where agencies, engaged in service delivery to children and their families, are facilitated in their work to deliver integrated services and interventions for children in both the Sligo & Leitrim. Membership of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC spans a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations across a range of areas that take account of the complex and inter-woven determinants of children and young people's health, wellbeing, development and outcomes

Membership

Name	Position	Organisation
Marie Richardson	Area Manager (Chairperson)	Tusla
Dorothy Clarke replaced by John Moran	Director of Services Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture (Vice Chairperson)	Sligo County Council
Suzanne Duffy	Senior Executive Officer Housing, Corporate Services (Vice Chairperson)	Leitrim County Council
Emma Ball	General Manager Primary Care	HSE
Fiola Murphy	Child & Health Lead Health & Wellbeing	HSE
Michelle Ni Thiarnain	Senior Manager PPFS	Tusla
Alan O'Ceallaigh	Principal Carrigallen National School	Irish Primary Principals Network
Carla Curry	Inspector	An Garda Síochana
Chris Gonley	Chief Executive	Leitrim Development Company
John Feerick	Chief Executive	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
June Murphy	Programme Manager	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Claire Gavigan	Area Manager Foróige Northwest	Sligo Leitrim Voluntary Network.
Mick Hedigan	Manager	Home Youth Liaison Service
Elizabeth King	Manager Sligo Family Resource Centre	Family Resource Centre Representative Sligo Leitrim
Sharon Boles	Manager	Sligo County Childcare Committee
Tommy Lavelle	Manager	Leitrim County Childcare Committee
Niamh Ryan	Youth Officer	Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board
Sinead Barrins	Lecturer	Atlantic Technological University Sligo
Emil Kindl	Youth Representative,	Atlantic Technological University Sligo
Daragh McDaid	Director	Sligo Education Centre
Orla Finnegan	Director	Carrick Education Centre
Deirdre McGinn	Tess integrated Services Manager	Tusla TESS
Olivia Boyle	Senior Probation Officer	Probation Service

Table 1 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC membership

Governance
Sligo Leitrim CYPSC

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC (11 members represent statutory agencies & 10 members represent community / voluntary sector)

Chairperson Marie Richardson Tusla n
Vice chairperson Suzanne Duffy Leitrim CC
John Moran Sligo CCC

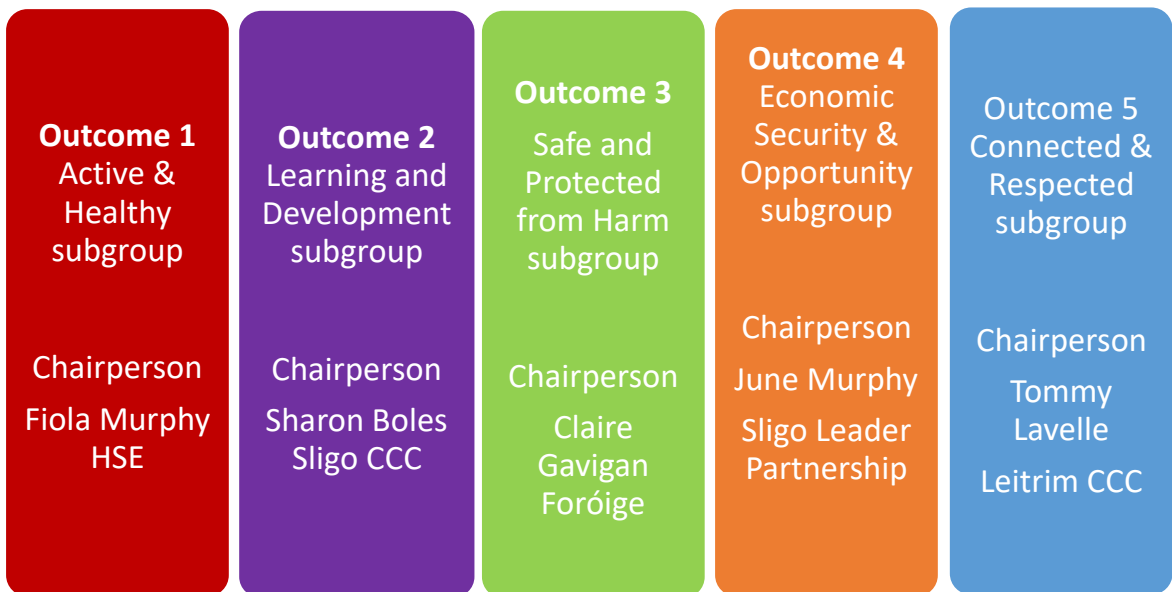


Figure 1 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Structure

2. Achievements during 2024

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has worked closely with stakeholders to understand the needs and gaps in service provision for children and young people. This has been supported through the establishment of the CYPSC structure and various working groups. This has ensured:

- Commitment of member organisations to progress the work of the CYPSC in the context of increasing demands, reduced resources and changing environment
- Strengthening of interagency relationships among member organisations
- Enhanced understanding among member organisations of the role and value of the CYPSC
- Development of the CYPSC as a forum for highlighting needs, issues, gaps and successes

Key Achievements

During 2004 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC worked as a key structure in the county to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people aged 0 – 24 years.

Strategic Input	Children Young People's Plan Implementation	Additional Priority Areas to emerge during 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sligo Leitrim CYPSC is connected with a range of inter-agency structures including.-Connecting for Life.-Leitrim PEACE Plus Partnership.-Sligo Healthy Ireland.-Community Integration Forums.-Local Regeneration Projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-One annual work programme agreed and implemented.-Five sub-groups operating, progressing actions under the five national outcomes.-BOBF Programme funding approved to support five projects-Healthy Ireland €59,950 approved for 2024, supporting three projects.-One HI Related projected evaluated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sligo Leitrim Parenting Hub provided central information point for members.-Sligo Leitrim CYPSC provided members with a forum to plan and respond to emerging needs and funding for specific initiatives.-New initiatives and areas of need remain a focus for CYPSC members.-DEC DIY Sligo Leitrim CYPSC International Protection Fund supported ten organisations.

Figure 2 Key achievements

2.1 Summary of Outputs for 2022

During 2024 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC met on **6 occasions** with sub-groups meeting collectively **28 times**.



Figure 3: Summary outputs

3. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children and Young People's 2024 - Three Year Plan



Launch of 2024 -2026 plan



The third 3-year Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Plan, 2024 - 2026 was launched in April 2024. The plan is the result of consultations undertaken in 2023, with children, young people, parents, professionals, service providers, CYPSC members and subgroup members. As a result of these consultations, a report was produced, Report on Consultation with Children and Young people, parents and professionals to inform development of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2024 - 2026 for Sligo Leitrim



Meave Whittington (CYPSC Co-ordinator) & Roisin McBreen (CYPSC Administrator)

Through the implementation of this plan, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has worked to address and respond to the identified needs. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC is committed to proactively working and engaging with children and young people and working collaboratively with parents and carers in all of its actions. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC through implementing its programme of work has sought to demonstrate a measurable impact on the lives of children and young people. This has been further supported through Sligo Leitrim CYPSC's key strength, the collaborative nature of its work and the openness of agencies and individual staff to adopt this approach. This has assisted Sligo Leitrim CYPSC to further develop and support the co-ordination and planning of efficient and effective services for children and young people.

Following the launch of the plan, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, through its various sub-groups, commenced work on the implementation of the three-year plan. This included the establishment of various sub-groups to progress actions under the five national outcomes. The next section of the report provides a short overview of the work of each sub-group, this includes priorities within the three-year plan and progress achieved to date.

3.1 Active and Healthy Subgroup- priorities within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children & Young Peoples Plan

- Sexual health and wellbeing: awareness and education for children, young people, parents and professionals
- Supporting children and young people with a disability: opportunities for social development and wellbeing
- Supporting families: coping in changing circumstances
- Promoting physical activity and wellbeing: to foster coping, resilience and mental wellbeing
- substance misuse: managing the impact on families. (Healthy Ireland Funding)
- Child and youth mental health: supporting the development of a new service

Achievements to date

3.1.1 Resilience Steering Group under Active & Healthy

Infant Mental Health. A new steering committee was established focusing on Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health. Committee members are set to complete Soulihul training in 2025.

Sligo County Childcare Committee, HSE, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, and Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Sligo organized an Infant & Child Mental Health Conference in October at ATU. This conference provided a mix of evidence-based research and lived experiences for professionals in the field. Over 85 professionals attended the event.



The Resilience Task Group, established in 2021, has worked on mapping resilience programs under the Active & Healthy Subgroup. This includes the delivery of the "Big Toes Little Toes Baby Bonding" program to 18 professionals. The training, led by two facilitators from Clear Skies, was spread over two days.

3.1.2 Mental Health Supports. The Sligo Leitrim and West Cavan Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service (EIYMHS) provides support for young people aged 12-25 facing a range of psychological and mental health challenges. This service, which has been running since December 2023, is currently available at the CRIB, Foroige, and Youth Work Ireland. Initially, the service was available five days a week with a clinical psychologist, but hours were reduced starting in May. Over the first year, there were over 20 referrals, including 16 young people experiencing self-harm.

3.1.3 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Healthy Ireland Funds

A Year in Nature and Balance Bike Programme represent two innovative initiatives aimed at improving children's well-being through outdoor learning and physical literacy. These programmes, delivered by Sligo County Childcare Committee in collaboration with Leitrim County Childcare Committee were developed to engage children, educators, and communities in meaningful activities that promote environmental awareness, physical development, and professional growth for early years practitioners. By focusing on these areas, the initiatives sought to provide holistic benefits to participants and create a lasting impact on the wider community. Both programmes were supported under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4, facilitated by Sligo/Leitrim Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC). Healthy Ireland Fund, part of a government-led initiative, channels resources to community-focused projects that encourage health and well-being through collaborative action.



Funding sources:

- CYPSC, HSE, and Sligo County Childcare Committee
- DCEDYI (Parenting Awareness) via CYPSC
- CYPSC
- HSE and CYPSC

3.2 Achieving Full Potential in Learning & Development subgroup- priorities within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children & Young Peoples Plan

- Address the identified support and information needs of all parents in line with and through implementation of the *Sligo Leitrim Parenting Support Strategic Plan 2022-26*.
- Provision of training for parents and professionals on infant mental health including ACEs, trauma and attachment

Achievements

3.2.1 School Avoidance the Learning and Development subgroup created a NEETs steering group with members from the Home School Liaison officer joining the group. Members of the subgroup has identified particular needs around school Avoidance. The next steps will see the establishment of working group to further progress a model of supports and local interventions.

3.2.2 Parent Support Strategic Plan and Parent Hub Website

The Learning and Development Subgroup supported the development of the Sligo Leitrim Parenting Support Strategic Plan 2022-2026. Each year the Learning and Development subgroup looked at the 10 focus priorities actions and implementation of the Sligo Leitrim Parenting Support Strategic Plan 2022-2026. This plan, developed with input from parents, focuses on enhancing communication and coordination of support services for parents and families across Sligo and Leitrim.

Members of the Parent Support Champions and the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Learning and Development subgroup received funding from the Parent Support Champions Parent Initiative fund to run three Anxiety talks for Parents which had been a high need highlighted across all the Child and Family Network areas. The talks presented by Dr. Sharyn Byrne; senior Clinical Psychologist received over 150 parents to the talks.



3.2.3 Sligo Leitrim Web Directory www.sligoleitrimdirectory.ie

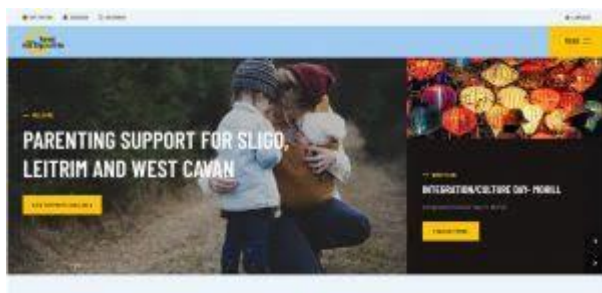
Sligo Leitrim Directory website provides official listings of services for children, young people and families in Sligo and Leitrim. This includes information on health, mental health, education, disability, youth, childcare and other services. The website aims to provide one central point of information on the services and supports available within Sligo and Leitrim for:

- Service providers (e.g. schools, youth services, health services, statutory agencies, voluntary groups, etc.)
- Adults working with children, young people and families
- Parents / guardians / carers
- Young people

The website's development was supported by statutory and voluntary agencies in the region, and it is operated and maintained by North Connaught Youth and Community Service.



3.2.4 Parent Hub website - CYPSC contributed €1 500 for improvement www.parenthubslwc.ie



Website Analytics for January to December 2024 indicate a total of 15157 visitors to the site. This represents the overall traffic to the website throughout the year.

3.2.5 The Parenting Platform, an initiative funded by the HSE to support parents in the Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo (CDLMS) area, formerly known as CHO1.

The 4 CYPSC in the Community Healthcare CDLMS area (Sligo Leitrim, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan) participated in this piece of work which was led by Lifestart Donegal and Parent Hub Donegal.

The result, the Parenting Platform, is open to all parents as a *one stop destination for raising happy, healthy children and young people*. Search The Parenting Platform on You Tube or follow the link, , www.youtube.com/@theparentingplatform.



3.2.6 National Play Day

National Play Day took place 20th July 2024 at Queen Maeves Square. Over 160 parents and children attended the event. This events by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, Sligo Sport & Recreation Partnership, Sligo County Council and Sligo County Childcare Committee was funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



3.3 Outcome 3 Safe & Protected from Harm subgroup – priorities within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children & Young Peoples Plan

- Safeguarding children and young people online
- Enhance young peoples' experience of school, post COVID: creating a supportive environment, supporting children and young people to manage their relationships.
- Domestic violence: awareness and education
- Healthy relationships: awareness and education
- Effective interagency response to knife crime and concealed weapons, antisocial behaviour and Intimidation by young people
- Build awareness of drug trends and supports available to children, young people and families

Achievements

3.3.1 Domestic Violence Training 2024

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service collaborated to deliver Safe and Together training. This in-person program included two days of training, with over 85 front-line staff participating.

3.3.2 Helping Hands Training 2024 CDP Accredited "Helping Hands" program was facilitated by Women's Aid Federation NI, providing 27 professionals with strategies to support children affected by domestic violence.



3.3.3 Safeguarding Children and Young People

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC members continue to focus on safeguarding and training for professionals working with children, with a particular attention to online safety for both parents, children and young people. Foróige also delivered online **Connect Safely** training for professionals. The Connect Safely programme aims to promote safe online behaviour among young people. It helps them develop digital skills and learn how to navigate their online communities responsibly.

3.3.4 Building Safer Communities.

In 2023 Foróige Sligo, in partnership with the Northwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDATF) and Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB (MSLETB), commissioned research to understand the impact that vaping products have on children and young people in Ireland through listening to their direct experiences of vaping. The 'What's the Panic with Vaping' research examined the habits and perceptions of children and young people in relation to vaping within a range of contexts including youth groups, post primary schools and their own individual perspectives resulting in almost

Vaping Awareness. Following the launch of this report Sligo Leitrim CYPSC established a subgroup with a view to developing some resources to increase raise awareness and education and consider the issue of 'Peer Support' for young people as possible actions around vaping. Foróige, Youth Work Ireland, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, and HSE are collaborating to create short films about vaping. Young people from Foróige in Sligo and Leitrim have produced two short films exploring new legislation and the social and environmental impact of vaping. The films will be launched in February 2025.

3.4 Economic Security & Opportunity subgroup- priorities within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children & Young Peoples Plan

- Pre-employment opportunities for socially excluded young people.
- Training opportunities for socially excluded young people.
- Support the employment of young Travellers.
- Develop transition supports for young people with autism

Achievements

3.4.1 Autism Support Worker. Funding was secured to support the Employment of an Autism Worker within Home Youth Liaison Service (HYLS). HYLS was born out of locally identified need to support young people who had difficulties in school, home and community. A dynamic youth service supporting all post primary schools in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and providing support in primary school where the need arises. The service works to negate negative outcomes by befriending and building rapport with young people and their parents/carers. This post enabled HYLS to put in place a dedicated support programme, to support young people with Autism in School and outside school settings.



The dedicated Autism worker supports the young person to achieve their goals and make a meaningful difference in their lives. Weekly one to one tailored support are delivered to each young person's individual needs and aspirations focusing on young people aged between 14 and 21. The supports enhance personal and social development, encourage integration into education and/or training and assist young person with navigating challenges. Currently 30 young people are accessing supports from the autism worker, due to the current demand for supports a waiting list is now in place from other families seeking supports. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC are planning to complete a formal evaluation on this important project, to demonstrate the outcomes and to identify mainstream funding to support this model in the long term.

3.4.2 NEET (Young people not in Employment, Education or Training) project. This was a research project reviewed two International Fund for Ireland (IFI) funded projects in Sligo and Leitrim. Both projects, Foróige's YESS Project and Youth Work Ireland North Connaught's New Beginnings project were considered in terms of best practice, as a toolkit for working with the NEETs cohort to show what is effective when engaging and working with this group of young people

3.4.3 International Protection Support Services Funding (IPSS)



The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth published figures showing that Ireland has accommodated more than 100,000 people who have fled here, between International Protection (IP) applicants and those fleeing the war in Ukraine. The response to the ongoing migration crisis has now entered an extremely difficult phase, with insufficient accommodation available nationwide for IP applicants, and the outlook for accommodation for people fleeing the war in Ukraine is also challenging. This presents significant challenges for local organisations, as it is difficult for them to forward plan

for future needs or the amount of people who will be accommodated in the county. Figures published by the CSO demonstrate the growing numbers who arrived in Sligo & Leitrim.

The Central Statistics Office created an arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland series of releases to provide insights into Ireland's response to the Ukrainian crisis. This includes an analysis of Ukrainian arrivals who are availing of support and services from the Department of Social Protection (DSP); as well as providing insights into primary and secondary school enrolments overseen by the Department of Education; and enrolments in further education and training based on data provided by SOLAS.

Sligo Leitrim	CSO Series 14 October 2024
Carrick on Shannon	975
Ballinamore	743
Manorhamilton	493
Ballymote Tubbercurry	520
Sligo Drumcliff	953
Sligo Strandhill	1027
	4711

Table 2 Number of arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland based on PPSN allocations

In addition to those granted temporary protection IPAS are also supporting those who have arrived seeking asylum. A person who claims asylum in Ireland is seeking international protection from persecution or serious harm in their home country. families who have sought asylum. In Sligo Leitrim there are currently 10 accommodation centres providing supports through dedicated IPAS Accommodation Centre or IPAS emergency accommodation

1 IPAS accommodation centre and 8 emergency accommodation centres operate in Sligo. These centres currently provide accommodation for **261 children, young people and their families**

1 IPAS accommodation centre and 1 emergency accommodation centre operates in Leitrim. The two centres provide accommodation for **127 children, young people and their families.**

3.4.4 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Funding Supports

The 2021 White Paper included a commitment to support the CYPSCs in further developing, enhancing and expanding the provision of services to the children, young people and their families residing in IPAS settings. In this context, a new funding framework was developed, in collaboration with CYPSC National Office at Tusla (National Office) and the local CYPSC coordinators and was launched in 2023. A second round of funding from this programme was delivered in Sligo Leitrim, with the support of local partners The target group for this fund was children and young people, aged 0-24, and their families who are residing in IPAS settings.



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

This funding enabled Sligo Leitrim CYPSC to support a number of projects across Sligo and Leitrim. through the provision of additional support programmes, integration projects and summer programmes to children, young people and families living in International Protection Accommodation Services.

3.5 Connected, Respected and Contributing to Their World- priorities within Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Children & Young Peoples Plan

- Enhance the participation of children and young people in services, groups and organisations that they are accessing.
- Research and evidence progress and impact of implementation on of the *Lundy Model of Child and Youth Participation* through Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Participation Lab.
- Promote transport affordability and accessibility.

Achievements

3.5.1 A Youth Participant Support Worker coordinates, delivers and enhances the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Child & Youth Participation 'Lab' programme. The Participation Lab is a collection of resources, tools and guidelines aiming to assist and support engagement with children and young people in both counties. This is through direct youth engagement in consultations, training and policy evaluation relating to services. The role is hosted by Leitrim Co Childcare Committee and funded by Tusla and the CYPSC BOBF Funding Programme. All resources are guided by the Lundy Model of Participation and the Irish National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making. [Home - Child and Youth Participation Toolkit](#)



Child & Youth Participation Self-Assessment Tool



Other resources include:

- A Participation Workbook
- 'Byte'-size Video Tutorials [Sligo Leitrim Child and Youth Participation - YouTube](#)
- Online Toolkit, an easy to use, accessible online digital tool to help in the in assessing of current practice in Child & Youth Participation
- The Sligo Leitrim CYPSC 'Local Children and Young People Participation Guidelines' [Updated Local Participation Practice Guidelines05122022.pdf](#)



Local Participation
Practice Guidelines

SLIGO LEITRIM CYPSC
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION LAB



The content is supported by Local Child Care Partnerships of Children and Young People's Services (2015-2021)

The Participation Lab training has been launched with over 13 professionals trained on the toolkit. A 'how-to' guide has been created for users.

In 2024 a Comhairle na nÓg event took place during the Halloween break, with two after-school groups taking part in video consultations. This was part of the SAC Child Consultation Project in Leitrim. Comhairle na bPáistí consultations

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLavG7Po48eViLViNnqjyITBWpOXZesMFQ>

3.5.2 Overview of other programmes delivered

Connect Safely

The Connect Safely programme aims to promote safe online behaviour among young people. It helps them develop digital skills and learn how to navigate their online communities responsibly.

LevelUp

The LevelUp programme targets young people aged 10-14, helping them improve digital skills and learn about digital citizenship. Participants collaborate to address challenges they face using skills like graphic design, podcasting, animation, and digital storyboarding.

SoundSurfers

The Foróige SoundSurfers programme, developed in partnership with the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway, aims to cultivate empathy and prosocial behaviors among young people through music and audio technology

4. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC 2024 Funding Commitments

BOBF Programme Funds	Beneficiaries	Funding Approved
Foroige -funding to support the development of a number of short films, to highlight legislative changes on vaping, including environmental & health impacts	10 young people from Comhairle participate in the projects development. Resource will be disseminated to young people in Sligo & Leitrim	€3,000
Home Youth Liaison Service ; delivery of NVR Training programme	Sligo CYPSC members	€3,443
Home Youth Liaison Service ; Support project to work and support young people diagnosed with autism aged between 14 and 21 to achieve their goals	30 young people	€6,500
Lifestart ; Promotion of breast feeding friendly initiative to business in Sligo. Increase the number of businesses and community services sign up to "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Sligo"	15 additional businesses to sign up	€1,100
Lifestart ; To provide parenting support through the Growing Child Programme to all first time parents in the Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan area who wish to avail of this programme.	First time parents in Leitrim & Sligo	€3,500
Sligo CCC - support costs connected with the delivery of actions within Sligo Leitrim Children and young peoples plan	Sligo CYPSC members and all its subgroups	€15,193
Leitrim CCC ; To provide coordination, delivery and enhancement of the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Child and Youth Participation 'Lab' programme, including the provision of direct youth engagement on consultation, training and policy evaluation relating to services engaged with Sligo Leitrim CYPSC.	Delivery of training in partnership with young people aged 13 to 18 years. Co-delivery of 'Participation Lab' training in partnership with other organisations for practitioners working with children aged 6 to 12 years.	€5,405
Leitrim CCC ; funding allocated to run two in person events for children 8 - 12 years old as part of the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Child and Youth Participation Lab Programme. Mohill Afterschool in County Leitrim and Tubbercurry FRC in County Sligo supported with the co-ordination of these events	8-12 years olds	€1,100
Total Funding Approved		€39,241

Table 3 CYPSC Programme Funding

Sligo Leitrim Healthy Ireland Funding	Beneficiaries	Funding Approved
Foroige - Deliver an activity programme in Foróige projects which will seek to engage harder to reach young people in physical and social activities across Sligo and Leitrim.	200 Children and young people across Sligo & Leitrim	€14,333
Youth Work Ireland :To provide a safe, accessible, fun and relevant service to LGBTQ+ young people in Sligo and Leitrim in the form of group meetings in Sligo, One to One Supports in both Sligo and Leitrim.	30 - 40 LGBTQ+ youths will be engaged within LGBTQ+ Youth Project in 2024 between Sligo and Leitrim.	€8,000
Sligo CCC in collaboration with Leitrim CCC : Building on previous project 'Play in Nature, Play in Nature; On Location and 'Biking for Life', an additional programme of development opportunities and workshops with The Sligo Woodland School were provided. The programmes will support children in the development of dispositions that support an interest in nature based activities that support outdoor learning and play, encouraging physical activity and building a lifelong interest in the great outdoors.	Delivery of Biking for life Programme (30 Early Learning and Care Settings) Play in Nature Programme (25 Early Learning and Care Settings) Communities of practice x 2 (35 Early Learning Educators) Delivery of AgSugradh Le Cheile x3 = 8 Early Learning Educators (Leitrim) 1 evaluation report completed	€37,617
Total Funding Approved		€59,950

Table 4 Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Healthy Ireland Funding

Projects Supported by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC through International Protection Fund are listed below

IPAS Funding	Beneficiaries	Funding Approved
Sligo CCC; Programme costs to support delivery of programme with three schools, supporting integration activities	Programmes delivered in three primary school projects in Sligo working with HSCLO supporting 182 children	€8,500
Foróige- funding to support a planned and targeted approach to long-term involvement in Foróige projects for those in IPAS centres across Sligo and Leitrim. Targeted young people aged 10-18 years old, promoting social inclusion.	Young people residing within various IPAS settings in the County	€10,500
Home Youth Liaison Service ; Delivery of a Healthy V Unhealthy Programme in all the post primary schools in Sligo/Leitrim in Sept 2024, targeting young people within new communities. Enhance supports available to young people with ADHD or awaiting an assessment of need	Children & Young People from IPAS settings and attending post primary education	€10,000
Home Youth Liaison Service; To support and encourage young people aged 14 years upwards who are either on the autism spectrum or are awaiting diagnosis to remain in formal education to transition from Junior Cert to Leaving Cert or to transfer successfully to third level education, training or employment, with continued support.	Children & Young People from IPAS settings and attending post primary education	€35,000
Lifestart Sligo: To support improved mental health and wellbeing for children, young people and their families in IPAS centres. This included play sessions, child led sensory play opportunities and parenting resources.	Children living within IPAS settings	€6,000
Mohill Family Support- Provide adolescent counselling supports for 7 young people based in IPAS Centre	7 young people availed of supports	€9,900
Tubbercurry FRC Funding to support good mental health and provide Child & Adolescent Counselling with Creative Therapies	New communities relocating to Tubbercurry, Ballymote and South Sligo	€3,000
Tubbercurry FRC Funding to support Community Integration Events in Tubbercurry FRC to provide opportunities for parents and their children to participate in	30 to 40 children participate in events	€3,500
West Sligo Family Resource Centre; Funding to enable the FRC to provide activities and programmes for residents based at IPAS Centre in Enniscrone who are new to the community.	Parents, children and young people, newly arrived, who are attending a post primary school in Sligo and in West Sligo	€3,000
West Sligo Family Resource Centre; Funding to enable the provision of range of programmes and activities within local schools-130 children attending local schools	Parents, children and young people, newly arrived, who are attending a post primary school in Sligo and in West Sligo	€1,770
Sligo FRC funding to provide a range of summer activities for families in IPAS accommodation and living near the Family Resource Centre	50 children / young people to avail of supports	€4,000
Sligo Springboard funding to provide Christmas and Halloween activities for those within IPAS settings	Newly arrived families in the County	€1,500
North Connacht Youth Services: Funding to support and promote the inclusion of young people in IPAS settings in Leitrim, by organising a Two Day Activity Event during the Summer, based in their Community Hub in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.	15 young people to participate in programme	€3,100
Total Funding Approved		€91,270

Table 5: Sligo Leitrim Children & Young Peoples International Protection Fund

5 Conclusion

Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Services Committee develop and oversee the implementation of the three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the county/CYPSC area that is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people. Essentially a strategic plan, the CYPP will respond to national priorities and outline local priorities that the CYPSC has agreed to address and includes a detailed action plan of activities which will be undertaken by the CYPSC and its sub-groups to make an impact on those priorities. This approach has been central to the work of the Committee during 2024, given the national crisis which emerged through the pandemic.

5.1 Annual Programme of Work

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC produce an annual statement of intent/action outlining the work to be undertaken and achieved by the CYPSC in each calendar year. The Annual Programme of Work has progressed during 2024, but additional work has been built into the plan during the course of the year.

5.2 Monitoring and Reporting

This annual report will form the basis of the committee's annual update on its activity and impact to TUSLA as the nominated agent of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Annual Progress Report will be utilised locally by each CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. The report will inform local CYPSC decisions to enact developments or changes within its three-year strategic plan i.e., the Children and Young People's Plan. A summary is provided on the progress of each action since work commenced on the implementation plan. Using the traffic light approach, each action is colour coded to indicate progress on the actions.

Green - Actions are on 'on track'

Amber - Action has progressed

Red - Action has not progressed

A mid-year term report will be completed on all actions within the current three-year plan, to track and monitor implementation of the three-year plan.