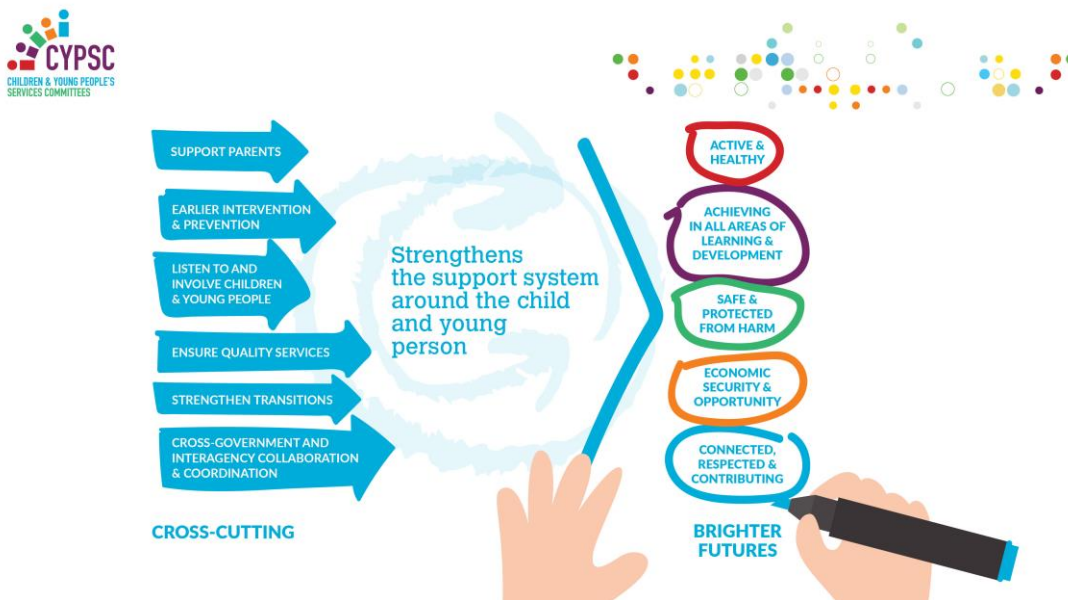


Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee

Background

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committees [CYPSCs] is to secure better developmental outcomes for children through more effective integration of existing services and interventions at local level. The work of all CYPSC is now underpinned by the national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020, '*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*' which sets out a vision for '*Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future*'.

'*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*' extended the age remit for CYPSC from 18 to 24 years and detailed six transformational goals in addition to the five national outcomes under which all CYPSC operate. BOBF II is to be published in 2023.



'*Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024*' provides a roadmap for the further development of CYPSC. The shared vision for CYPSC is to consolidate and build upon the positive work to date. The CYPSC infrastructure and intelligence of inter-agency working will be used to create the optimum circumstances to advance local and national priorities to enable effective systems change in local communities. Cultivating leadership through 'joined-up working' and 'joined-up thinking', both locally and nationally, will be at the forefront of our efforts. CYPSC will be supported in their mission to improve outcomes for children and young people through co-ordinated, responsive and innovative services. (SVNS, 2019:5)

The CYPSC in Co. Wicklow is a high-level committee drawn from a range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies involved in working with children, young people and their families across Co. Wicklow. There are 18 agencies represented on the CYPSC in Co. Wicklow. The membership brings together a vast range of expertise particularly in the areas of child welfare and protection, local government, health, education training and employment, childcare, youth work and justice.

Membership of Co. Wicklow CYPSC (June 2023)



Joanne Cullen, Chair (awaiting replacement)	Area Manager, Tusla, Dublin South East and Wicklow
Michael Nicholson, Deputy Chair	Director of Services, Social, Cultural & Community, Wicklow County Council
Vacant (Rep retired Dec 2020)	Irish Primary Principals Network Representative
Peter Brennan	Bray Area Partnership
Brian Carty	Co. Wicklow Partnership
Stephen Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Aisling Heffernan	Head of Service, HSE
Insp. Paraic Roberts	An Garda Síochána
Dr. Davina Healy	Principal Medical Officer, HSE
Andrew Jackson	Voluntary Sector Rep., I.S.P.C.C
Sally Stafford Johnson	Psychology, HSE
Dr. Glenda Kavanagh or Dr. Lisa Kelly	Lucena Clinic (CAMHS)
Awaiting replacement	National Educational Psychological Service [NEPS]
Dorothy Lawlor	Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Yvonne Murray	Public Participation Network - Wicklow
Geraldine O'Hara	Voluntary Sector Rep., Daughters of Charity
Assumpta O'Neill	Coordinator, Wicklow County Childcare Committee
Emily Murray Nelson	Youth Representatives (18-24 years)
Maeve Shanley	Drug and Alcohol Task Forces Representative
Caroline Sheehan	Principal Social Worker, Tusla
Emma Skinner	Juvenile Liaison Officer, An Garda Síochána
Deirdre McGlinchey	Tusla Education Support Services
Kevin Webster	Principal Social Worker, Tusla
Caroline Fox	Administrative Officer, Wicklow County Council
Rosemary Yeates	Voluntary Sector Rep., Bray & East Wicklow Youth Services
Fionnuala Curry	Coordinator, Co. Wicklow CYPSC

The Co. Wicklow CYPSC is in the development phase of its fourth Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP] 2024-2026. The current CYPP is undertaken by seven subgroups as follows:

Outcome Group 1 – Physical Health and Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup

Physical Health– focuses on priorities such as recreational infrastructure, healthy eating, physical activity, disability and the implementation of Healthy Ireland funded activities within the county

Youth Mental Health and Well-being– focuses on priorities highlighted in relation to youth mental health and emotional well-being in the county and issues relating to drugs and alcohol.

Outcome Group 2 – Learning and Development Subgroup – focuses on concerns in relation to literacy and numeracy, transitions, school refusal and pathways for young people who are out of mainstream education.

Outcome Group 3 – Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Steering Committee – focused on priorities identified such as co-ordination of parenting courses, family support services, domestic violence, hidden harm, Non-Violent Resistance and SPACE, Online Safety, new communities and the implementation of Meitheal and the Child and Family Support Network structure in the area.

Outcome Group 4 and Change Management Subgroup – a high level 'decision makers' group to focus on change during the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan and overseeing the six transformational goals. This group also focuses on economic security and opportunity including issues such as employment for young people not in employment education or training [NEETS], employment for young people with disability and food poverty.

Outcome Group 5 – Connected, Respected and Contributing Subgroup – focuses on active participation of young people, equality, youth work services and healthy relationships.

West Wicklow Interagency Subgroup – focuses specifically on the West Wicklow area across all outcome areas and transformational goals.

New Communities – there are a number of groups meeting in relation to issues concerning new communities in the county (West Wicklow New Communities Group, New Communities Family Support Group and Wellbeing Support Groups) and these groups are supported/co-ordinated by the CYPSC Coordinator and the work is reported to the main CYPSC committee

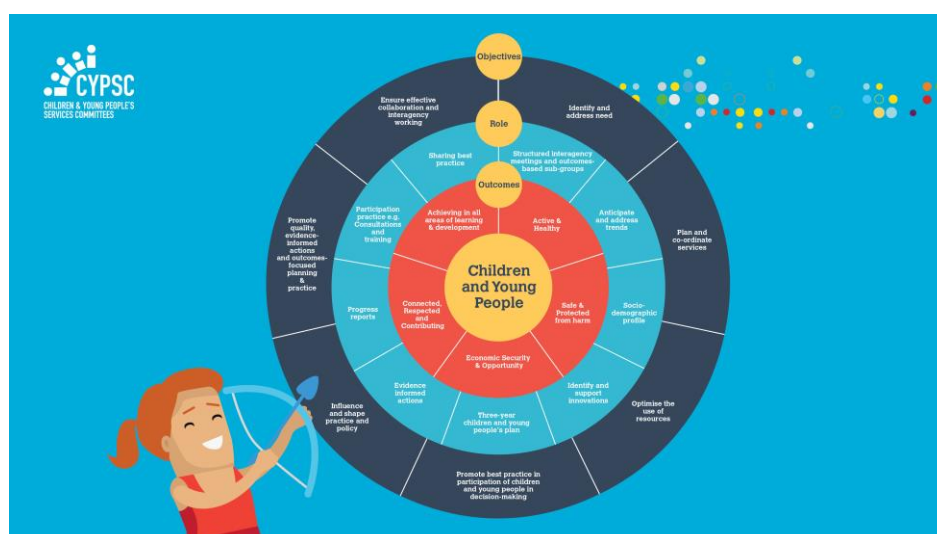
Wicklow CYPSC is also represented on a number of key structures in the county including; the LCDC Health and Wellbeing Committee; Wicklow Comhairle; the CHO 7 Connecting for Life Steering Committee; the Disability Inclusion Steering Committee and the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. The Wicklow CYPSC Coordinator is also the representative of the national CYPSC network on the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network.

Whilst each Subgroup is chaired by a CYPSC member (in most cases) external membership from relevant agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors is actively encouraged. The membership of subgroups significantly extends the reach of Wicklow CYPSC and greatly enhances the level of expertise involved. It is also necessary to form task groups to deliver on particular actions where it is also possible to bring in further expertise and knowledge.

Some of the achievements to date

- Successful implementation of our third three-year plan 2020-2022 and continued commitment of agencies to the CYPSC initiative in Co. Wicklow. Increased level of collaborative and interagency working across all outcome areas. Ongoing consultation with children and young people and promoting participatory practice.

- Recognition of the CYPSC as a committee with expertise in relation to the needs/priorities of children and young people in Co. Wicklow.
- Increased play infrastructure in the county and an increase in the number of healthy eating programmes being delivered in the county.
- Establishment of a Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of Meitheal in the area and the establishment of the Child and Family Support Networks.
- Coordination of Parenting Supports to identify gaps, share knowledge, encourage multi-agency delivery and prevent duplication.
- Delivery of co-ordinated and interagency training in relation to Children First, Domestic Violence, Intercultural Competency, Transgender Awareness, SPACE, Restorative Practice and Trauma Informed Practice.
- Supporting the work of the ABC project, Supporting Parents and Early Childhood Settings [SPECS] Initiative in Bray, Co. Wicklow under Bray Area Partnership which commenced in 2015 and is engaging successfully in the community and now receives mainstream funding through Tusla.
- Securing Quality Capacity Building Initiative (now 'What Works') funding to roll out supports to parents of children and young people with ASD in collaboration with relevant partners in West Wicklow led by the West Wicklow Youth Project.
- Securing Healthy Ireland funding for the county since 2017 to implement a range of programme to a wide variety of target groups in collaboration with the Implementing Partners and with assistance from the Healthy Ireland Coordinator. Also working closely with the HI Coordinator and partners to influence the direction of the LCDC Healthy Ireland funding.
- Development of the Wicklow School Refusal Pack in 2019/20 and continued work with relevant partners in the county to ensure its implementation.
- Support/coordinating and leading the delivery of projects during the COVID crisis and the Ukraine crisis.
- Supporting the delivery of evidence-based programmes in the county such as Non-Violent Resistance and SPACE.
- Providing an introduction to the arts to marginalised families through the delivery of the I Am Baba project in conjunction with Anna Newell and the Arts Council. Supporting a successful Creative Arts project for the Baltinglass area by the Wicklow Arts Office on the implementation
- Working with the 'Minding Me' group in Kildare/West Wicklow to develop a range of resources to support the mental health of women in the perinatal period.



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