



Reviewing the Safety of Children and Young People in Sligo / Leitrim

*A Collaborative Approach with Children,
Young People and Parents*

A Report of the Findings

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CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Contents

Introduction:	4
Background:	4
Phase One:	5
<i>Collaboration with professionals:</i>	5
Phase Two:	6
<i>Engagement with children and young people (8 – 24 years)</i>	6
Aim:	6
Methodology:	6
Stage One:	6
Stage 2:	7
Stage 3:	7
Data Analysis:	8
Response rate:	8
Q1(a). Age ranges of participants:	8
Q1(b). Location of participants:	9
Q2 – Q7:	10
Q2. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?	10
Q3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school?	12
Q4. Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?	15
Q5 (a). What keeps you / young people safe in your community?	17
Q5(b). What keeps you / young people safe in your School / Educational Setting?	18
Q5(c). What keeps you / young people safe in your Home?	19
Q6(a). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their community?	20
Q6(b). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their school?	21
Q6(c). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their home?	22
Q7. Do you think young people can access support around safety when they need it?	22
Phase 3:	24
<i>Collaboration with Parents and Guardians</i>	24
Response rate:	24
Q1. What county do you live in?	24
Q2. What age group are you in?	25
Q3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?	25
Q4. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school / educational environment?	27

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q5. Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?	28
Q6. What supports / services are available to keep children and young people safe in their... 29	
Q7. What more needs to be done to keep children and young people safe in their... ..	30
Q8. Additional Information:	32
Discussion:	33
Recommendations:	35
Limitations:	36
Time constraints:	36
Access:	36
Dissemination:	37
Conclusion:	38
Thank You:	38
Appendices:	39
Appendix 1:	39
<i>Organisation and Agency Represented in CYPSC:</i>	39
Appendix 2:	40
<i>Report from the Safeguarding of Children and Young People Consultation Event for Services</i>	40
Appendix 3:	49
<i>Ethical Approval Correspondence:</i>	49
Appendix 4:	50
<i>List of organisations and agencies who engaged in the research:</i>	50
Appendix 5:	51
<i>Pilot Consultation with Children and Young People</i>	51
Appendix 6:	55
<i>Resource pack provided to participating agencies and organisations</i>	55
6(a): Schools and agencies information letter	55
6(b) Guide / Information Sheet	57
6(c) Schools and Agencies Protocols in the event of disclosures or concerns:	58
6(d) Parental Information and Consent:	59
6(e) Participants Consent Form	61
6(f) Questionnaire for 8-24 year olds:	62
.....	62
6(g) Flyer:	66
Appendix 7:	67

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Template of analysis per participant per service:	67
Appendix 8:	68
Template of overall analysis per service	68
Appendix 9:	70
Template of overall responses	70
Appendix 10:	72
Topics pertaining to identified themes outlined in Q5 (A)(B)(C) of Children's Questionnaire	72
Appendix 11:	74
Parents Questionnaire and Consent	74
Appendix 12:	78
Views of children	78
Views of parents / guardians:	79

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Introduction:

Many statutory agencies have a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and young people at a national level, including Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, the HSE and the Children and Young People's Services Committee. According to Tusla, everyone in society must play their part in safeguarding children and young people and protecting them from harm in so far as is possible. With this in mind, the following report outlines research undertaken by Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Service Committee (CYPSC) to identify the views and opinions of children and young people on safety within their community, school / educational environment and their home. In addition to this engagement with professionals and parents / guardians was also undertaken to gain an insight from the perspective of adults engaging with children and young people on a regular basis. This report provides a background to the work of CYPSC, the rationale for this research, the approach taken to gather information, the analysis process and the outcomes identified as a result of this collaboration.

Background:

Sligo Leitrim Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2014 and is one of twenty-seven committees across Ireland. Their function is to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people, in its area, between the ages of 0 and 24 years. It also endeavours to realise the Department of Children and Youth Affairs' 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. The DCYA provide policy and strategic direction to CYPSC and a steering group at national level supports effective operation and practical implementation at local level. The steering group at local level is representative of all major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people (Appendix 1).

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has established a number of working groups to address identified and emergent need across the region and one such working group is the Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group. The commitment of this group is to:

- Secure better developmental outcomes for children, through children's services and initiatives, and their families.
- Bring together agencies, services and representatives to add value and coordinate work for the benefit of children, young people and their families.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

- Improve the lives of children young people and their families through co-ordination, planning and service delivery.
- To ensure that professionals and agencies work together to achieve overall purpose.

Their main aims for children and young people are that they:

- Have a secure, stable and caring home environment
- Are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Are protected from bullying and discrimination
- Are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour

The working group developed a three-phase research process to identify any areas of concern pertaining to the safety of children and young people in Sligo / Leitrim. This in turn will inform any appropriate and necessary action plans going forward to continue providing support to children and young people with regards their safety.

Phase One:

Collaboration with professionals:

On March 9th, 2017, an event funded through CYPSC was facilitated in the Clayton Hotel, Sligo. The event was attended by over 80 professionals representing more than 30 statutory, voluntary and community agencies from across Sligo and Leitrim who work with children and families. The key issues identified through discussion, and documented in a report (Appendix 2), included

- Services and supports already in place and working well
- Priority needs and gaps
- Identification of solutions by professionals in attendance

The subsequent step to this event was to carry out research with children and young people across the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC division and their parents. The process of this collaboration is detailed below in phase two.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Phase Two:

Engagement with children and young people (8 – 24 years)

Aim:

The aim of this research was to gather views about what keeps children and young people safe and free from harm, from as many individuals in Sligo and Leitrim aged between 8 and 24 years old. It is part of a multi-layered information gathering exercise which will assist CYPSC in identifying priority actions in relation to Child and Youth Safety in Sligo and Leitrim. The information gathering process will focus on three distinct areas:

1. Safety in our communities
2. Safety in early years, schools and educational environments
3. Safety at home

Methodology:

The safeguarding group have had interaction and support from CRiSP at the Institute of Technology, Sligo who have assisted and supported the research to date through the identification of stages of the research process:

Stage One:

The group, supported by CRiSP, identified the ethical considerations associated with undertaking research involving children and young people. Such considerations included:

- Obtaining informed written consent from participants and from their parents, where it involved a child under 18 years prior to commencing
- Detailing the rights of the participant and their parents to withdraw participation at any stage during the research process
- Confirming that any decision to participate or otherwise will not impact on current or future relations with school, health or social services
- Emphasising the importance and assurance of confidentiality and anonymity of all participants throughout the research process

Once all considerations had been identified for the purpose of engaging with children and young people throughout the research process, ethical approval was requested, and subsequently assured, by Tusla – Child and Family Agency (Appendix 3).

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

This phase also involved the identification of methods of data collection to be utilised in a bid to gather the required information on safety for children and young people. Such methodological approaches included focus groups, interviews and the distribution of questionnaires to services catering for children and young people between the ages of 8 and 24 years. A list of the services and organisations who engaged with this research process can be viewed in Appendix 4. The questionnaire was piloted with a group of young children between the ages of 8 and 24 and amendments were applied as required before distribution to all services and organisations (Appendix 5).

Stage 2:

Once the identification of services and organisations was complete, an information pack (Appendix 6) was circulated to each by the researchers. This pack included:

- Information letter for schools and agencies
- Guide / Information Sheet for undertaking the research
- Schools and organisations protocol in the event of child protection disclosures / issues arising
- Parental Consent Letter
- Participants Consent Form
- Questionnaire for 8 – 24 year olds

Once questionnaires were completed, they were collected and returned to the CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group, who subsequently passed them on to the research assistant for analysis.

Stage 3:

With completed questionnaires returned to the CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group, the process of collating data identified on the questionnaire through a systematic process of analysis and review was undertaken by the research assistant:

- **Step 1:** The research assistant created a separate table on Microsoft Word for each participating service / setting where responses from that service was recorded (Appendix 7).

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

- **Step 2:** Once the recording of individual responses was complete, the research assistant created another table to demonstrate the overall responses to each question from each participating service / setting (Appendix 8).
- **Step 3:** The concluding step of the data analysis process involved the creation of a third and final table detailing the overall responses of each question from all participating services (Appendix 9). This allowed for the identification of qualitative data in the form of trends and themes which have emerged from participant responses as well as quantitative responses which are presented through visual charts for clarification.

Data Analysis:

Each questionnaire was analysed question by question and the results of this analysis are as follows:

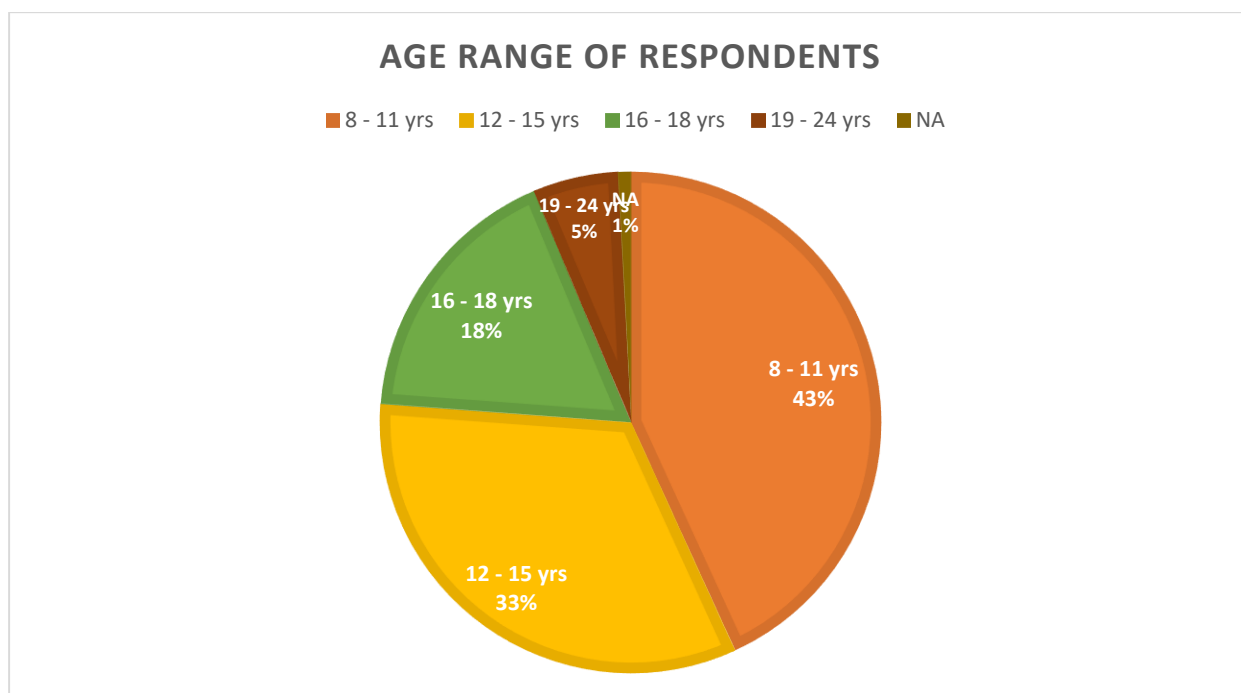
Response rate:

A total of 30 services and settings with an association to children and young people between the ages of 8 and 24 years participated in this research. A total of 492 questionnaires were completed and returned to CYPSC Sligo Leitrim for inclusion in the analysis process. There was one questionnaire that could not be included as there was no signed consent from the young person involved, which left a total of 491 for inclusion and examination.

Q1(a). Age ranges of participants:

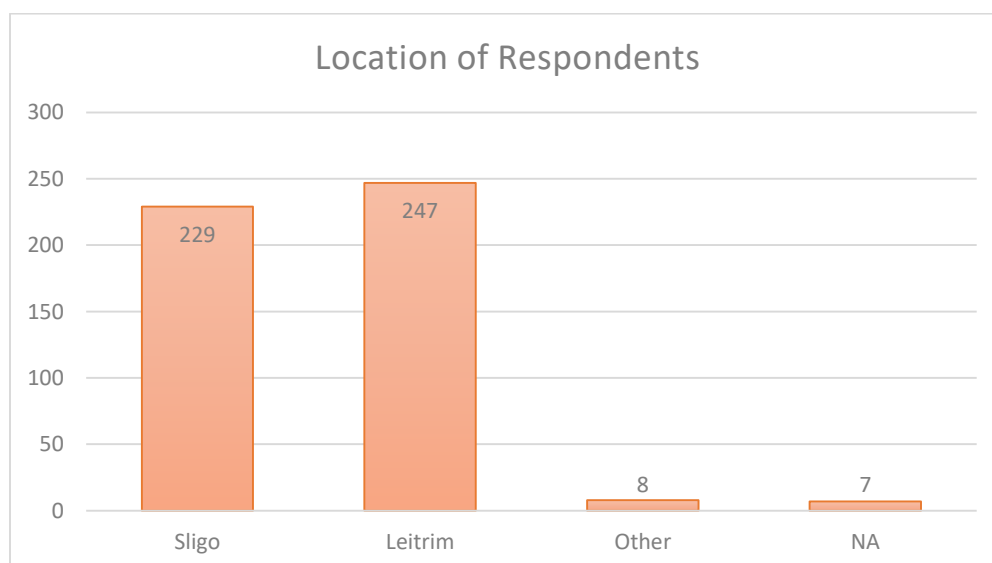
This research involved the inclusion of children between the ages of 8 and 24 years of age. Of the 491 respondents, 212 were aged between 8 and 11, 162 were aged between 12 and 15, 86 were aged between 16 and 18 and 27 were aged between 19 and 24. 4 responses did not provide an answer to this question.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings



Q1(b). Location of participants:

The research focused on children and young people attending services / settings within the counties of Sligo and Leitrim. The results yielded that 229 participants were living in Sligo and 247 resided in Leitrim. A further 8 noted their place of residence as being in Co Roscommon, with 7 not giving an answer. It is important to note that only a proportion of the questionnaires provided opportunity for recording location. Therefore, the researcher recorded location of those not specified as being within the county where they attend the service / setting.



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Q2 – Q7:

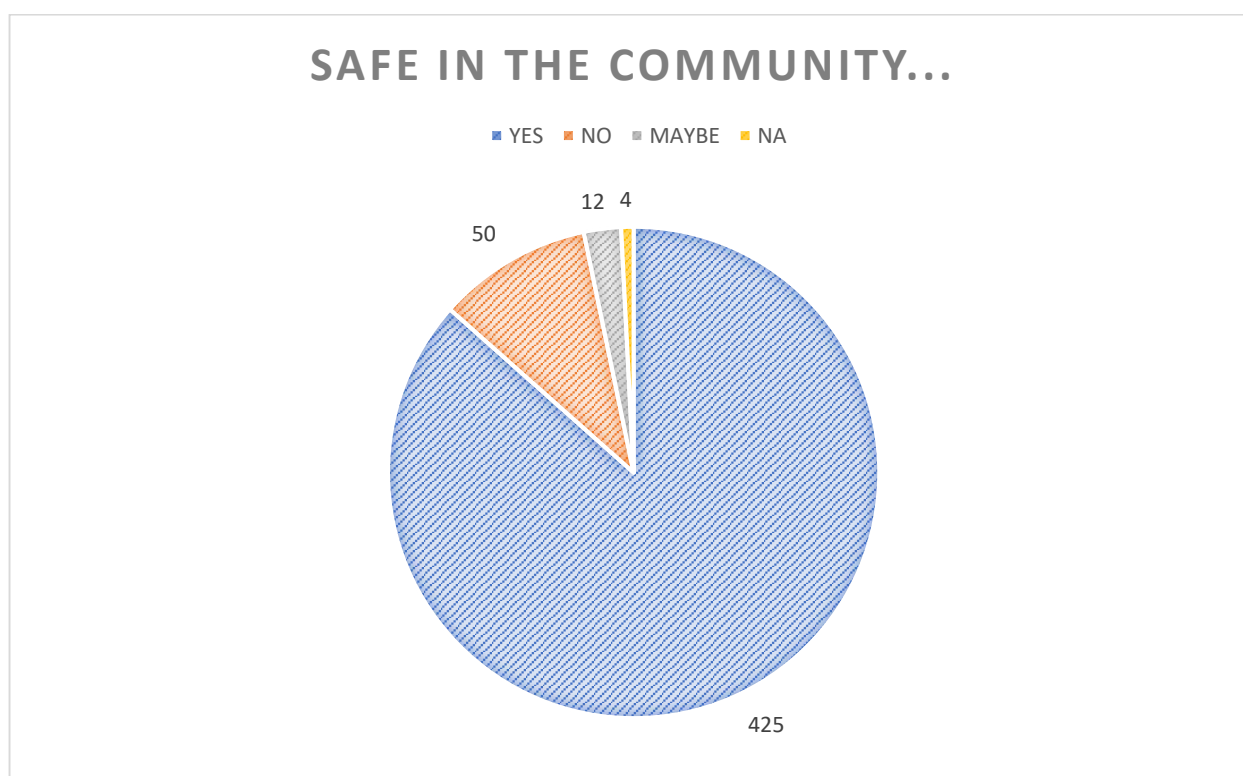
The remaining questions attempted to identify the thoughts and opinions of children and young people around feelings of safety in three distinct settings of their life:

- Their community
- Their school
- Their home

It is important to note that the participants took a varied approach when answering these questions, with some referring to children and young people in general and others referring to their own experience.

Q2. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?

In response to this question, 425 participants answered YES, 50 answered NO, 12 answered both YES and NO or MAYBE and 4 did not provide an answer to this question.



The research assistant classified the explanations given for their answers under two recurring themes; people in their community and the environment.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

➤ Those who answered **YES** referred to:

➤ ***People in their community:***

Those that answered yes to this question highlighted how the people in their community made it a safe place to be, with particular reference to the idea that everyone knows each other and there is always someone there to watch out for and listen to the youth of the community. Such individuals mentioned included nice people, good neighbours and friends, parents and family, the Gardaí, teachers, shopkeepers, emergency services, school counsellor.

➤ ***The environment:***

Answers also included reference to how the environment within which children and young people live influences their perceptions of safety. The geographical location was mentioned regularly as participants believe living in a rural, quiet and small community provides a safe environment. This, they believed resulted in low crime rates, no violence, robberies or drug problems. They also document local services such as the school, the library, playground and green areas for play as making them feel safe as well as clubs and activities available in a community including Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs and After-School facilities so children are not going home or wandering about on their own. The provision of security measures such as CCTV cameras, alarms, street lighting text alert and community alert were also documented as keeping a community safe. Practical provisions were also listed and included the existence of road crossings, signs, gates and walls, footpaths, speed limits all contributed to keeping a community safe.

➤ Those who answered **NO** referred to:

• ***People in their community:***

Those that answered no to this question highlighted how safety depends on the people around them and they may be unsafe if they don't know such people very well. Examples given of individuals which would make it unsafe included kidnappers, drunk drivers and paedophiles, as they could pose a danger to children and young people in their community. However, such responses were mainly from a general point of view and did not appear to be from personal experience. Responses pertaining to specific communities highlighted slight problems with underage drinking and antisocial behaviour. Reference was also made to the

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

hazard of farming vehicles on roads in rural areas. The lack of Garda presence was also believed to make a community less safe.

- ***The environment:***

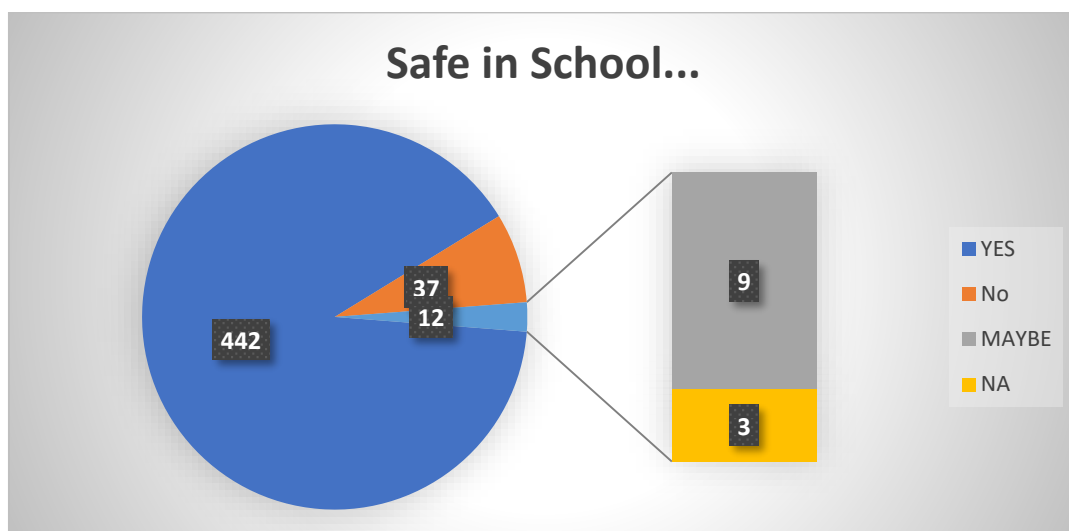
Larger towns were deemed to be less safe due to the higher populations within them and therefore everyone may not know each other very well, if at all.

Individuals also recorded areas they felt were not safe were due to older groups gathering in playgrounds, slight drug problems, stabbings, abuse. They contributed bullying to a non-safe community and the general reference to the lack of safety for the number of homeless children and young people in communities around Ireland. The shortage of local Garda stations was also highlighted as making a community less safe as was the lack of practical safety measures including road crossings and speed limits.

- Those that were unsure or answered both yes and no believed in most cases children and young people are safe in their community, however there can be some exceptions, as safety may not always be guaranteed despite best efforts of the children and young people as well as those around them.

Q3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school?

Upon analysis of this question, it was identified that 442 participants believed that YES, children and young people are safe at school with 37 answering NO and 9 answering both YES and NO / MAYBE. 3 participants left this question unanswered.



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

➤ Those who answered **YES** referred to:

- ***People in their school:***

Most children and young people recorded feeling safe within their school community. The people within the school community were noted as playing a significant role in ensuring such feelings of safety and security. Respondents frequently mentioned teachers when answering and referred to feeling comfortable in approaching teachers if they were feeling unsafe or afraid. The majority also noted that teachers were friendly, kind, nice, fair and trustworthy and all these traits help them feel safe within their school community. The perception of teachers as being well educated and garda vetted also attributed to children and young people's feelings of safety within their school community. Other individuals mentioned included principals, special needs assistants, guidance counsellors, other pupils, parents and mentors for younger students. Many associated feeling safe with having good friends within their school community as they all watch out for each other whilst also helping and caring for one another. Additional attributes of people within the school environment which were also deemed important, included treating everyone well, looking out for pupils and being able to confide in and talk to one another about any problems or issues.

➤ ***The environment:***

Many of the respondents who reported feeling safe in their school commented on the physical environment and the provisions in place to keep everyone physically safe. Such opinions included the provision of locks on doors and a buzzer system for entering and exiting the school. CCTV and cameras were deemed important, as was the provision of fire safety measures including appropriate fire exits and regular fire drills. Some respondents believed a small school environment enhanced safety and regular roll call heightened feelings of safety.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

➤ Those who answered **NO** referred to:

- ***People in their community:***

Only 7% of respondents answered no to feeling safe in their school / educational environment. The most common reason listed was bullying. The explanation provided by these respondents was that regardless of the best efforts of the school, there is always a risk of bullying. In some replies, individuals were able to identify instances of bullying within their own school environment, again remarking that it can happen regardless of the efforts of school personnel to clamp down on such occurrences. Reference to America and the many school shootings that take place there also came up during analysis of answers. Some believed there is a risk of such a thing happening in their school community. Others maintained there were too many people in the school environment for it to be safe as anyone could come in or go out unnoticed. One respondent believed that the lack of provisions to make anonymous complaints influenced their idea of safety within their school.

- ***The environment:***

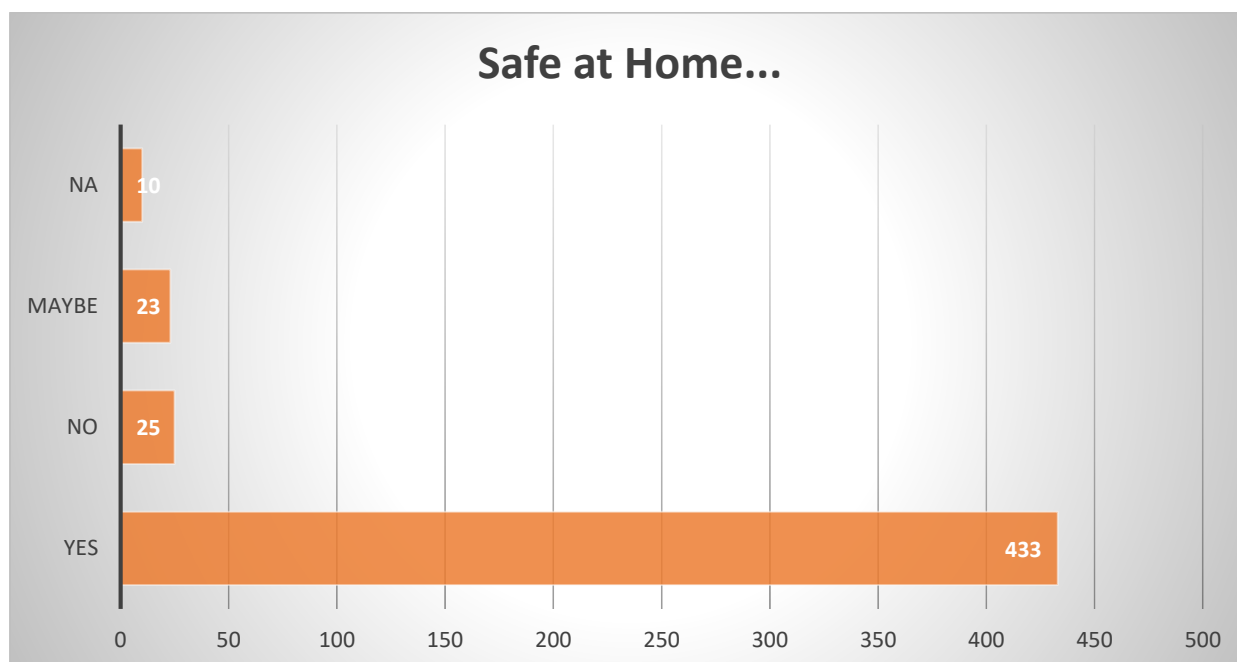
There were very few negative reasons provided in relation to the impact the physical environment has on respondent's views of safety at school. The physical structure of the school was significant in this regard with reference made to glass doors being easily broken to gain access to the school. Reference made to the lack of physical boundaries between the school and the road resulted in views of being unsafe in instances where children had to exit the school to retrieve footballs etc.

➤ Those that were unsure or answered both yes and no believed in most cases children and young people are safe in their school or educational setting. However, they believed there might be some exceptions, such as instances of bullying among peers. They maintain that despite the best efforts of the school staff and school policies, it is not possible to eradicate instances of bullying.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q4. Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?

In response to this question, 433 participants answered YES, 25 answered NO and 23 answered both YES and NO / MAYBE. 10 participants did not provide an answer to this question.



➤ Those who answered **YES** referred to:

- ***People in their home:***

A total of 88% of respondents were of the belief that children were safe in their homes. They stated that these feelings of safety were due to numerous factors including the presence of their parents in the home and never been left alone for any more than an hour or so, if at all. They also believed having their parents there to look after them, care for them and love them, made them feel safe in their home. Many believed having rules around phone use and social media also contributed to safety within the home. Other individuals mentioned as contributing to children and young people feeling safe in their homes, included neighbours who were deemed lovely and well known, older siblings, child minders and other family members such as grandparents, aunts and uncles who loved and cared for the younger individuals. Many responses focused on concepts such as trust, kindness, feelings of been protected and how everyone loves one another; all of which promoted ideas of safety in the answers provided.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

➤ ***The environment:***

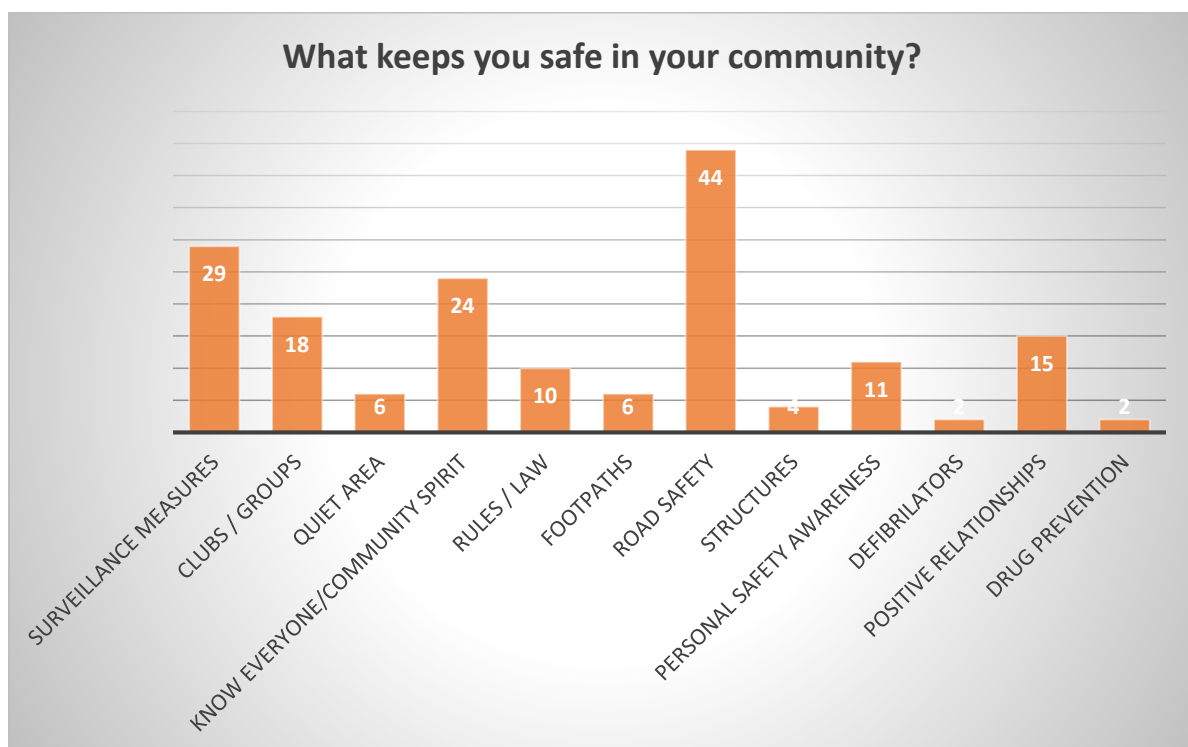
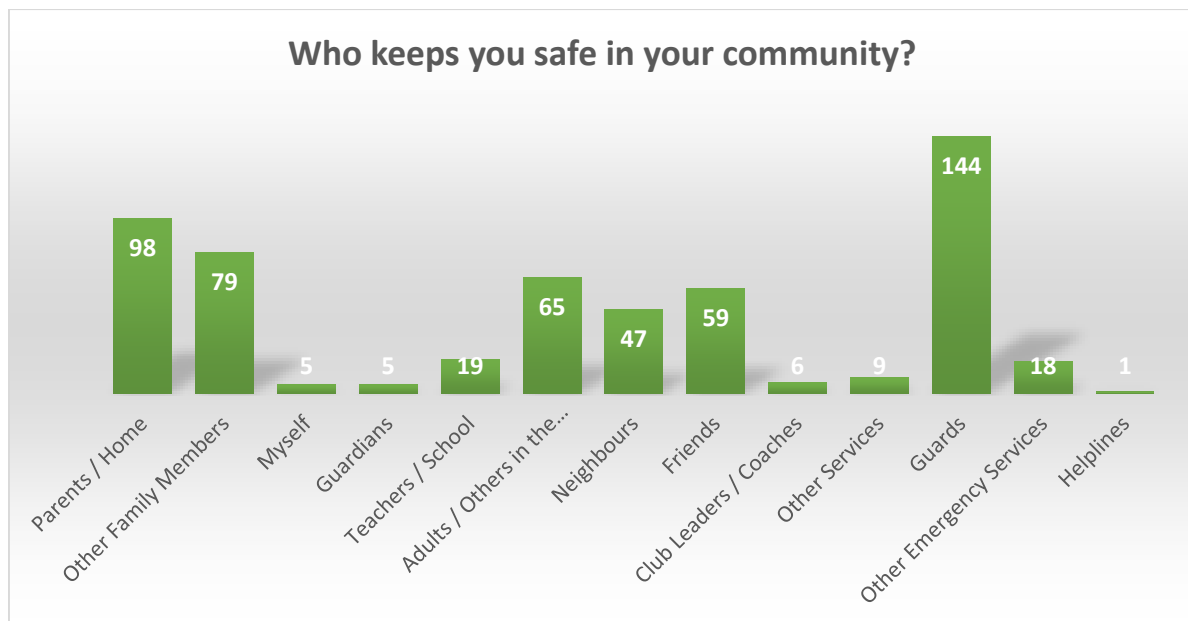
The environment of the home played a significant role in children and young people's ideas of safety in the home. Many referred to practical steps for safety including the provision of smoke alarms, fire alarms, protection from dangerous substances and locked doors and windows. Furthermore, the contribution of food, warmth and electricity to feeling safe within the home. Some respondents were of the belief that living in a nice quiet area with streetlights, green areas and safety railings aided safety with two respondents believing that one has a bond with their home environment and this attachment with familiar surroundings aids their positive idea of safety in the home.

- The 5% of respondents who answered **NO** to this question maintained the belief that although crime rates were low in their areas, there were instances of burglaries and break-ins and as a result, people could never be fully safe in their homes. One respondent referred to the homeless crisis and how children, who are experiencing homelessness, could not be safe in such a situation.
- Those who answered **MAYBE** highlighted several factors behind the reasoning for their answers. The majority of the 5% who were unsure stated that they felt very safe in their own home but remained cognisant of the fact that no one could be sure what happens behind others' closed doors. Some respondents stated that perceptions of safety within the home would depend on the location of the house, whilst others believed physical structures such as no gates could contribute to lack of safety within one's home. A common answer among respondents referred to the possibility of parental addictions and abuse, experienced within homes and which could result in children not feeling safe. Some respondents believed that no matter how supportive parents are in providing protection and safety to their children, there might still be cases of online bullying unknown to parents.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q5 (a). What keeps you / young people safe in your community?

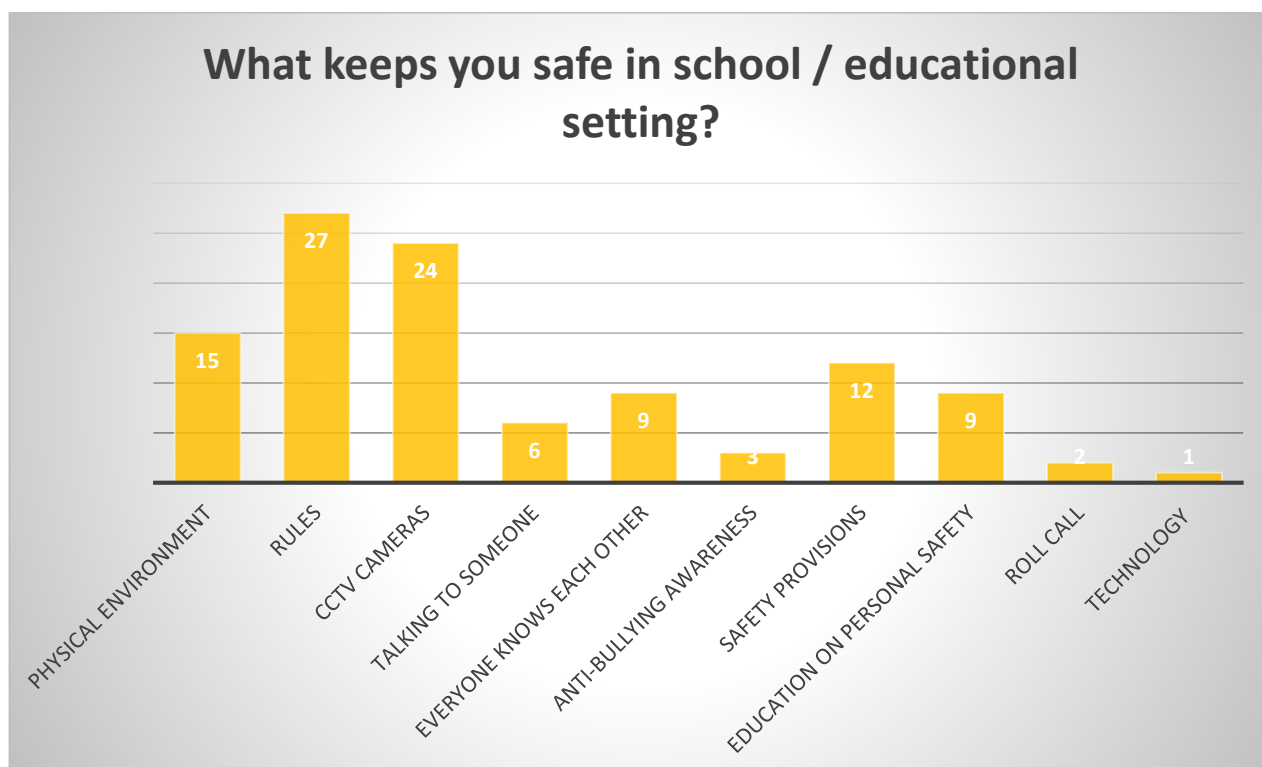
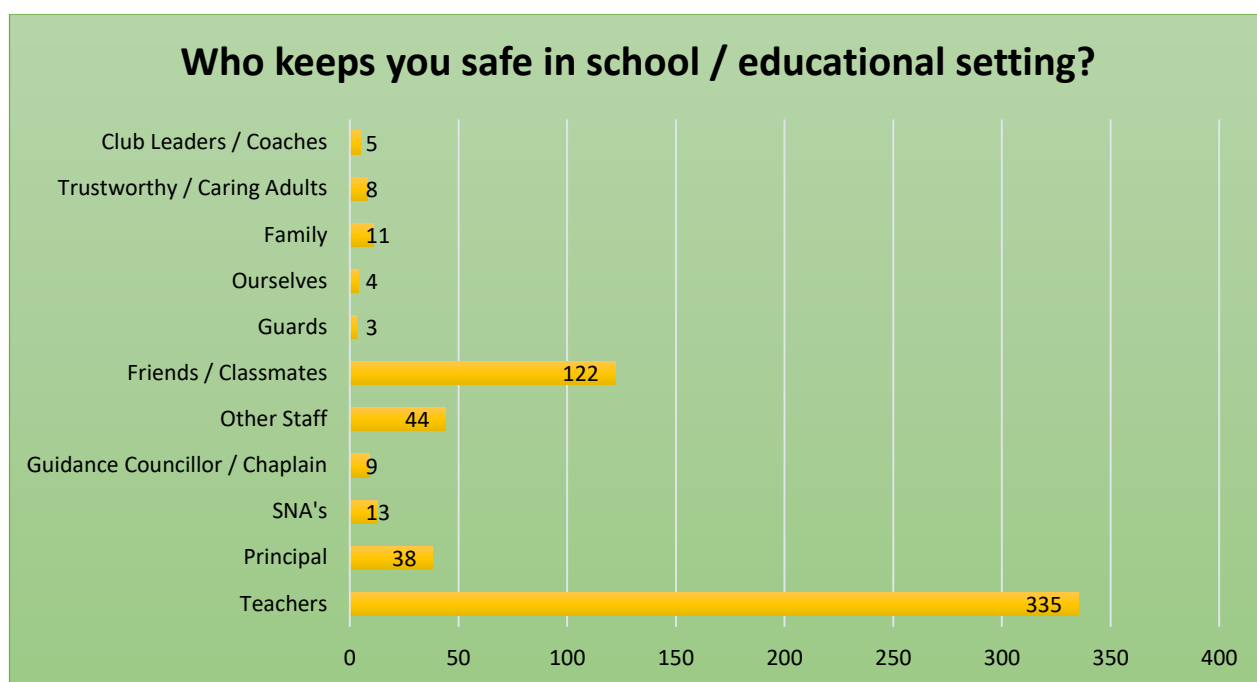
Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 456 provided an answer to this question, 34 left it unanswered and 1 stated they did not know. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about who, or what, keeps them safe in their community. An outline of topics that emerged under the themes listed in each of the charts is noted in Appendix 10.



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Q5(b). What keeps you / young people safe in your School / Educational Setting?

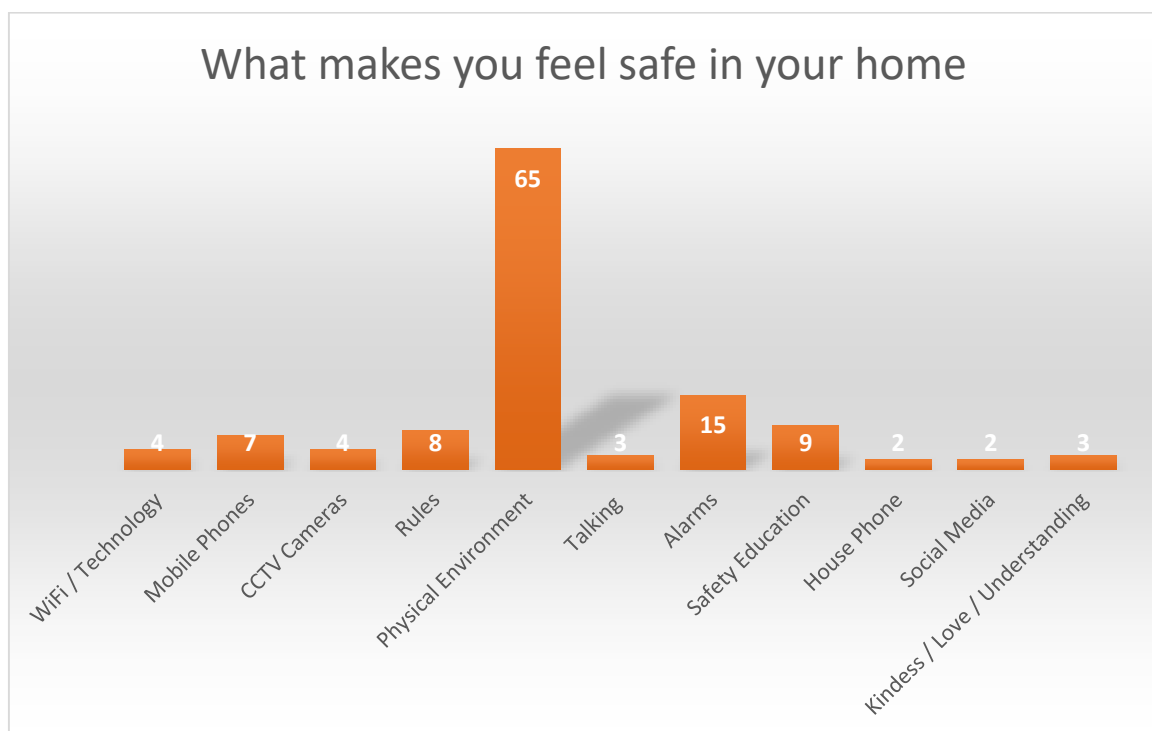
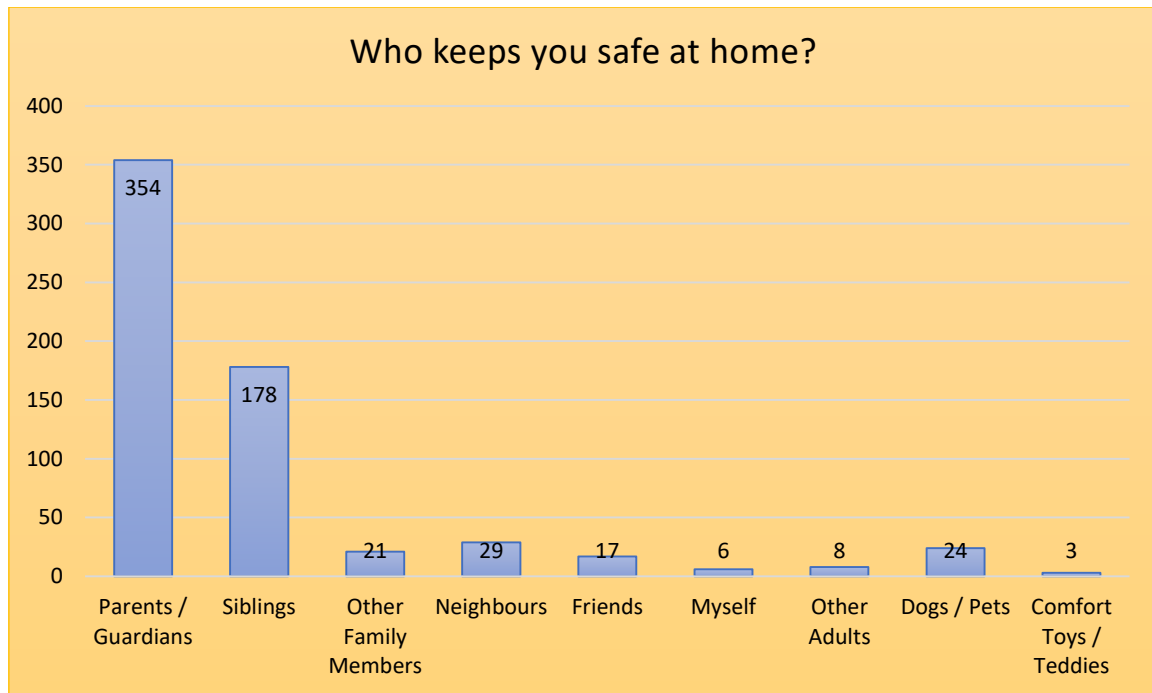
Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 439 provided an answer to this question, 39 left it unanswered and 13 stated they did not know. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about who, or what, keeps them safe in their school / educational setting. An outline of topics that emerged under the themes listed in each of the charts is noted in Appendix 10.



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q5(c). What keeps you / young people safe in your Home?

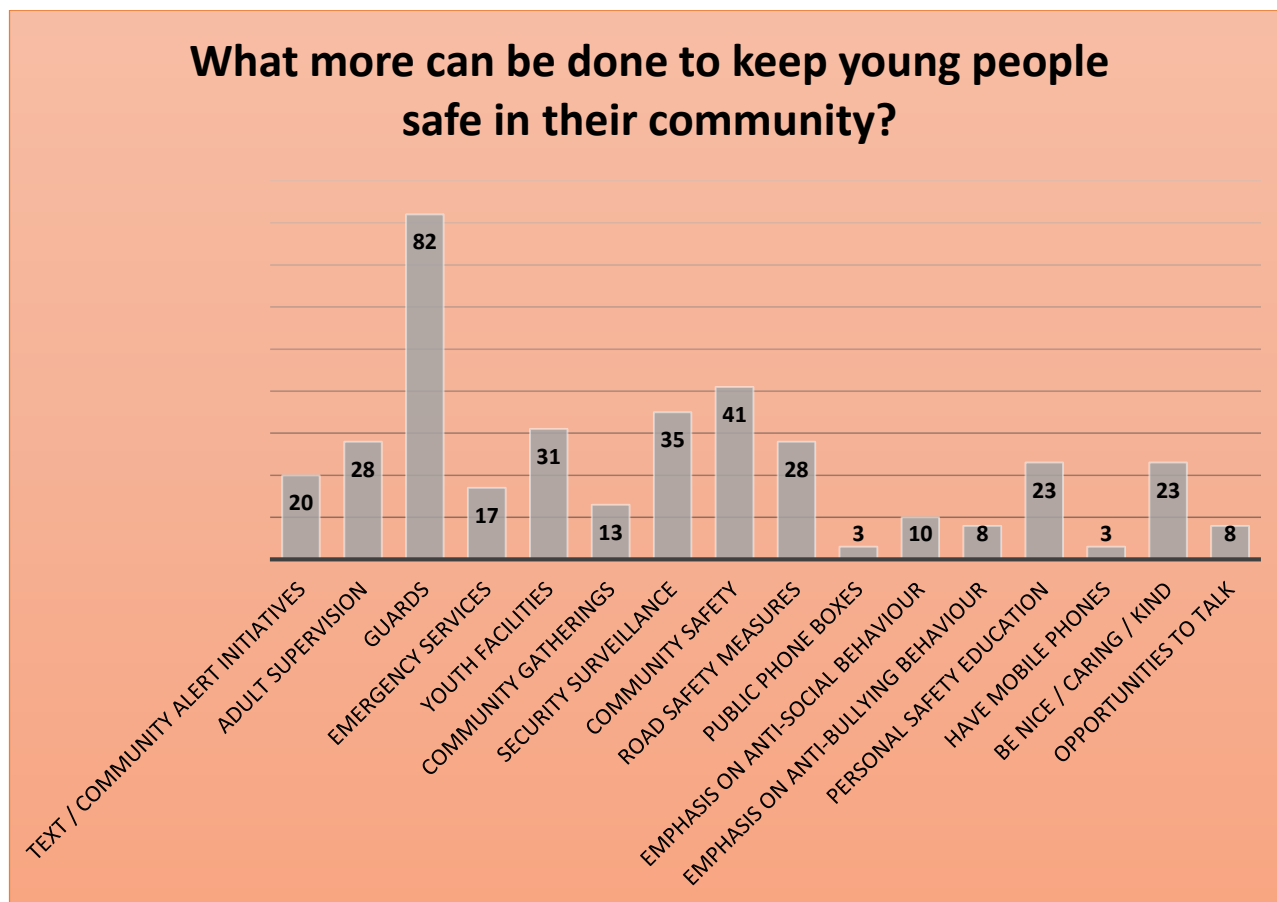
Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 451 provided an answer to this question, 37 left it unanswered and 3 stated they did not know. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about who, or what, keeps them safe in their homes. An outline of topics that emerged under the themes listed in each of the charts is noted in Appendix 10.



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q6(a). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their community?

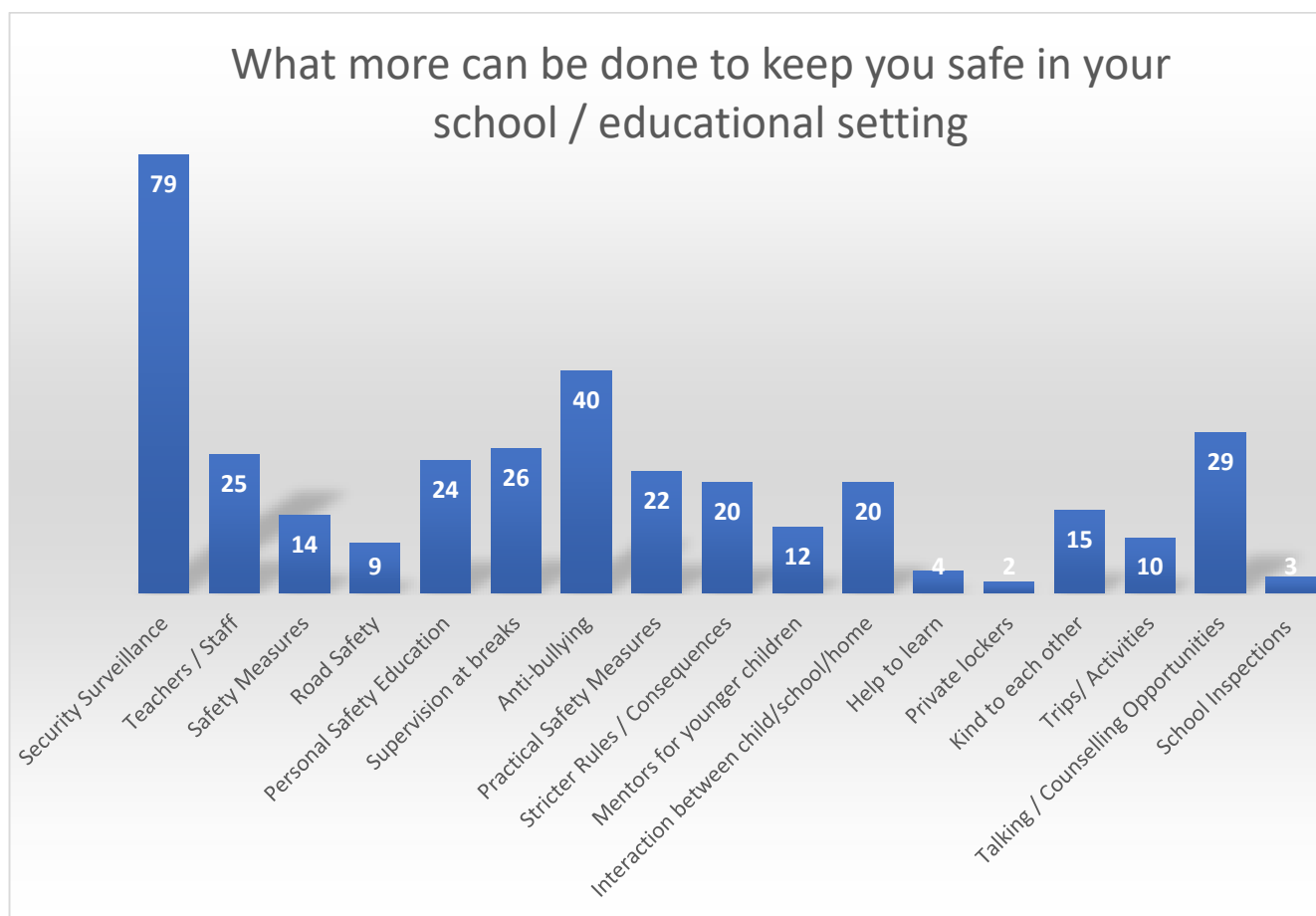
Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 369 provided an answer to this question, 87 left it unanswered and 35 stated they did not know. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about what more can be done to keep children and young people safe in their community. The suggestions highlight are what respondents believe is more need for to ensure they are safe within their community:



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q6(b). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their school?

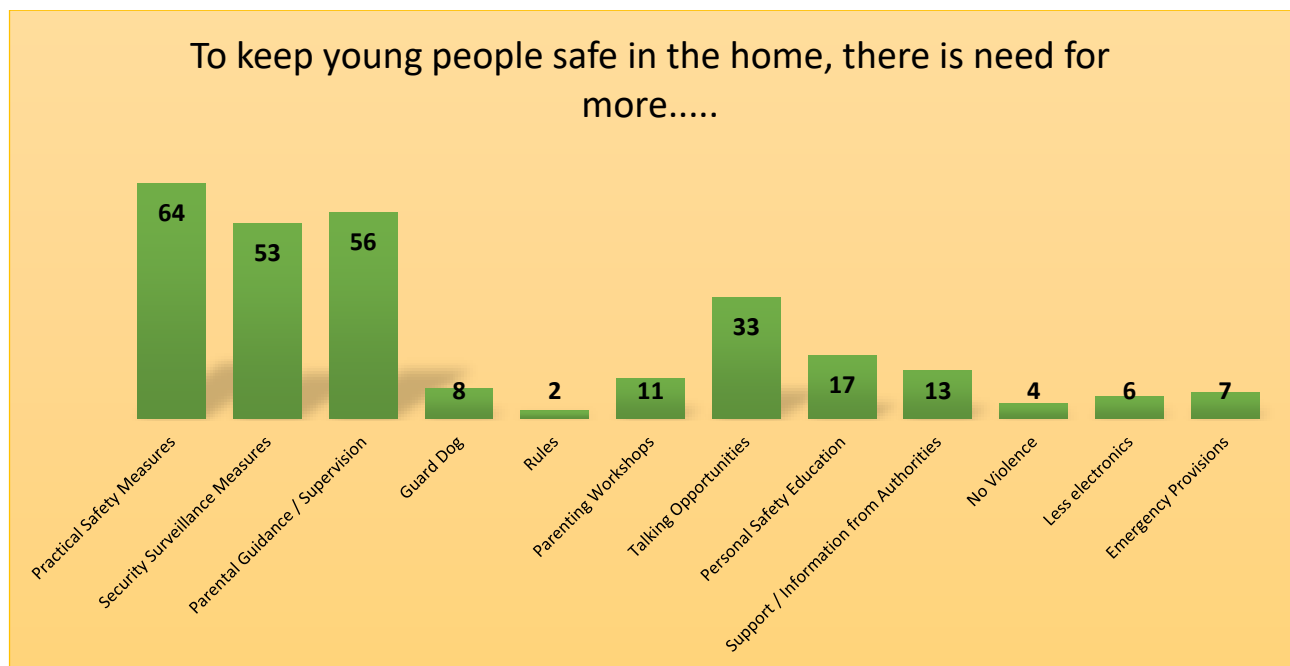
Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 348 provided an answer to this question, 95 left it unanswered and 48 stated they did not know. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about what more can be done to keep children and young people safe in their school / educational environment. The suggestions highlight what respondents believe there is more need for to ensure they are safe within their school or educational environment:



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

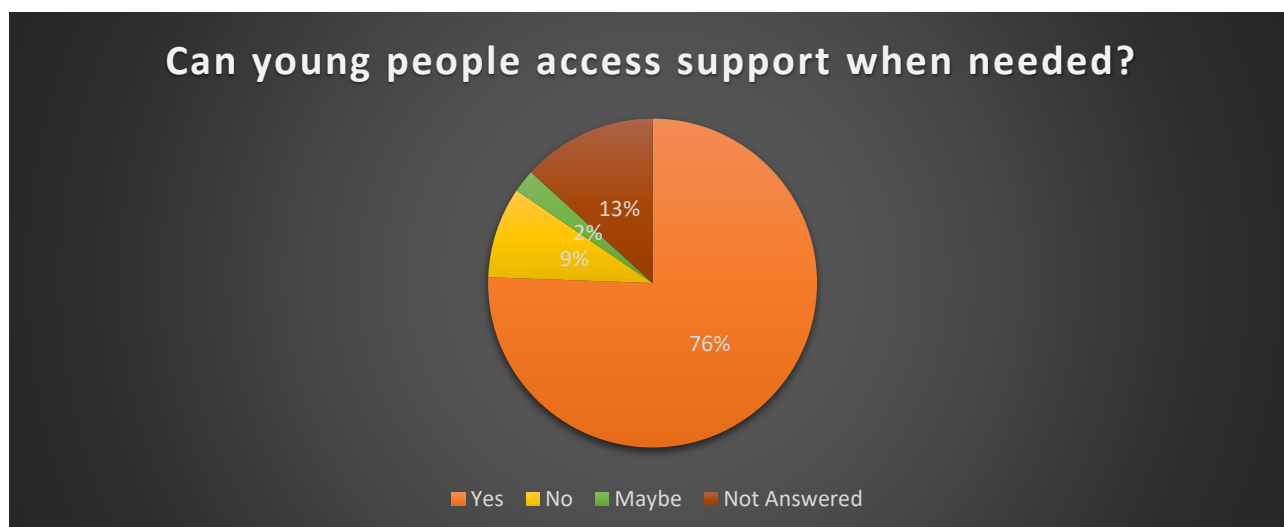
Q6(c). What more can be done to keep children / young people safe in their home?

Out of the 491 respondents of the questionnaires, 292 provided an answer to this question, 147 left it unanswered and 52 stated there was nothing more to be done. The following charts illustrates the views of respondents about what more can be done to keep children and young people safe in their school / educational environment. The suggestions highlight what respondents believe there is more need for to ensure they are safe within their school or educational environment:



Q7. Do you think young people can access support around safety when they need it?

In response to this question, 76% ($n=371$) of young people answered yes, 9% ($n=44$) answered no, 2% ($n=11$) said maybe and 13% ($n=65$) did not provide any answer this question.



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

The explanations provided for answers given are demonstrated in the chart below:



Phase 3

Collaboration with Parents and Guardians

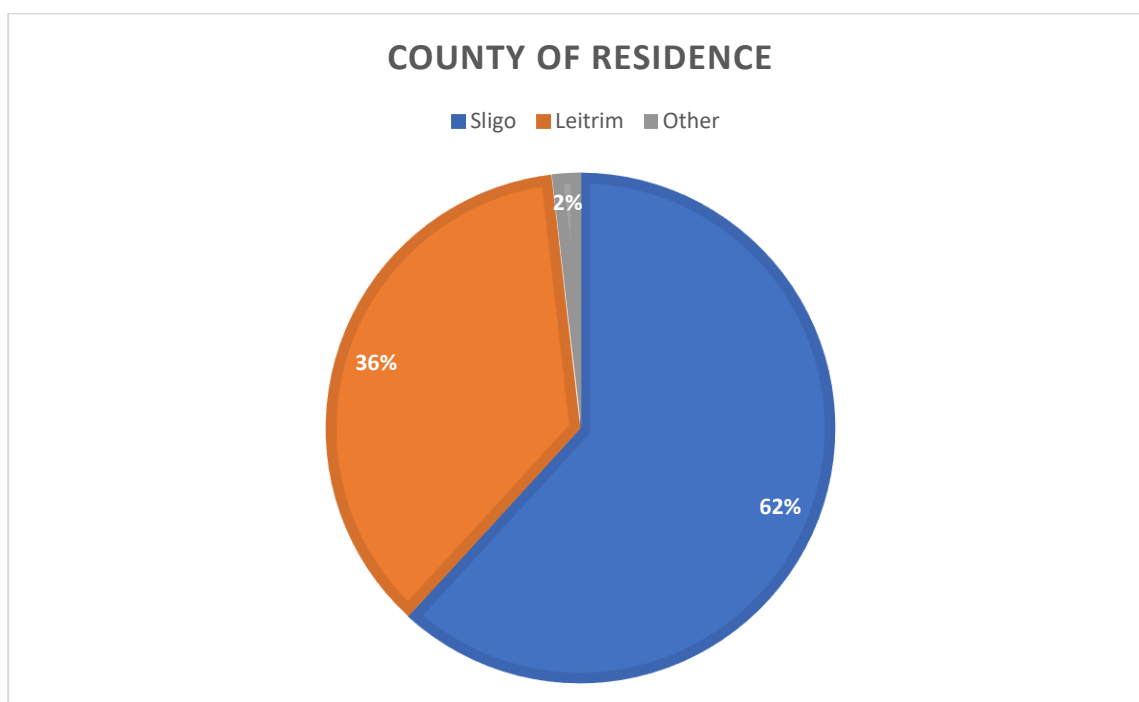
Following on from the Safeguarding of Children and Young People Consultation Event for Services in 2017 and the consultation with children and young people through questionnaire responses, it was deemed important by the sub-group to include the voice and opinions of parents on what they believe are the key issues regarding the safety of children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim. Questionnaires (Appendix 11) were devised by the research assistant and distributed by the Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group to parents and guardians within the Sligo and Leitrim area. The analysis of responses is outlined below:

Response rate:

A total of 55 parents and guardians participated in this research and completed a questionnaire for the purpose of gaining attitudes and opinions in relation to children's safety in their community, educational environment and their home. The responses provided are highlighted as follows:

Q1. What county do you live in?

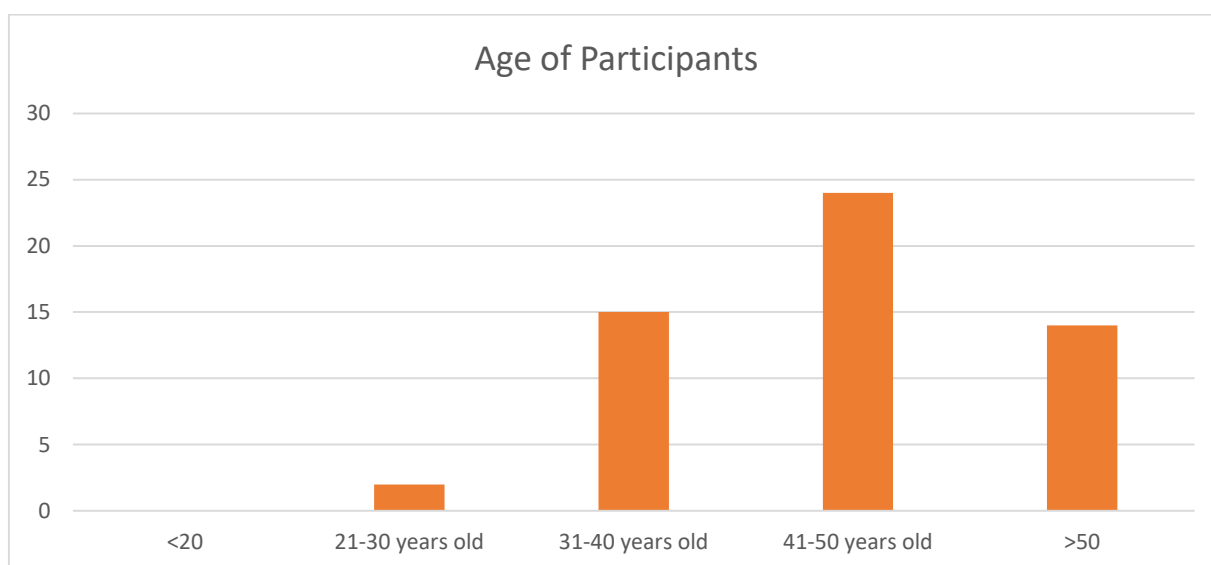
A total of 34 participants recorded being from Sligo, 20 were from Leitrim and 1 recorded being from another county.



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

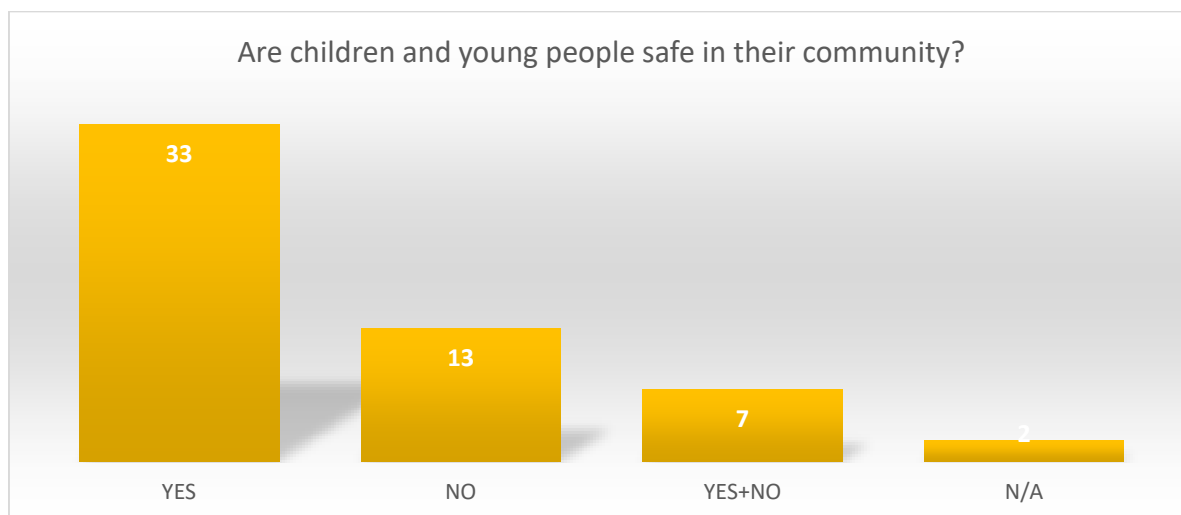
Q2. *What age group are you in?*

Participants were given the choice of several age categories to record the age bracket they belonged to. This question was asked in a bid to determine if views and opinions of parents and guardians around areas of child safety, varied much, if at all, depending on age and era within which they are bringing up their children. None of the respondents were aged younger than 20 years old, two were aged between 21 and 30 years old, 15 were aged between 31 and 40 years old, 24 were aged between 41 and 50 years old and 14 respondents were aged over 50 years old.



Q3. *Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?*

33 participants believe that yes, children and young people are safe in their community, 13 stated no, 7 gave an answer of yeas and no, depending on the situation, and 2 did not provide an answer to this question.



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Explanations provided for their answers came under the following themes:

Those that answered YES, stated:

- Children are aware / educated about the dangers around them
- Everyone looks out for each others children
- Parental Supervision
- Garda Vetting of coaches / club personnel
- Community Alert / Community Text Alert
- Residing in a safe area
- Everyone knows everyone else
- Good sense of community involvement
- Children know where to seek help if needed
- Stay Safe Programme
- Living in a rural community, therefore it is safe

Those that answered NO stated:

- Anti-social behaviour including drugs, alcohol and gangs
- A lot of strangers in the locality
- Cyber-bullying
- Internet usage
- Danger of paedophiles
- Technology

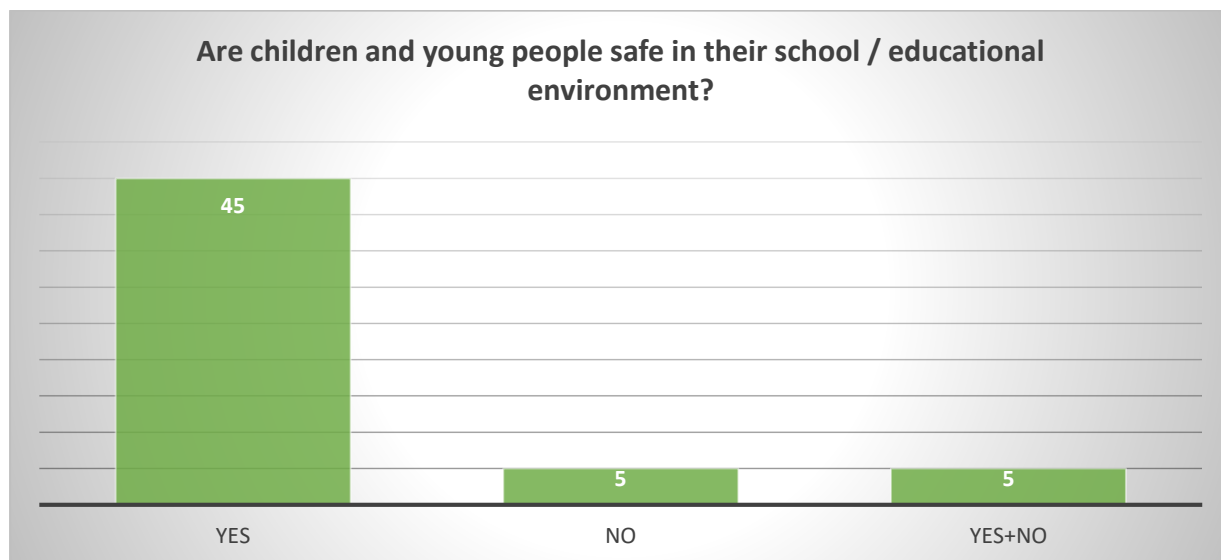
Those that answered YES+NO stated:

- Depends on the circumstances for example age of children, location, background, peers
- Vulnerable without adequate supervision
- Lack of facilities, especially for teenagers

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Q4. *Do you think children and young people are safe in their school / educational environment?*

In response to this question, 45 participants answered yes, five answered no and 5 answered both yes and no.



Explanations provided for their answers were categorised under the following themes:

YES

- Good security
- Good child protection procedures
- Anti-bullying campaigns
- Policies in place
- Well-trained and supportive staff
- Safety Awareness / Education i.e. Stay Safe Programme, Sex Education
- Mandatory Reporting
- Positive mental health support
- Rules and regulations
- Small school environment, everyone knows one another
- Garda Vetting
- Trust
- Changes in teaching styles and interaction with the children

NO

- More openness and acceptance of diverse backgrounds needed
- More anti-bullying awareness and clampdown on bullying needed
- Insufficient supervision
- More emphasis on positive mental health

YES+NO

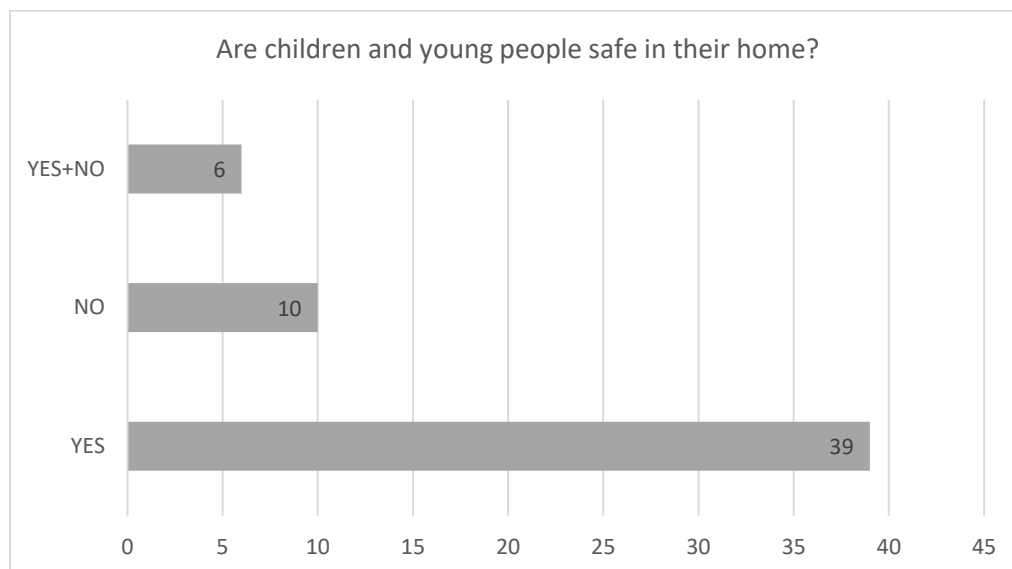
- No support for early school leavers
- Responses of teachers sometimes questionable
- Bullying can still happen
- More understanding of teen development needed

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Q5. Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?

In response to this question, 39 participants stated yes, 10 stated no and 6 gave both yes and no as an answer.



The explanations provided for their answers are highlighted below:

YES

- Good levels of security
- Rules
- Monitoring technology
- Safety awareness
- Educated and aware parents
- Good structural buildings
- Adequate contacts in the event of an emergency
- Provision of internet safety and awareness

NO

- Risk of domestic violence / abuse within the home
- Inadequate laws to deal with child abuse
- Unsupervised access to online activities / chat rooms
- Addictions e.g parental substance abuse
- The belief that what happens at home stays at home
- Parental mental health issues

YES+NO

- Depends on background, parental support,
- Some children can suffer neglect
- Accidents can happen no matter how safe the home is

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Q6. *What supports / services are available to keep children and young people safe in their...*

Community:

- Education and awareness around possible dangers
- Supportive people in their lives e.g. school staff, parents, Gardaí, neighbours
- Community setting / support
- Clubs and activities – Youth Clubs, After School Clubs, Big Brother/Big Sister, Sports Clubs, Scouts,
- Family Support
- Training e.g. Internet Safety
- Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP)
- Agencies – Tusla, Social Services, Child Line, ISPCC, Family Resource Centre, HSE, CYPSC, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services,
- Garda Vetting
- Community Alert initiatives
- Safeguarding Initiatives – Children First
- Road Safety – Speed bumps, Crossings, speed limits

School / Educational Environment:

- Home School Liaison
- Anti-bullying initiatives
- Personal Safety Programmes – Stay Safe, Zippy's Friends
- Cyber-bullying awareness
- Good teachers, Staff, Board of Management
- School Counsellors / Chaplains
- Good security measures
- Department of Education – school policies, safeguarding children and young people,
- Student Mentors, Big Brother/Big Sister initiatives
- Safety Education – Road Safety, Personal Safety, Fire Safety
- Adequate supervision
- Parents Association
- Agencies – Tusla, County Childcare Committees, Sports Partnerships,
- Friends / Peers
- Garda Vetting

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- Children First Training
- Adequate and inclusive policies and procedures
- After School Activities

Home:

- Parents, extended family, friends, neighbours, community
- Family Support – Public Health Nurse, GP,
- Agencies – Social Services, Family Support Workers, School Liaison Officers, Early Intervention Teams, CYPSC, Gardaí, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services,
- Phone and internet monitoring
- Safety Measures – Fire Safety,
- Education on dangers / how to keep safe
- Anti-bullying initiatives

Q7. What more needs to be done to keep children and young people safe in their...

Community:

- More local campaigns on safety, bullying, internet and online use, substance abuse and misuse, anti-social behaviours,
- More Guards,
- Education and awareness around safety – Personal Safety, Fire Safety, Internet Safety,
- Provision of more activities especially for teenagers
- More education-based training for parents / guardians
- More availability for Child Protection Training
- Community involvement opportunities and initiatives for parents and children
- More funding for local initiatives
- Improve national policy e.g. about homelessness
- More security – street lighting, CCTV,
- Clampdown on underage drinking,
- Community groups and initiatives – Community Alert, Youth Clubs, Tidy Towns, Helping the elderly, Scouts,
- Additional non-sport related activities
- Better mental health strategies and supports,
- Better infrastructure and amenities – footpaths, cycle paths, playground, sports pitches

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- Better road safety – speed limits, appropriate school drop-off locations,
- Better provisions / source of contacts for new families to the community
- More awareness of supports available to children and young people

School and educational environment:

- More vigilance around bullying
- More education on supports available to children and young people
- More education for teachers on dangers for children – social media, road safety, stranger danger,
- More safety awareness initiatives – bullying, cyber-bullying, sex education,
- More collaboration between organisations
- Proper screening for external bodies entering school premises
- More interaction with external agencies – school visits from local organisations and authorities,
- More emphasis on physical activities
- More focus mental health strategies and awareness – self-care
- Continuing education in evolving technology monitoring
- Infrastructural enhancements – road safety initiatives, speed bumps,
- Building positive relationships between school, child and home
- Better communication with home – newsletters, parent teacher meetings, engagement with Board of Management,

Home:

- Engagement of parents in safety awareness and education on topics such as positive parenting, Social Media, Internet / Online awareness, Abuse, child development, substance use and misuse,
- Family support – early detection and intervention, regular visits,
- More staff / provisions to agencies such as Tusla
- Building supportive relationships - engagement between parents and children for greater awareness on issues affecting children and young people
- Clearer reporting guidelines and procedures for reporting concerns

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Q8. *Additional Information:*

The following information was provided by participants in addition to their views and opinions on keeping children and young people safe in the community, school / educational environments and in their home:

- Every child deserves a safe environment regardless of where they are. Checks must be put in place at home, at school and in the community to ensure this is achieved
- Sligo can be a rough and threatening environment for young people at night times and weekends. When a lot of drink is consumed, and random acts of intimidation and violence can flare up on the streets or in a club often leading to significant injury. Much more Garda involvement and publican co-operation needed along with additional camera and lighting to reduce the triggers for such behaviour
- All families should have emergency plan in place where children know to access numbers and assembly points in case of fire
- The area that I live in is in two counties and two provinces and we seem to be forgotten when it comes to resources
- Babysitting classes and clubs teach older children how to care for younger ones in a safe way
- Continued vigilance and good advice is needed for the safeguarding of children
- Asking children and including them in what they feel are areas to be addressed
- Good advice and instilling good values and morals to our children. Keep an eye on what's happening around them
- Develop a free to download app for young people with information on supports out there
- There are supports for breastfeeding. There are mother and toddler groups. **NO** supports for parents of teenagers especially lone / single parents

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Discussion:

Following engagement with professionals, children and young people aged between 8 and 24 years old and parents and guardians, key factors and information relating to the safety of children and young people in their community, school / environment and home were identified. This information included:

- The answers provided by children, young people and parents / guardians were delivered by two viewpoints, some spoke from personal experience and some provided their opinion in a general manner.
- Where yes or no answers were provided, several participants gave their explanations as being both yes and no.
- Through this collaboration with children, young people, parents and guardians, several important recurring themes were identified:
 - Anti-bullying Awareness: Recognition was provided for the important emphasis currently placed on anti-bullying campaigns and education for children and young people. However, continuous and further education on this topic is deemed important by participants. Such suggestions included the provision of confidential boxes in schools, so children and young people can make a disclosure regarding issues of bullying in a confidential and secure manner.
 - Identification of other important and continuous safety education and training was also deemed necessary including Children First Training, First Aid, Personal Safety Awareness e.g. stranger danger. Many participants believed that such training should be made available to all individuals engaging with children through their community environment, their school / educational environment and their home environment.
 - Through the analysis process the need for more activities, clubs and amenities for children and young people became very apparent with many highlighting the lack of activities available to teenagers. Participants were of the belief that such provisions would assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and issues with alcohol and drugs use and misuse.
 - Huge emphasis was placed on the importance of road safety for children and young people including tough crack down on speeding, more provision of speed ramps

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

and pedestrian crossings and more adequate drop-off and collection points at schools.

- Responses from children and young people on what keeps them safe focused mainly around the people in their lives including parents, siblings, extended family, teachers, neighbours and even shopkeepers. Having trusted people in their lives and environment as well as talking and counselling opportunities were perceived to be the most recognised above all other suggestions from children and young people regarding their safety. The closure of local Garda stations was also mentioned regularly on why communities may not be safe.
- In contrast to this, responses from parents and guardians placed emphasis on the importance of engagement from agencies such as Tusla, Social Services, An Garda Síochana and Family Support in ensuring the safety of children and young people. They also stated the provision of adequate policies and procedures such as child protection training and practices is vitally important.
- Topics associated with technology and social media had minimal acknowledgement from children and young people and an equal balance of the pros and cons of such were highlighted. Parents and guardians placed greater emphasis on the need for awareness of the dangers of technology, social media and online activities.
- Parental responses placed greater emphasis on issues of personal dangers faced by children such as social media, online chatrooms, abuse as opposed to children's responses which focused more on the physical structural safety of their community, school / educational environment and their home.
- Several references were made by both children and young people and parents / guardians regarding their community location. Rural environments were deemed safer by those residing there as everyone knows everyone else, there's a keen sense of community spirit and everyone looks out for each other.
- Overall, children are deemed safer in their school / educational environment than anywhere else.
- Parents / guardians have a well-based knowledge of a wide variety of supports available to support children and young people's safety.
- Providing the opportunity for parents / guardians to voice their opinions and views on the safety of children and young people provided a more in-depth knowledge

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

and awareness around issues of safety and what more needs to be done to ensure the safety of children and young people.

Recommendations:

One of the outcomes of this research was the identification of recommendations to improve children and young people's feelings of safety in their community, their educational environment and their home. Having obtained the important views and opinions of children and young people in the Sligo / Leitrim area, it is crucial to demonstrate to them that their views are highly valuable and will be used to plan future objectives. Suggestions were outlined to help improve provision for their safety in their formative years. Such recommendations include:

- Placing continued emphasis on the provision of safety awareness education within schools and local communities as highlighted by respondents in relation to programmes around stranger danger and personal safety,
- Continuing ongoing anti-bullying awareness campaigns within schools and communities through information events, workshops and educational lessons
- Utilising the contents contained within the report to encourage organisations such as the Gardaí and Local Authorities to commit to CYPSC
- Supporting the 'Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group' to ask for consideration of the issues highlighted for work/projects in the future
- Providing opportunity for whole community training and information opportunities on topics such as bullying, internet safety, personal safety, Child Protection, First Aid, building resilience and self-esteem, supporting the mental health of children and young people, farm safety, road safety
- Informing primary and post primary schools of the value and regard placed on teachers and staff by children and young people with regards to keeping them safe. Also, encouraging and promoting the roll out of the buddy system and mentoring support in all schools across Sligo and Leitrim. School personnel will also be encouraged to introduce a confidential comment / suggestions box to allow children express concerns and opinions in confidence around issues / topics affecting them i.e. bullying issues

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Limitations:

All research, regardless of size or planning efforts, will inevitably encounter limitations during the process. Although every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of information analysed, the limitations identified for this research included:

Time constraints:

As with all research, time is of the essence. Therefore, due to the time constraints of this research there was no opportunity to engage further with respondents to clarify or further discuss aspects of their feedback. This would have provided a more detailed view and understanding of children and young people's view on safety in their community, their educational environment and in their home. Having said this, the current research has produced valuable information on how the safety of children and young people can be further enhanced and promoted in the Sligo Leitrim area.

As there was not sufficient time to pilot the questionnaire for parents and guardians, a small number of responses included feedback around the wording of the questionnaire and the meaning of the word 'safe' throughout. As a result of this these respondents noted finding it difficult to complete the questionnaire accurately. However, all responses provided valuable feedback for inclusion and consideration by the working group.

Access:

As this research involved engaging with children and young people in their educational environment, it resulted in difficulties accessing establishments due to school holidays, daily working hours and the researchers endeavours to cause as minimal disruption to classroom routines as was possible. However, it is evident from the large response rate that such difficulties were managed as efficiently as possible.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Dissemination:

This report and its contents will prove very useful in moving forward with plans on ensuring the safety and protection of children and young people. To ensure maximum efficacy, the following key audiences have been identified:

- All services and settings who engaged and participated in this research will be informed of the overall findings as well as been provided with a brief feedback sheet on responses pertaining to their specific group of respondents including informing schools on the views of children and young people and their high regard for teachers and how they make them feel safe in school.
- 'The Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group' in collaboration with CYPSC Sligo Leitrim will utilise the information identified within this report to continue their commitment to safeguard children and young people
- CYPSC Ireland will be informed of the contents of this report and use the findings to continue their commitment to the National Outcome which pledges to keep children and young people safe and protected from harm.
- Circulation of this report to agencies with a commitment to children and young people will support and inform their work. Such agencies and organisations include, but are not limited to, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Sligo and Leitrim County Childcare Committees, Irish Primary Principals Network, Sligo and Leitrim Education Centres, The Department of Education and Skills, The Education and Training Boards, The Gardaí, The Health Service Executive, GAA and other sporting partnerships, the Road Safety Authority,
- Specific engagement with the North West Drugs and Alcohol Task Force would be deemed very beneficial in combatting the issues highlighted in the research around drug and alcohol use and misuse in young people and the need for activities and amenities within communities to reduce this risk.
- Specific engagement with Sligo and Leitrim County Councils to address issues highlighted in the report such as zebra crossings, speed zones, school access and parking, footpaths etc.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Conclusion:

The safety of children and young people in their community, their school / educational environment and their home is of paramount importance. Despite best efforts from all agencies, organisations and personnel with an interest in the welfare and development of children and young people, issues and concerns around safety are always present. This research has assisted CYPSC in identifying where such issues and concerns lie according to professionals, children and young people and parents / guardians in the Sligo and Leitrim areas. As a result, provisions can now be put in place to continue ensuring the safety of children and young people whilst bringing on board new initiatives and campaigns. Engaging in continuous liaisons with other agencies and organisation will prove paramount to providing an integrated approach to achieving the utmost safety measures for children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim.

Thank You:

The Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group would sincerely like to thank everyone who helped and assisted them throughout the process of this research. A sincere thank you to Gerry Hone, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Area Manager, Donegal; Mary Kellegher, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Interim Area Manager, Sligo Leitrim West Cavan; Claire Gavigan, Chairperson CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group; Breda McTaggart, Head of Department, IT Sligo for all your professional support. Thank you to all the primary and post primary schools and the organisations as mentioned in Appendix 3 who allowed time out of their busy routines and schedules for children and young people to participate. Thank you to the researchers who dedicated their time to distributing and overseeing the completion of the questionnaires and ensuring their safe return to the working group for analysis. Finally, a huge thank you to all the children, young people and parents who gave their time willingly to complete the questionnaire and who provided invaluable feedback which will support the working group and CYPSC Sligo Leitrim to continue to fulfil their roles in keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm.

Appendices:

Appendix 1:

Organisation and Agency Represented in CYPSC:

- Tusla the Child and Family Agency
- Leitrim County Council
- Garda Síochana
- Family Resource Centres Representative
- Health Service Executive
- Irish Primary Principals' Network
- Leitrim County Childcare Committee
- Leitrim Development Company
- Carrick Education Centre
- Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
- National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
- Probation and Welfare Service
- Sligo County Childcare Committee
- Sligo County Council
- Sligo Education Centre
- Sligo Leader Partnership Co Ltd
- Voluntary Network for Sligo Leitrim

Appendix 2:

Report from the Safeguarding of Children and Young People Consultation Event for Services

Safeguarding Children & Young People: our collective responsibility

Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committee

Summary Notes from the Workshop for statutory and non-statutory agencies & initiatives, 9th March, 2017

1. Introduction and description

The purpose of the workshop was to identify priority areas for Child and Youth safety for Sligo and Leitrim and to scope out together how these priorities can be addressed. It was initiated by the Safeguarding Children & Young People CYPSC Working Group. Claire Gavigan, chairperson of the group opened the meeting, welcomed participants and explained national and local context for the meeting. She noted the dedicated work of Maeve (Co-ordinator) and her committee members in organising the workshop. The working group provided information (on posters) to clarify the services and supports already in place for safeguarding children and young people. Participants added their comments to these posters.

Over 80 people attended the workshop, representing more than 30 statutory, voluntary and community agencies (see appendix 1)

Short opening remarks were made by three agencies with a particular focus on Children's and Young People's Safety:

- Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy, Sligo Leitrim Gardai
- Miriam Connaughton, Social Work Team Leader, Tusla Child and Family Agency
- Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Leitrim Co Council

The independent facilitator explained the process for the meeting and people divided into a number of break-out groups focussed on 3 areas:

- Safety in our Communities
- Safety in early years, schools and education environments
- Safety at home

The breakout groups were facilitated by volunteer facilitators, guidance was provided and therefore a consistent approach was taken across the groups. The breakout groups noted services/supports already in place/working well (appendix 3), priority needs and gaps and solutions.

Each breakout group fed back the priorities from their group to the main workshop for discussion. The facilitator checked in to ensure that there was broad agreement on these priorities. This report is taken from the notes from the breakout groups and the independent facilitator's interpretation of the discussion and agreements at the plenary session of the workshop.

Clare Gavigan closed the workshop explaining that the CYPSC was hosting some focus groups with specific target groups and that the material from the workshop (& focus groups) would form the basis of the CYPSC (Safeguarding Children & Young People Working Group) priorities and plans over the next 3 years.

2. Summary of the workshop

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Although a wide range of issues were identified throughout the groups (see appendix 3 for listing of issues by topic) there was also a level of commonality in relation to the priority issues. These were reiterated at the open discussion session at the end of the workshop.

Priority 1: Lack of Mental Health Services in Sligo/Leitrim

This issue mainly relates to CAMHS, however other services e.g. psychology and counselling were also raised. The lack of mental health services was highlighted in the majority of the breakout groups. The issues raised included the following, however a full list is in appendix 3.

- Lack of a CAMHS service along with counselling, play therapy, family therapy and Mental Health services generally in the area
- Referrals are being made but no service available
- CAMHS is no longer in a position to take new referrals and has issued a letter to services instructing them to refer young people to A&E Departments
- Other services said they were trying to deal with children and young people in crisis due to the lack of a MH service
- Services said that along with no access to CAMHS, they can't get advice from CAMHS on how to manage children who would in other circumstances be in the CAMHS service

Many of the issues raised at the workshop could not be answered formally as HSE Mental Health were not present. Therefore it would be useful for the CYPSC to clarify the queries and issues which included:

- Is the waiting list formally closed?
- Is the policy to refer children to A&E?
- How many children are now in the CAMHS service?
- How many and what staff are in place?
- What are the current thresholds (if they are outside the national protocols (SOP) why is this the case)?
- When will a Consultant Psychiatrist be available and what alternative arrangements are in place for children and young people?

CYPSC was also asked to clarify the position with the 2015 proposal for a Youth Mental Health Initiative and when funding would be available. Many participants supported this proposal but the status of the proposal was not formally available to the workshop. Participants also wanted the CYPSC to relay the views of the workshop to those responsible at regional and national level. Participants suggested that a national, not local response was required. They further recommended a HIQA review of the Mental Health Service in Sligo/Leitrim.

Priority 2: Lack of services, limited resources to expand and access to services

The discussion on mental health services led to a broader discussion on the lack of services more generally and access to services (particularly in rural areas). Lack of social workers, staff dedicated to autism, youth services, Gardai on the ground, parent/toddler groups, pre-school places, aftercare services and consistent coping skills programmes taught in schools were given as examples. Many felt that (a) services needed to go out to people who needed them, (this is particularly the case for rural areas) and (b) transport and other issues are impacting on access to services. Some workshops participants identified successful services that should be rolled out more generally e.g. AIMS Programme, Mindful of Health. Some key points follow and a full listing from the workshop is in appendix 3

- The Aim's Model (Access Inclusion Model) operating in pre-schools needs to be extended to afterschool services; it provides support for children with additional care needs.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

- *Mindful of Health* is a youth doctor service based in the Foroige Crib, Sligo where young people can access a GP and Counselling Support within a youth setting
- Provide supports for children and young people with additional needs, particularly in afterschool
- Need for additional pre-school places (2nd years/ECCE) and a support infrastructure for same
- Need more low-cost activities for teens

Priority 3: Knowledge about services, sharing information and interagency working

Participants acknowledged the value of the *Sligo Leitrim Directory of Services* (<http://www.sligoleitrimdirectory.ie>). The views expressed however indicate that there is still insufficient knowledge relating to services. (a) Services are not aware of the services provided by other agencies. (b) There are information and signposting gaps. (c) Target groups need information in forms that suit them. Improvements to the website were suggested, including interactive site, different languages. People were encouraged to use the site. (See appendix 3 for full listing)

Many participants also prioritised **thresholds for services** indicating that the threshold for Social Work, Mental Health Services, and Education Welfare Officers for example did not make sense to staff in other agencies. It was not always clear why some children and young people did not meet the threshold. It was generally too high and the impact was that children and young people were not getting services on time or when needed. There are insufficient services for young people not reaching the threshold and insufficient early intervention services i.e. waiting for crisis instead of providing an early intervention.

The workshop also identified **cyberbullying** as a key issue for young people. The workshop identified **training needs** for parents and workers and this included dealing with Cyberbullying. The need for more **community Gardai** and a sexual response unit were identified. A full list of issues can be found in Appendix 3

The workshop participants were very positive about the role of the CYPSC in hosting the workshop, bringing agencies together to discuss issues and ensuring follow-up from on the priorities identified during the morning. Equally the CYPSC asked agencies to engage with the CYPSC working groups to ensure collaborative working on safeguarding children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim.

Note: detailed verbatim notes from each of the break-out groups were provided to the CYPSC.

APPENDIX 1: Agencies Represented at the Safeguarding Children and Young People Workshop

- Tusla: Social Work Department, Workforce and Development
- HSE: Disability Services, PHN, Early Intervention Service, Children's Health officer, Youth Addiction Worker
- Sligo Leitrim Gardai
- Sligo Co Council
- Leitrim Co Council
- Social Housing Agencies: Cluid, Simon, Focus
- Sligo County Childcare Committee
- Leitrim County Childcare Committee
- Early years Services: Sligo and Leitrim
- Sligo IT
- The GAA, Sligo Co Board

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- Probation Service
- Sligo Family Resource Centre
- MABS Sligo
- YAPS, Garda Diversion Project
- Comhairle Sligo
- Leitrim Sports Partnership
- Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
- Foroige
- North Connaught Youth and Community Services
- The Avalon Centre
- Home Youth Liaison Service
- Northside Community Partnership, Sligo
- Sligo IT students, Early Years and Social Care
- Lifestart
- St Michael's Family Life Centre, Sligo
- Springboard Resource House Project
- North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Sligo Social Service Council
- Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

APPENDIX 2: Working well in relation to Child and Youth Safety: examples from flipcharts at Safeguarding Children and Young People Workshop

- Good interagency working and improved over last 10 years, good existing relationships that continue to build(including: Tusla, Gardai, FRC)
- Great community groups including: Foroige, Neighbourhood Youth Projects, YAPs
- Networking area meetings- sharing of information
- CYPSC and today's workshop, to see all the agencies represented and working together
- Community services when they are in place
- Sports programmes engage young people and children(soccer, GAA etc.) v. positive/improving practices in Child Protection and wellbeing
- FRC – early interventions
- Parenting Programme: prevention factor
- Schools – awareness of child protection, stay safe programmes, anti-bullying, mindfulness
- Meitheal working at present
- Sligo-Leitrim Services Directory and link to SVS
- After schools in school settings/Homework clubs
- HYLs – working well in areas
- Link with SW/Duty re. Concerns - people/professionals more open to contacting re. concerns
- Drug workers in clubs
- Gardai Diversion Schemes & Juvenile Liaison programmes are working to prevent/deter young people offending
- Early intervention teams
- Level of ACE training is very good
- very clear is working well, but service can't meet demands
- More free play emphasis/play recognised

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- Introduction of Aistear/ (in junior classes primary) child's voice is heard more, records are kept, more clear, getting to know children more**
- Child protection is working –but gaps in services
- Lack of services for early school leavers, helping with transitions for 18+
- Good services in Sligo town, early years etc.
- Training Programmes/tools: Decider Programme, CBT, ASIST

APPENDIX 3: Issues raised at the Safeguarding Workshop categorised under 9 headings

Lack of Mental Health Services in Sligo/Leitrim

- Lack of a CAMHS service along with counselling, play therapy, family therapy and Mental Health services generally in the area
- Referral are being made but no service available,
- Waiting list are no longer operating (letter was sent to services instructing them to refer young people to A&E Departments)
- Other services said they were trying to deal with children and young people in crisis due to the lack of a MH service
- Services said along with no access to CAMHS, they can't get advice on how to manage children who would in other circumstances be in the CAMHS service
- The results of the lack of services includes: physical safety, injuries along with escalating mental health problems
- The lack of mental health/CAMHS service seriously impacts on the work of other services, they are "stuck" in that they can't progress families when there is no CAMHS in place
- One pathway & Long waiting lists
- Many participants said they were "holding" children and young people waiting for a service.
- The Mental Health Service should be available for rural communities through mobile, outreach
- CAMHS only dealing with cases that have reached crisis
- Self-harming among teenage girls: not address early enough, taboo, v. common – linked to huge waiting lists, internet
- Insufficient oversight of statutory services, particularly CAMHS
- Need more engagement with YP who have mental health problems
- Insufficient emphasis on MH 9+ (also 13 – 14 noted) year olds not able to deal with issues e.g. suicide. Lack of Government funding/services CAMHS – vacancies not filled

Lack of services, limited resources to expand and access to services

- Resources required for services
- The Aim's model (Access Inclusion Model) operating in pre-schools needs to be extended, provides support for children with additional care needs in *structured afterschool activities*
- Afterschool supports for children and young people with additional needs, better in preschool/school but not carried through
- Lack of availability pre-school places (2nd years/ECCE) & support infrastructure for same
- Teens need more low-cost activities
- Address domestic violence, it impacts on children's and young people's emotional wellbeing along with physical risk. We need to break the cycle and protect children and support them to disclose.
- There are insufficient services available & very little access in rural areas: mental health, wellbeing, education, child protection, marginalised groups

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Report of Findings

- Adults need a long period to open up and discuss issues, they don't have someone to do this with (excluded from service)
- Lack of rural access
- Major concerns for young people and children (Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan) unable to access a service (noted specialist teams in Tusla offering a service)
- Safeguarding children with autism is particularly complex, Autism Ireland dedicated support worker removed
- Address the waiting list. 3rd level courses focussed on support for children with autism.
- Vulnerable young people need to have a responsible adult to support them, avoid getting into trouble
- How to keep young people engaged at 14+ years : need to ask them what they want (13-16)
- Also make more accessible for rural communities: mobile, outreach
- Anti-bullying programmes needed in schools and Afterschools & incorporated into weekly timetables, understand what bullying & impact
- Lack of Education Welfare Officers, no interventions until behaviours are very established (1xSligo 1xLeitrim) no time after court cases)
- Not enough capacity to deliver sufficient NEPS assessments
- Children with a disability – autism diagnosis have to wait 18 months for support
- Difficulties in adjusting to physical space of classroom, when starting school
- Insufficient emphasis on Life Skills.
- There is a gap after early intervention
- Child protections is working in many areas
- There is a lack of services for early school leaver
- The Aim's model (Access Inclusion Model) operating in pre-schools needs to be extended, provides support for children with additional care needs in *structured afterschool activities*
- Afterschool supports for children and young people with additional needs, better in preschool/school but not carried through
- Provide support for service providers including transport
- Globe House need a range of service including need gardens, play areas for young people
- School curriculum does focus sufficiently on coping skills: too focussed on points, not sufficiently on talents, confidence and self esteem
- Take SPHE more seriously and ensure that all schools are teaching it
- Children are not active enough and need be active in all weathers – outdoor and indoor
- YP don't understand serious consequences of criminality: visa, employment etc. (noted it can be linked to alcohol)
- Too much pressure on children and young people, exams, performance, reduce pressure: Young children to switch off, free play, fun for fun! & increase alternatives etc. Arts
- Some YP do not have the capacity to get into training or education -mapping of the cohort of young people (acknowledgement that most young people are doing ok)
- Insufficient oversight of statutory services, particularly CAMHS
- Traveller children particularly can have difficulties in adjusting to physical space of classroom, when starting school
- More supports are needed for traveller children (noted teacher for travelling community)
- Safety in housing i.e. how safe is the house – there are unsafe environments that people are expected to live in
- Parents need to be aware of safety in the home, landlords that premises is safe, information should be available on housing inspection, LA to do inspections
- Homeowners may not have the resources to address safety issues

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- Extend the Lend a hand programme to local authority tenants or HAP tenants
- Need to focus on 18-24yrs how do we navigate the legal 18 yrs you're an adult v 18-24yrs being a vulnerable age needing to link to services: services need an interagency response to this
- No space for Children and families to engage with services while in access situation (such as engaging with services play therapy)

Knowledge about services, sharing information and interagency working

- Information and signposting gaps including: parenting, community services
- Agencies not aware of each other's services and approaches
- Not everyone can access the internet for information, there can be, language difficulties, no internet available we should not assume people can access internet
- Not everyone can access internet for information
- Families not aware of who can be asked for help
- Agencies not always aware of other services, service pathways etc.
- Groups, organisations, agencies are not aware of the services provided by others. Target groups are not aware of how to access (combined with lack of services in rural areas)
- Meitheal: the changes will deter families from engaging, more authority need to get families involved
- Follow on supports for 18+ especially with additional needs: good school supports not in other educational/day placements, lack of continuation of supports, considered adults at 18 - College supports are there, young people don't have capacity to ask for help
- Voluntary housing organisations need to have the information on how the housing is being inspected.
- Need a change of mind set within organisations to support interagency collaboration "it's not my responsibility now that young person is 18 yrs" to how do we engage with services that can support this person over 18, also 18yr old MH issues living at home is still a child in the eyes of parents, need support.
- Network for staff on the ground to engage on specific issues
- On line forum for service professionals
- Leaflets on services, referral pathways – also available through schools for families of children attending school
- Make Sligo/Leitrim Directory more friendly
- Manage funding locally & better
- Agencies mind their own space – not just interagency working!
- Linked up services to help children
- Link up with other plans, e.g. LECP - LECP to connect to CYPSC and some resource needed to deliver the initiatives
- Build on CYPSC and the interagency approve, moving forward from today in positive light

Thresholds and Services

- Insufficient understanding of basic safety (leads to neglect & welfare issues) or lack of follow through with safety procedures. Staff do this but everyone does not receive a targeted service
- Services work with families to prevent risk, if people don't get a service they are at higher risk.
- One pathway – not sufficient & Long waiting lists (also thresholds, see below)

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Report of Findings

- Threshold for social work involvement means pressure on family support
- Families need lower levels of support - not looked at until they become higher level/crisis. Lots of good work/research but shortage of staff in social work & pressure on voluntary services = we are struggling to implement changes – children on waiting lists for support
- High thresholds means that there is insufficient response for those not meeting the thresholds.
- Also clarify thresholds & explain why not meeting them (give feedback to agencies on this)
- Who decides on thresholds (MH, Child protections) and they should be held accountable
- *Generally young people lack information on sexual health, racism/bias and the media is not balanced in their reporting*
- *Peer pressure, being a man, alcohol, drugs*

Cyberbullying and Life Skills

- Lack of awareness, understanding of how to deal with cyberbullying. Lack of knowledge of how to enforce the law? Sexting, distribution of images, blackmailing i.e. all need more discussion
- Parents need to be more aware of the dangers of giving children phones, pornography, suicide pacts etc.
- This is linked to insufficient emphasis on Life Skills
- Children can get lost due to issues e.g. bullying, sometimes not addressed or spoken about – its 24/7
- Cyber bullying is getting younger, needs parent education re. Safety, protection and monitoring
- Concerns about social media, also not sufficient awareness by parents, not up to date, it keeps changing, apps can be dangerous, iPod give children access etc. – don't know enough about the dangers. Also ease of gambling on line at any age
- Set up Pilot for enhanced child-friendly produce/phone which provide safety for YP
- Anti-bullying programmes needed in schools and Afterschools & incorporated into weekly timetables, understand what bullying & impact
- Peer Training used for social media awareness

Training Needs for parents and workers including dealing with Cyberbullying

- Parents need to be more aware of the dangers of giving children phones, pornography, suicide pacts etc.
- Not prepared for the child protection legislation
- Cannabis use in young children in becoming more widespread: parents need education also
- No post grad diploma in place. Tensions between qualifications needed to work in childcare & pay. Acknowledge professional support workers in community
- Training gone on line, insufficient in some cases
- Language barriers for some groups, varying standards in child protection, cultural differences in terms of discipline

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- More blended approach to CP training
- Threshold training publicised with relevant organisation. Approaches supported by ethnic communities required when there are language barriers or cultural differences
- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome babies need early intervention
- Not enough early years' active areas re. obesity, be active in all weathers – outdoor and indoor
- Young people don't understand seriousness of criminality (linked to alcohol etc.)

Garda responses: community Gardai, Sexual Assault Unit

- More Community Gardai on the street to prevent/resolve issue i.e. face to face policing
- Address domestic violence, it impacts on children's and young people's emotional wellbeing along with physical risk. We need to break the cycle and protect children and support them to disclose.
- A sexual assault unit within the Gardai
- Adults need a long period to open up (in relation to abuse) they don't have someone to do this with
- Vulnerable young people need to have a responsible adult to support them, avoid getting into trouble
- Children's Unit within the Gardai
- Changes to Garda responses

Parenting

- Lack of awareness, understanding of how to deal with cyberbullying, enforce it?
- Sexting, distribution of images, blackmailing i.e. Needs more discussion
- Parents need to be more aware of the dangers of giving children phones, pornography, suicide pacts etc.
- Children staying at home (early years) can miss out/gaps, can be due to transport (lack of understanding of importance of this)
- May not be school ready
- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome babies need early intervention
- Parents need to be aware of safety in the home
- Need to be sure that landlords are ensuring that the premise is safe.

Legislation

- Legislative change to bridge the gap of young child to adult services, particularly Mental Health
- National level needs more controls and enforcement i.e. legislation to link to IDs.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Appendix 3:

Ethical Approval Correspondence:

From: "Maeve Whittington" <maeve@sligosocialservices.ie>
To: "Gerry Hone" <Gerry.Hone@tusla.ie>
Date: 26/10/2017 16:47
Subject: Ethical Approval

Gerry,

I've attached a letter for agencies/schools/training centres on behalf of the Safeguarding Working Group around consultation with children and young people with a note attached in red at the end of the letter, re ethical approval.

Claire mentioned concerns around ethics at the previous CYPSC meetings in terms of the consultation. She is requesting that Tusla will provide ethical approval for the letter.

Are you happy to provide this? If so, will you email this to me so I can show it to Claire please? We are meeting tomorrow morning at 11.30am.

Many thanks.

Kind Regards,

Maeve Whittington,
Coordinator,
Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committee,
Sligo Social Service Council Ltd.
Charles Street,
Sligo.

From: Gerry.Hone@tusla.ie [mailto:Gerry.Hone@tusla.ie]
Sent: 27 October 2017 09:38
To: Maeve Whittington <maeve@sligosocialservices.ie>
Subject: Re: Ethical Approval

Maeve,

I am happy to approve the attached from an ethical perspective on the basis that the research will contribute to the greater participation of children/young people in service development.

Regards

G.

*Gerry Hone,
Area Manager, Sligo Leitrim West Cavan*

Appendix 4:

List of organisations and agencies who engaged in the research:

- Carrick Education Centre
- Community Training Centre, Leitrim
- Community Training Centre, Sligo
- Cranmore Community Co-op
- Foroige, Sligo and Leitrim
- Home Youth Liaison Service
- Leitrim County Childcare Committee
- Leitrim Comhairle na nÓg
- North Connaught Youth and Community Services
- Sligo County Childcare Committee
- Sligo Comhairle na nÓg
- Sligo Education Centre
- Sligo Social Service Council CLG
- Springboard Resource House Project
- Tusla Social Work Department
- Youth Reach
- Primary and Post Primary Schools in Sligo Leitrim

Appendix 5:

Pilot Consultation with Children and Young People

Child & Young Person Consultation

Feedback from Pilot Consultation 03/07/17 and added to on 29th August

1. What age are you....

- ☐ 8-11 years old x 4
- ☐ 12-15 years old x4
- ☐ 15-18 years old x 0
- ☐ 19-24 years old x 2

2. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?

Yes = 5

Why?

As there have been very few cases of offences against children in this region from a different perspective children are not too safe within themselves and bad habits are easily obtained within friends

N/A

At the moment children and young people are safe but only to a certain level as influence from the internet and peers is capable of influencing them to be unsafe

They stay in a group beside their houses

If they have a connection with the people around them in their community

No = 5

Why?

I think Children are not safe in their communities because there is bullies and child predators

Because there is bad people

Because there are kidnappers

Kidnappers.....in home....yes

No because there are no many services leaving children and young people to run idle around towns etc leaving them vulnerable.

3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school or educational environment?

Yes = 7

Why?

I think they are safe in school and education environment because teachers will deal with situations and make sure it doesn't happen again

N/A

Because teachers

Many schools now have upgraded technology and have camera & teachers to monitor children's activities

As many schools have cameras these days and teachers monitor these areas

They are with their teachers

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Report of Findings

Yes to a certain extent. There are various policies put in place to safeguard the child and protect them from harm, however, bullying is a big problem that children often experience in their school environment.

No = 3

Why?

People bully people in school

People are being bullied and teachers pretend to care but they don't

No, as they are very open to bullying from not only students but also teachers

Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?

Yes = 3

Why?

They are with their family

Because it's the safety of your home unless someone breaks in

Your Mum & Dad keep you safe

No = 2

Why?

Because of robbery

Unfortunately, not all children are safe in their homes. Often they are exposed to abuse or neglect

Yes & No responses;

Some are, some aren't

I think yes because they might have a good family and I think no because they might come from a rough family

in most cases yes, as long as the parents are in good mental condition and can teach their children right from wrong at an early age

In most homes children are safe but in others some parents are not in a good mental state, have been influenced by friends, family members and neighbours or are preoccupied with other things which cause them to neglect their children

Yes and no, it depends on their family situation. Some children and yp are very safe in their home but due to different circumstances others sadly are not

5. What keeps you/young people safe in your....

Community

The guards, yes protect them & themselves

Guards

Mum

The Garda keep all young people safe

Family, neighbours, Guards and friends keep me- young people safe in the community

Family members

Knowing most neighbours, having people to go to if my parents are not around. The fact there is a one way exit from the estate

Knowing good neighbours well, having a good group of friends to interact with, being aware of strange activity in the area.

Garda

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Having a community watch set up in the area to ensure the safety of children, yp and the whole community

School/Educational Environment

There are councillors if you need them

Teachers are monitoring the premises, cameras are set up

Teachers monitoring

Teachers, SNA's and friends keep me- young people safe in school

The teachers

Friends and teachers

Teachers

Teachers

Lecturers

Anti-bullying workshops and teacher reviews

Home

Mum and Dad

Family, a nice house, nice clothes keep me, young people safe at home

Healthy relationships with family members

Mum

Family & friends

Family

My family

Having a good relationship with the family members you live with

Parents

If you notice something about a family or a child that you don't feel is right, talk to someone about your concern

6. What more can be done in order to keep children and young people safe in their.....

1) Community

Parents keep an eye on their children when they go out, call them back to the house at an appropriate time

N/A

Garda

More Lollypop Mans

N/A

Parents asking their children in at appropriate times

Less bullies more help from neighbours and more Guards

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

More activities and resources

2) School/Educational Environment

More teachers

Less bullies and more teachers supervising

People watching areas around the school before and after lessons

N/A

More teachers

Teacher, Principals and less bullies

N/A

Watching over pupils before and after school

Policies and Procedures

Home

Make time to communicate

N/A

Family

Lock the door

N/A

Arrange meetings for conversations

Less family problems

N/A

Ensure that children are cared for adequately

7. If you don't feel safe, do you have someone you can talk to?

Yes = 10 No =

8. Are you confident you can access support around safety when you need it?

Yes = 10 No =

FEEDBACK –

Some confusion over what “educational environment”, for young children change to school. Suggestion: remove or place in brackets

Some children with dyslexia or other learning difficulties may need support in reading the questions and/or in writing their responses

Questions were appropriate and gleamed/captured children and young people's opinions around their safety

Questionnaire took approximately 20 minutes to complete, it was felt that any longer would have been too long

POINTS NOTED -

Significance of the Guards and teachers in the sample was noted

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Appendix 6:

Resource pack provided to participating agencies and organisations

6(a): Schools and agencies information letter

15th January 2018.

Dear Principal,

Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2014. Membership of the CYPSC includes statutory and voluntary agencies throughout Sligo and Leitrim. The primary objective of the CYPSC is to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has established a number of working groups to address identified and emergent need across the region. The working groups include the **Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group**.

The Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group aims to gather views about what keeps young people safe and free from harm, from as many young people in Sligo and Leitrim aged 8-24 years of age through the enclosed questionnaire. To this end Tusla – the Child and Family Agency has given approval to carry out a piece of research. The research is part of an information gathering exercise which will assist CYPSC to identify priority actions in relation to child and youth safety in Sligo and Leitrim. It is hoped to carry out the research with children and young people aged 8 to 24 years, through schools, youth clubs, training centres and other services which children and young people access.

With your help we hope to gather the views of our children and young people on key issues such as; **Safety in our Communities; Safety in Schools and Education environments and Safety at home**

We are asking Primary and Secondary schools in Sligo and Leitrim to facilitate this research. **This is voluntary**. What is envisaged is that a representative of the **Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group**, who is e-vetted, will come to your school to distribute consent forms for parents initially and then return to facilitate sessions with children and young people to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaires are simple and will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The sessions can be organised at a time suitable to your school.

Once data is compiled this research will be anonymised and only viewed by the Research Assistant. A report will be prepared by the research Assistant and presented to the CYPSC meeting. CYPSC will provide data relevant to your school to you once the research is completed.

Your school and the children and young people's details will remain anonymous in the presentation of findings.

In the event of a child protection or welfare issue arising during the course of the information gathering exercise, you are required to follow your own schools/training centre/organisations Child Protection Policy.

If you are willing to engage in this research project, please email your details as follows:

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

- School Details: _____
- Principal's Name: _____
- Contact Details: _____
- Number of classes in your school from 3rd class upwards _____
- Number of pupils in each class _____

Emails to confirm that your school is willing to take part in the research may be sent to:

maeve@sligosocialservices.ie.

Note: Maeve Whittington is the CYPSC Coordinator for Sligo Leitrim. Once again thank you for your participation, and for assisting in driving the agenda to create a safe society in which our children and young people can grow and develop their potential.

Yours Faithfully,

Claire Gavigan.

Chairperson of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

6(b) Guide / Information Sheet



GUIDE/INFORMATION SHEET

Safeguarding Consultation with Children and Young People

There are a number of documents which are to be used for the research and these are attached to the email. The working group is recommending the following actions as outlined to ensure a common approach and to ensure the research will be ethically compliant.

The following document are attached:

Parental Consent

Consent document (8 to 24 years)

Agency letter

Protocol

Questionnaire:

Agencies have agreed to print all documents required but if there is any difficulty, please contact Maeve and she will provide copies.

Individual services/organisations will develop their own code. This will include the first 3 letters of the organisation followed by a number. Examples are as follows:

Home Youth Liaison Service will be identified as: HYL 001, HYL 002 and so on

Springboard Resource House Project as SRH 001, SRH 002 and so on

Foroige Sligo as FOR S 001, FOR S 002 and so on

Foroige Leitrim as FOR L 001, FOR L 002 and so on

The lead person for the data collection should be able to:

- Identify the student/young person,
- Link the student/young person's feedback to parental consent, which will be attached to each questionnaire, once completed by the student/young person
- Identify the location of the student/young person

Once completed and collected, the questionnaires will be given to the Research Assistant, Aoife, (via Maeve Whittington) who will collate the information and provide a report to the Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group. This in turn will be presented to the Sligo Leitrim CYPSC.

Agencies, organisation and schools will receive a report relevant to their specific participation by children and young people which we hope will influence the work and future planning within the organisation.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

If you have any questions and queries, please contact Maeve Whittington, CYPSC Coordinator at maeve@sligosocialservices.ie or phone /text 085 8850038

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

6(c) Schools and Agencies Protocols in the event of disclosures or concerns:



Protocol for schools re concerns:

If significant concerns or issues of a general nature are raised by students during the course of the research, these will be fed back in a collated manner to the school Principal.

If during the course of the research a student demonstrates significant personal distress, the researchers will make this known to the school Principal and also to the student's parents / guardians.

Wording re Child Protection Issues :

Any child protection concerns that arise during the course of the research will be dealt with under Children First Child Protection Policy and will also be reported to the DLP in the school / organisation concerned.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

6(d) Parental Information and Consent:



Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2014.

Membership of the CYPSC includes statutory and voluntary agencies throughout Sligo and Leitrim. The primary object of the CYPSC is to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC has established a number of working groups to address identified and emergent need across the region. The working groups include the Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group.

The Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group aims to gather the views about what keeps young people safe and free from harm, from as many young people in Sligo and Leitrim aged 8-24 years of age through the enclosed questionnaire. The research is part of an information gathering exercise which will assist CYPSC to identify priority actions in relation to Child and Youth Safety in Sligo and Leitrim. With your help we hope to gather the views of our young people on key issues such as; **Safety in our Communities; Safety in Schools and Education environments and Safety at home.**

We would like your support and assistance with the following.

Your son/daughter/ward is invited to answer a questionnaire being distributed through

_____ (school / Organisation Name) during the week beginning _____

We would like your permission for your child to participate.

Your decision whether or not to permit your son/daughter/ward to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the school/health/social services. If you decide to allow your son/daughter/ward to participate, you are free to withdraw him/her at any time. Furthermore, your child may also discontinue participation at any time. The questionnaires will be handed out during class/ group time by a designated person, with support from the Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group. Young people involved will be completely anonymous and the information obtained will be confidential.

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

If you would like further information or if you have any questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please sign below and return to the school/organisation before _____

I confirm that I have read the information sheet and understand the information provided.

I understand that my child/ward's participation is voluntary and that he/she is free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.

I agree for my child/ward to complete the questionnaire

Young Person Name and Class _____

This information will not be used other than to know that your child has permission to participate

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Child/Young Person's signature: _____ Date _____

Yours Faithfully,

Claire Gavigan

Claire Gavigan.

Chairperson of Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Working Group

6(e) Participants Consent Form



CONSENT FORM

Agreement

I have read the above information and the information leaflet and the study has been explained to me.

I understand that it is my decision whether I take part or not and that if I do take part I can leave the study at any time and I don't have to explain why I changed my mind!

I had the chance to ask any questions I want about the study and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to complete the questionnaire for this study.

I understand that I don't have to answer all the questions.

I understand that all these completed questionnaires will be kept by the researcher and my name will not appear on any part of the study, nor will any information that may identify me be used in the study reports.

Confidentiality: Your responses will be confidential, unless there is concern about your safety or the safety of other children and young people.

I have decided to be in the study even though I know that I don't have to do it. All my questions have been answered.

This is to certify that I, give my consent to be included in the above study.

Signature of participant.....

Signature of Researcher.....

Date:

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

6(f) Questionnaire for 8-24 year olds:

Children and Young People's Questionnaire

1. What age are you? _____

Where are you from? (E.g. Cloonacool, Co Sligo/Kinlough, Co Leitrim) _____

2. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community?

Yes

No

Please explain your answer

3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school?

Yes

No

Please explain your answer

4. Do you think children and young people are safe in their home?

Yes

No

Please explain your answer

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5. What keeps you/young people safe in your....

Community

School

Home

6. What more can be done in order to keep children and young people safe in their.....

Community

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

What more can be done in order to keep children and young people safe in their.....

School

Home

7. Do you think young people can access support around safety when they need it?

If yes, please explain.

If no, please explain

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

You can contact Childline on 1800666666 or Text Talk to 50101 or The 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.

www.sligoleitrimdirectory.ie

Any additional information:

Thank You

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6(g) Flyer:

Front

Back

Sligo Leitrim Safeguarding Working Group

www.sligoleitrimcypsc.ie

The Sligo Leitrim Safeguarding Working Group wants to make sure that children and young people are safe and protected from harm in their home, school and community.

We are looking for feedback from children and young people on what makes you safe or unsafe in your home, school or community.

How are we doing this?

We have a short list of questions which we would like you to answer.

- ☐ If you would like further information before you do this ask

Some of the questions we ask may be difficult to answer. That's ok.

If you feel you need to talk to someone, we've made a list overleaf of some people you may contact.



CONTACT DETAILS

Tusla, Child and Family Agency:

Sligo: 071 9155133/ **Tubbercurry:** 071 9120062/ **Carrick-on- Shannon:** 071 9650324

Childline :

1800 666 666

Gardai:

Sligo 071 9157000

Ballymote: 071 9189500

Carrick-on-Shannon: 071 9650510

Manorhamilton: 071 9820620

Sligo Leitrim Directory of Services:
www.sligoleitrimdirectory.ie

Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Website: sligoleitrimcypsc.ie



CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Appendix 7:

Template of analysis per participant per service:

ID																						
Q.																						
1a. Age																						
1b. Location																						
2.																						
Comments	1.																					
3.																						
Comments	1.																					
4.																						
Comments	1.																					
5a. Safe in the community	1.																					
5b. Safe in school	1.																					
5c. Safe at home	1.																					
6a. More to be done in community	1.																					
6b. More to be done in school	1.																					
6c. More to be done at home	1.																					
7. Access to support																						
Comments	1.																					
Additional Comments																						

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Appendix 8:

Template of overall analysis per service

1a.	Age	8	9	10	11	12		
1b.	Location							
2a.	Are C+YP safe in their community	YES	YES + NO / MAYBE			NO		
2b.	Common themes identified in explanations							
3a.	Are C+YP safe in school / educational environment	YES	YES + NO / MAYBE			NO		
3b.	Common themes identified in explanations							
4a.	Are C+YP safe in their home	YES	YES+NO / MAYBE			NO		
4b.	Common themes identified in explanations							
5a.	What keeps C+YP safe in community							
5b.	What keeps C+YP safe in school etc							
5c.	What keeps C+YP safe at home							
6a.	What more can be done in community							

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

6b	What more can be done in school etc				
6c	What more can be done in the home				
7a	Can C+YP access support when needed	YES	NO	MAYBE	Not Answered
7b	Common themes identified in explanations				
	Additional Information	NONE			

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Appendix 9:

Template of overall responses

OVERALL NUMBER OF RESPONSES		491				
1a.	Age	8	9	10	11	12
1b.	Location					
2a.	Are C+YP safe in their community	YES		YES + NO / MAYBE		NO
2b.	Common themes identified in explanations					
3a.	Are C+YP safe in school / educational environment	YES		YES + NO / MAYBE		NO
3b.	Common themes identified in explanations					
4a.	Are C+YP safe in their home	YES		YES+NO / MAYBE		NO
4b.	Common themes identified in explanations					
5a.	What keeps C+YP safe in community					
5b.	What keeps C+YP safe in school etc					
5c.	What keeps C+YP safe at home					

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

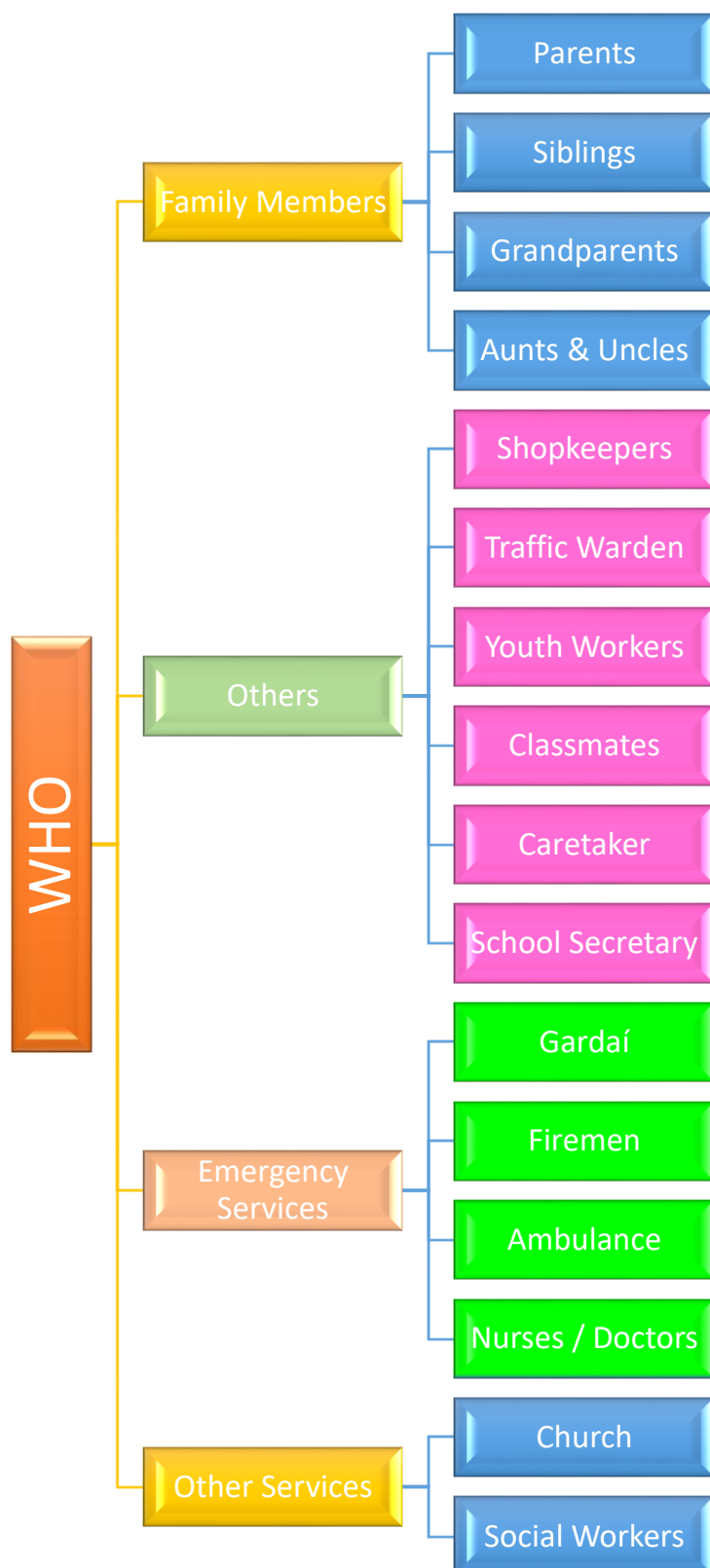
6a	What more can be done in community				
6b	What more can be done in school etc				
6c	What more can be done in the home				
7a	Can C+YP access support when needed	YES	NO	MAYBE	Not Answered
7b	Common themes identified in explanations				
	Additional Information	NONE			

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

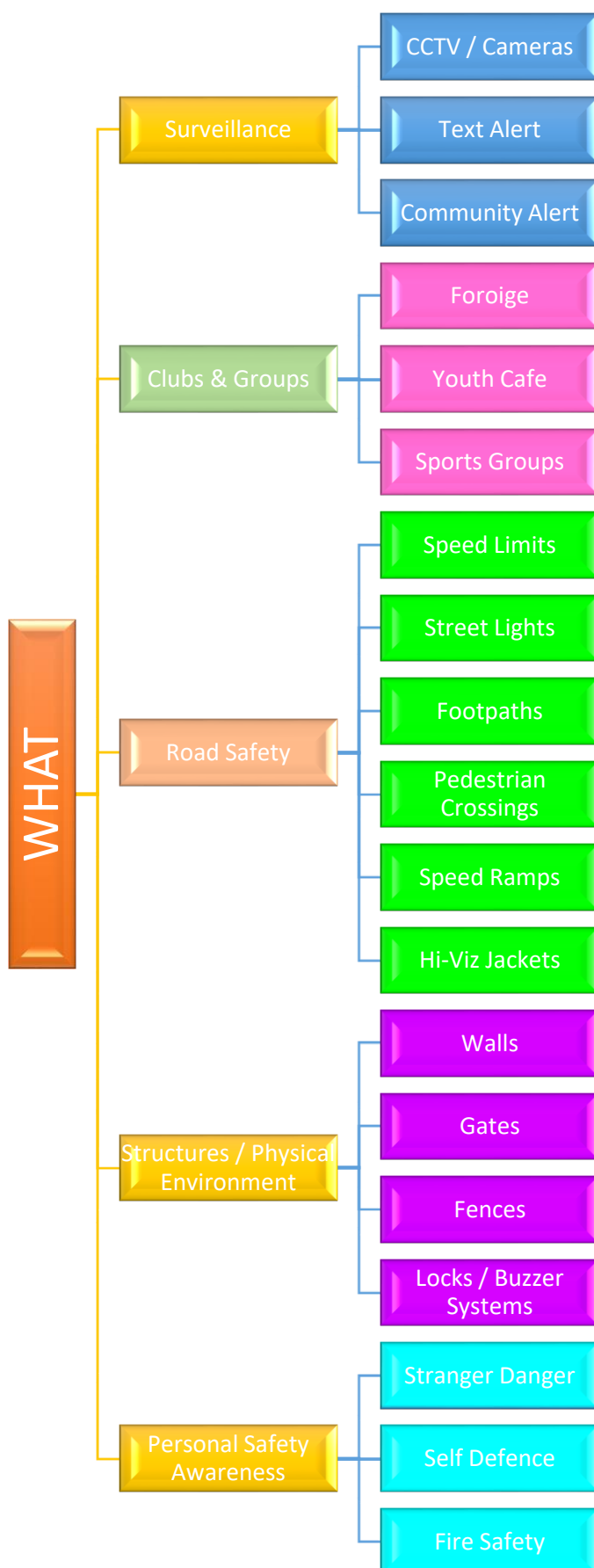
Report of Findings

Appendix 10:

Topics pertaining to identified themes outlined in Q5 (A)(B)(C) of Children's Questionnaire



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Appendix 11:

Parents Questionnaire and Consent

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Q1. What county do you live in? *(Please circle)* Sligo Leitrim

Q2. What age group are you in? *(Please circle)*

<20 21-30 31 – 40 41 – 50 >50

Q3. Do you think children and young people are safe in their community? *(Please circle)*

YES NO

Please explain your answer

Q4. Do you think children and young people are safe in their school/educational environment? *(Please circle)*

YES NO

Please explain your answer

Q5. Do you think children and young people are safe in their homes? *(Please circle)*

YES NO

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018

Report of Findings

Please explain your answer

- Q6. In your opinion, what services / supports are available to keep children and young people safe in their.....

Community

School/Educational environment:

Home:

- Q7. In your opinion, what more needs to be done to keep children and young people safe in their:

CYPSC Children and Young People Consultation 2018 Report of Findings

Community

School/Educational environment:

Home:

Q8:

Additional Information:

The **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 many other services.

www.sligoleitrimdirectory.ie

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Thank you for your participation and valuable input

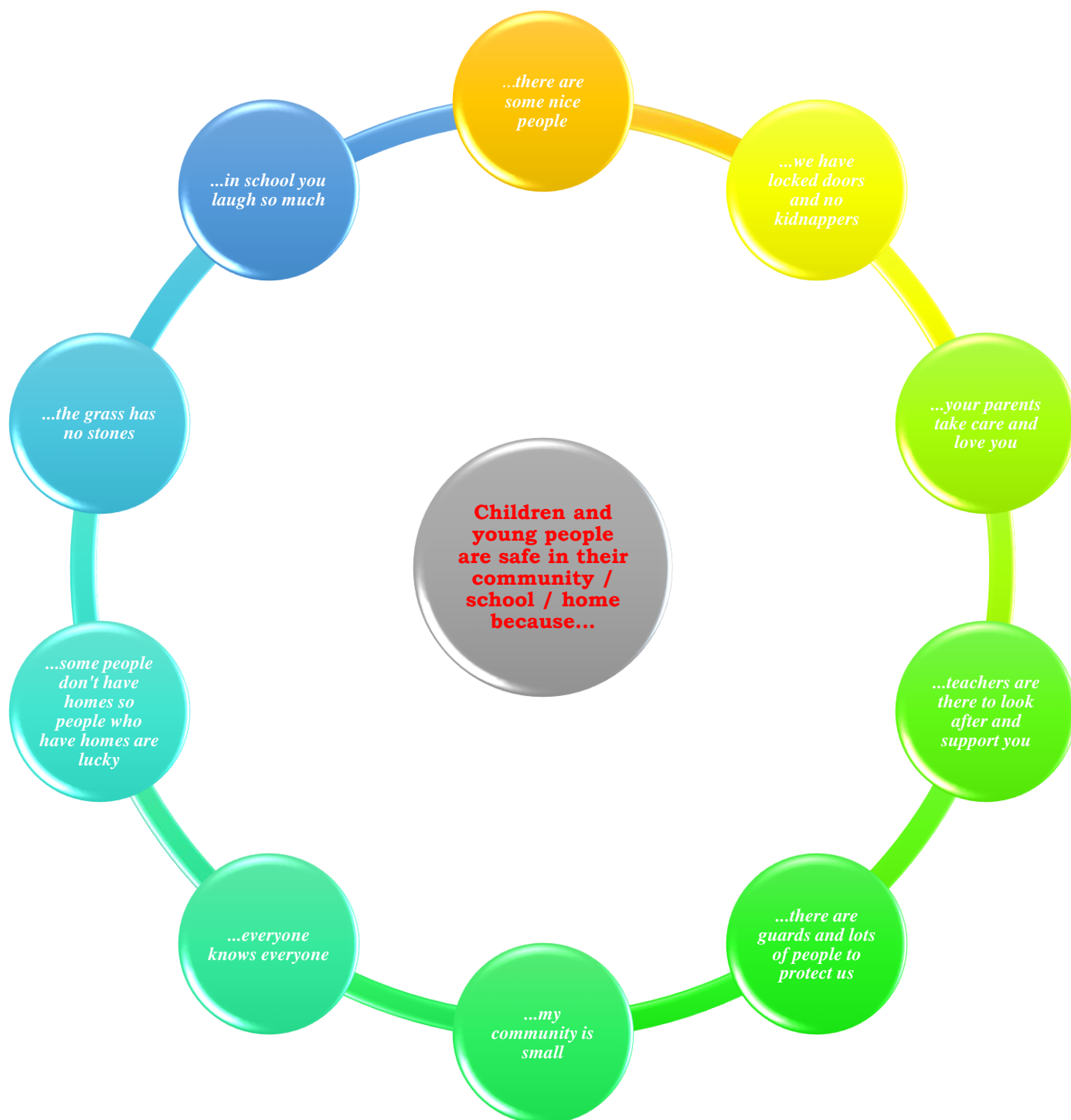


Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC)

Securing better outcomes for children and young people by improving provision and delivery of key services by major organisations and agencies working locally

Appendix 12:

Views of children



Views of parents / guardians:

