

# 2024-26 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN



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## Foreword:

As Chairperson of Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2024 – 2026. I am excited to share with you our achievements and challenges in recent years. Our committee has made progress in improving the relationships between inter-agency services in Co. Clare to address the needs of children, young people, their families, and their communities.

This is Clare's second CYPP and it continues to build on the work carried out by CYPSC members and partner agencies. The purpose of the Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at local level.

The voice of children and young people is at the heart of Clare's plan, and I must pay recognition to them. They were generous with their time, experience and insights in the consultation process for the development of this plan. Their input will guide Clare CYPSC as it continues to improve outcomes for children and young people through interagency and collaborative working. Our plan is the better for it. We have achieved progress in interagency collaboration, leadership and evidence-informed practice. Members have worked to clarify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, demonstrate leadership on improving outcomes for children and young people, and prioritise identified gaps while avoiding duplication.

We are also aware of the challenges that lie ahead of us. The socio-demographic profile of Co. Clare has highlighted several areas that require attention, such as health, deprivation, disability, and education. Two issues consistently arise for our children and young people in the county. The issue of mental health and wellbeing at various ends of a continuum – from mild to moderate anxiety and depression, to access to specialist services across the county. Transportation has featured in all consultations we have completed in the lead up to publication of our strategy. CYPSC members recognise the importance of both these issues and are committed to exploring methods to alleviate these issues.

Our committee believes in working with children, families, and communities to maximise their dignity, autonomy, and self-determination while providing services that are timely and appropriate for their specific needs. We are committed to continuing our work with local stakeholders to address these challenges and make a positive impact on the lives of children and young people in our county. As chairperson of Clare CYPSC, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved in developing this plan. Clare CYPSC members and CYPSC subgroup members, both past and present, and partner agencies offered their insight, time and dedication to contribute to this plan and actions to date.

We will continue to work together for the benefit of children and young people in Co. Clare

Aisling O' Neill  
Chairperson Clare CYPSC  
Area Manager  
Tusla Midwest

## Contact:

The Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee welcomes comments, views and opinions about our Children and Young People's Plan.

Please contact:

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Copies of this plan are available on: <https://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/clare.227.html>

## Glossary of terms:

BOBF	Better Outcomes Better Futures, National Policy Framework. DCYA 2014-2020
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFSN	Child and Family Support Network
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CHO area	Community Health Organisation
CPNS	Child Protection Notification System
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
CYS	Clare Youth Service
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
CLDC	Clare Local Development Company
DOH	Dept. Of Health
CYS	Clare Youth Service
ELC	Early Learning and Care
ESL	Early School Leaving
LCETB	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
FET	Further Education and Training
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GOSHH	Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health and HIV
HI	Healthy Ireland, A framework for improved Health and Well-being
HPSC	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Services
IPPN	Irish Primary Principals' Network
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
LHO	Local Health Organisation
Meitheal	Collaborative model forming a multi-disciplinary team around the child, Tusla
NDTRS	National Drug Treatment Reporting System
NEETS	Young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention
NSRF	National Suicide Research Foundation
PHN	Public Health Nurses
PPFS	Prevention Partnership and Family Support
SAC	School-Age Childcare
SCP	School Completion Programme
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
STI's	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TESS	Tusla Education Support Services

## Section 1: Introduction:

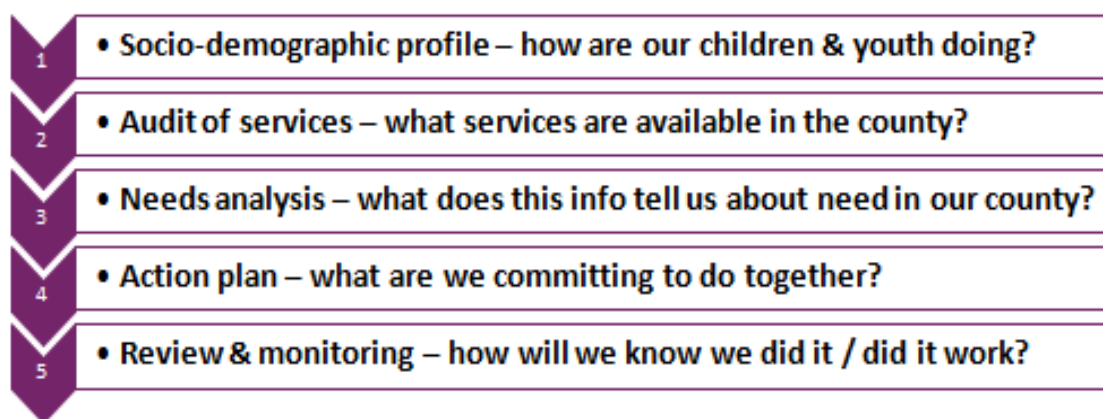
The purpose of the Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at local level.

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

- 1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing**
- 2. Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
- 3. Are safe and protected from harm**
- 4. Have economic security and opportunity**
- 5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world**

Each CYPSC must develop and implement an interagency 3 year Children and Young People's Plan for the County (CYPP), which is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area based on the 5 National Outcomes for children and young people in Ireland.

The Clare CYPP includes:



## Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees:

### Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland:

The Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) was established by the then Office for the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), which is now the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), in 2007.

CYPSC bring together various agencies from the statutory, community, and voluntary sectors to jointly plan and coordinate services for children and young people aged 0-24. CYPSC play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of children, young people, and families at the local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

*Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028* which replaces *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* reinforces the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this regard.

### Children and Young People's Services Committee in Co. Clare:

Clare CYPSC was established in December 2016, in line with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People's Services Committees 2015*. Membership of CYPSC was drawn from a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations operating throughout the county. Terms of reference for Clare CYPSC are included in Appendix 1.

Members are committed to implementing meaningful change in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people. CYPSC Subgroups were established for four of the five outcomes with membership consisting of at least one CYPSC member along with frontline staff from across the range of organisations operating in Co. Clare. In addition, working groups have also been established within Clare CYPSC to address specific initiatives which have been identified by CYPSC.

In 2017, the Clare CYPSC Coordinator came into post to support the operation of CYPSC and its subgroups and to develop a 3 year action plan in response to identified and emerging needs across the county. Following the launch of the Children and Young People's Plan 2019 – 2021, the co-ordinator helped to oversee the priority action areas in the plan, under the direction of CYPSC. The Children and Young People's Plan 2024 – 2026 will be the second plan developed by Clare CYPSC.



## Who we are:

Name	Organisation
Aisling O'Neill	Area Manager, Tusla (CYPSC Chairperson)
Padraig MacCormaic	Acting Senior Executive Officer, Clare Co. Council (CYPSC Vice-Chairperson)
Sinéad Collopy	CYPSC Coordinator, Tusla (CYPSC Co-ordinator)
Áine Mellett	PPFS Manager, Tusla
Mick Parry	General Manager, Tusla
Richard Egan	Senior Educational Psychologist, NEPS
Jacinta Swann	Family Support Services Manager, Clarecare
Helen Costelloe	An Garda Síochána
Margaret Slattery	C.E.O, Clare Youth Services
Emma Fahy	Senior Manager Education and Welfare Services, Tusla
Yvonne Broderick	Coordinator, Clare County Childcare Committee
Darina Greene	SICAP Co-ordinator, Clare Local Development Company
Jillian Bridge	Principal, IPPN
Debbie O'Halloran	Family Resource Centre representative
Vacancy	H.S.E
Eurkaria O'Grady	LCETB
James O'Shaughnessy	NAPD

## SUB-GROUPS

Subgroups provide strategic oversight regarding the implementation and evaluation of the actions pertaining to their outcome areas. The Chair of each subgroup also sits on the CYPSC Steering Committee which holds responsibility for overall governance of the CYPSC. A specific working group was established to work on the area of trauma informed practice.

### 1. Active & Healthy Subgroup

Ms Debbie O' Halloran, Clare Family Resource Centres  
 Ms. Yvonne Broderick, Clare County Childcare Committee  
 Mr. Ruairi Murdiffe, Clarecare  
 Ms. Cillian Keane, Mental Health Ireland  
 Ms. Mairead Kelly, Health Promotion and Information, H.S.E  
 Ms. Margaret Slattery, Clare Youth Service  
 Ms. Elizabeth McNicholas, Clare Sports Partnership  
 Ms. Samantha McCarthy, Clare County Council

### 2. Achieving in Learning and Development Subgroup

Ms. Jillian Bridge, IPPN  
 Ms. Emma Fahy, NEWB, Tusla  
 Ms. Edel McDonough, Clare Youth Service  
 Ms. Caroline O' Neill, Clare County Childcare Committee  
 Ms. Mary O'Donoghue, Family Resource Centre Representative  
 Mr. Martin Moloney, Clare Education Centre  
 Ms. Linda Dinan, Ennis School Completion Programme  
 Ms. Mary Flanagan, LCETB  
 Ms. Louise Fitzsimons, National Educational Psychological Service  
 Ms. Andrea O' Regan, Clare Local Development Company  
 Ms. Emma Fahy, TESS

### 3. Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup

Aine Mellett, Tusla  
 Aoife Griffin, ISPCC  
 Barbara O Conchuir, North West Clare FRC  
 Deirdre Murray, Clare Haven Services  
 Jacinta Swann, Clarecare  
 Martina Kilcommins, HSE  
 Miranda Cooke, Clare County Childcare Committee  
 Rionach Power, Mid-West Regional Drugs & Alcohol Forum  
 Helen Quinn, HSE

### 5. Connected Respected and Secure Subgroup

Mr. Brian McManus, Clare Youth Service  
 Ms. Darina Greene, Clare Local Development Company  
 Ms. Kelly Slattery, Clare County Council  
 Mr. Seamus Bane, Limerick & Clare ETB  
 Ms. Sharon Meaney, Clare Volunteer Centre  
 Mr. Shane Mulvey, Tusla  
 Clare Immigrant Support Centre: Vacancy  
 Family Resource Centre: Vacancy

## 6. Trauma Informed Working Group

Ms. Aoife Griffen, ISPCC

Ms. Lisa-Maria O'Malley, ISPCC ( *Trauma Informed Working Group Coordinator*)

Ms. Darina Greene, Clare Local Development Company

Ms. Caroline O'Neill, Clare County Childcare Committee

Mr. Cathal Dillon, Shannon Family Resource Centre

Ms. Eileen Carroll, Clarecare

Ms. Cora Guinnane, St. Caimins Community School

Ms. Maria Mulqueen, HSE

## Achievements to date:

Since the establishment of Clare CYPSC in 2016, a range of actions to improve children's outcomes have been achieved. The CYPSC has effectively coordinated various initiatives aimed at improving the well-being and development of children and young people in the Clare area. It has harnessed multi-agency engagement and collaboration among multiple agencies, fostering partnerships to address the diverse needs of children and young people.

We were delighted in 2022 to host a first for County Clare in the organisation of a Trauma-Informed Practice conference for professionals working with children and young people in the county. The focus on trauma-aware and trauma-informed initiatives and events will help create a more supportive environment for children and young people who have experienced trauma in our county.

Young people have been actively involved in projects and initiatives in the county, building on empowerment and citizenship. They have contributed their ideas and perspectives from start to finish, no less than in the consultation we completed for this strategy and also our mental health research carried out in 2022/23. This involvement demonstrates empowerment and recognition of youth voices and underlines the importance Clare CYPSC places in ensuring children and young people are at the heart of decision making in the county.

The focus on addressing educational needs, including school transition support, has been beneficial for children and families navigating educational transitions but there is more to do and we will continue this focus into our new planning period.

The CYPSC has played a role in supporting vulnerable children, including those from Ukraine and refugees accommodated in IPAS Centres and striving to improve services for young people in all areas of their lives.

In 2022, CYPSC members had the opportunity to reflect in detail on achievements of CYPSC interagency working over the lifetime of the previous CYPP. The list below summarises their reflections:

- Explore, Play, Learn events: Promoting play as a valuable learning tool with parents around the county through interactive play based learning events.
- Co. Clare Restorative Practices Conference – Managing conflict in a restorative way.
- Restorative Practices certified training for front-line practitioners. Kilrush designated as Clare's first Restorative Town.
- Covid Cooking at Home Initiative: Tackling food poverty with low income families at high risk. 150 educational support packs funded for low income families during Covid. Pamper packs delivered to parents living in Direct Provision Centres during Covid.
- Over 17 Imagination Playgrounds operational in primary schools and preschools across Co. Clare .
- National Play Day – Occupational Therapy designed packs for 50 families with children with additional needs.
- Children's Animations Project: Promoting children's rights and informing them about safety planning through the medium of animation.
- Over 300 parents log into the Steve Biddulph online parent symposium organized by the Clare CYPSC on raising boys and mental health.

- Online healthy, safe relationships course designed with the Limerick CYPSC for young people living in the care system.
- Launch of [www.clarecamps.ie](http://www.clarecamps.ie) a one stop shop for online activities for children across the county delivered by a multitude of agencies coming together.
- Design and launch of [www.headsupclare.ie](http://www.headsupclare.ie) an interactive website for Clare parents and children where they can get advice and signposting to local mental health supports. Headsupclare.ie is available in both English and Ukrainian.
- Edible Gardens initiative: Supporting wellbeing and healthy eating with parents in the Ennis Homeless Hub through the design of an edible gardens initiative.
- Supporting parents' mental wellbeing while accessing homeless services: A 12 week course designed to support young parents in homeless services.
- Virtual School Tours - Supporting Educational Transitions from primary to secondary and preschool to primary school. Interactive virtual tours designed for 10 schools across Clare with interactive elements so children can prepare at home for this important transition to a new facility.
- Post-Primary School Avoidance toolkit launched in 2021.
- Design of an interactive google map translated into Ukrainian for new arrivals into the county so they can find facilities easily in their communities.
- 160 Ukrainian children take part in the CYPSC/Clare Local Development Company wellness summer camps in summer 2022.
- The Stepping Up Project – Highlighting the experiences of young people during Covid and their role in volunteering.
- Online Parenting Hub. A one stop shop for all parenting information and events in Clare [www.clareparenting.ie](http://www.clareparenting.ie)
- Including young voices in town planning: Youth participation in the Town's First plan in Sixmilebridge.
- Youth Mental Health Consultation 2022 : A county wide profile of youth mental health needs across Clare in order to advocate for a community based mental health service in the county.

In addition, Clare CYPSC members identified specific initiatives in the last three years that would not have happened without the intervention of the CYPSC. These include:

- Review of mental health provision in the county. This was a research project led by CYPSC and consulted with a range of children and young people throughout County Clare. The research aimed to understand and improve mental health services for young people in the region, indicating a proactive approach to addressing critical issues.
- Recognition of Young Volunteers during Covid-19: Documenting and acknowledging the contributions of young volunteers during the pandemic highlighted the importance of youth involvement and community support during crises.
- Clare CYPSC School Avoidance Pack and Transition Videos: These resources provided practical support for addressing school avoidance and easing transitions, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing educational experiences for young people.

- **Trauma-Informed Initiatives:** Including workshops, training, and conferences, these efforts aimed to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to support young people affected by trauma effectively. In 2022, CYPSC hosted a Trauma-Informed Practice conference for professionals working with children and young people in the County. This was attended by 200 professionals from across the county. The focus on trauma-informed and aware initiatives and events will help create a more supportive environment for children and young people who have experienced trauma in our county. This was followed up in 2023 by a webinar, *The Journey to Trauma Awareness* which was watched by over 150 people. This was highlighted as particularly important during workshops with the CFSN's in County Clare in addition to CYPSC members.
- **Interagency Collaboration:** Funding from CYPSC facilitated collaborative efforts among agencies, enabling initiatives like the school avoidance toolkit, restorative practice training, and virtual school tours, emphasising the importance of partnerships in achieving common goals.
- **Parenting Support:** Various actions, such as the parenting website and workshops, aimed to provide resources and assistance to parents, recognising their vital role in children's development.
- **Provision of resources:** The development of resources such as school transition videos, Restorative Practice programmes, and the Heads Up Clare website has provided valuable support to children, young people, and families in the Clare area. Efforts to provide information, signposting, and support for parents have been notable achievements, helping to strengthen families and communities.
- A key partner in the establishment of the interagency Clare Food Partnership which aims to address the issue of food poverty across the county utilising the CYPSC's Healthy Ireland fund to support the initiative.
- Migrant youth consultation initiative in partnership with Clare County Council, Clare Local Development Company and the National Youth Council of Ireland which received funding from the 2024 CYPSC seed fund. The aim of the countywide consultation initiative was to have the experiences and needs of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds included in the Clare County Council Integration Strategy.

## How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed:

The Clare Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has been developed by the agencies involved in the Co. Clare CYPSC and its subgroup members. Clare CYPSC has ensured significant input into the planning process from children and young people throughout the county.

It is informed by the socio-demographic profile for the county detailed in Section 2 and by the overview of services to children and families in Clare, Section 3. It also takes into consideration the national policy perspective and evidence from local, national and international research. A local needs analysis brings together the official information from government agencies (including information available from the 2022 the Census), with information collected directly from children, young people and service providers in the county. This is structured against the five national children's outcomes.

Clare CYPSC appointed an external consultant to work alongside the CYPSC to develop the CYPP. The external consultant undertook an online consultation exercise with children and young people throughout the county. A consultation process with children and young people, parents and stakeholders was completed throughout September 2023 to February 2024. The process included:

Year	Process	Stakeholders Consulted	Outputs
2023/24	Children and young people consultation	325 responses from children and young people across the county	Primary research engaging children and young people, informing the needs analysis and action planning. Consultation structured around the five national outcomes.
2024	Children and young people art/photo consultation	119 responses from children and young people across the county	Arts and photo-based competition focussing on what would improve life in Co. Clare.
2023	CYPSC members and stakeholder consultation	Responses from 22 CYPSC members and other stakeholders across the county	Analysis of achievements from 2019-21 strategy. Indication of priorities for the 2024-26 Strategy and Action Plan.
2023/24	Workshops with children and young people	2 X workshops with Clare Youth Service (30 young people)  1 workshop with Ukrainian Young People (13 young people)  1 workshop with Ennistymon young people (4 young people)	Consultation with children and young people in different settings and disadvantaged backgrounds throughout Co. Clare who did not respond to the survey. Focussed on what they like about living in Co. Clare, gaps in services, what could improve their living experience in Co. Clare.
	Workshops with stakeholders	2 Workshops with CFSN members throughout Co.	

		Clare online and in person (10 + 12)	
	Consultation with parents	Engagement with 20 parents at CFSN workshop in Ennistymon	Consideration of gaps in services across Co. Clare for parents and needs of children.
2023	Workshops with CYPSC members.	Workshops with each CYPSC Sub-group throughout 2023/24.	Consideration of needs analysis by CYPSC Members; prioritisation of actions for the 2024-26 strategy.

A review of socio-demographic data was completed using results of the 2022 Census as well as administrative data provided by Tusla and the NSRF.



## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Co. Clare:

This demographic profile offers a detailed overview of County Clare and its population covering a wide range of indicators based around a key number of core themes. The focus of this profile is to provide robust evidence and data to assist with the development of an action plan structured around the five national outcomes for children leading to service provision and support for young people, marginalised, under-represented and vulnerable members of the population.

Key data summary			
Indicator	Measure	Co. Clare	National
<b>Child and Youth Population</b>	Number of children and young people 0-24 years	40,838	1,657,058
	Number of children and young people 0-17 years	30,540	1,218,567
	Number of children aged 0-4	7,138	295,415
	Number of children aged 5-12	14,098	568,184
	Number of children aged 13-17	9,304	354,968
	Number of young adults aged 18-24	10,298	438,491
<b>Nationality</b>	Net Migration to Clare 2016-22	8.3	7.5 per 1,000
	Dual Irish Citizens	4,572	170,597
	Non-Irish Citizens	10% of population	12% of population
	Children living in IPAS Accommodation	140	5,621 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Family Structure</b>	Average household size	2.67	2.74
	HAP Households in Clare	1,430	68,180
<b>Education</b>	Percent of population attaining 3 <sup>rd</sup> level education, 2022	43.8%	44.9%
	Percent of population with primary school/no formal qualifications, 2022	9%	9.8%
	Percent of primary school children absent over 20 days in 21/22	32.8%	39%
	Percent of post primary school children absent over 20 days in 21/22	24%	28%
<b>Health</b>	Infant mortality (2020)	3.1 per 1,000 live births	2.7 per 1,000 live births
	Children with a physical/sensory disability	1.0 per 1,000	5.2 per 1,000
	Children with an intellectual disability	1.8 per 1,000	7.2 per 1,000
	Breastfeeding rates (2020)	56.2%	61.46%

<sup>1</sup> This data is captured as of 31 December 2023. It is important to note this is subject to change at monthly data collection points.

Key data summary			
Indicator	Measure	Co. Clare	National
	Immunisation rates (CHO3)	92.3	91.8
	Self-Harm rates for 10-24 year olds (2017-20)	420 per 100,000 for female 10-24 115 per 100,000 for male 10-24	N/A <sup>2</sup>
	Notifications of Chlamydia 0-24	340	10,955
	Notifications of Gonorrhoea 0-24	34	4,075
	Notifications of Herpes Simplex 0-24	40	1,619
	Alcohol treatment demand (2022)	138	7,421
<b>Economic</b>	Average weekly rent 2022 <sup>3</sup>	€188	€205.60
	Unemployment rate	8%	8.3%
<b>Safety</b>	Recorded crime – sexual offences (2022)	80	3,785
	Recorded crime – rape and sexual assault (2022)	62	3,191
	Recorded crime – other sexual offences (2022)	18	594
	Recorded crime – abandoning and child, child neglect and cruelty (2022)	10	287
	Incidents of domestic abuse (2022)	889	45,224

### Background to County Clare:

County Clare is located in the Mid-West Region and the province of Munster, bordered on the West by the Atlantic Ocean. The county town and largest settlement is Ennis. Clare is north-west of the River Shannon covering a total area of 3,400 square kilometres (1,300 sq. mi). Clare is the 7th largest of Ireland's 32 traditional counties in area and the 19th largest in terms of population. Co. Clare is noted for its agriculture, tourism and highly scenic and environmentally important landscapes.

It is home to the Burren National Park and is renowned for both its physical and cultural heritage. The county has an extensive Atlantic coastline, all of which is included on the Wild Atlantic Way.

<sup>2</sup> Not available. Data provided at County level for Clare in response to specific data request

<sup>3</sup> Care should be taken in interpreting economic data as it is available only at county level. Significant variances within County Clare will hide pockets of deprivation. Similarly, areas with high rent rates will increase the average across the county.

There are also tourism sector opportunities along Clare's southern boundary, the Shannon Estuary, on the shores of Lough Derg on the county's eastern border, and throughout the inland areas which maintain traditional, rural ways of life. Shannon Airport is located in the south of the county and there are substantial employment opportunities within the Galway – Ennis – Shannon – Limerick corridor.

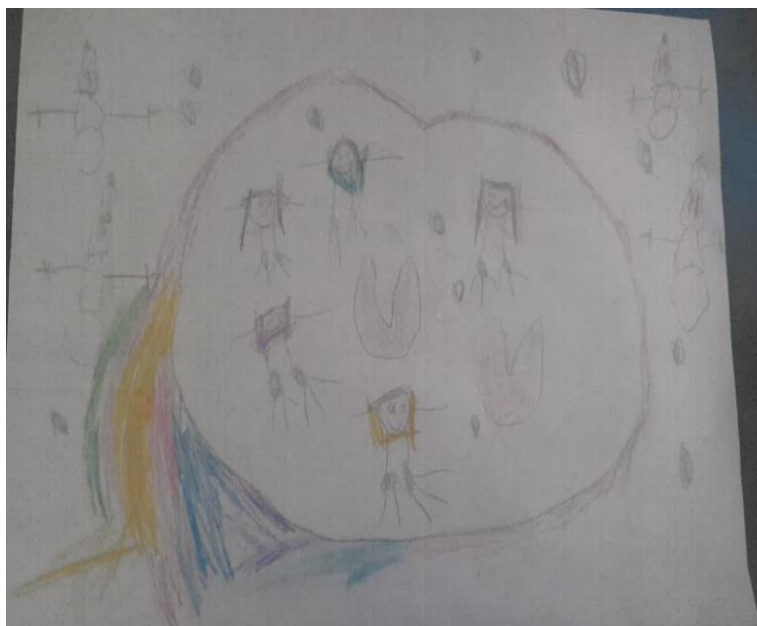
Co. Clare has a considerable ageing population who are residing primarily in rural areas, as well as a growing under 25-year-old population residing in more urban centres. Population decline in rural areas has been impacted by transport challenges as well as migration to urban centres for greater employment and training opportunities. Despite facing population dispersal challenges, Co. Clare has one of the highest rates of volunteerism in the country. Community identity has been built in rural Clare around the county's traditional parishes and town lands of which there are more than 2,000. This shared community identity has helped align the many diverse identities of the county's sporting clubs (particularly GAA) and organisations (farming, political and cultural).

Whilst Co. Clare faces challenges regarding rural depopulation and areas of rural disadvantage, the county has a long history of parish level community development, and sporting involvement which fosters a strong sense of identity amongst the young people in the county.

A strong sense of identity was weaved throughout the consultation for this strategy from workshops to surveys and a photographic and art competition highlighting very strong sense of identity and pride in the county. Winners of the competition are highlighted below:



*Figure 1 Winner of Under 6 Photographic Competition*



*Figure 2 Winner of Under 6 Art Competition*



*Figure 3 Winner of 7-9 year olds Photographic Competition*





Figure 4 Winner of 7-9 year olds Art Competition



Figure 5 Winner of 10-12 year olds Photographic Competition

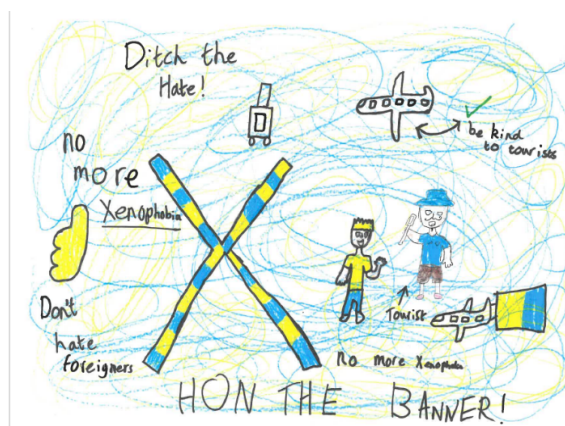


Figure 6 Winner of 10-12 year olds Art Competition

## Demographic information:

### Population of County Clare:

The population in County Clare at the time of the most recent Census in 2022 was 127,938, an increase of 13,426 or 9.4% on the previous census in 2016. This represented an above average population growth for the county, compared to the State for the same time period (8.1%).

Of Clare's population, 62,917 were male and 65,021 were female, which means there were 97 males for every 100 females. In Ireland overall there were 2,604,590 females and 2,544,549 males or 98 males for every 100 females. The chart below shows the population profile of County Clare at the time of the 2022 census:



Figure 7 Demographic profile of County Clare, Source CSO, Census 2022

### Under 25 Years of age:

The number of children and young people aged under 25 in April 2022 continued to grow in County Clare from 39,235 in 2016 to 40,878 in 2022. The number of children aged 0-4 however dropped for the second time in three consecutive censuses from 7,901 in 2016, to 7,183 in 2022.

The chart below highlights a summary of the demographic profile aged Under 25 for Clare and the State in April 2022.

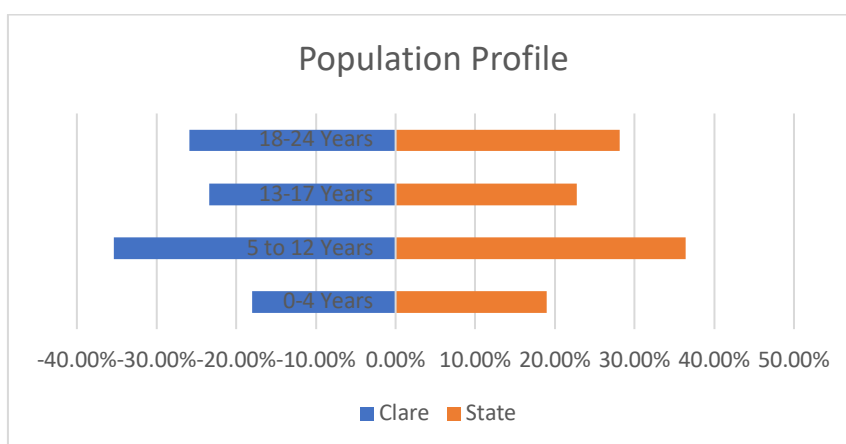


Figure 8 Population Distribution under 25 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 0-4 (Pre School):

There was a pre-school population of 7,183 in April 2022. This has reduced by 718 since the last census in 2016 and reflects a downward trend in numbers of children aged 0-4 in the State. The 0-4 age cohort accounts for 18% of those aged under 25 in the county.

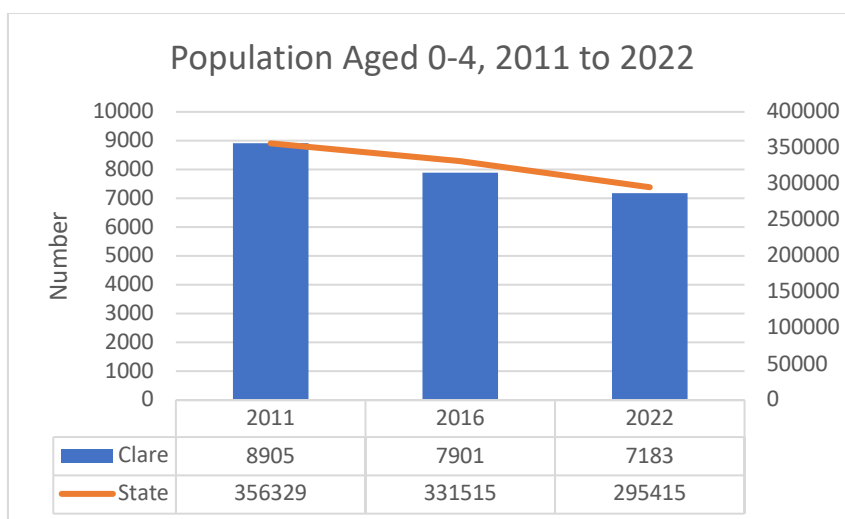
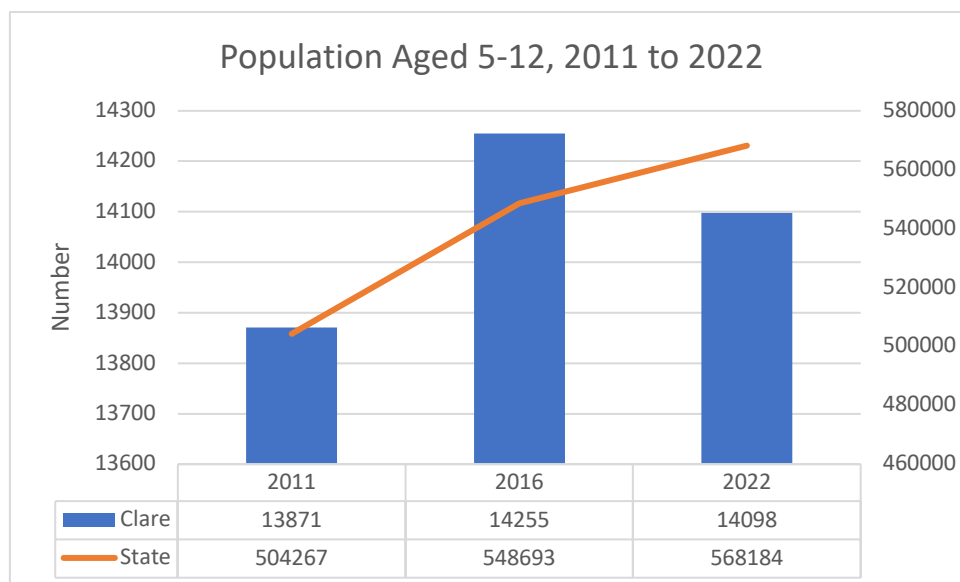


Figure 9 Population 0-4 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Age 5-12 (Primary School):

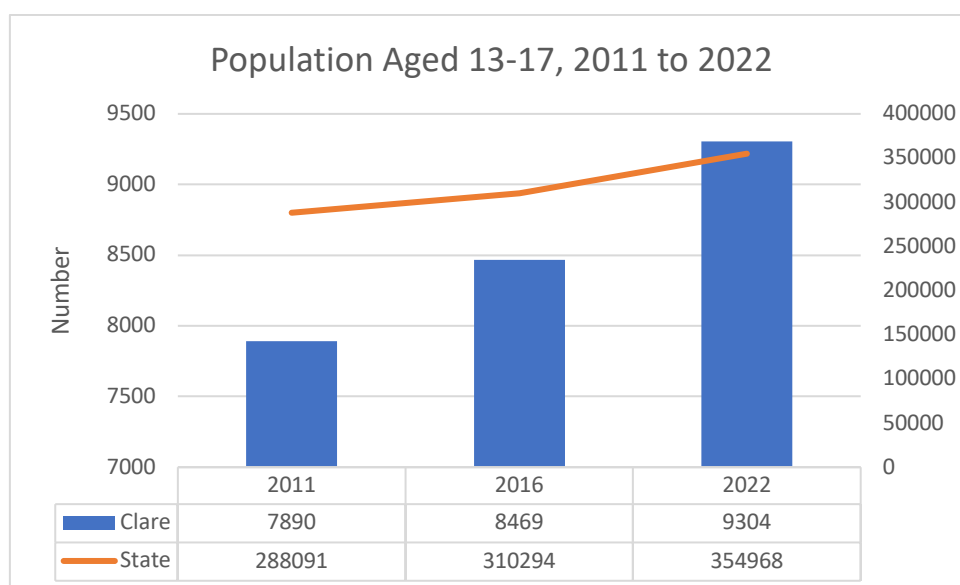
There was a primary school population of 14,098 in April 2022. This has reduced by 157 since the last census in 2016 and is opposed to an upward trend in numbers of children aged 5-12 in the State. The 5-12 age cohort accounts for 35% of those aged under 25 in the county.



*Figure 10 Population 5-12 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)*

### Age 13-17 (Secondary School):

There was a secondary school aged population of 9,304 in April 2022. This has increased by 835 since the last census in 2016 and reflects an upward trend in numbers of children aged 13-17 in the State. The age cohort accounts for 23% of those aged under 25 in the county.



*Figure 11 Population 13-17 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)*



### Age 18-24:

There was a population of 10,298 young people aged 18-24 in April 2022 in County Clare. This has increased by 1,688 since the last census in 2016 and reflects an upward trend in numbers of children aged 18-24 in the State. The age cohort accounts for 26% of those aged under 25 in the county.

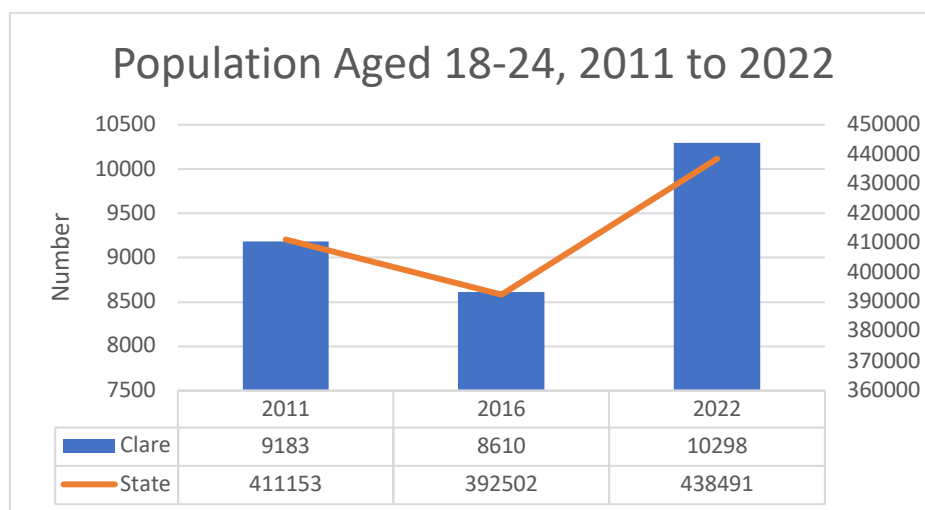


Figure 12 Population 18-24 Years of Age (Source: CSO Census 2022)

### Birth rate per 1,000 people:

According to CSO Vital Statistics report for 2020 the annual birth rate in County Clare was 11 per 1,000 for (State: 11.9 per 1,000).

The chart below illustrates that birth rates in County Clare have decreased slightly between 2018 to 2020, but increased again in 2021. This is reflective of the State average.

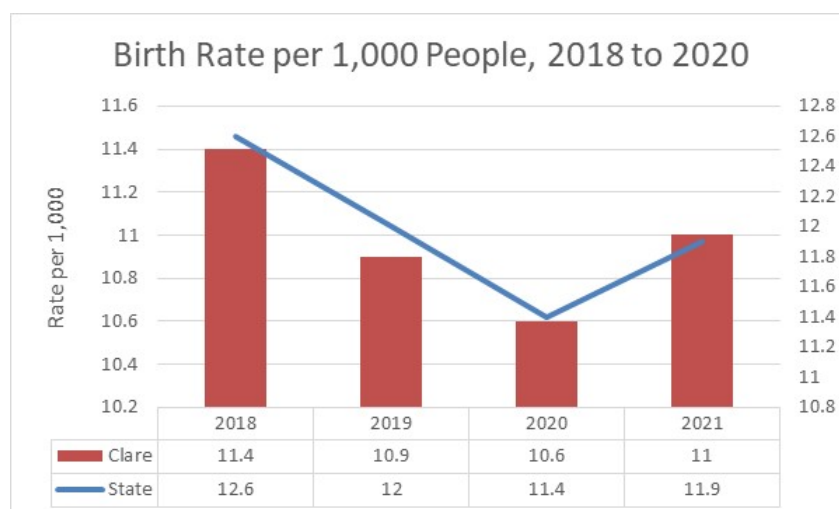
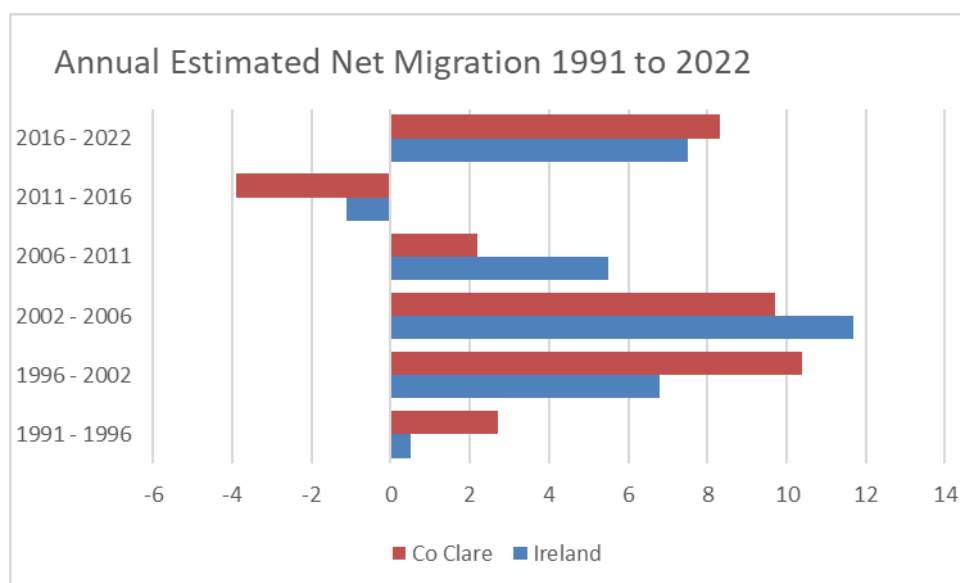


Figure 13 Birth Rate per 1,000 people (Source CSO, Vital Statistics 2022)

### Annual Estimated Net Migration:

The chart below shows that Clare had a positive estimated net migration of 8.3 per 1,000 people between the 2016 and 2022 Census. This was higher than the rate of 7.5 per 1,000 for the State.



*Figure 14 Annual Estimated Net Migration (Source: CSO Census 2022)*

## Citizenship:

In Clare at the time of the 2022 Census, non-Irish citizens accounted for 10% of the county's population. Among the non-Irish residents, the largest group were UK citizens (2,471 people), followed by Polish citizens (2,462), Ukrainian (976) and Indian (578). Nationally there were more than 631,000 non-Irish citizens, which was 12% of the population.

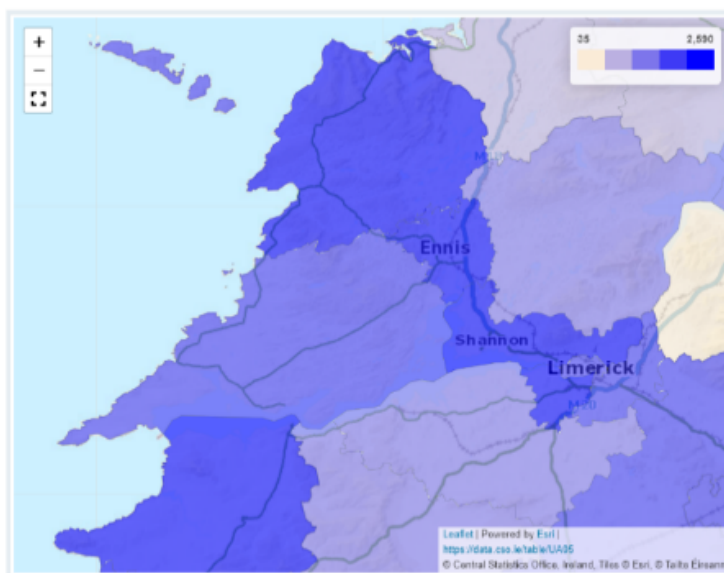
The number of dual Irish citizens in the county, which is when you are a citizen of two countries at the same time, increased from 2,588 in 2016 to 4,572 in 2022. The largest dual-Irish citizenships included Irish-US (1,347 people), Irish-UK (896) and Irish-Australian (432). There were more than 170,500 dual-Irish residents in Ireland in Census 2022.

There were 3,755 people living in Clare in April 2022 who had moved to the county in the year before the census. This included 2,083 people who had moved from elsewhere within Ireland, and 1,672 people from outside the State. A further 3,783 people had moved within the county in the year before the census.

There were 989 Travellers in Clare in Census 2022, compared with 910 in 2016 (+9%). This included 493 females and 496 males. There were 32,949 Travellers in Ireland, compared with 30,987 in 2016 (+6%). This included 16,777 females and 16,172 males.

Given the increase in arrivals from Ukraine and other countries particularly throughout 2022/3, the census data has to be read in conjunction with more recently released data. 'Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland, Series 11' published by CSO indicates that there were 96,338 Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) given to arrivals from Ukraine by 8th October 2023, under the Temporary Protection Directive across the State<sup>4</sup>.

The map below illustrates that a number of areas in County Clare had the highest number of arrivals of people from Ukraine, based on PPSN allocations (as of 08 October 2023)<sup>5</sup>.



<sup>4</sup> [Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 11 - Central Statistics Office](#)

<sup>5</sup> The LEA mapping of arrivals is based on either the local post office address through which refugees were seeking assistance from the Department of Social Protection or, if available, the arrivals' residential address where an Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) is payable to the host of the residence. The post office address is used as a tentative proxy for place of residence where ARP data is not present.

According to the data available there were 5,006 PPSN's given to individuals in the County Clare area:

	Number	Percentage of population
Ennistymon	2,006	11.1%
Ennis	1,062	3.13%
Kilrush	544	2.44%
Shannon	1,034	3.25%
Killaloe	360	1.63%
<b>County Clare</b>	<b>5,006</b>	

Table 1 PPSN's given to individuals in County Clare, October 2023

The table above shows that the highest number of arrivals are living in north Clare making up around 11% of the de facto population in the Ennistymon LEA area. According to Series 11 data, there were 589 primary school and 340 post primary school enrolments in 2023/24 academic year in County Clare.

### International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS):

According to Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth statistics for 10 April 2024, there were 28,867 people in International Protection of whom 6,932 were children. 696 of total people in International Protection were accommodated in County Clare. Ukraine Series 11 data for 2022 and 2023<sup>6</sup>, shows that the number of children under 18 accommodated with parents in IPAS accommodation has increased from 87 on 05 June 2022 to 140 as of 29 October 2023<sup>7</sup>.

2022	No of children	2023	No of children
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	87	February 26 <sup>th</sup>	98
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	87	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	99
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	97	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	103
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	100	May 28 <sup>th</sup>	115
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	95	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	125
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	96	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	135
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	95	August 27 <sup>th</sup>	130
		September 24 <sup>th</sup>	135
		October 29 <sup>th</sup>	140

Table 2 Number of children aged under 18 accommodated in IPAS, Source CSO Arrivals from Ukraine, Series 11 data

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/fp/p-aii/arrivalsfromukraineinirelandseries11/>

<sup>7</sup> It is important to note that these figures may be an underrepresentation of the number of people seeking asylum in County Clare.

## Travellers:

At the time of the 2022 Census, there were 989 Travellers (493 female, 496 male) living in County Clare, compared with 910 in 2016, which is an increase of 9%. This is a higher figure than the national increase of 6%, with 30,987 travellers in Ireland in 2016, and 32,949 in the country in 2022. Clare's figure equates to 7.7 travellers per 1,000 population, which is higher than the state figure of 6.5 per 1,000. Clare's figure is lower than neighbouring counties, with Limerick as 8.8 and Galway at 9 travellers per 1,000 population. The table below shows the overall number of Travellers living in County Clare between 2011 to 2022 compared to the State overall:

	County Clare		State	
	0-24	All ages	0-24	All ages
<b>2011</b>	571	855	18,186	29,495
<b>2016</b>	578	905	18,018	30,987
<b>2022</b>	613	989	17,971	32,949

Table 3 Number of Traveller Children in County Clare, Source Census 2022

The data states that 613 members of the travelling community in Co. Clare are under 25, which makes up 62% of Clare's traveller population. This is higher than the national figures, which state that 54% of travellers are under 25 years of age.

## Families:

There were 32,195 families in Clare in April 2022, up from 30,019 in 2016 (+4%). The average number of children per family in the county was 1.34, which was the same as the national average.

Clare's families included 14,812 married couples with children and 2,101 cohabiting couples with children. A further 4,218 families with children were headed by single mothers and 874 by single fathers. There were also 8,210 married couples without children and 1,980 cohabiting couples without children.

There were 141 same-sex couples in the county in April 2022 compared with 86 in 2016. Nationally, there were 10,393 same-sex couples.

There were 6,258 families in rented accommodation in the county (22%). This was a 4% increase on 2016.

## Private Households and Living Alone:

The average household size in Clare in April 2022 was 2.67 people, which was below the national average (2.74 people).

The number of people living alone in the county grew from 11,108 to 11,920, an increase of 6% since Census 2016.

There were 20,340 people aged 65 and over living in the county in April 2022. Of these 5,566 were living alone. This was a 23% increase in those aged 65 and over living alone.

### Adults Living with Their Parents

In April 2022 in Clare, 12,678 adults, or 13% of all those aged 18 and over in the county, were still living with their parents. This was an increase of 2,029 (19%) since 2016.

Nationally, there were 522,486 adult children aged 18 years and above living with their parents (13%).

Overall, almost 25,000 adults living with their parents were unpaid carers. In Clare, 689 (5%) were unpaid carers.

In 2022, 24 was the youngest age at which the majority of people nationally were not living with their parents. This was up from 23 in 2011. In Clare this was 26 years.

Of all adults living with their parents nationally in 2022, 57% were male. Similarly in Clare, 57% were male.

One in seven (14%) of all adults in the Shannon Local Electoral Area were living with their parents in April 2022, the highest rate in the county.

### Childcare:

There were 24,998 children (aged under 15) living in Clare in April 2022. This was 574 fewer than in 2016.

Nationally, there were 1,012,287 children aged under 15 (up 5,735 since 2016). Almost one in three – 331,783 – were in some form of childcare. In Clare, 8,447 (34%) of those aged under 15 were in childcare.

There were 3,391 children in a crèche/Montessori/playgroup/after school service in the county (40%). Another 2,161 (26%) were being cared for by an unpaid relative or family member. There were also 1,950 children being cared for by a childminder in the minder's home (23%).

## Deprivation:

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index uses data from Census 2022, analysing ten measures of an area's levels of disadvantage. These include educational attainment, employment status and the numbers living in individual households. Almost 19,000 small areas (50-200 households) were indexed leading to the development of a detailed map of the relative affluence and disadvantage.

The Pobal Deprivation indices illustrate that County Clare had a deprivation index of 0.11 in 2022 which is 'marginally above average', compared to -0.22 in 2016 which is 'marginally below average' which was documented in the Pobal Deprivation Index in 2016 below.

Small Area	Electoral Division	Deprivation Score	Population aged <24 years
37118010	Milltown Malbay	-14.8	56 or 33.5%
37077007	Kilkee	-14.8	18 or 18.2%
37154007	Ennis No. 1 Urban	-14.9	33 or 25.6%
37026003	Clareabbey	-15.6	63 or 22.2%
37057055	Ennis Rural	-15.6	133 or 50.4%
37080008	Killaloe	-16.1	33 or 15.6%
37070001	Kilballyowen	-17.1	41 or 33.1%
37156003	Ennis No. 4 Urban	-18.4	39 or 25.0%
37026004	Clareabbey	-18.5	91 or 39.7%
37099009	Kilrush Urban	-18.5	27 or 16.9%
37057029	Ennis Rural	-18.7	48 or 28.7%
37099010	Kilrush Urban	-19.0	27 or 24.5%
37058008	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-19.6	64 or 35.0%
37099011	Kilrush Urban	-19.6	55 or 41.7%
37099014	Kilrush Urban	-19.7	45 or 17.7%
37077009	Kilkee	-19.8	70 or 29.0%
37128003	Newmarket	-19.8	95 or 34.4%
37099013	Kilrush Urban	-20.2	144 or 43.1%
37077013	Kilkee	-20.3	7 or 8.0%
37099004	Kilrush Urban	-20.5	31 or 18.1%
37073004	Kilfearagh	-21.0	43 or 44.8%
37057030	Ennis Rural	-21.1	67 or 36.6%
37058011	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-21.3	38 or 23.6%
37154002	Ennis No. 1 Urban	-21.5	68 or 28.1%
37156007	Ennis No. 4 Urban	-21.6	14 or 13.1%
37154003	Ennis No. 1 Urban	-21.7	123 or 35.9%
37058010	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-21.9	113 or 45.6%
37099012	Kilrush Urban	-23.8	74 or 30.7%
37058007	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-25.6	44 or 32.6%
37059012	Ennistimon	-25.7	51 or 32.5%

*Pobal 2022 Deprivation Index, County Clare, Source Pobal 2016*

This suggests that socio-economic circumstances have improved at county level in the intervening 6 years. The information comprising the index for County Clare is highlighted in the table below:

Indicator	Score
Pobal HP Index 2022	0.11
Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2016	118,817
Population 2022	127,938
Population Change %	7.68
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	36.47
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	16.64
Proportion with Primary Education Only 2022 %	9.62
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	39.8
Unemployment Rate - Male	8.54
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.66

*Figure 15 Pobal 2022 Deprivation Index, County Clare, Source Pobal 2022*

The overall index of deprivation can often mask the patterns of deprivation at community level throughout the county. We know that pockets of deprivation exist in a number of areas of the county in the north, east and south of Clare. Given the overall population composition of the county, greater insight on actual deprivation and affluence levels is provided from a review of small area data.



The image below illustrates pockets of deprivation in and around Kilrush, which is one of the most deprived areas in the county.

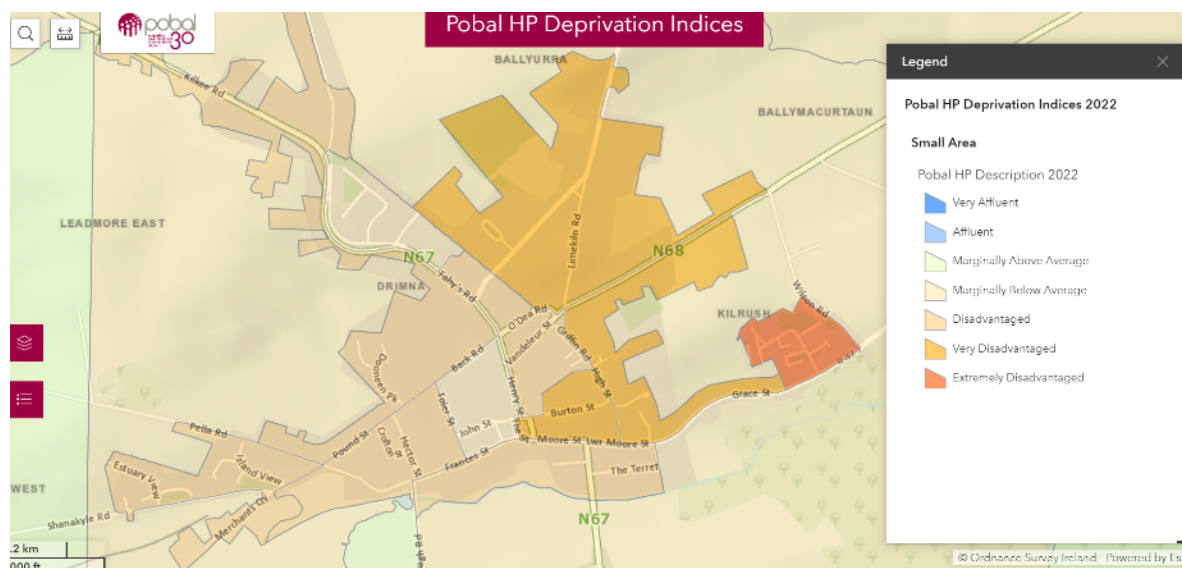


Figure 16 Deprivation in Kilrush, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows very and extremely disadvantaged areas in the Kilrush Urban Electoral Division (as low as -36.52). Four of the most deprived areas in the County are located in Kilrush and show the following deprivation profile:

Small Area ID	037099011	037099012	037099013	037099014
Locality	Burton St.	Griffin Rd.	Sycamore Dr.	Limekiln Rd.
Pobal HP Index 2022	-21.89	-29.85	-36.52	-26.3
Pobal HP Description 2022	Very Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged	Extremely Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged
Population 2022	191	240	306	210
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	38.22	39.17	40.52	57.14
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	36.84	19.05	47.62	8.33
Proportion with Primary Education Only 2022 %	15.74	35.03	24.65	31.34
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	18.52	10.83	6.34	12.69
Unemployment Rate - Male	48.84	24.39	33.87	16.67
Unemployment Rate - Female	34.29	22.58	34.55	20.83

Table 4 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged areas in Kilrush, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The image below illustrates pockets of affluence and deprivation in and around Ennis.

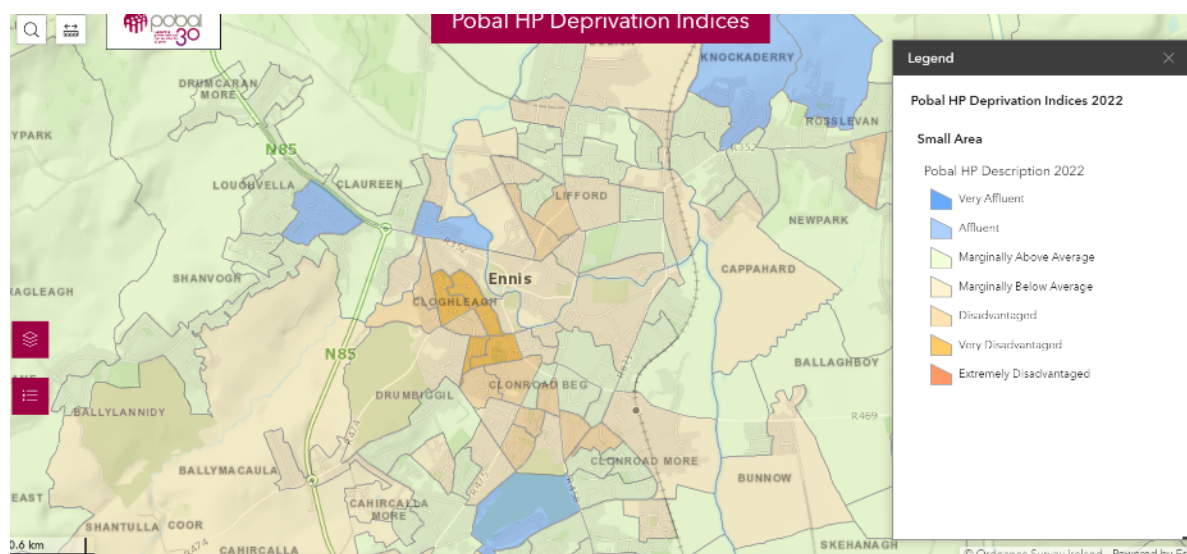


Figure 17 Deprivation in Ennis, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows a mixed picture of deprivation in Ennis with affluent pockets (Loughvella 14.19) ranging to extremely disadvantaged (Cloughlea as low as -23.55). The table below illustrates the range of deprivation index throughout the Ennis urban area ranging from very disadvantaged to affluent:

Small Area ID	037057071	037057066	037154002	037058008
Locality	Garran Na Coille	Victoria Court	John Paul Ave	Clancy Park
Pobal HP Index 2022	14.19	14.42	-23.55	-29.23
Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent	Affluent	Very Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged
Population 2022	337	184	248	188
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	33.53	29.35	44.76	37.77
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	13.95	18.18	54.17	50
Proportion with Primary Education Only 2022 %	2.48	0.83	29.49	29.09
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	66.83	62.5	14.74	9.09
Unemployment Rate - Male	2.53	1.92	17.31	20
Unemployment Rate - Female	3.41	6.38	26.19	26.47

Table 5 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged and affluent areas in Ennis, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The image below illustrates pockets of deprivation in and around Shannon.

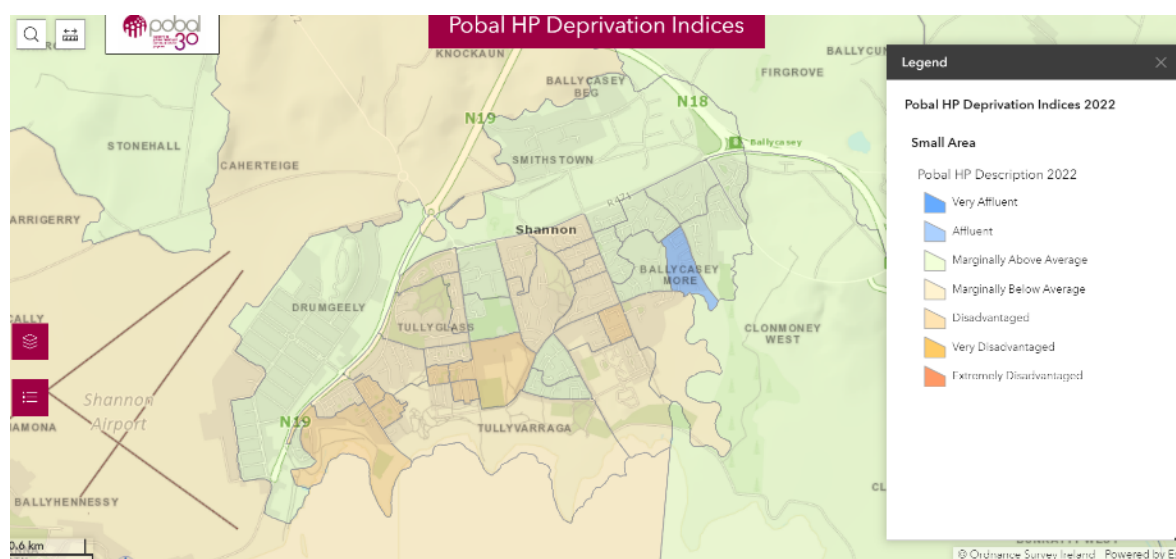


Figure 18 Deprivation in Shannon, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022

The map shows a level of deprivation across the town and immediate hinterland of Shannon ranging to very disadvantaged to affluent:

Small Area ID	037027008	37027026
Locality	Gleann Rua	Moy Park
Pobal HP Index 2022	10.81	-13.1
Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent	Disadvantaged
Population 2022	287	154
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	30.66	43.51
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	10.53	30
Proportion with Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.77	22.73
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	47.44	23.64
Unemployment Rate - Male	1.28	15.91
Unemployment Rate - Female	4.69	6.25

Table 6 Deprivation profile of most disadvantaged area in Shannon, Source Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022



(23% vs 14%). When asked about their reasons for trying e-cigarettes, two-thirds (66%) said that it was “out of curiosity” and 29% said that it was because their friends offered it. Only 3% said that it was “to stop smoking cigarettes”. This point was further reinforced when respondents were asked about their tobacco use when they first used an e-cigarette. More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) had never smoked cigarettes, while 24% smoked occasionally, and only 9% smoked regularly.

While not in the County Clare area it is interesting to note that Foróige Sligo, in partnership with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDATF) and Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB (MSLETB), commissioned research to understand the impact that vaping products have on children and young people in Ireland through listening to their direct experiences of vaping<sup>10</sup>. The research indicates that across all age groups there is a link between a ‘cool’ identity and vaping use. It also reveals the perceived social standing that vaping allows some young people to feel among their peers, facilitating a sense of social cohesion. Young people consulted as part of the study felt that the marketing of vapes is inherently youth-orientated and directly targets them, with a “toy-like” attraction and inventiveness of products in terms of flavour, colour, and personalisation.

Other insights revealed by children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim, included:

- 10 - 12 year olds said that vapes are openly and prominently displayed at convenient local access points such as local shops and/or through their own social groups.
- 36% of young people between the age of 13 – 16 years said that they currently vape and that they had never smoked previously.
- “I know that I have an addiction... I just don’t think about it, I know it’s going to be hard to get off them...” admitted Anna aged 17.

### Carers:

There were more than 8,200 unpaid carers in Clare in April 2022, which was 6% of the county’s population compared with 5% in 2016. Nationally there were almost 300,000 unpaid carers, or 6% of the population, up from 4% in the previous census.

Females in the county were more likely to be carers than males, with 59% of all carers being female, a similar trend to the national figure. There were 4,899 female carers (8% of all females), compared with 3,346 male carers (5% of all males) in Clare, which was an increase on 2016 when there were 124 young carers.

As well as the growth in the number of carers, the period between 2016 and 2022 also saw some notable increases in the hours of unpaid care provided. The number of carers in Clare providing 43 or more hours of unpaid help each week more than doubled, from 1,131 in 2016 to 2,306 in 2022.

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<sup>10</sup> [Foróige Sligo Release Vaping Research Report | Foróige](#)

### Infant and Neonatal Mortality:

There were 153 infant deaths registered in the State in 2020 giving an infant mortality rate of 2.7 per 1,000 live births. The rate in County Clare was slightly higher at 3.1 per 1,000 live births. The chart below shows that the rate continued to fall over the past 10 years from 8.1 per 1,000 in 2014:

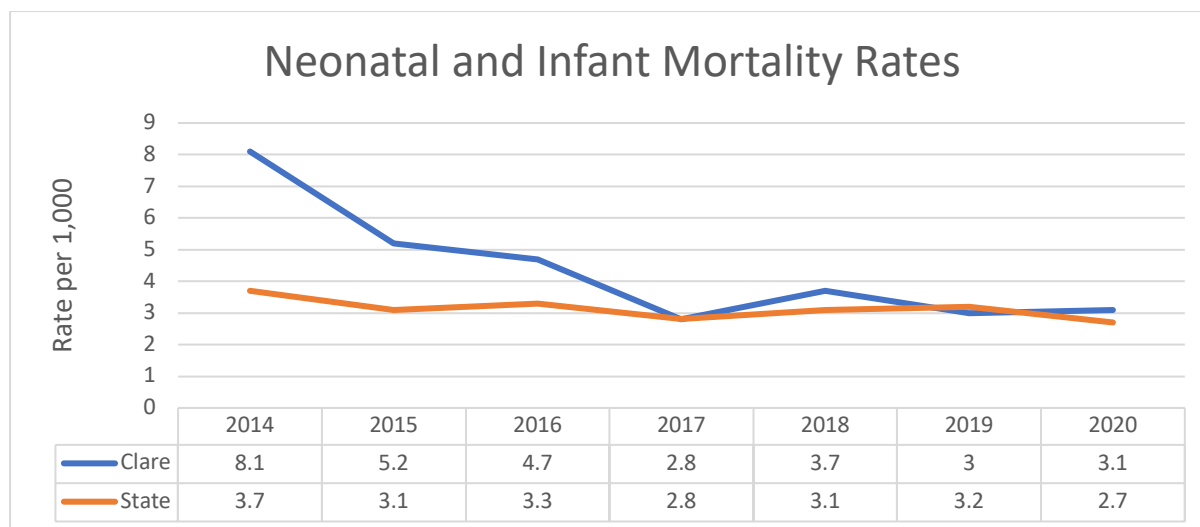


Table 7 Infant and Neonatal mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births, Source: CSO Vital Statistics

### Breastfeeding Rates on Discharge from Hospital:

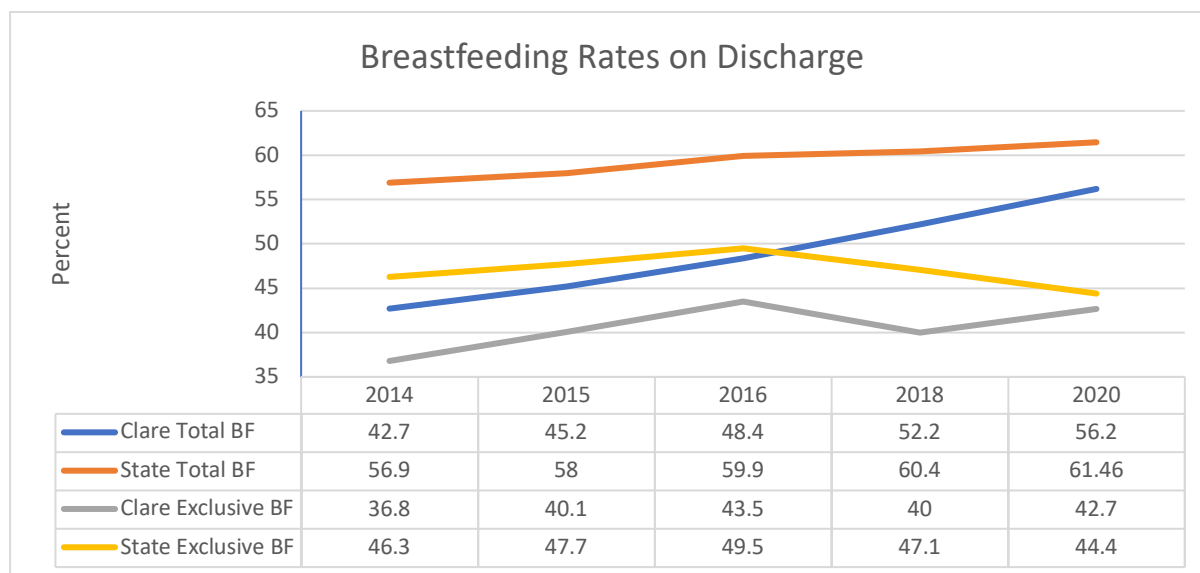


Figure 19 Breastfeeding rates on discharge from hospital, Source: National Perinatal Statistics Report (NPRS); Healthcare Pricing Office 2020

The chart above shows that while combined breastfeeding rates (exclusively breastfed and breast and formula combined) had increased from 2014 to 2020, they were significantly lower than the overall state average. The rate of babies who were exclusively breastfed on discharge has increased, however it is also lower than the state average for the same period.

## Immunisation Rates:

The chart below shows immunisation rates for Clare between 2016 to 2020.

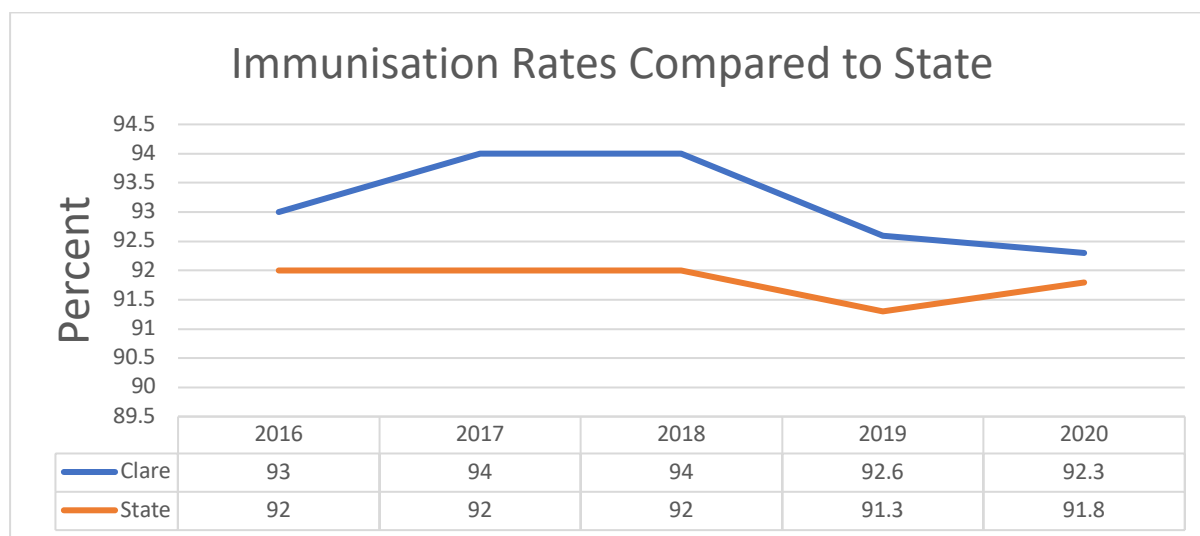


Table 8 % of children at 24 months who have had their first dose of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR1) vaccine. Source: Annual report on immunisation uptake at 12 and 24 months, HPSC

The chart shows a higher percentage uptake in the Clare area in all years compared to the state average.

## Self-Harm:

We have accessed data from NSRF for self-harm in the Clare and the CHO3 areas. Data is available at these geographies for 2017 to 2020.

The chart below illustrates a comparison of self-harm rates per 100,000 children and young people aged between 10-24:

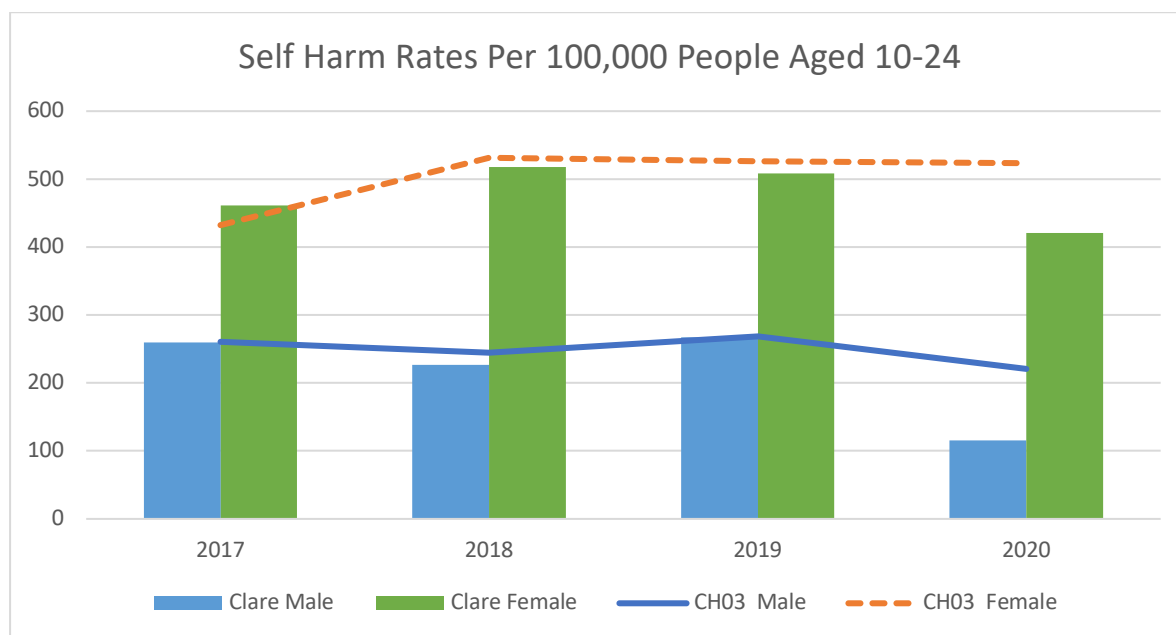


Figure 20 Self-harm rates per 100,000 for CYP aged 10-24

The data shows:

- Self-harm rates are higher for females in each area.
- A reduction in the last year of data for 2020

### Tusla Referrals:

The table below highlights the number of referrals to Tusla Services over the past three years of available data. It shows that referrals have increased significantly between 2020 to 2022. The first 6 months of data from 2023 suggest that this trend is set to continue.

The number of children in care in the county has decreased over the three-year period.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
				(Jan-Jun)
No. Referrals to Duty and Child Protection	1640	1879	2119	1138
No. Re-referrals to Duty and Child Protection	343	501	663	283
No. Open Cases	436	278	318	279
No. Listed on Child Protection Notification System	74	83	68	57
No. Admissions into care	19	7	8	2
No. Discharges from care	23	24	16	18
No. Children in Care	132	117	113	104
No. Children referred for Family Support service	384	231	224	458
No. Children receiving Family Support service	600	280	743	783
No. Meitheal New Requests	8	4	12	28
No. Child & Family Support Networks	1	5	6	6

Table 9 Tusla Referral data, 2020 to 2023, Source Tusla

Children who are at ongoing significant risk of harm are placed on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS). The table above shows that the number of children placed on the CPNS has increased over the last three years of available data for the county.

Meitheal is a Tusla-led Early Intervention Practice Model designed to ensure that the strengths and needs of children and their families are effectively identified, understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention, multi-agency (when necessary) response, tailored to the needs of the individual child or young person. Meitheal is voluntary and can only be undertaken when the parent/carer agrees to engage with the process.

Meitheal is used in partnership with parents to help them share their own knowledge, expertise, and concerns about their child and to hear the views of practitioners working with them. The ultimate goal is to enable parents and practitioners to work together to achieve a better life for the child.

The Meitheal Process, refers to the formal, centrally coordinated process for ensuring that strengths, needs, and desired outcomes are identified and, where necessary, support is planned, delivered, and reviewed in order to meet the identified need, capitalise on the identified strengths, and achieve the desired outcomes.



### CAMHS in County Clare:

A National Audit of adherence to CAMHS Operations Guidelines was completed in January 2024 by the HSE<sup>11</sup>. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is a specialist mental health service for approximately 2% of children and young people who have a moderate to severe mental health disorder. CAMHS teams receive nearly 20,000 referrals and deliver approximately 225,000 appointments each year for children and young people who need support. However, CAMHS is challenged by a growth in demand for services, coupled with the impact of ongoing staff retention and recruitment difficulties. The report highlights deficits in current service provision, including in relation to access, capacity and consistency in quality of services provided.

In summary for County Clare:

- There were 175 children active on the team case load in Clare East as of January 2024
- There were 246 children active on the team case load in Clare West as of January 2024
- 40 children were on a waiting list for the Clare East service
- 72 children were on a waiting list for the Clare West service

Each year as part of the Inspector of Mental Health Services' statutory duty under the Mental Health Act 2001–2018, a review of mental health services in the State is completed. In 2022 and 2023, the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Ireland was reviewed. The review found for the CHO3 area in 2022:

- A total CAMHS budget of €7,245,630
- A per capita CAMHS budget of €78.80 compared to national average of €85.30
- CHO3 was one of 5 CHO's to have no coordinator in place
- CHO3 had 6 vacant positions not recruited as of July 2023
- CHO3 had 62% of A Vision for Change (AVFC) recommended clinical staffing levels in place as of July 2023 – as low as 26% AVFC recommended occupational therapists, and 23% AVFC recommended childcare leaders.
- In CHO 3, no consultant psychiatrist worked fulltime, and no other consultant covered their work while they were absent
- Average wait times were 72 days in CHO3 compared to 105 nationally

### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs):

Data on notifiable STIs in Ireland are collated nationally by HPSC. STIs have been increasing in Ireland since 2013 when case-based notification of STIs was introduced<sup>12</sup>. In 2020 there was a reduction in cases, coinciding with the first wave of COVID-19, and since then notifications have increased in 2021, and 2022, exceeding the numbers observed in 2019 and previous years for all STIs bar herpes simplex (genital) and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).

The decrease in STI notifications in 2020 and 2021, compared to 2019 was likely due to a number of factors including long periods of national lockdown, social and physical distancing measures, reduced sexual health and GP services and reduced testing opportunities.

<sup>11</sup> [national-audit-of-adherence-to-the-camhs-operational-guidelines-report-2024.pdf \(hse.ie\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> [PowerPoint Presentation \(hpsc.ie\)](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the collection and reporting of enhanced data variables, such as mode of transmission, for STI notifications during 2020 and 2021. Initiatives to improve data quality are underway but all enhanced data for this time period should be interpreted with caution. The table below highlights the number of STIs reported in CHO3 in the last two years of data collection and makes comparisons to the State average.

<b>Clare</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% of 2022 Local Total</b>	<b>2022 National Percent</b>
<b>Notifications of Chlamydia among 15- 19 years</b>	62	85	13.24%	10.63%
<b>Notifications of Chlamydia among 0-24 years</b>	340	423	65.89%	52.88%
<b>Notifications of Gonorrhoea among 15-19 years</b>	19	17	2.65%	8.50%
<b>Notifications of Gonorrhoea among 0- 24 years</b>	34	72	11.21%	36.00%
<b>Notifications of Herpes Simplex (Genital) among 15-19 years</b>	17	10	1.56%	12.66%
<b>Notifications of Herpes Simplex (Genital) among 0-24 years</b>	40	35	5.45%	44.30%

*Table 10 Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) notifications, Ireland, 2018 and 2022, Source HSPC, HSE*

## Drugs and Alcohol:

### Alcohol Treatment Demand:

This includes data on treated problem alcohol use for the seven-year period from 2016 to 2022<sup>13</sup>. It must be noted that not all alcohol treatment services were participating in the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) during the period under review. Therefore, it may be assumed that the data presented in this bulletin under-estimates the true extent of treated alcohol use in Ireland. HSE treatment of heroin patients (including those using Opioid Substitution Treatment) is not recorded on the NDTRS. GPs, counsellors and other private facilities do not routinely record drug and/or alcohol treatment they provide.

In 2022, 7,421 cases were treated for problem alcohol use across the State. In 2022, the median age at which cases first started drinking alcohol was 16 years. Polydrug use (problem use of more than one substance) was reported by almost one-quarter (24.2%) of cases. This was an increase from 23.7% in 2021. The chart below shows numbers of treated cases between 2016 to 2022. It shows that the numbers in Co. Clare have increased slightly year on year since 2016 (excepting a reduction in the 2019 and 2020 years, possibly due to COVID).

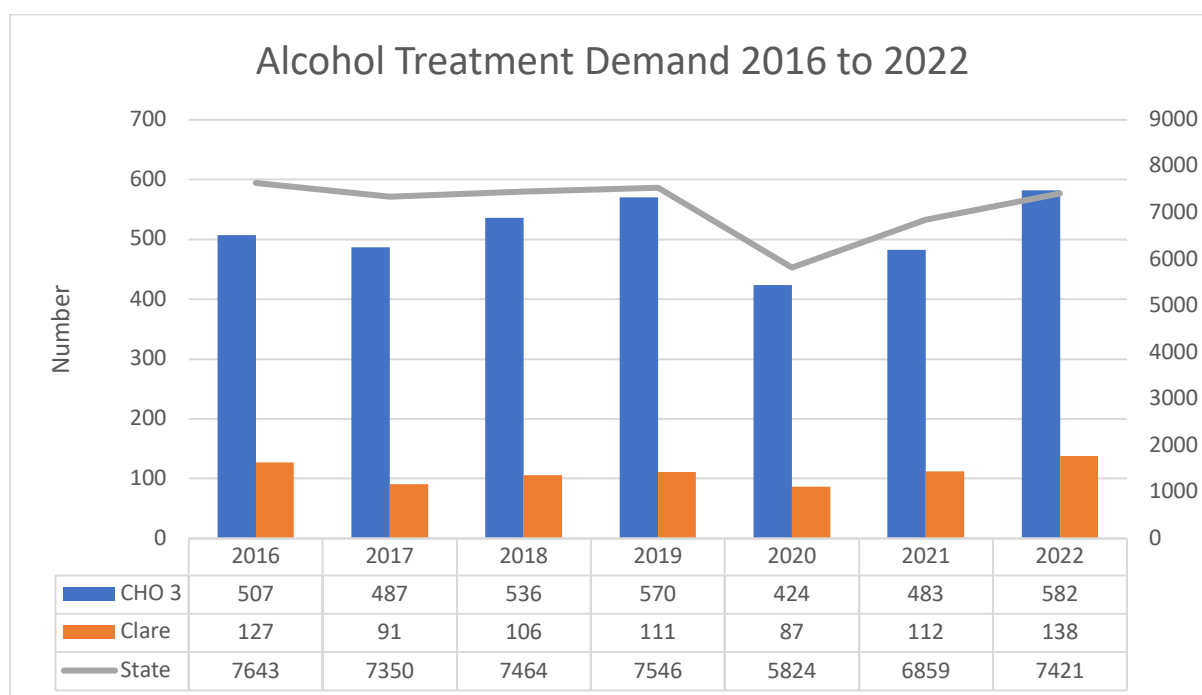


Figure 21 Alcohol Treatment Demand (Source: Health Research Board, August 2023)

Across the State, the most common drugs used together were (1) alcohol plus cocaine, followed by (2) alcohol plus cannabis, followed by (3) alcohol, plus cannabis and cocaine. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of treated cases increased by 8.2%, from 6,859 cases to 7,421 cases following a period of decline between 2016 and 2020.

In 2022, cocaine surpassed cannabis as the most common additional drug reported, increasing by 134.7% between 2016 and 2022 (from 35.4% in 2016 to 61.4% in 2022).

<sup>13</sup> Included in the NDTRS are cases treated in all types of services: outpatient, inpatient, low threshold, general practitioners (GPs), and those treated in prison.

## Disability:

In April 2022 in Clare, more than 27,200 people (21% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. Of these, 10,094 people (8% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent or a lot. A further 17,119 people (13% of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to some extent or a little. Nationally, 1.1 million people (22%) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent, of whom 407,342 (8%) experienced a long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent and 702,215 (14%) to some extent.

In Ireland overall, more females (22%) than males (21%) experienced a long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. In Clare, this rate was equal to the national average at 22% for females and 21% for males.

## Children With a Disability:

In the most recent Census, there were 4,979 persons under the age of 25 with a 'disability to a great extent or lesser extent'. The numbers across the Local Electoral Areas in the County for 2022.

	Ennistymon	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Kilrush	Total
All ages	3,714	4,128	7,077	7,295	4,999	27,213
0 - 4 years	34	43	85	84	51	297
5 - 9 years	94	134	244	230	139	841
10 - 14 years	136	210	348	311	188	1,193
15 - 19 years	176	232	419	344	232	1,403
20 - 24 years	122	174	452	327	170	1,245

Table 11 Persons under the age of 25 with a 'disability to a great extent or lesser extent' by Local Electoral Areas 2022

In the most recent year of available data (2022), there were 6,340 children with a physical and/or sensory disability registered for HSE disability services throughout Ireland. This equates to a rate of 5.2 per 1,000 children across the State. 32 were registered in Co. Clare, which was the lowest rate for any county in Ireland<sup>14</sup>. The chart below shows the three most recent years of available data:

<sup>14</sup> While these figures have been sourced from the official report, CYPSC members feel this may be under-reported as the numbers appear to be very low for the County.

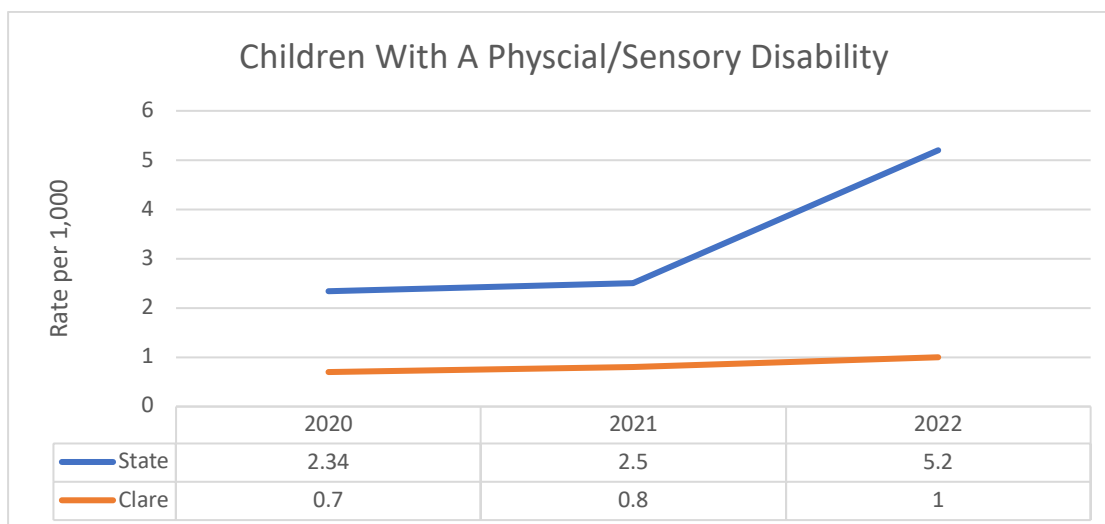


Figure 22 Rate per 1000 children with Physical Disability in State / County Clare. Source: The State of the Nation's Children Reports

In 2022, there were 8,826 children with an intellectual disability registered for HSE disability services across the State. This equates to 7.2 children per 1,000, registered as having an intellectual disability in 2022.<sup>15</sup>

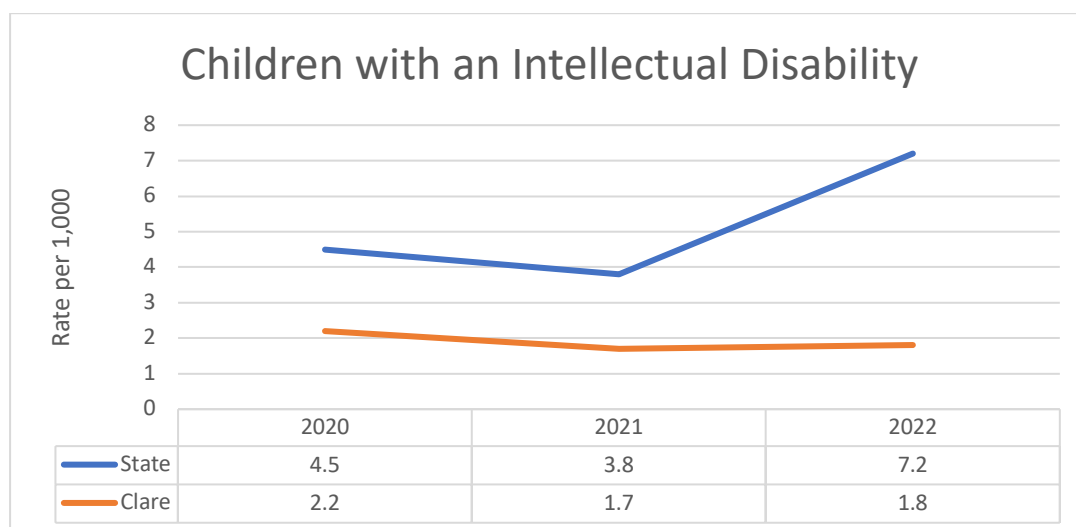


Figure 23 Rate per 1000 children with Intellectual Disability in State / County Clare. Source: The State of the Nation's Children Reports

<sup>15</sup> **Note:** According to the State of the Nation Reports, data for 2020 and 2021 is incomplete and should be interpreted with caution.

## Education:

The most recent Overview of Education (July 2023) indicated that across the State, total enrolments in primary schools in 2022 stood at 558,143, an increase of 3,355 on 2021 when the total was 554,788.

When the change in enrolments by administrative county over the past 10 years is examined, the data shows that County Clare had the second largest decrease in enrolments at 0.9%.

### Primary Schools:

As of 03 July 2023, there were 119 mainstream primary schools in County Clare, educating 13,125 children. 28 of the primary schools are classified as DEIS.

Average class size of primary schools in Clare was 19.6 as of 03 July 2023<sup>16</sup> (21.19 in the State). 19% of pupils were in classes ranging in size from 1-19 (17% in the State); 68% in classes between 20-29 (71% in the State), and 12% in classes with more than 30 pupils (11% in the State).

### Post Primary Schools:

In 2022-23 there were 18 secondary schools educating 9,399 pupils. This is the same number of schools since the last CYPP and an increase of 1,157 children. Seven of the post-primary schools are classified as DEIS. There are 40 special classes at post-primary level across six schools.

School enrolments at post primary schools have risen by 8.5% across the country in the past three years of available data (2020/21-2022/23). Enrolments in County Clare have increased by 729 pupils from 8,660 to 9,399 over the three-year period.

### Special Education:

In addition, there were two Special Schools in Clare with a total enrolment of 248 pupils. Both are located in Ennis.

### Further Education and Training:

Under the National Youth Reach Programme further education and training opportunities are available for young people aged 15 to 18 in County Clare. These programmes are supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union. There are 82 Youth Reach places in College of FET. These are located in the following places: Kilrush (26 places), Tuamgraney/Scarriff (13 places) and Ennis (43 places). There are a further 54 places in the CYS Community Training Centre in Ennis.

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<sup>16</sup> Class size Information at individual primary schools level, Department of Education, 03 July 2023 [gov - Class-size information at individual primary-school level \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/class-size-information-at-individual-primary-school-level/)

### Schools Absence Data:

The chart below shows mean percent of 20-day absences for both primary and post-primary schools in County Clare, compared to the state average for the past three years of data:

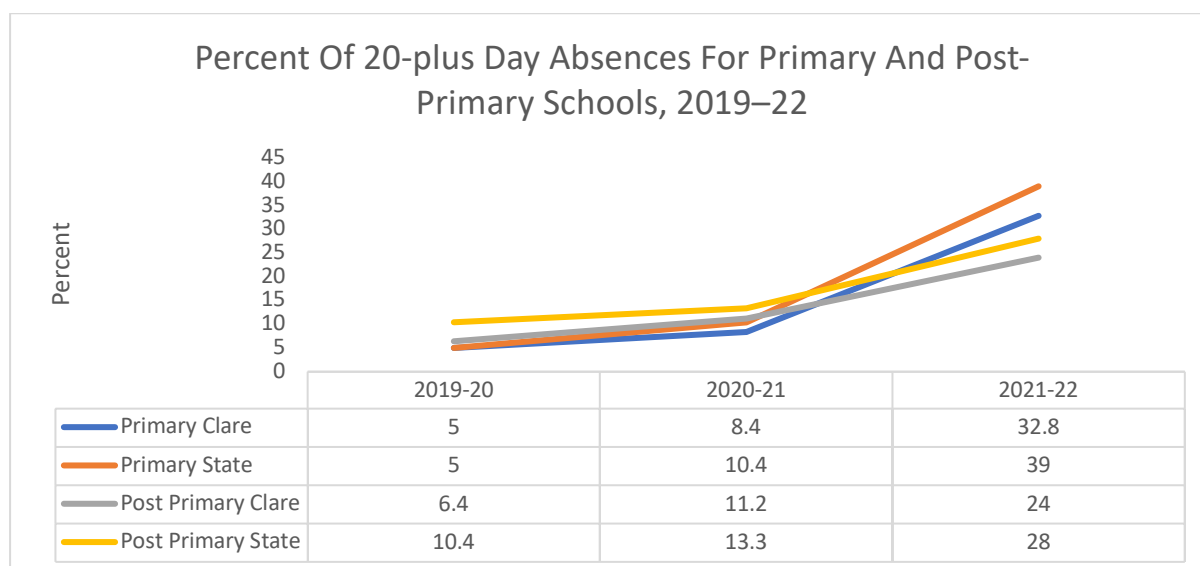


Figure 24 Mean Percent of 20-day absences, Source: TUSLA - School Attendance Data from Primary and Post-Primary Schools (by academic year)

The table above shows a significant increase in the percentage of children and young people missing more than 20 days of school over the past three years. While the trend across the state is also increasing, the percentage for Clare was lower than the state average for both primary and post-primary schools in the past academic year for which data is available. Absence rates have increased throughout the period including COVID isolation.

### Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate:

State Examination Commission data states that in 2023, 1,163 students completed Junior Certificate examinations in Co. Clare, which is 1.7% of the total number of Junior Certificate 2023 candidates in Ireland (70,730). 1,387 students completed the Leaving Certificate examinations in Co. Clare, which equates to 2.4% of overall candidates in the country (57,908). Data from the Department of Education, published in 2023, shows retention rates for pupils remaining in Co. Clare schools to complete their Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations is slightly higher than the state average. 97.6% of Clare students remain to complete their Junior Certificate examinations, compared to 97.5% in the whole country. 92.8% of students in Co. Clare remain to complete their Leaving Certificate examinations, which is higher than the national figure of 92.1%.



### Childcare:

The Early Years Sector Service Profile survey provides key data on the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) sector in Ireland. According to the most recent survey, there were a total of 133 ELC/SCA in County Clare, 33 community based and 100 private. Clare had slightly lower than average ratio of community to private sector providers in the country at 25% (state average 26%). 41% were located in urban areas of the county and 59% in rural areas.

Co. Clare has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest average weekly childcare cost of €172, compared to the national average of €182. Staff working in the sector have an average hourly wage of €12.97(State €13.20), with an average staff turnover rate of 20%, slightly higher than the state average.

### Educational Attainment – Total Population:

Relative to other local authorities in Ireland, Clare has a very well-educated population. According to Census 2022, The number of people with a third level qualification in the county increased from just under 30,000 in 2016 to just over 37,300 in 2022. This was a rate of 44% compared with 45% nationally. There were 763 people in the county who held a PhD, which was 2% of all PhD holders in the country.

Over 23,600 people, or 28% of all those aged 15 and over, had completed their full-time education at upper secondary level. This was up from just under 23,000 in 2016. Nationally, almost 867,400 people had completed their education at upper secondary level (26%).

Nearly 11,200 people in the county in Census 2022 who had completed their education at lower secondary level (13% of all those aged 15 and over), compared with 11,303 people in Census 2016 who indicated they had done so. More than 446,000 people nationally had completed their education at lower secondary level (13%).

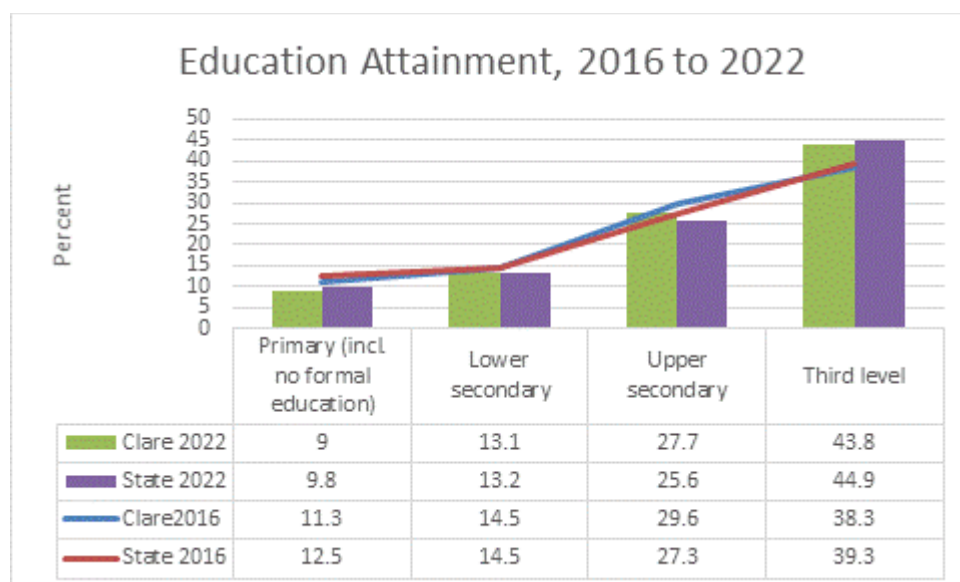


Figure 25: Educational Attainment – Percentage of Total Population, Census 2022

The chart above illustrates that the percentage of attainment at third level has increased since the last Census of population from 38.3% to 43.8% (slightly lower than the state average). Likewise, the percentage of residents leaving school at primary level including no formal qualification has decreased from 11.3% to 9% (lower than the state average).

### Social Services:

130 new households entered the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) in 2022 in County Clare. In total, 1,430 households in Co. Clare were HAP households. HAP is a form of social housing support provided by all local authorities. This was initially launched in 2014 and 2015 across select local authorities before being rolled out across the country. HAP can be provided to anyone who qualifies for social housing support and involves local authorities making a monthly payment to a private landlord on behalf of the HAP tenant, subject to terms and conditions, including rent limits. The HAP tenant pays a contribution based on household income, like they would do in local authority owned properties.

The waiting time from first application to a local authority housing waiting list to entering HAP was less than one year for 53.9% of those who started HAP in 2022, with 8.2% having been on the waiting list for less than 3 months. Over one in ten - 11.3% - of entrants to HAP in 2022 were on the waiting list for over seven years. Nationally the median number of days across all years is 412, just over a year and a quarter. In County Clare the median number of days was 217.

Almost 11% of new HAP households in 2022 were referred from homeless services in County Clare compared to 24% in the State.

More than half of tenants (54.8%) coming into HAP were in employment in the County Clare area compared to 65.3% in the State.

The median inflation-adjusted earned income for households entering HAP and in employment (combined gross income of main and joint tenant) was €13,818 in 2022 compared to €17,413 in the State.

270 households left the HAP scheme in Co. Clare in 2022. This is in line with the national trend, with more households exiting the scheme than entering in 2022.

## Economic Status:

This section of the children and young people's plan should be read in tandem with the LECP when published. At the time of writing the CYPP, the LECP was not fully completed. The LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan), is a crucial plan designed to enhance the well-being and quality of life for everyone in County Clare. This includes not only the residents but also those who work, invest, or visit the area. The plan outlines the goals and actions for economic and community development within the county over a six-year period, taking into account the needs and aspirations of its diverse population. A Socio-Economic Statement has been completed in the developmental phase of the LECP. It is available to view at the following link: [High Level Goals and Socio Economic Statement by Clare County Council - Issuu](#)

## Employment:

Over 102,900 people living in the county in April 2022 were aged 15 and over and of these more than 56,100 people were at work. This was an increase from the Census 2016 of 13%. As of December 2023,

Almost 5,000 people were unemployed in the county in April 2022. This was considerably lower than the 2016 figure of more than 7,000 people (a decrease of 29%). The unemployment rate was 8% compared with 12% in 2016

Kilrush had one of the highest rates of unemployment (among towns with a population of at least 1,500 people), at 20%. It also had one of the highest rates of people looking for their first job, at 5%.

There was a 25% increase in the number of people who were unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability to almost 4,500 people. Kilrush had one of the highest rates nationally of people unable to work because of this, at 12%. The number of people looking after their home/family fell by 11% to 6,565.

The labour force participation rate was 59% in Clare compared with 61% nationally.

## Travelling to Work:

There were 49,330 people travelling to work in the county in April 2022. The majority of these drove to work, with 34,070 people driving to work by car in 2022. There were 713 people travelling by bus, and 104 by train. Looking at active travel, 3,014 people walked to work, up from 2,913 in 2016, while 528 people cycled, an increase of 29 people since 2016.

Commuters in the county were travelling for longer in April 2022, with an average journey time of 26.7 minutes compared with 24.5 minutes in 2016. Nationally, the average journey time increased from 28.2 minutes to 29.1 minutes between 2016 and 2022. There were 12,245 Clare commuters who had a journey time of less than 15 minutes, while 13,882 people had a journey time of 15 to 30 minutes. A further 3,875 people had a journey time of 60 minutes and over.

## Travelling to School, College or Childcare

In Clare, over 4,100 children aged under 5 travelled to childcare or school. Most of these (over 3,500) travelled by car, while 359 walked and 15 went by bus and cycled.

Most of the 13,938 primary school aged children (5 to 12 years old) travelling to school in the county in April 2022 also travelled by car, with 9,119 doing so. Walking was the second most common means of travel at 2,383 children. A further 893 children used a bus while 205 children cycled.

Of the 10,182 secondary students (those aged 13-18 years) travelling to school, 5,084 were driven to school in a car, while 199 drove themselves to school. There were 2,670 students using a bus, and 44 using the train. A further 1,501 students walked to school while 106 cycled.

For the 4,790 third-level students commuting, driving was the most popular means of travel, at 1,730 people. There were 944 students who walked, while 700 used a bus. Another 654 students were passengers in a car while 130 students travelled by rail.

## Affordable housing:

Renters have continued to face large increases in the amount of rent they pay in the county. Between the 2016 and 2022 censuses, the average weekly rent paid to a private landlord in Clare in April 2022 was €188, which was a 47% increase on 2016. The average weekly rent paid to a private landlord (at national level) rose to €273, up €73 (37%). This was more than double the rate of increase (17%) between 2011 and 2016.

Interestingly, the 'Clare Survey' completed in County Clare in May 2023 by Ireland Thinks indicated that in relation to housing needs, 35% felt that the housing needs of residents were not being met in the county. 72% of respondents focussing on housing felt there was a need to build more 'affordable housing' in the county and 46% felt that more 'social housing' should be built.

In April 2022, 33,375 of homes were owner-occupied in Clare, compared with 32,160 in April 2016. The number of homes owned with a mortgage or loan fell by 7% from 14,124 to 13,187 since Census 2016 while the number of homes owned outright (without a loan or mortgage) increased by 12%, from 18,036 to 20,188. Homes rented from private landlords showed a 2% increase from 6,323 to 6,457. Nationally, 66% of homes were owner occupied. Some 531,207 homes were owned with a mortgage or loan, while almost 680,000 homes were owned without a mortgage or loan, which was up 11% from 2016. More than 330,000 homes were rented from a private landlord, an increase of 7% since 2016.

Many properties classed as vacant in the census may only be vacant for a short period of time and for a wide variety of reasons including homes for sale, rent, new build or renovation, owner in a nursing home, etc. However, there were more than 1,814 dwellings classed as vacant both in the 2016 and 2022 censuses in Clare, which could be an indication of a longer-term vacancy status. Nationally the figure was just under 48,000.

## Safety:

### Recorded Crime:

The table below highlights Garda Recorded Crime data for Clare Garda Division from 2017 to 2022. It highlights an average of 60 sexual offences per year in the Clare Garda Division, 48 rape and sexual assault, and 12 other sexual offences. The data also shows an average of 7 offences per year of abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Sexual offences</b>	55	54	55	55	63	80
<b>Rape and sexual assault</b>	48	44	48	43	48	62
<b>Other sexual offences</b>	7	10	7	12	15	18
<b>Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty</b>	9	4	5	5	8	10

Table 12 Recorded Crime for Clare Garda Division 2017-22 (Source CSO)

### Domestic Abuse:

In response to a question placed at the Oireachtas in July 2023<sup>17</sup>, about statistics on domestic abuse offences data for 2022, broken down by Garda district the Minister for Justice published the following information. According to the Minister, to determine the number of domestic abuse incidents reported in a given timeframe a number of criteria are applied. The counts in the table below are a combination of the following:

- Breach of Interim Barring Order
- Breach of Protection Order
- Breach of Barring Order
- Breach of Safety Order
- Domestic - No Offence Identified
- Breach of Emergency Barring Order
- Any incident type, but with a recorded motive of 'Domestic Abuse'.

	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>18</sup>
<b>Clare Division</b>	705	830	889	618

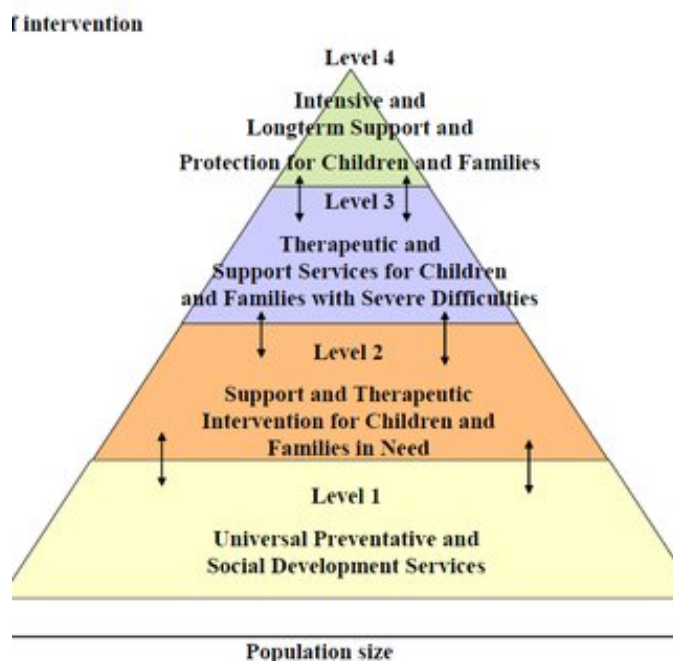
Table 13 Incidents of Domestic Abuse, An Garda Síochána PULSE data, July 2023

The table shows an average of 808 incidents of domestic violence over the past three full years of data. Data for 2023 is provided up to and including 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

<sup>17</sup> [Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence – Tuesday, 25 Jul 2023 – Parliamentary Questions \(33rd Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

<sup>18</sup> Full year data not available at the time of writing.

## Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Co. Clare:



This section summarises the services provided to children, young people and families in County Clare, by statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. This information is based on the audit of services conducted by Co. Clare CYPSC. Services are presented using the Hardiker Model to reflect the level of intervention which services are providing from Level 1 being universal preventative and social development services to Level 4 being intensive and long-term support and protection.

Should organisations offer services until multiple headings in the overview, the organisation has been listed under each relevant heading.

A number of directories of services exist in the County Clare area. While we have endeavoured to include the most relevant in this report, further service information is available at the following locations:

[Mental Health Services Directory](#) | [Headsup Clare](#) | [Get Help](#)

[Clare Directory of Services and Programmes for Adults with Asthma, COPD, Diabetes, Heart Conditions and Stroke \(hse.ie\)](#)

[Clare Homelessness Alliance Directory of Services \(clarecoco.ie\)](#)

[Domestic Abuse Resource Pack \(clarehaven.ie\)](#)

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
<b>Health and Social Services</b>			
Alcoholics Anonymous	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.</p> <p>The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.</p> <p>AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.</p>	Voluntary	<p>Targeted</p> <p>All tiers</p>
Bodywhys - The Eating Disorders Association of Ireland	Support Group Services 13 - 18 and 18+, PiLaR Programme (4 week free course), post-PiLaR Support Groups, Maudsley Carer's Group	Voluntary	<p>Targeted</p> <p>All Tiers</p>
Bushypark Addiction Treatment Service (Clarecare)	Substance Misuse, Gambling and Addiction related services for clients and family members - we provide community and residential based services in addition to a range of post treatment supports	Voluntary	<p>Targeted</p> <p>All Tiers</p>
Clare Suicide Bereavement Support	Support children bereaved by suicide	Voluntary	Targeted T2
Clare Local Development Company	For children there are homework clubs, summer camps, literacy initiatives, mental health services especially for anxious teens. For families there are financial programmes with MABS, help with availing of grants, mental health programme for men, work with family carers. There are projects for both the Roma and Traveller Communities.	Voluntary	Universal Service



Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Clarecare Family Support Services	<p>Clarecare Community Based Support Service offers individual and group support for parents, and individual support for children and adolescents. The service aims to enhance parenting, family relationships and communication; improve resilience, safety and wellbeing in all aspects of a child's life.</p> <p>Clarecare advocacy service for parents of children in care supports parents' participation in Tusla care process.</p>	Voluntary	Targeted T2/T3
Community Substance Misuse Team	Provide one/one support for young people and their families who are experiencing substance misuse issues in the Mid-West Region	Statutory	All tiers
CSMT (Community Substance Misuse Team)	The Community Substance Misuse Team provides a FREE non-judgmental service to parents and adolescents who are impacted by substance misuse in the Mid-West.	Statutory	Both  All tiers
General Medical	<p>42 GP practices in Clare</p> <p>65 Dental Practices in Clare</p> <p>12 Health Centres in Clare</p>	Private	Universal T1
HSE (Countywide through CHO 3)	<p>Child and Adolescent Physical Health – Speech and Language Therapy</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Occupational Therapy</p> <p>Second Tier Audiology</p> <p>Child Health Surveillance</p>	Statutory	Universal T1
HSE (Countywide through CHO 3)	<p>Child and Adolescent Physical Health – Preschool Immunisation Programme [GP]</p> <p>School Immunisation Programme (Primary and Secondary) [Nursing Dept.]</p> <p>School screening Vision and hearing: delivered in Schools and Health Centres by PHNs</p>	Statutory	Universal T1
HSE Disability Services	HSE Disability Services provide and fund a range of services for people with disabilities and their carers. These services can include home support/day services/respite and residential care for children and adults aged 0-65 years. Some of these services are provided	Statutory	Universal Service

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	directly by the HSE or are provided by other agencies who are commissioned by the HSE to provide service on their behalf.		
HSE Primary Care Services (Countywide through CHO 3)	The Primary Care Team is responsible for organising and delivering primary health care to meet the needs of the local population. They include Public Health Nursing, Primary Care Psychology, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Social Work and Occupational Therapy.	Statutory	Universal T1-2
HSE Primary Care Psychology (Countywide through CHO 3)	Psychological services to people experiencing mild to moderate difficulties. Referral from Primary Health Care, Health Centre or Health Professional.	Statutory	Universal T1-2
HSE Primary Care Psychology Service	Interventions to support emotional well-being for children and families in Clare.	Statutory	Both  All Tiers
ISPPC	Therapeutic Support for children and young people 0-18	Voluntary	Both  T2
Mental Health Ireland	<p>Mental Health Ireland is the longest established national mental health charity in Ireland. Throughout our history, we and the Mental Health Associations have played a central role in reshaping how the public understand mental health challenges, bringing practical expression to national policy objectives.</p> <p>We have Development Officers across the country who link with the network of Mental Health Associations, volunteers and community groups, promoting mental health and supporting recovery in their communities.</p> <p>Mental Health Ireland are now also the employer of people working in recovery education and peer led community services across the country.</p>	Voluntary	Both  All tiers

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
North West Clare Family Resource Centre	NWCFRC provides ongoing activities and services: Family Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling for adults and adolescents</li> <li>• Play Therapy for children</li> <li>• Infant Massage and Well-being for Mother and Baby programmes</li> <li>• Breastfeeding Group</li> <li>• Food Cloud for vulnerable families</li> </ul>	Voluntary	Both T2
Primary Care Paediatric Physiotherapy	Physiotherapy Assessment and Intervention for babies and children in County Clare	Statutory	Targeted T2
Samaritans of Ennis and Clare	Samaritans offer listening and support to people and communities in times of need. The Ennis branch was founded on June 7, 1982.	Voluntary	Targeted  All tiers
Shannon Family Resource Centre	Afterschool Programmes, Counselling, Parent & Toddler groups, iScoil programme, play therapy, rainbows and summer camps	Voluntary	Both  T2
Traveller Health Unit, HSE	Health and social supports	Statutory	Targeted  All Tiers
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Tusla is responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. It includes a range of support services including Child Protection and Welfare; Alternative Care; Prevention, Partnership and Family Support, Tusla Education Support Service; Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Service and Early Years Inspection.  Child Protection and Welfare Service:  Child Protection and Social Work services are in place to provide frontline response services to children who are not receiving adequate care and protection. Services range from Family Support Services which include prevention and early intervention initiatives, to targeted services which respond to children who have been	Statutory	Universal and Targeted  All tiers

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	<p>harm or have not received adequate care. Support and advice is also provided for adults who wish to disclose past abuse.</p> <p>Alternative Care:</p> <p><u>Foster Care:</u> Children are placed in foster families when their parents are unable to care for them. A care plan for the child is drawn up which sets out the support to be provided to the child and the foster parents and the arrangements for access to the child in foster care by parents or relatives. The fostering service assesses people who wish to foster and provides support to foster families to enable them to provide a good standard of care for the children they look after.</p> <p><u>Residential Care:</u> Care is provided in a home staffed by Care Staff. The home or centre is referred to as a Children's Residential Centre. The majority of Children's Residential Centres are community based which means they look like and are situated within the same houses, estates and communities that everybody lives in. They are supported by health services such as G.P.'s, Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists etc.</p> <p><u>PPFS:</u> The Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Programme is an evidence-led approach to prevention and early intervention work. It has five strands of work: Participation; Parenting; Commissioning; Meitheal and Area-Based Approach; and Public Awareness.</p>		

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
West Clare Mental Health Association	West Clare Mental Health Association aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in West Clare. The Lighthouse is a new peer support centre in Kilrush that offers a place within the community to have a safe place to support mental health.	Voluntary	Both  All Tiers
<b>Education</b>			
Clare Education Centre	Clare Education Support Centre supports the in-service needs of Clare teachers. The main functions of Clare Education Support Centre include a requirement to support the in-service needs of the state and to identify and support locally identified needs. The Centre is part of a group of 21 Full Time Education Centres and nine Centres operating on a Part-time basis supported principally by the Department of Education and Science.	Statutory	Targeted at Early Years, Primary and Post Primary
Clare Local Development Company	For children there are homework clubs, summer camps, literacy initiatives, mental health services especially for anxious teens. For families there are financial programmes with MABS, help with availing of grants, mental health programme for men, work with family carers. There are projects for both the Roma and Traveller Communities.	Voluntary	Universal
Clare Youth Service	Supports and non-formal educational opportunities for young people in a range of targeted projects and volunteer led universal groups. Fulltime education and training under the national Youthreach Programme through our Community Training Centre.	Voluntary	Both  All Tiers
Department of Education	117 primary and special schools in Co. Clare, 17 post primary schools in Co. Clare	Statutory	Both
Further Education and Training	Under the National Youth Reach Programme, further education and training opportunities are available for young people aged 15 to 18 in County Clare. These programmes are supported by Limerick and Clare	Statutory	Both

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	Education and Training Board and co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union. There are 82 Youth Reach places in College of FET. These are located in the following places: Kilrush (26 places), Tuamgraney/Scarriff (13 places) and Ennis (43 places). There are a further 54 places in CYS Community Training Centre in Ennis.		
East Clare Community Co-operative	Subsidised psychotherapy for children and adolescents, Play therapy, Art Therapy	Voluntary	Both T1
Ennis School Completion Programme	The SCP Programme is a programme to support children and young people who are at risk of early school leaving and students of school going age who are not currently attending school. SCP projects provide the following interventions to children and young people: Evidence based/evidence informed interventions at universal level to whole class/whole school groups. Brief interventions for 8 weeks or less for students identified as needing an immediate short term SCP led intervention. Targeted interventions to children and young people with significant support needs who have been identified through the SCP Intake Framework. (Only students in this target group need to be processed through the full Intake Framework referral).	Statutory	Targeted T2
Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN)	IPPN is the professional body for the leaders of Irish primary schools. It is an independent, not-for-profit voluntary association with a local, regional and national presence.	Voluntary	Both T1
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board	Youth work support; education provision.  LCETB Further Education, LCETB Youth Skills, LCETB Post Primary Schools, LCETB Youthreach Ennis	Statutory	Both All tiers

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	LCETB Youthreach Miltown Malby, LCETB Youthreach Kilrush		
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board	Family Learning courses which are part-time adult education courses up to L3 aimed at developing adults' literacy skills to benefit the wider family.	Statutory	Universal
National Educational Psychology Service	The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is the psychological service of the Department of Education and provides educational psychological support to primary, post-primary and special schools in Ireland. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools. The NEPS Model of Service includes a Casework Service for individual children and young people and a Support & Development Service for school staff.	Statutory	Targeted  All tiers
National Educational Psychological Service, countywide	Educational psychological service to schools. Access through schools in line with NEPS model of service. Focus on school-age children with particular emphasis on those with special educational needs	Statutory	Targeted and Universal T2-3
Shannon Family Resource Centre	Afterschool Programmes, Counselling, Parent & Toddler groups, iScoil programme, play therapy, rainbows and summer camps	Voluntary	Both  T1
Tusla Education Support Service	Support with sourcing education provision for children. Supporting young people and parents to remain in education. Identifying barriers to school attendance and supporting parents and children/young people to address these. Onward referral to other services if a need is identified. Provide information and advice to parents who have a concern in relation to their children's education provision. Protecting a child's legal right to an education.	Statutory	Targeted  All tiers

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Youthreach Ennis Campus	Educational Programme for Early School Leavers from 15 Years to 20 Year olds	Statutory	Targeted  All tiers
North West Clare Family Resource Centre	NWCFRC provides ongoing activities and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meitheal and one-to-one family support</li> <li>• Adult Education classes</li> <li>• Homework Clubs for Travellers, Ukrainians and Syrians</li> <li>• English Conversation (Failte Isteach)</li> <li>• Adult Education classes</li> <li>• Ukrainian Teen Club</li> <li>• Life Skills and Personal Development for teenage Traveller girls</li> </ul>	Voluntary	Both T2
<b>Youth</b>			
Clare Youth Service	Clare Youth Service is committed to the development and delivery of quality youth work and also applies youth work values and principles to the areas of Advocacy, Alcohol & Drugs Education/Prevention, Education and Training (young people, young adults and adult learners), Information Provision, Volunteer Support, Training and Development, Targeted Interventions, Integration and Youth Justice Work.	Voluntary	Both  All Tiers
Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in the 31 local authorities of the country. It is for young people under the age of 18 and is designed to enable them to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area.	Voluntary	Universal T1
Foróige	General Youth Activities Foróige Regional Youth Officer enable communities to set up volunteer led clubs/groups in their area to provide a safe place for young people to meet weekly. Provide training and support to such clubs and promote community and personal development programmes. Youth Mentoring through programmes, like the Big Brother Big Sister Programme and MentorMe, pairs adult volunteers with young people who are looking for friendship and	Voluntary	Universal T1



Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	support from someone with a bit more life experience.		
North West Clare Family Resource Centre	NWCFRC provides ongoing activities and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop-In service</li> <li>• Meeting spaces and supports for voluntary groups</li> <li>• Homework Clubs for Travellers, Ukrainians and Syrians</li> <li>• Targeted and integrated programmes are offered to young people, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ukrainian Teen Club</li> <li>• Integrated Youth Drop-In</li> <li>• Youth Club open to all</li> <li>• Integrated, gender-mixed Soccer Club</li> <li>• Life Skills and Personal Development for teenage Traveller girls</li> <li>• Bike Maintenance</li> <li>• Volunteer community action group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Voluntary	Both T2
Scouts Ireland	Scouts Ireland enables young people to build the skills they need to maximise life's opportunities. Scouting Ireland welcomes all members and we do not tolerate any form of discrimination on any grounds including, but not limited to, gender, sexuality, race, religion or belief, social class, health, age or disability.	Voluntary	Universal T1
<b>Sports, recreation, arts, culture</b>			
Clare Arts	Clare Arts runs programmes to target cultural initiatives for young people, so as to unlock their full creative potential. It also provides provide support to partners in the Limerick Clare Education Training Board with two of their key programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Youth Partnerships A pilot scheme by Creative Ireland to encourage greater opportunities for young people to engage in the arts</li> </ul> <b>Music Generation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national initiative aimed at providing opportunities for young people, who may not otherwise have the opportunity, to participate in music classes and activities.</li> </ul>	Voluntary	Universal

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
Clare Sports Partnership	The aim of Clare Sports Partnership is to get Clare active by: Increasing participation in sport. Ensuring that local resources are used to best effect. Co-ordinating the efforts of key influencers to further develop sporting opportunities for local communities. Providing a vital link between the needs of local people, the work of other sports organisations/officers and national and state agencies.	Statutory	Universal
GAA	Clare GAA includes 53 clubs throughout the county. Details and links to each of the clubs are available at the following link.  <a href="#">Clubs Archive - Clare GAA</a>	Voluntary	Universal
Music Generation Clare	Music Generation Clare is part of Music Generation, Ireland's National Music Education Programme which transforms the lives of children and young people through access to high-quality, subsidised performance music education. Established by its parent company Music Network, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and Local Music Education Partnerships (MEPs).	Voluntary	Universal
North West Clare Family Resource Centre	NWCFRC provides ongoing activities and services:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter and summer camps</li> <li>• Integrated, gender-mixed Soccer Club</li> <li>• Bike Maintenance</li> </ul>	Voluntary	Both T2
<b>Local authority services</b>			
Clare County Council	Rural, Community & Tourism Development, Arts and Recreation, Library, Housing, Business, Economic development, Planning, Environment, Water & Wastewater, Waste and Recycling, Roads & Transport	Statutory	Universal
Clare County Council Planning Section	Land zoning for community and recreational facilities, development conditions on developments. Promoting the development of safe	Statutory	Universal T1

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	and secure mobility routes in housing estates, neighbourhoods. Ensuring land is designated for community facilities		
Community Cultural and Social Development Section,	Promoting and facilitating development of community and recreational facilities, playgrounds, etc. Promotion of Social Inclusion policies and practice –RAPID, Social Inclusion Unit. Provision of data and support to community groups. Provision of Playgrounds Healthy Ireland.	Statutory	Universal T1
Library Service	Library Service - caters for all age groups from infancy to Senior adulthood and engages with all social inclusion measure groups including people with disabilities, the Traveller Interagency Group, the School Completion Programme and the migrant population, older people, new communities, ex-prisoners, people living in geographically remote areas, people with mental health concerns, people of all ages who struggle with literacy and people of all ages from the LGBTQI community. The library service has adapted premises/services to facilitate people with physical and sensory disabilities.	Statutory	Universal T1
<b>Social welfare</b>			
An Garda Siochána	Garda Youth Diversion Programme Ennis, Garda Youth Diversion Programme Shannon Juvenile Liaison Officer. There are 17 Garda Stations operating across Co. Clare	Statutory	Both
Department of Employment and Social Protection	To promote active participation in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services.	Statutory	Universal T1-2
Department of Social Protection	Ennistymon office, Kilrush office, Ennis office, Tulla office	Statutory	Both
Probation Services	Youth Probation Service Adult Probation Service	Statutory	Targeted

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
<b>Other services</b>			
Ana Liffey Drug Project	We provide direct services to people over the age 18 who are experiencing addiction.	Voluntary	Targeted Service T4
Bodywhys - The Eating Disorders Association of Ireland	Support Group Services 13 - 18 and 18+, PiLaR Programme (4 week free course), post-PiLaR Support Groups, Maudsley Carer's Group	Voluntary	Targeted Service  All Tiers
Clare County Childcare Committee	The role of the individual CCCs is to: (a) In a consistent manner, act as the local agent of DCEDIY in the coordination and delivery of the national early education and childcare programmes and the implementation of Government policy at a local level (b) Facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible Early Learning and Care (ELC), School Aged Childcare (SAC) and Childminding services for the overall benefit of children and their parents. (c) Provide support and guidance to local ELC, SAC and Childminding service providers and parents in relation to the national childcare programmes and support the delivery of quality early learning and childcare in accordance with national frameworks and policy objectives. (d) Facilitate the development of ELC, SAC and Childminding in a strategic and coordinated manner. (e) Provide information and support to parents in relation to the provision of ELC, SAC and Childminding services within their CCC area.	Statutory	Universal Service
Clare Local Development Company	We are a social inclusion company so services we provide under the SICAP interventions aim to promote equality of participation and to improve outcomes for our target groups		Targeted Service  T2
Clare Volunteer Centre	Provide support to people who are looking to volunteer with organisations looking for volunteers. We offer training, support and guidance to	Statutory	Universal Service

Organisation/ Agency	Services	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or both.
	volunteer involving organisations in developing their volunteer programmes as well as providing a Garda Vetting Service. We promote the value of volunteering and provide a service where every volunteer is provided with information, support and advice offering a diverse range of volunteer roles to suit all ages and abilities.		
Community Substance Misuse Team	Provide one/one support, non-judgmental service to parents and adolescents who are impacted by substance misuse in the Mid-West.	Statutory	All tiers
North West Clare Family Resource Centre	Employment, Economic, Training and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Sponsors of a CE scheme</li> <li>• Adult Education classes</li> <li>• Homework Clubs for Travellers, Ukrainians and Syrians</li> <li>• English Conversation (Failte Isteach)</li> <li>• Adult Education classes</li> </ul>	Voluntary	Both T2
Shannon Family Resource Centre	Afterschool Programmes, Counselling, Parent & Toddler groups, iScoil programme, play therapy, rainbows and summer camps	Voluntary	Both T2
West Clare Mental Health Association	Peer support for parents	Voluntary	Targeted Service
Clare Haven Services	We are the Clare based Frontline Service for Women and Children subjected to domestic abuse The Services we provide are Refuge, Supports across all determinants, Counselling, One to One Sessions, Group Sessions, Education Programmes, Intervention Programmes, Safety Planning, Accompaniment, Advocacy, Information Sessions	Voluntary	Universal Service

## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in County Clare:


This section highlights the main concerns and issues for Children and Young People in Clare, drawn from the socio-demographic profile, the audit of services and consultations undertaken with children, young people, service providers, GP's etc.

It conveys "how the children and young people in the county are doing" in terms of the five national outcomes for children and young people:

- Active and healthy, physical and mental well being
- Achieving full potential in learning and development
- Safe and protected from harm
- Economic security and opportunity
- Connected, respected and contributing to their world


As highlighted previously in Section 1 of this report, the Clare CYPSC completed a consultation process with children, young people and stakeholders in the development of this CYPP. The consultation process and questions within were designed around the five national outcomes for children and young people articulated above. We have summarised the results of this consultation process alongside key learning from engagement with stakeholders in this section against a range of key questions:

- How are Children & Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?
- What did the consultations tell us?
- What did CYPSC members say?
- Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?
- What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area


Outcome 1. Active And Healthy, Physical And Mental Wellbeing	
<p>How are Children &amp; Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83% of people in the county stated their health was very good or good at the time of the Census in 2022.</li> <li>• More than 8% of the population smoked in County Clare, compared to 9% nationally.</li> <li>• The infant mortality rate in County Clare was slightly higher than the national average at 3.1 compared to 2.7 per 1,000.</li> <li>• Breastfeeding rates on discharge from hospital were lower than the state average at 56.2% compared to 61.46% in 2020.</li> <li>• Immunisation rates were slightly higher than the state average at 92.3% compared to 91.8%.</li> <li>• Self-harm rates in the county had reduced in 2020 from the previous three years, the rate for girls aged 10-24 was three times the rate for boys.</li> <li>• There were 421 children on the CAMHS team caseload in the county as of January 2024.</li> <li>• The percentage of children with disabilities was significantly lower than the state average in 2022.</li> </ul>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p><b>Primary school children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63% of children exercise meeting the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) recommended guidelines at least five days each week.</li> <li>• When asked what they would suggest the CYPSC do to support young people becoming more active, children would like CYPSC to focus on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on sports and outdoor activities - 35%</li> <li>○ Invest in community groups and infrastructure – 32%</li> <li>○ Explore new things - 19%</li> <li>○ Promote awareness of existing activities – 14%</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Post primary school children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47% of children and young people exercise at least five days each week.</li> <li>• 10% of post-primary school children vape (higher percentage of older young people, and higher percentage of female), 3% smoke</li> <li>• Children and young people would like CYPSC to influence:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving access to facilities – 48%</li> <li>○ Promoting physical activity in schools - 25%</li> <li>○ Encouraging Community Engagement and Support – 16%</li> <li>○ Addressing barriers to participation -11%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Over 25% experience difficulties with social issues</li> <li>• Over one third drink alcohol</li> <li>• More than one half of their friends drink alcohol</li> <li>• 10% take drugs, 20% of their friends take drugs</li> <li>• 10% vape</li> <li>• 31% struggle with school/college</li> <li>• 34% say they manage school OK, but cannot wait to leave when they can</li> </ul>

Outcome 1. Active And Healthy, Physical And Mental Wellbeing	
What did CYPSC members say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Challenges (Anxiety, Depression, Coping after Covid Shutdown) - This was a prevalent and recurring issue raised by CYPSC and sub-group members.</li> <li>• Access to Mental Health Services and Facilities- The lack of access to mental health resources was highlighted as a significant concern by members as well as children and young people.</li> <li>• Substance Misuse (Drugs, Alcohol) - drugs and vaping, self-medication and substance misuse among young people and parents.</li> <li>• Impact of Social Media and Screen Time - Issues related to excessive exposure to social media, addiction, and negative content.</li> <li>• Bullying (Including Online) - Bullying, both in physical and digital spaces.</li> </ul>
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main issue highlighted across all consultations was the lack of access to and availability of community-based mental health services for children and young people.</li> <li>• The consultations suggested that there is a large number of sporting activities and clubs across the county. However, access to these was challenging for young people who do not have access to transport, or wish to visit those services independently from their families.</li> <li>• Parents and professionals indicated that there is a lack of services for parents across the county, and in particular social activities to help young children born during the COVID pandemic to socialise with children their own age.</li> </ul>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting mental health promotion and access to services is the primary issue coming from surveys, workshops, focus groups and all consultations undertaken as part of this strategy development process.</li> <li>• Mental Health Support and Services - There is a clear emphasis on addressing the mental health needs of children and young people across all age groups. This includes enhancing mental health services, early intervention, and trauma-informed practices.</li> <li>• Bullying Prevention and Anti-Discrimination Efforts - Prioritizing initiatives to combat bullying, discrimination, racism, and disinformation in various forms is essential for creating safe and inclusive environments for young people.</li> <li>• Addressing Gaps in Family and Parent Support Services - Identifying and addressing gaps in family support, parent support, and youth services to meet the needs of families at various levels of need is recognised as important for prevention and early intervention efforts.</li> <li>• Exploring the impact of sleep hygiene</li> <li>• Increasing level of trauma awareness and trauma aware services</li> <li>• Increasing access to preventative services and campaigns to address impact of drugs and alcohol on children and young people</li> </ul>




<b>Outcome 2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development</b>	
<p>How are Children &amp; Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 119 primary schools in Co. Clare, educating 13,125 children. 28 of the primary schools are classified as DEIS as of July 2023</li> <li>• The average class size 19.6 (21.2 in State)</li> <li>• Primary school enrolments in Clare have decreased by 0.9% between 2012-22. This is one of only three counties in Ireland to experience a reduction in enrolments over the ten year period.</li> <li>• Post primary school enrolments have increased by 18.9%</li> <li>• Clare had 1387 candidates for Leaving Certificate 2023</li> <li>• Third level attainment has increased since the last census of population from 38.3% to 43.8% (slightly lower than the state average).</li> <li>• Residents leaving school at primary level including no formal qualification has decreased from 11.3% to 9% (lower than the state average).</li> <li>• Co. Clare had the 6th highest enrolment of Ukrainian pupils in primary schools with 584 enrolled in primary schools and 344 in post-primary schools in 2022 (6% of the national intake).</li> <li>• There are 133 early years providers – 25% ratio of community to private sector providers</li> <li>• Capacity is 3,131, but 30% vacancy rates (2nd highest in country with 718 vacant places - 21% State)</li> <li>• Average weekly childcare cost €172</li> </ul>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p><b>Primary school children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14% difficulty with social skills</li> <li>• 66% said school is OK for them and they do their best; 18% said they love school and do really well at it; 16% said they hate school and tend to stay away from it when they can</li> <li>• 11% said they struggle with learning in school</li> </ul> <p><b>Post primary school children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45% said school is OK for them - 24% said they manage school OK, but can't wait to leave when they can.</li> <li>• 31% said they struggle with learning in school/further education and training</li> <li>• 75% experience school/exam stress</li> </ul>
<p>What did CYPSC Members say?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CYPSC members focussed on the need for support for transitions from pre-school to primary and from primary to post-primary.</li> <li>• CYPSC members also focussed on the need to provide support to young people who have become excluded from the mainstream education system. Alternative education programmes and schemes. There was a recognition for the need to closely link with the LECP in the county to ensure linkages and opportunities are maximised.</li> <li>• Parents and professionals consulted for the CYPP indicated that there is a need to address waiting lists for pre-school places across</li> </ul>


	the county, and to invest in capacity to enable pre-school providers to ensure that potential capacity in the system is fully utilised.
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultations identified a need for transition services for children and young people in the county.</li> <li>• Need for more access to pre-school places for children in the county – waiting list of over 1 year for services.</li> </ul>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of up to date progression pathways for young people ages 16 to 24</li> <li>• The need for alternative education placements for children who have not maintained in mainstream education, as well as a focus on parental mental health and nonviolent resistance training.</li> <li>• Alternative Learning Centres and School Absenteeism - Promoting the development of alternative learning centres for children aged 12-15 who are not achieving in mainstream education and addressing issues related to school absenteeism are identified as key areas of focus.</li> <li>• Review use of national transition programme from preschool to primary school</li> <li>• Education, Early School Leavers, and Sexual Health - Developing plans to support early school leavers, enhance mental health services for young people, and promote sexual health education are highlighted as important priorities in the education sector.</li> </ul>

Outcome 3. Safe and protected from harm	
<p>How are Children &amp; Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2017, an average of 60 sexual offences have been reported per year in the Clare Garda Division, 48 rape and sexual assault, and 12 other sexual offences. The data also shows an average of 7 offences per year of abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty.</li> <li>• An average of 808 incidents of domestic violence have been reported over the past three full years of data.</li> <li>• Clare had a positive estimated net migration of 8.3 per 1,000 people between the 2016 and 2022 Census</li> <li>• According to Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth statistics for 04 February 2024, there were 27,106 people living in International Protection Accommodation (IPA) of whom 6067 were children. 726 of total IPAs were accommodated in County Clare.</li> </ul>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Primary school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96% of children told us they feel safe in their own area – 4% don't</li> <li>• 88% of children told us they feel safe in other areas of Co. Clare – 12% don't.</li> </ul> <p>Post primary school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 93% of young people told us they feel safe in their own area – 7% don't</li> <li>• 77% of young people told us they feel safe in other areas of Co. Clare – 23% don't.</li> <li>• 6% of young people told us they have experienced parental drug or alcohol abuse</li> <li>• 5% experienced domestic violence</li> <li>• 61% of those who identified as LGBT experienced bullying compared to 37% 'heterosexual'</li> </ul> <p>The number one issue that both primary school and post-primary school children felt could make County Clare a safer place was by increasing Garda presence in the county.</p> <p>The 'Clare Survey', carried out by Ireland Thinks in May 2023, indicated that residents in Clare rated public safety in the County as 3.6 out of 5.</p>
<p>What did CYPSC Members say?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Violence and Abuse- Long waiting lists for support services and the prevalence of domestic violence was a prevalent issue raised by members, sub-group members and CFSN professionals.</li> <li>• Housing Instability and Risk of Homelessness - Housing issues, including poor housing conditions and the risk of homelessness.</li> <li>• Language Barriers for Immigrant Families - The difficulty faced by families from other countries with limited English proficiency.</li> </ul>

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionals interviewed as part of the consultation process told us that there is a need for increased services for domestic violence in the county.</li> <li>• Consultees indicated that establishing a county-wide strategy on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, including implementing diversity training programmes, is deemed necessary to address the needs of diverse populations, including asylum seekers, ethnic minorities, and marginalised groups.</li> <li>• CYPSC members and other professionals working with children and young people felt that supporting vulnerable populations such as Traveller children and their parents, victims of domestic abuse, children in IPAS centres, homeless children, and families in emergency accommodation is critical moving forward.</li> </ul>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased services for vulnerable groups throughout the county including Traveller children and their parents, victims of domestic abuse, children in IPAS centres, homeless children, and families in emergency accommodation</li> </ul>

Outcome 4. Have Economic Security and Opportunity	
<p>How are Children &amp; Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 102,900 people living in the county in April 2022 were aged 15 and over and of these more than 56,100 people were at work. This was an increase of 13% (from the Census 2016).</li> <li>Almost 5,000 people were unemployed in the county in April 2022. This was considerably lower than the 2016 figure of more than 7,000 people (a decrease of 29%). The unemployment rate was 8% compared with 12% in 2016.</li> <li>Kilrush had one of the highest rates of unemployment (among towns with a population of at least 1,500 people), at 20%.</li> <li>The labour force participation rate was 59% in Clare compared with 61% nationally.</li> <li>Weekly rent from private landlord was €187.90, compared to €273 in the State. Rent increased by 47% between 2016 to 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>130 people entered HAP in 2022. The average waiting time for HAP entry was 217 days (less than 1 year across the State)</li> <li>10.9% of HAP entrants were referred from homeless compared to 24% for State.</li> <li>54.8% of tenants coming into HAP were in employment in the Co. Clare area compared to 65.3% in the State.</li> <li>€13,818 median earned income of households entering HAP (€17,413 State).</li> </ul>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Children and young people indicating financial issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% said they sometimes don't have enough money to buy basics</li> <li>3% said they regularly struggle to pay bills, have holidays or pay for schoolbooks etc.</li> </ul> <p>The 'Clare Survey', carried out by Ireland Thinks in May 2023, indicated that 47% of residents in Clare felt there was a need for more investment in housing in the county.</p> <p>A high proportion of children and young people responding to the mental health research completed by Clare CYPSC indicated that money would be a barrier to them accessing a community-based mental health facility.</p> <p>Members of the traveling community struggled to find employment, which was suggested to be an ongoing impact from a lack of accessible training opportunities.</p>
<p>What did CYPSC Members say?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CYPSC members felt that this was an outcome area that they wanted to influence actions led by other agencies, rather than prioritise specific CYPSC action.</li> <li>The LECP and CYPSC has joint membership and 8 strategic actions in the LECP have been mapped across to the CYPSC action plan in this strategy.</li> </ul>

Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services in this outcome area are subject to consultation for the LECP at the time of writing this strategy.</li> <li>• CYPSC members felt there is a need to ensure continued coordination across both partnerships to ensure that children and young people in the most deprived areas of the county, and those who have been excluded from the formal education system, do not get left behind.</li> </ul>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure CYPSC advocates for children and young people in the implementation of its LECP.</li> <li>• Continued coordination across the LECP and CYPSC to add value to the most relevant strategic actions in the LECP.</li> <li>• Advocate for gaps in services to be addressed through the LECP, particularly for NEETS.</li> </ul>

<b>Outcome 5. Connected respected and contributing to their world</b>	
<p>How are Children &amp; Young People in Clare CYPSC area doing?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92% of CYP who answered gave positive responses for what it is like to live in Co. Clare – 8% negative.</li> <li>• Generally, children and young people like living in Clare. People are kind; like the coastal setting; lots of friends; fun activities; sports; majority of responses are positive.</li> <li>• 97% of primary school children expressed positive opinion about living in Co. Clare</li> </ul>
<p>What did the consultations tell us?</p>	<p>Primary school children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14% experience difficulty with social skills</li> <li>• 22% are involved in a club/sport/youth service etc.</li> </ul> <p>Post-primary school children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in 4 experience difficulty with social skills</li> <li>• 67% are involved in volunteers/sport/youth services etc.</li> <li>• 65% have friends who they trust and support them – 29% mixture – 6% don't have much support in life.</li> <li>• 75% feel loved, wanted, safe and secure at home. 20% sometime feel unloved or unwanted, 3% don't feel loved/wanted/unsafe.</li> <li>• YouTube, WhatsApp, Snapchat most used social media platforms</li> <li>• 58% believe social media is a useful/good platform.</li> </ul> <p>A workshop with Ukrainian children living in the county indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They listed a lot of positive attributes about Co. Clare: natural beauty and fresh air, the environment etc. However, they disliked the remoteness and lack of connectivity. Isolation was particularly acute for children who had moved from city environments to rural Clare.</li> <li>• Ukrainian children and young people faced a range of challenges including: transportation, access to medical facilities, difficulties faced in school, such as language barriers and integration issues.</li> <li>• Ukrainian children and young people suggested several ways to improve their experience in Co. Clare, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ more social activities,</li> <li>○ cultural exchange events</li> <li>○ better transportation and medical facilities</li> <li>○ more support to non-native speakers in schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ making it easier for people to understand the culture and customs of the local community.</li> </ul>
What did CYPSC Members say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation and Lack of Community Connection - Isolation from communities, peers, and geographical limitations was highlighted as an issue affecting children and young people.</li> <li>• Challenges in Parenting and Lack of Support - Issues related to parenting, lack of support, and difficulties in accessing services was mentioned repeatedly.</li> <li>• The challenges facing the Traveller community, including limited access to housing, childcare, and support services, as well as the impact of domestic violence and cultural issues.</li> </ul>
Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for more social groups for parents and children - especially COVID babies who have not had the socialising and developmental opportunities that other children may have had.</li> <li>• Availability of social groups that have life skills that they don't teach in schools.</li> <li>• Promoting walking and swimming – free physical activity capitalising on the natural resource of the area.</li> </ul>
What are the emerging priorities for the outcome area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring children and young people are engaged in service development and planning in the county. Children and young people expressed desire to be central to the planning of services and consultation moving forward.</li> <li>• Increase the level of support provided to immigrant youths in the county, particularly in areas of the county that have high proportions of immigrant youth, and in centres where young people find it hard to reach out and access services.</li> </ul>

#### Overall observations from the needs assessment:

Two issues stood out significantly throughout the consultation process for this CYPP. Mental health and transportation.

#### Mental Health:

Consultation with children and young people on mental health needs of children and young people in county Clare indicated:

- Children and young people had a higher level of awareness of statutory mental health services in the county, but a lower level of awareness of voluntary services that could provide support for their needs.
- Most children and young people prefer to talk to their friends about mental health and wellbeing, followed by family and then professional services.
- More than two thirds of children and young people in County Clare indicated that embarrassment is the main barrier to them seeking support for their mental health and wellbeing. Confidentiality, costs and stigma were also significant factors.



- More than 925 of children and young people indicated that they suffered from stress, 76% from anxiety, and 66% from loneliness. Children and young people who identified as LGBT experienced more significant issues in and around bullying, problems at home, eating disorders, and sexuality.

79% of professionals working with children and young people in the county said they did not feel enough is being done to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in the Co. Clare area.

### **Transportation:**

This was by far the most common issue raised across all consultations to inform the development of the CYPP.

49% of respondents to the Clare Survey completed by Ireland Thinks in 2023 said that their transport needs are not being met in the county. 55% of respondents indicated that infrequent services were the biggest issue with transportation in the county, followed by 49% suggesting there are not enough transport routes. The issue of infrequent services was raised by more residents in the Killaloe LEA and the Ennistymon areas. The disproportionate impact of a poor transport service on children and young people is highlighted by the finding that younger people in County Clare are much more likely to take public transport on a regular basis. Those aged 18-24 are far more likely to take public transport at least on a monthly basis (70%).

## Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Clare:

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health and well-being community provision for children and young people</li> <li>• Promoting access to sport and physical activity for all families especially young people with additional needs</li> <li>• Promoting health and well-being in the home with a focus on food poverty</li> <li>• Young people supported to develop healthy relationships</li> <li>• Promoting play across the county</li> </ul>
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early years pre-literacy and numeracy are nurtured in the home</li> <li>• Supporting young people to stay in education</li> <li>• Supporting educational transitions for young people</li> <li>• Trauma informed practices</li> <li>• Young People living independent lives</li> </ul>
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting support and signposting</li> <li>• Development of an infant mental health network</li> <li>• Explore supports for Parents with mental health challenges</li> <li>• Support anti-bullying awareness</li> <li>• Support the promotion of Hidden Harm</li> <li>• Support for victims of domestic violence</li> <li>• IPAS/Ukraine response</li> </ul>
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Partnerships</li> <li>• Promoting employability opportunities for young people</li> <li>• Improving access to employment and training</li> </ul>
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipping organisations with skills to include young people</li> <li>• Dedicated youth spaces for under 12’s</li> <li>• Restorative practice-based communities</li> <li>• Supporting immigrant youth</li> <li>• Youth volunteering</li> <li>• Gender identity awareness training</li> </ul>
6. Change management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Incident Protocol</li> <li>• Local needs analysis</li> <li>• Interagency collaboration</li> </ul>



## Section 6: Action Plan for Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active And Healthy, Physical, And Mental Wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.1 Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Provision for Children and Young People	A youth mental health facility operates within Co. Clare, with alternative strategies implemented until its establishment.	Recommendations from Clare CYPSC Mental Health Research are implemented	<p>Clear pathway to establishing pilot youth mental health service in Clare is identified, including ascertaining viable funding sources</p> <p>Report published detailing benefits of creative arts therapy in supporting youth mental health</p>	<p>Publish Mental Health research</p> <p>Consult with existing youth-led committees to advise on project development</p> <p>Evaluate the role that creative arts therapy can be used to support the mental health of young people in Co. Clare</p>	<p>Q2 2025</p> <p>Q2 2025</p> <p>Q4 2024</p>	<p>Active &amp; Healthy Subgroup and a separate working group</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>Tusla</p> <p>Clare Youth Service</p> <p>Mental Health Ireland</p> <p>Bluebox Creative Arts Therapy</p>	<p>Sharing the Vision</p> <p>Connecting for Life Strategy</p> <p>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-25</p> <p>LECP Strategic Action - Support the delivery of the Healthy Clare Action Plan 2023-2025 focused on supporting mental health and healthy weight in the County.</p>	<p><b>Transformational goals:</b></p> <p>Earlier intervention and prevention</p> <p>Listen to and involve children and young people</p> <p>Ensure quality services</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active And Healthy, Physical, And Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		Increased numbers of young people accessing website and chat service	10% increase in number of users accessing Heads Up Clare Website, and number of Clare young people accessing Youth Information Chat Service	Update and promote 'Heads Up Clare' Website and Youth Information Chat Service	Q2 2025	ISPCC CYPSC Subgroup		
		Number of participants in Digital Mental Health Supports programme	30 young people and/or parents participate in Digital Mental Health Supports programme	Promote ISPCC Digital Mental Health Supports programme	Q1 2025			

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active And Healthy, Physical, And Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.2 Promote access to and participation in mainstream sports	To explore and remove barriers for disadvantaged youth/youth with disabilities to participate in sports	Number of clubs that organise a swap shop event in Co. Clare	10 clubs partake, and 50 young people avail of equipment through the swap shop exchange in 2024/25	Organise a swap shop event for clubs to gather unused or unwanted sporting equipment which can then be offered to young people.	Q4. 2025	Clare Sports Partnership	Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-25	<b>Transformational goals:</b> Support parents  Earlier intervention and prevention  Ensure quality services
		Number of young people with mild disabilities targeted to engage with mainstream sporting events in the county	25 young people with mild disabilities will have participated in mainstream sporting events in the county	To work with Cuman na Bunscoil and Community Games Clare to include the participation of young people with mild disabilities to engage with their events	Q4. 2025	NCSE (National Council for Special Education)  Active & Healthy subgroup  Cumann Na mBunscoil Clare  Children's disability services (statutory and voluntary)	Healthy Clare Strategy  Clare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan  LECP Strategic Action - To support the implementation of a Sports Strategy for Clare to encourage and enhance opportunities in sports for Clare communities	

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active And Healthy, Physical, And Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.3 Promote health and wellbeing practices in the home and community to tackle the issue of food poverty in Clare.	Communities are supported to access affordable and healthy food through interagency collaboration	<p>An interagency working group is established to develop a Clare Food Partnership initiative</p> <p>A working plan is developed for the working group</p>	<p>Working group established with a representation from the voluntary and statutory sector by the end of 2024</p> <p>Work plan developed</p>	<p>The Working Group will devise a TOR and work plan</p> <p>A mapping of community supports tackling food poverty is conducted</p> <p>Gaps in service provision reported and hot-spots identified</p> <p>Healthy Food Education Programmes delivered in the communities based on findings of the mapping exercise</p>	<p>Q1 2025</p> <p>Q1 2026</p> <p>Q2 2026</p> <p>Q3 2026</p>	<p>CYPSC Active &amp; Healthy subgroup</p> <p>Clare Food Partnership Working Group</p> <p>Clare County Council Healthy Clare</p> <p>Clare Local Development Company</p> <p>HSE Dietician Service</p>	Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-25	<p><b>Transformational goals:</b></p> <p>Earlier intervention and prevention</p> <p>Ensure quality services</p>



## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active And Healthy, Physical, And Mental Wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
1.4 Young people supported to develop healthy relationships	Frontline workers feel confident promoting a positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health for young people	Number of young people accessing the online healthy relationships course  Number of practitioners using the online healthy relationships course in their practice	25 young people have completed the online healthy relationships course  10 practitioners are actively using the online healthy relationships course in their practice	Edit the existing online healthy relationships course ( developed by the Clare and Limerick CYPSC) targeting young people in Care, to make an additional universal resource for young people age 12-18 years old.	Q4 2025	Active & Healthy subgroup	H.S.E National Service Plan 2024	<b>Transformational goals:</b>  Ensure quality services
1.5 To promote play as a vehicle for physical activity across sectors in Clare	Play is respected in the county as an integral part of wellness and physical activity	Number of participants attending the Having Fun & Getting Active/123 Move with Me training workshops	4 Having Fun & Getting Active/123 Move with Me training workshops will be provided for parents and professionals of children 0 – 6	Deliver Having Fun & Getting Active/123 Move With Me training workshops	Q 3. 2025	Clare Sports Partnership  Active & Healthy subgroup		<b>Transformational goals:</b>  Support parents  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination



## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving In All Areas Of Learning And Development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.1 Early years pre-literacy and numeracy nurtured in the home.	Support parents in their child's learning and development at home through the delivery of play based learning.	Completion of feasibility study	Feasibility study carried out highlighting the benefits, drawbacks, and barriers to implementing Explore, Play, Learn in the county.	Scope the feasibility of developing the Explore Play Learn Framework within the county and develop recommendations as to appropriate partners who may be in a position to implement the framework	Q4. 2025	CYPSC Coordinator  Clare County Childcare Committee	LECP Strategic Action - lifelong learning and development strategy including early childhood education  Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework	<b>Transformational goals:</b>  Support parents  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving In All Areas Of Learning And Development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.2 Supporting young people to stay in education	Retain more young people in formal and non-formal education in the post-primary junior cycle	Numbers of young people in Co. Clare maintaining in education	. Subgroup identifies one model of alternative education which can be adapted to support young people in Co. Clare.	Distribute survey to all schools in Clare to identify numbers of children who could benefit from an alternative education school placement	Q 4. 2024	Achieving in Learning subgroup	Department of Education: Review of Out of School Education Provision	<b>Transformational goals:</b> Support transitions Support parents Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination
				Review and evaluate models of alternative education for 12 – 15 year olds which can be adapted to suit the needs of Co. Clare  Present survey findings and recommendations to the LCETB and Department of Education	Q1. 2025  Q2 2025			

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving In All Areas Of Learning And Development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	Address high levels of school avoidance in the county through supporting parents and practitioners	<p>Numbers of updated School Avoidance Toolkits printed and distributed</p> <p>Online toolkit updated and made more user friendly</p> <p>Parent communication resource developed</p>	<p>Launch of updated version of School Avoidance Toolkit.</p> <p>50 Toolkits distributed in hardcopy to schools and practitioners in Co. Clare</p> <p>1,000 parent communication guides distributed</p>	<p>Review and update the School Avoidance toolkit.</p> <p>Edits made to the online toolkit</p> <p>Develop a practical communication resource to support parents of children who are school refusers</p>	<p>Q2 2025</p> <p>Q4. 2024</p> <p>Q4. 2024</p>	<p>Achieving in all areas subgroup</p> <p>School Completion Programme</p> <p>NEPS</p>	<p>Managing Reluctant Attendance and School Avoidance Behaviour – Department of Education Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028: Report on the Responses to the Public Consultation</p>	
		Number of workshops delivered	3 workshops delivered during the year	Deliver Anxious Teens Workshop in schools as a whole school approach.	Q 2. 2025	NEPS Primary Care Psychology		

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving In All Areas Of Learning And Development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
		Number of attendees at webinar	50+ attendees at webinar	Development of a webinar based on Anxious Teens to engage schools and parents.	Q. 1 2026			
2.3 Supporting educational transitions for children and young people	Improving transition protocols between schools and pre-schools.	Number of teachers completing the data collection exercise	25 primary teachers complete data collection exercise	Complete a data collection exercise for primary school teachers of junior and senior infants to explore barriers to successful transition	Q3. 2025	LCETB  Achieving in all areas Subgroup  Clare County Childcare Committee	Mo Scéal: Moving from Preschool to Primary  NCCA Research Report No. 19: Transition from Preschool to Primary School	<b>Transformational goals:</b>  Support transitions  Support parents  Ensure quality services
		Number of schools availing of workshops	Minimum of 10 primary schools in Clare attend workshops on transitions	Adapt and deliver workshops on transitions based on individualised school needs	Q4. 2025			

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving In All Areas Of Learning And Development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
2.4 Trauma awareness practices in educational settings	To create trauma-aware/trauma-responsive learning environments	Practitioners avail of trauma awareness training.	50 practitioners in the education sector attend targeted trauma awareness training	Continue to provide Trauma awareness practices training and opportunities across the county for professionals in the education/further learning sector	Q1. 2026	Clare Trauma Informed Working Group in partnership with the Achieving in Learning subgroup		<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Support parents  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination  Earlier Intervention and Prevention
2.5 Young people living independent lives	Enable Children and young people to reach their full potential	Number of recommendations to be implemented	Subgroup identifies at least 1 suitable recommendation which can be adapted to support the needs of young people in Co. Clare	Review recommendations of relevant reports in relation to anxiety, resilience and mental health  Identify needs in order to build resilience and promote independent living skills in young people, and support parents to promote these skills at home	Q3. 2026	Achieving in All Areas Subgroup	How's Your Head? Young Voices During Covid 19 Report  Clare CYPSC Mental Health Research	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination  Ensure Quality Services  <b>Outcomes:</b>  Outcome 1: Active and Healthy

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.1 Parenting support and signposting	Provide accessible information on parenting supports	Website developed and launched  Number of views on website	1 website developed and launched  A minimum of 500 hits on the website within 12 months of launch	Undertake survey and focus groups with parents.  Analyse findings from consultation and produce report  Setting up a website (Clareparenting.ie) for parents with all relevant information for parent support & courses in Clare.  Promotion and awareness of the website  A system and staffing resource set up for the ongoing maintenance of the website	Q2. 2024  Q.2 2024  Q.4 2024  Q.1 2025  Q4 2025	CYPSC Parenting Working Group	Clare Parent Strategy  Tusla Parent Support Strategy	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Supporting parents



## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.2 Explore development of an Infant Mental Health Network for Co Clare	To develop awareness of Infant Mental Health among practitioners to better support parents	Establishment of steering group  Establishment of network of practitioners  Number of attendees at training and learning events	Steering group established  Applicable materials and resources reviewed and adapted for Co. Clare needs  15 practitioners sign up to reflective practice forum network  50 practitioners attend training events	Establish Infant Mental Health Steering Group  Review of materials  Provide resources to practitioners to set up a reflective practice forum network.  Raise awareness of Infant Mental Health with parents  Organise training events	Q4. 2024  Q1. 2025  Q2. 2025  Q4. 2025  Q1. 2026	Safe and protected subgroup	Irish Association for Infant Mental Health  Department of Children  Department of Health  HSE – Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan (Mid-west) Healthy Ireland Framework  Tusla ABC Approach  HSE Nurture  Stronger Together 2022-27  First 5  National Service Plan	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Support parents  Ensure Quality Services

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.3 Explore what parents with mental health challenges need in their role as parents.	<p>To hear the voice of parents with mental health challenges.</p> <p>To hear from parents about what supports them in their role as parents</p> <p>To co-produce a piece of research with parents and local agencies.</p> <p>To review and share the research findings and learning.</p> <p>To increase service providers understanding of the needs of parents with mental challenges.</p>	<p>Funding for research secured.</p> <p>Ethical approval for research.</p> <p>Number of participants invited to take part in the study.</p> <p>Number of research participants that participated in the study.</p>	<p>Parental participation in research.</p> <p>Research coproduced with parents.</p> <p>Final research report with SMART recommendations</p>	<p>Establish interagency and parent forum.</p> <p>Agree scope of research to be coproduced.</p> <p>Secure funding.</p> <p>Research commissioned</p> <p>Feedback research findings &amp; sharing of recommendations</p> <p>Final launch of research to deliver a planning day with parents and service providers.</p>	<p>Q4. 2024</p> <p>Q4. 2024</p> <p>Q4. 2024</p> <p>Q4. 2024</p> <p>Q3. 2025</p> <p>Q4. 2025</p>	<p>CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup</p> <p>Mental Health Interagency and Parent Forum</p>	<p>Tusla Parent Support Strategy 2022-2027</p> <p>Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services DCEDIY 2022</p> <p>Patient and Public Involvement in Research ,HSE</p> <p>Better Together – HSE Services Patient Engagement Road Model</p>	<p><b>Transformational Goals:</b></p> <p>Support parents</p> <p>Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.4 Support existing anti-bullying awareness campaign and identify gaps	Practitioners feel capable to address issues of bullying among young people and instances of bullying in Co. Clare are reduced.	<p>Number of young people and representatives from minority groups involved in advising and implementing campaign</p> <p>% decrease in reported bullying incidents</p>	<p>5 young people advise on campaign implementation.</p> <p>Representatives from 3 minority groups advise on implementation of campaign.</p> <p>Clare focused ISPCC Shield Campaign is rolled out</p> <p>5% decrease in reported instances of bullying within organisations adopting the campaign.</p>	<p>Meet with ISPCC representatives to outline existing activity and propose a direction for Co Clare, with the input of young people and members of minority groups such as LGBTQI+, those with additional needs or migrant communities.</p> <p>Support rollout of the ISPCC Shield Campaign</p>	<p>Q2. 2025</p> <p>Q2. 2025</p>	<p>Clare CYPSC</p> <p>ISPCC</p> <p>Schools/alternative education providers</p> <p>Sporting organisations, GAA</p>	<p>Young Ireland Strategy</p> <p>ISPCC Shield Campaign</p> <p>Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making- Action Plan 2023-2028</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Outcome 1: Active and Healthy</p> <p>Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning &amp; Development</p> <p>Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
3.5 Supporting the community in the promotion of <i>hidden harm</i> <sup>19</sup> and the impact on children	Promoting the use of hidden harm training and resources for practitioners in Co Clare in order to improve support mechanisms for families and young people affected by <i>hidden harm</i>	Increased awareness of hidden harm among practitioners in the county.  Promotion of <i>Hidden Harm</i> resources.  No. of people accessing training.	20 practitioners attend hidden harm training  10 agencies engage in networking dialogues.	Promote Hidden Harm Training across the county.  Create a network to open dialogues between agencies in order to share good practice and align individual work plans.  Promote existing pathways to drug and alcohol services.	Q 3. 2025  Q1. 2026	Safe and Protected Subgroup  HSE (National lead)  Tusla (National lead).	H.S.E Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017-2025	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Interagency collaboration and coordination  Ensure quality service  <b>Outcomes:</b>  Outcome 1
3.6 Increased level of support for victims of domestic violence	Awareness raising for practitioners of the increase in domestic violence and improved training for frontline workers in order to	Publication of training needs analysis  No. of individuals accessing the website	Training needs analysis completed for practitioners in Co. Clare.  Launch of website  250 hits on	Development, distribution and reporting on the findings of a training needs assessment of DVA and CC training for practitioners in Clare.	Q. 4 2024	Clare Local Area Network (CLAN)	Zero Tolerance Strategy 2024, Cuan  Tusla's universal e-learning module on DSGBV which compliments the implementation	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Ensure quality services  Earlier intervention and prevention

<sup>19</sup> The experience of children and young people living with and impacted by parental problem alcohol and other drug use.

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
	better support victims of domestic violence		website within 1 year of launch	Development of a website highlighting DV support services, resources, host training events (including maintenance).	Q. 1 2025		of the Zero Tolerance Strategy 2024.	
3.7 International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BTOP) Response	To provide support and opportunities for integration into the local community to families and young people living in International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BTOP)	Number of families engaged with link worker  Numbers of young people participating in youth activities	Support a minimum of 12 families and children living in IPAS and BTOP  40 young people in IPAS and BOTP participate in youth activities and/or summer camps	Family Link worker to support parents and young people living in International Protection Accommodation Service  Hosting of youth activities and summer camps to promote integration among communities	Q4. 2025  Q4. 2026	CYPSC Protection from Harm Sub-group  ISPCC  NWCFCRC  Clare Youth Service	LECP Strategic Action: To support the Delivery of the Clare Integration Strategy	<b>Transformational Goals:</b> Ensure quality services  Earlier intervention and prevention  <b>Outcomes:</b> Outcome 1: Active and Healthy Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning & Development Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People’s Services Committee								
Outcome 3: Safe And Protected From Harm								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 4: Economic Security And Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
4.1 Strategic Partnerships	Enhance working relationships between LCDC and Clare CYPSC	Number of meetings between LCDC and CYPSC to discuss coordinating plans  Number of joint actions	Minimum of 2 meetings per year with LCDC to discuss gaps in plan and actions to be taken.  1 joint action between CYPSC and LCDC agreed upon.	Liaise with LCDC to identify gaps in Local Economic Community Plan to which CYSPC can add value.  Advocate for gaps to be addressed either in LCDC or CYPSC sub-groups	Q4. 2026	LCDC & CYPSC Coordinators	LECP Strategic Action: To target local intervention and support for sustainable livelihoods for disadvantaged communities.  LECP: collaborative working across partnerships.  8 LECP Strategic actions included in CYPSC Plan	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination  <b>Outcomes:</b>  Outcome 1,2,3,4,5
4.2 Promoting employability opportunities for young people	Support young people to secure employment	Number of young people attending training  Number of attenders sourcing training	10 young people participate in training	Provide training opportunities to members of the travelling community to enhance their employment skills	04. 2025	Clare Local Development Company  Clare Traveller Community Development Project	Clare Traveller CDP Strategic Plan 2023-26	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Earlier intervention and prevention  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 4: Economic Security And Opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
4.3 Improving access to employment and training	Young people have easier access to employment and training opportunities	Timetables are reviewed and/or amended	At least 1 timetable is amended to better accommodate employment and training schedules	Establish interagency working group to enter discussions with local transportation services to amend timetables to better suit those in employment or education	Q.4 2026	Clare CYPSC Steering Committee	National Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022-2025	<b>Transformational Goals:</b> Pathways to economic participation and independent living



## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
5.1 Equipping organisations and statutory services with the knowledge and skills to include and engage with young people in the delivery of their services	Organisations and statutory services implement the Lundy model within their service provision	Application made by a statutory agency for Youth Participation Award	<p>Youth friendly practices will be employed in relevant parts of local authority</p> <p>An application for the Youth Participation Award will be submitted by a Department within the local authority</p>	<p>Present the Lundy Model to relevant stakeholders within local authority</p> <p>Collaborate with local authority to pilot a youth friendly approach, with the aim of applying for a Youth Participation Award</p> <p>Statutory services develop age-appropriate resources that can assist children and young people to understand and engage with that statutory service provider.</p>	Q1 2025	<p>Clare County Council</p> <p>Clare Youth Service</p> <p>Connected and Respected Subgroup</p>	<p>Young Ireland Strategy</p> <p>Child and Youth Participation Award</p> <p>Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making-Action Plan 2023-2028</p>	<p><b>Transformational Goals:</b></p> <p>Listen to and involve children and young people</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
5.2 Child and Youth friendly spaces and models are made accessible as an integral part of creating a positive network of friends, family, and community for young people	Existing spaces and models are made available for children and young people's activities, with the support of the local community.	Space and a model are identified and pilot project launched	Suitable spaces and models identified and funding sourced to run pilot project	<p>Scope out models of activity which can be developed or adapted to compliment and support Clare's current youth work model.</p> <p>Work with agencies to review CLDC findings and develop recommendation around youth-age friendly practices for facilities across the county</p> <p>Maintain and update database of community led spaces throughout Co. Clare</p>	<p>Q4 2025</p> <p>Q1 2026</p>	<p>Connected Respected and Economically Secure Subgroup</p> <p>Clare County Council</p>	<p>Double Club Evaluation Research Brief</p> <p>Planet Youth Recreation Card Model</p>	<p><b>Transformational Goals:</b></p> <p>Earlier intervention and prevention</p> <p>Ensure Quality Services</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
5.3 To support the generation of restorative practice based communities	Practitioners and young people develop communication skills to deal with conflict  Young people are part of positive networks of family, friends and community	Working Group Established  Number of individuals undertaking training  Number of attendees at conference	Representatives from 5 separate organisations join Restorative Practices Working Group  25 Local Authority Staff undertake training  100 frontlines practitioners attend the conference.	Establish a Restorative Practices Working Group  Enhance the learning from the Kilrush RP experience to other regions in the county i.e. South- East Clare through a scoping exercise carried out by supporting additional hours for the current RP funded trainer.  Organise a follow on restorative practices conference in Clare to strengthen the previous learning between existing practitioners and interested practitioners.	Q. 1 2025  Q2 2025     Q1. 2026	Connected & respected Subgroup  Restorative practices working group  MWDAF  Clare County Council	Youth Justice Strategy 2020-2026  Restorative Practices Ireland Strategic Plan 2021-2024	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Listen to and involve children and young People  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination  <b>Outcomes:</b>  Outcome 1: Active and Healthy Outcome 2: Achieving in Learning & Development Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Promote Restorative Practice Training within the local authority as a learning and development opportunity				
5.4 Ensure gaps in supporting immigrant youth are identified in the development of an integration strategy	Ensure that the development of the County Integration strategy includes the needs of immigrant children and young people.	100 young people from ethnic minority communities are engaged in a consultation process	A number of actions in the Integration Strategy focus on Children and Young People	<p>Liaise with stakeholders during plan development to ensure that a consultative process is carried out so that the needs of children and young people are integral to the plan.</p> <p>A series of consultative workshops are conducted throughout the county</p>	Q4 2025	<p>Connected and Respected Subgroup</p> <p>Clare County Council</p> <p>Clare Local Development Company</p> <p>National Youth Council of Ireland</p>	<p>LECP Strategic Actions</p> <p>Migrant Integration Strategy – Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform</p> <p>Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029</p> <p>Clare County Local Sports Plan</p> <p>Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan</p>	<p><b>Transformational Goals:</b></p> <p>Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination</p>

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
5.5 Youth volunteering	To enhance young people's civic engagement through youth volunteering opportunities	Number of organisations developing youth volunteer roles  Number of young people participating in "Be Part of It"	40 organisations sign up for training and support to develop youth volunteer roles  50 young people attend the "Be Part Of It" Expo	Provide training and support to organisations on volunteer role development for young volunteers  Promote volunteer roles through a "Be Part Of It" Expo	Q4. 2025  Q4. 2025	Clare Volunteer Centre  Clare Youth Service  Clare Local Development Company  Connected & Respected subgroup	National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Listen to and involve children and young People  <b>Outcomes:</b> Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity
5.6 Building meaningful relationships in a digital world	Young people have a greater understanding of how to disconnect from media and maintain healthy relationships in their real life	Programme delivered throughout the county	"Golden rules" infographics circulated throughout county  Programme expanded to 4 towns around Clare	Evaluate the results of a pilot programme developed with Transition Year students, aimed at 6 <sup>th</sup> class students, to raise awareness of digital safety and relationship building.  Promote "Golden Rules for Digital Safety" once developed at completion of project	Q2. 2025	Clare Local Development Company  Tusla PPFS	H.S.E Detox from the Digital Monster initiative  Department of Education Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Earlier intervention and prevention

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected, And Contributing To Their World

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				Adapt and Expand programme across County Clare based on results				
5.7 Gender identity awareness raising	Practitioners have a greater understanding of Gender Identity issues for Children and Young People and feel better prepared to respond to presenting issues.	Number of practitioners attending training	Gender Awareness Training identified  30 individuals attend Gender Awareness Training	Explore Gender Awareness Training opportunities and identify appropriate training for frontline practitioners in Clare  Provide Gender Awareness Training to practitioners	Q3. 2025	Connected & Respected Subgroup	Gender Recognition Act 2015	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Earlier intervention and prevention  Support parents  <b>Outcomes:</b>  Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
6.1 Critical Incident Protocol	Develop a Critical Incident Protocol which complements existing CIP structures	Number of models reviewed  Launch of CIP	Working Group Formed  Critical Incident Protocol Developed	Establish Working Group  Review existing models of practice and develop CIP which complements existing structures	Q. 2 2026	CIP Working Group  CYPSC Steering Committee	CYPSC South Dublin Interagency Protocol  NEPS: Responding to Critical Incidents  Clare County Council Major Emergency Plan	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination  <b>Outcomes</b>  Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm
6.2 Local needs analysis	Explore existing data collection models which may be of benefit to gathering extensive county wide data for multiple agencies and reduce the need for numerous isolated data collection studies	Presentation held for stakeholders to on a range of data collection models available for future data collection and needs analysis for Co. Clare.	1 Presentation made to relevant stakeholders regarding Panet Youth and other data collection models including SWOT analysis and feedback from other CYPSCs who have implemented various data collection models	Investigate the feasibility of using a specific data collection model for CYPSC Clare	Q4. 2025	CYPSC Steering Committee	Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention Model	<b>Transformational Goals:</b> Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination Ensure Quality Services

## Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Change Management

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
6.3 Interagency collaboration	Ensure relevant statutory agencies are represented within CYPSC	Presentations made to stakeholders HSE representatives invited to sit on CYPSC Steering Committee	1 HSE representative sits on CYPSC Steering Committee	Present on Clare CYPSC to stakeholders within HSE  Invite HSE representatives to sit on Clare CYPSC	Q3. 2025	CYPSC Steering Committee	Blueprint for the Development of CYPSC	<b>Transformational Goals:</b>  Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination
6.4 Trauma Informed Working Group	To develop a multi-agency response to trauma informed practices in Co. Clare	The Trauma Informed Working Group meet 4 times a year  Charter developed  Strategic plan developed  6 trainings/CDP events delivered	2 trauma training events delivered per year  15 organisations sign up to trauma awareness charter  A country wide strategic plan is developed	Gaps in trauma awareness are identified within sectors and training/CDP events organised to support professionals in response  Establish structured charter in which organisations agree to actively work towards becoming more Trauma Aware	Q4 2025          Q4. 2026	Trauma Informed Working Group  ISPC		Cross-government and interagency collaboration and coordination



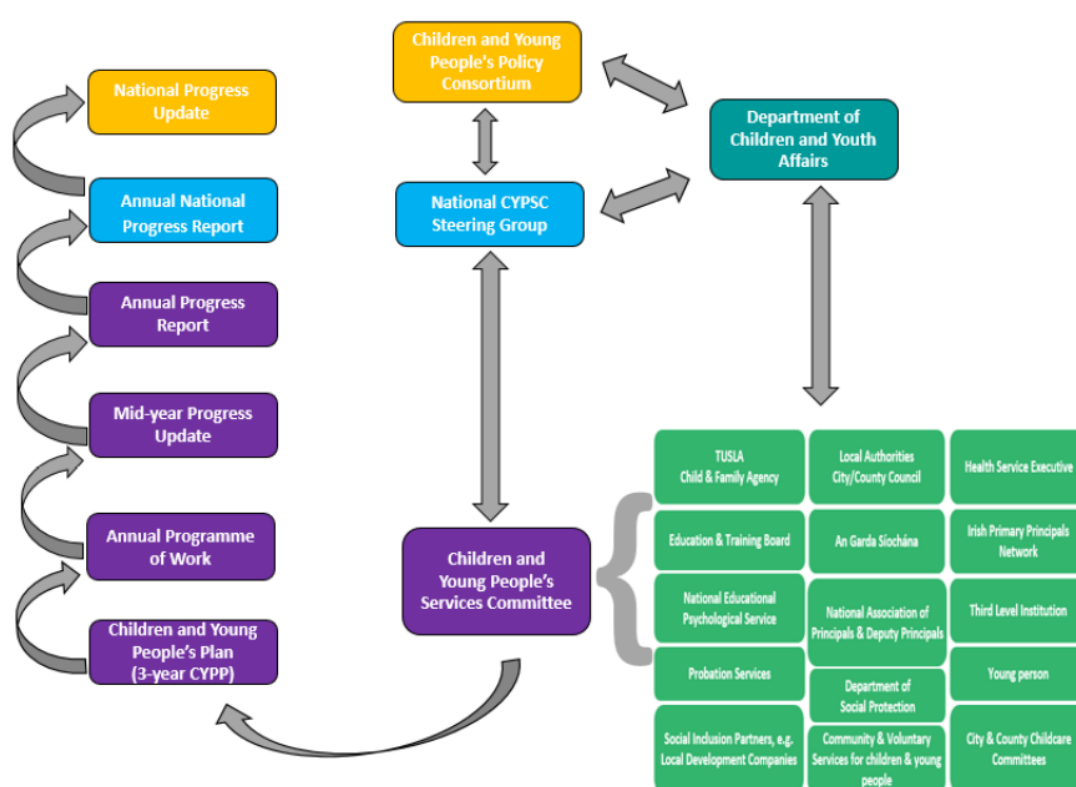
Action Plan for Co. Clare Children and Young People’s Services Committee								
Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and or Transformational Goal(s)
				<p>Strategic plan developed to enhance interagency collaboration around trauma awareness</p> <p>Engage with national interagency structures who have a trauma focus</p>				

## Section 7: Monitoring and Review

Co. Clare CYPSC is committed to ongoing review and monitoring of the implementation of the CYPP and will meet on a regular basis throughout the lifetime of the plan – not less than 4 times per annum.

Outcome Groups and Working Groups will be responsible for the implementation of the activities assigned to them and all Outcome Group Chairs will report on progress on activities on a regular basis to Co. Clare CYPSC. In this way emerging issues/challenges will be identified and addressed by the committee.

Clare CYPSC will adhere to the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework (see Figure 1 below) which sets out the parameters within which CYPSC planning and reporting will be conducted. Clare CYPSC commits to completing and submitting reports as set out.



**Figure 1: CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework**

Clare CYPSC will ensure ongoing collection of relevant data and research to inform current and future planning including the evidence coming from other Children and Young People's Services Committees. A comprehensive monitoring tool has been developed to gather both qualitative and quantitative data at the end of each quarter.

A review of the Clare CYPP 2024-2026 will be completed at the end of the three years to inform the delivery of our following plan.

Co. Clare CYPSC will comply with all national reporting requirements and will avail of all opportunities to showcase its work.

## Appendix 1:

### Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee

#### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of Clare CYPSC will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration in order to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in Co. Clare.

#### 2. Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from 10/06/2024 and continue until the 31/12/2026

#### 3. Membership

Clare CYPSC will comprise:

- Aisling O'Neill , Area Manager, Tusla (CYPSC Chairperson)
- Pdraig MacCormaic, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Clare Co. Council (CYPSC Vice-Chairperson)
- Thomas Mulcahy, Acting CYPSC Co-ordinator, Tusla (CYPSC Co-ordinator)
- Áine Mellett, PPFS Manager, Tusla
- Mick Parry, General Manager, Tusla
- Vacancy, H.S.E
- Vacancy, LCETB
- Richard Egan, Senior Educational Psychologist, NEPS
- Jacinta Swann, Family Support Services Manager, Clarecare
- Vacancy, Family Resource Centre representative
- David Finnerty, An Garda Síochána
- Margaret Slattery, C.E.O Clare Youth Services
- Miriam Gleeson, Senior Manager Education and Welfare Services, Tusla
- Yvonne Broderick, Coordinator, Clare County Childcare Committee
- Darina Greene, SICAP Co-ordinator, Clare Local Development Company
- Jillian Bridge, Principal, IPPN
- Vacancy, IPPN

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

- Demonstrate a commitment to work in collaboration with other members of the committee to improve policy development and delivery of services for children.
- Act as a catalyst for the development of children's services in the county.
- Agree tangible projects with outputs that respond to the needs of children, young people and families in Clare.
- Reflect and promote best practice in work with children, young people and families.
- Act as a mechanism to resolve issues in relation to service provision and delivery.
- Promote and ensure good quality communication and engagement between agencies in the county who have a remit for children, young people and families.
- To develop a strategic approach to interagency collaboration by implementing an outcome focused shared work plan for children and young people's services.

- Advise, support, and oversee the CYPSC Co-ordinator and the CYPSC Subgroups in the implementation of their respective roles.

## 5. Meetings

- All meetings will be chaired by Aisling O' Neill, Area Manager, Tusla Midwest.
- A meeting quorum will be 6 members of Clare CYPSC.
- Decisions made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If not possible, CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decisions.
- Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the Chairperson, via the CYPSC Coordinator. This includes:
  - » preparing agendas and supporting papers;
  - » preparing minutes/meeting notes and information.
- Meetings will be held quarterly at Tusla Offices, Ennis Primary Centre, or remotely via Microsoft Teams, at a time and date agreed in advance by Clare CYPSC members.
- If required, sub-group meetings will be arranged outside of these times at a time convenient to sub-group members.

## 6. Amendment, Modification or Variation

The Terms of Reference may be amended, modified or varied in writing after consultation and agreement by Clare CYPSC members.

## Appendix 2:

### Primary Schools Survey Questions:

The online survey to primary school-aged children and young people included the following questions:

1. What is it like to live in Co Clare?
2. What is your favourite thing to do to be active?
3. Are you able to do this where you live in County Clare? If not, please tell us why?
4. How can we support young people in County Clare to be more physically active?
5. Do you have any physical health needs?
6. If Yes, can you please tell us a little more about it
7. In the past week, on how many days have you done a total of 30 minutes or more of physical activity, which was enough to make *you* out of breath? (Please tick)
8. Do you experience difficulties with social skills?
9. Name one thing that young people in County Clare are worried about.
10. What do you do to improve your health and wellbeing and stay well?
11. Have you ever smoked, used a vape, neither
12. Thinking about school, are you currently (e.g. attending school)
13. Education status (e.g. I love school and I do really well at it)
14. Do you struggle with learning in school?
15. If yes, please tell us in what way do you struggle?
16. Have you ever experienced any of the following (issues e.g. bullying)
17. Do you feel safe in your community/other communities
18. How can we make Co Clare a safer place for young people?
19. Are you a member of a club/youth service/sporting group?
20. If yes, please tell us which youth service/club/sporting group etc you are a member of:
21. Name the one thing you would do for Co Clare if you had a magic wand!
22. What is your gender?
23. How old are you?
24. Which part of Co Clare do you live in?

### Secondary Schools Survey Questions:

The online survey to secondary school-aged children and young people included the following questions:

1. How old are you?
2. What is your gender?
3. Which of the following best describes your sexuality?
4. What is your ethnic group?
5. Which part of Co Clare do you live in?
6. How is it to live in Co Clare?
7. Do you experience difficulties with social skills?
8. Do you have any physical health needs?
9. If yes, please specify:
10. What do you think are the big issues affecting the children and young people in County Clare?
11. In the past week, on how many days have you done a total of 30 minutes or more of physical activity, which was enough to raise your breathing rate?

12. What is your favourite physical activity?
13. Are you able to access this in your local area? If not, please tell us why?
14. How can we support young people in County Clare to be more physically active?
15. Thinking about the last week, please rate the following statements for yourself:
16. How can we support young people in County Clare to improve their mental health and wellbeing?
17. In relation to alcohol. Which of the following statements is true for you (e.g. I don't drink regularly or at all. I know about the risks of different types of alcohol.)
18. In relation to alcohol. Which of the following statements is true for your friends/other young people you know (e.g. They don't drink regularly or at all. They know about the risks of different types of alcohol.)
19. In relation to drugs. Which of the following statements is true for you (e.g. I don't take drugs. I only take drugs prescribed by a doctor. I know the risks.)
20. In relation to drugs. Which of the following statements is true for your friends/young people you know (e.g. They don't take drugs. They only take drugs prescribed by a doctor. They know the risks.)
21. How can we support young people and families with drug and alcohol issues?
22. What do you do to improve your health and wellbeing and stay well?
23. Do you, smoke cigarettes, vape, both?
24. Thinking on education, are you currently (e.g. Attending school):
25. Education status (e.g. I love school/college and I do really well at it.)
26. Do you struggle with learning in school/college?
27. If yes, please tell us in what way do you struggle?
28. How can we support people to achieve their potential in learning, to feel more confident about learning?
29. Have you ever experienced any of the following (list of experiences e.g. bullying etc).
30. Thinking about your home environment, do you or your family:
31. Do you feel safe in your community/other communities
32. How can we make Co Clare a safer place for young people?
33. Friends (I have friends I trust etc)
34. Family (I feel loved, wanted, safe and secure at home, etc)
35. Are you a member of a club/youth service/sporting group/volunteer?
36. If yes, please tell us which youth service/club/sporting group etc you are a member of:
37. Do you use any of the following social media (list of social media)?
38. Do you think social media is useful/a good platform?
39. Why do you think this?
40. To reach the activities you would like to get to in Co Clare, how do/would you travel to them?
41. Name the one thing you would do for Co Clare if you had a magic wand!

## Appendix 3:



# Win a €50 Smyths voucher!

Clare CYPSC is running two competitions for young people. Get those creative juices flowing and send us in your photo and/or artwork so we can see what life in Clare is like for you.

### Photo Competition

#### *What's Good About Living in Clare?*

Unleash the power of a photo! Capture the moment and send us a photograph of what you like best about living in Clare.

**Category 1:** 6 years old and under

**Category 2:** 7—9 years old

**Category 3:** 10—12 years old



### Art Competition

#### *If you had a Magic Wand, What Would*

#### *You Do to Make Clare Better?*

Bring colour to your dreams! Imagine how you could improve life in Clare and get drawing.

**Category 1:** 6 years old and under

**Category 2:** 7—9 years old

**Category 3:** 10—12 years old



The prize for each category is €50 Smyths Voucher. Please send your entries to the Clare CYPSC Coordinator:

Thomas.mulcahy@tusla.ie

Include your name, age, and the contact number of a parent/guardian. Closing date for entries is Friday, January 27th.

**Under 6 Photos:**





## Under 6 Artwork:



## 7-9 Photos:

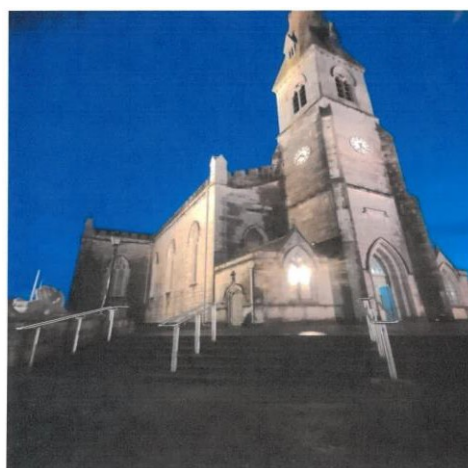
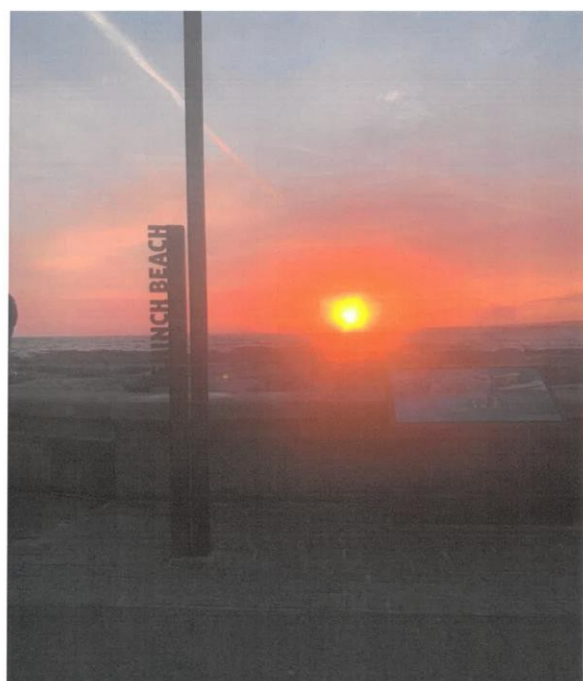
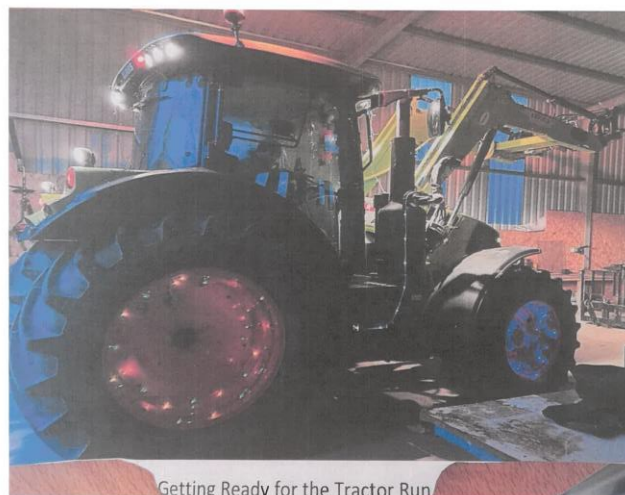


## 7-9 Artwork:





## 10-12 Photos:



## 10-12 Artwork:

