



**Kildare
Children and Young People's
Services Committee**

**Children and Young People's Plan
2019- 2021**

March 2019

Contact

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

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Copies of this plan are available on: www.cypsc.ie

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Foreword

The development of Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (KCYPSC) third 3-Year Plan is the culmination of the efforts of many individuals and organisations in Co. Kildare.

It is heartening to experience the continued commitment of member organisations to the work of KCYPSC in the context of increasing demands and an ever-changing environment.

The new Plan is built on a solid foundation of inter-agency collaborative working that has further grown and developed over the last 6 years.

The Plan reflects the growing realisation by KCYPSC of the value of our collective voice in achieving our shared goal of improving outcomes for children, young people and families in our county by highlighting their needs and accessing the necessary resources from national level to respond appropriately.

The Kildare CYPSC Plan (2019-2021) is a vital tool to assist us with this important task.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the development of the Kildare Children and Young People's Plan and who remain committed to its implementation.

Patricia Finlay
Tusla Service Director, Dublin Mid Leinster
Chair, Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee
March 2019

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committees 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.

CYPSCs work 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**

Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees

Children and Young People’s Services Committees in Ireland

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, established the Children and Young People’s Services Committees (formerly Children’s Services Committees) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Since then CYPSCs have increased incrementally in number and are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people, aged 0 – 24 years, in every county in Ireland.

CYPSCs bring a diverse group of agencies across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors in local county areas together to engage in joint planning of services for children and young people. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. These committees work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through collaborative planning and improved service delivery.

*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*¹ underscores 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. Kildare

Kildare joined Phase II of the initiative, along with 5 other areas, in 2009. Following the establishment stage, the inaugural meeting of the Kildare Children and Young People’s Services Committee took place in June 2010.

In March 2011, a Coordinator was appointed to support the work of the Committee.

In September 2011, the Committee’s first 3 –Year Plan was submitted to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

In June 2014, the Children’s Services Committee became the Children and Young People’s Services Committee, reflecting policy change at national level, which expanded the age remit of the work of the Committee from 0-18years to 0-24 years.

A second 3-Year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) for Co. Kildare was submitted in 2015.

This is the third CYPP for Kildare CYPSC.

¹ Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Who we are

The membership of Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee is as follows:

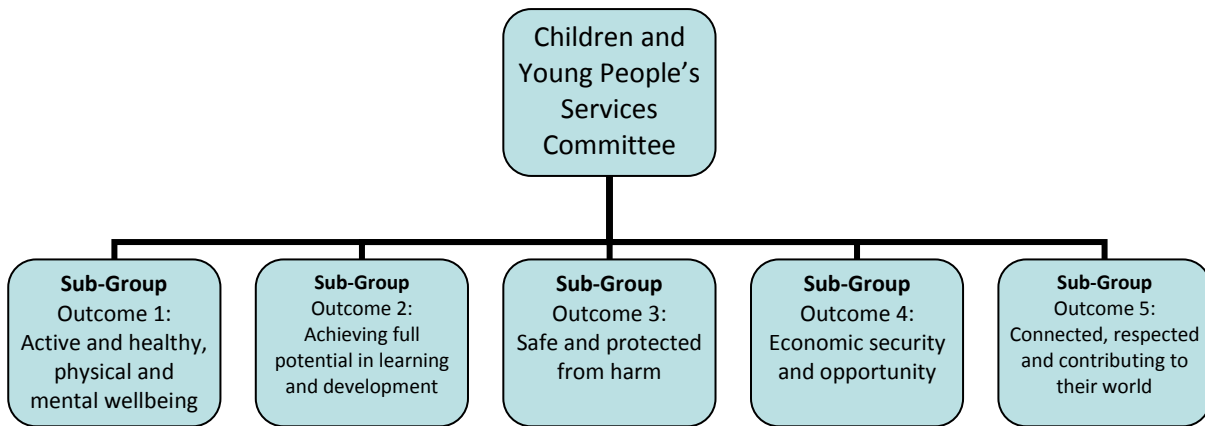
Organisation	Member	Role
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Pat Leogue	General and Social Inclusion Manager
Family Resource Centres	Angela Morrissey Kenny	Manager, Curragh Family Resource Centre
Garda Siochána	Ciara McCormack	Sergeant
HSE	Geraldine Peelo	Manager, Primary Care
Irish Primary Principals Network	Gerry Breslin	Principal, Kildare Town Educate Together Primary School
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	Lorraine Flynn	Youth Officer
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Julie McNamara	Manager
Kildare County Council	Sonya Kavanagh (Vice Chair)	Director of Service
Kildare Youth Services	Tom Dunne	CEO
Maynooth University	Catriona O'Toole	Lecturer in Psychology of Education and Course Leader of the Masters in Education (M.Ed.)
National Educational Psychological Service	Annette Corkery/Brenda Hughes	Senior Educational Psychologist
Probation Service	Deirdre Matthews	Senior Probation Officer
South West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	Lisa Baggott	Coordinator
Teach Tearmainn	Lorraine Rowan	Manager
Tusla, Child and Family Agency	Patricia Finlay (Chair)	Service Director
	Caroline Sheehan	Senior Manager Prevention Partnership & Family Support
Tusla, Educational Welfare Service	Jean Rafter	Regional Manager

In addition to the main Committee, Kildare CYPSC has a number of Sub Groups to support the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Kildare CYPSC is in the process of transition from themed Sub Groups that were formed as part of the implementation of the previous plan (which pre-dated the *Blueprint*) to alignment with the structures outlined in the *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees*.²

The implementation of the Kildare Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021 will be supported by the following structure:

² *Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services Committees*, Department of Children and Youth Affairs (June 2015)



Actions will be grouped under outcomes. Lead agencies and partners under each action will be invited to identify the link person for the action. The relevant personnel will be invited to become members of the applicable Sub Group. The *Safe and Protected from harm* Sub Group will comprise the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Advisory Group.

The role of the Sub Groups will be to support the implementation of the actions in the Plan; provide progress updates to the main Committee and highlight issues, concerns and gaps emerging from the work to CYPSC.

In addition to the CYPSC Sub Groups, the implementation of specific actions will be supported by a number of defined task groups, themed Steering Groups and linked inter-agency structures such as the local Parenting Forum.

Formal links exist with the Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Steering Committee via the Sub Group structure, as well as through the local Child and Family Support Networks throughout the county.

Strategic Partnership

Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee has a Memorandum of Understanding with Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which guides the positive collaborative relationship between the two structures. This is a mutually valued strategic partnership working towards the shared goal of enhancing the lives of children, young people and families in Co. Kildare.

Achievements to date/**Review of previous plan**

Review Process

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2015-2017 review contained 3 main elements:

- An externally facilitated review session with CYPSC members and Coordinator
- An online consultation with Sub Group members
- A Literature Review of the regular Action Plan progress reports to CYPSC Main Committee

The information below also includes a reflection on 2018, as the implementation of the 2015-2017 CYPP extended into 2018, while the 2019-2021 plan was being developed.

The table below outlines some of the key achievements of the past 4 years and the related impact.

Achievement	Example	Impact
Establishment of new services and infrastructure for children, young people and families in the county	2 additional Family Resource Centres – in Athy and Kildare Town	<p>Teach Dara Family Resource Centre in Kildare Town, which has been operating in the absence of core funding since it's inception, has now secured mainstream funding to ensure the continued support to children and families in the area.</p> <p>Athy, a recognised area of significant disadvantage, now has resources available to respond to the needs of children and families.</p> <p>The Family Resource Centres are available to operate as hubs from which to promote a range of existing supports e.g. Meitheal, and to leverage in new or additional supports for families e.g. Preparing for Life, Strengthening Families Programme.</p>
	The HIVE Youth Hub in Kildare Town	A dedicated youth space is now available in Kildare Town from which a number of supports and initiatives are provided for local young people.
	2 new iScoil e-learning hubs for young early school leavers	Alternative education options are now available in Athy and Kildare Town for young people aged 13-16 who are not in mainstream education. iScoil provides recognised

Achievement	Example	Impact
Establishment of new services and infrastructure for children, young people and families in the county	2 new iScoil e-learning hubs for young early school leavers	Establishment of new services and infrastructure for children, young people and families in the county accredited learning QQI Level 3 and can act as a bridge back to school or on to Youthreach or other education options.
	Youth Officer post in Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board	The establishment of a dedicated post for Co. Kildare has increased the capacity for supporting existing youth work provision in the county and developing new provision in response to identified need. The KWETB Youth Work Committee has been established and work has commenced on the development of the Youth Work Plan.
Leveraging additional resources into the county	Healthy Ireland Fund (Round 1 and Round 2)	In partnership with LCDC, funding secured from 2 rounds of the Healthy Ireland Fund led to the delivery of several initiatives in Co. Kildare, with in excess of 5000 participants i.e. healthy communities initiative, health and wellbeing symposium, Sports inclusion programme for children with special needs; social farming project; dance and movement for people with chronic conditions and their carers; cannabis and you website; sofa to summit project; community-based mental health and wellbeing programme for young men.
	QCBI Fund	This funding supported the delivery of the Heads Up mental health and wellbeing programme for young men aged 18-24 years in Athy and Kildare Town.
	Tusla Parental Participation Funding	Funding secured from this fund contributed towards the costs

Achievement	Example	Impact
Leveraging additional resources into the county		of the Parenting Research and the social media initiative for parents.
	Tusla Children and Young People's Participation Funding	Funding secured from this fund contributed towards the costs of youth work programme with young refugees living in the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre in Monasterevin.
Improved Coordination of inter-agency response	Inter-agency group established to respond to needs of Programme Refugee families resident in the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC).	A range of supports were provided to families living in the EROC in a planned and coordinated way i.e. youth work programme, Learning through Play sessions, developmental activities for school age children, summer activities.
Development of new practice tools and resources	Development of the I CAN Book – a resource to support the transition from pre-school to primary school	The I CAN Book was included in a national audit of transition tools conducted by NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) to inform development of national standardised tool.
	Aha! Alcohol Campaign	This online and poster campaign and related activities encouraged people to consider their consumption of alcohol, to reduce any excesses and to use the extra time, money and energy for activities that improve health, wellbeing and quality of life.
	Parentingsupport.ie website	Parents and professionals who work with them have greater access to information about available supports in Co. Kildare.
	Cannabis and You website	A youth-friendly, interactive online resource is available to young people, parents and professionals to encourage young cannabis users to consider their use and make positive changes. The website has information, assessment

Achievement	Example	Impact
Development of new practice tools and resources		and brief intervention elements.
	Kildare CYPSC Promotional Animated Short	A resource is available to promote Kildare CYPSC and its work in an easily accessible and digestible format.
Strengthening of relationship with Comhairle na nÓg	Participation on the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group. Ongoing support of CNN AGM. Ongoing 2-way communication and consultation.	The views of young people have informed the work of Kildare CYPSC. The work of Kildare CYPSC has complemented the work of CNN.
Contributing to Evidence base: Research and Data	The collation and analysis of data from post-primary schools in relation to destination of students on leaving school	<p>There is a clearer picture of the number of young people who do not progress to further education, training or employment from post-primary school.</p> <p>The data has been used to support the case for the development of alternative education provision e.g. iScoil. The methodology has been adopted by CYPSCs in other areas of the country.</p>
	Parenting Research	<p>The needs and concerns of parents have been sought and documented.</p> <p>The research is available for organisations to use as a resource in planning and developing services and supports.</p> <p>3 task groups have been formed to develop actions that respond directly to the research findings. Actions developed include the social media initiative (talks and resources for parents) and the positive messaging campaign for parents (online and outdoor billboard campaign).</p>
	Co. Kildare Play Strategy	Following an extensive consultation with parents and children the first Co. Kildare Play Strategy was developed, which will guide the work of

Achievement	Example	Impact
Contributing to Evidence base: Research and Data		CYPSC and others in relation to play and recreation in the county.
	Evaluation of the Strengthening Families Programme	An evidence base was provided for the value and positive impact of the Strengthening Families Programme which supports the case for mainstream funding of the programme, which is a target of this CYPSC.
Provision of targeted inter-agency interventions	Delivery of the Strengthening Families Programme on an annual basis	Over 130 children, young people and parents have participated in the Strengthened Families Programme in Co. Kildare over the last four years. The positive outcomes from participation in the programme were evidenced in the external evaluation.
Initiation and facilitation of key inter-agency discussions	Hosting and facilitation of 3 themed inter-agency discussions: domestic violence, youth unemployment and disability.	Staff from across the range of services for children and families were provided with an opportunity to share their experiences; highlight issues of concern; service gaps and suggested solutions/responses. The issues and recommendations emerging from the discussion guide the work of CYPSC (individual member organisations and CYPSC collectively).
	Screening of “Resilience” film	Personnel from across the range of services for children and families were introduced to the professional discourse and research in relation to ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and invited to consider what this may mean for their practice.
Developing Strategic Collaborations	Memorandum of Understanding with Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	The relationship with the Local Committee Development Committee has supported CYPSC in achieving its objectives.

Achievement	Example	Impact
Developing Strategic Collaborations	Memorandum of Understanding with Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Adopting a collective approach to shared priorities has resulted in greater coherence of message; putting the needs of children, young people and families in Co. Kildare on the agenda locally, regionally and nationally; enhanced service levels; leveraging of additional funds and optimum use of existing resources.
	Collaboration with Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services in relation to the <i>Let's Talk About Parenting</i> initiative.	A range of free talks and workshops for parents are provided in the 7 branch libraries throughout Co. Kildare.
Innovative responses to need	Youth Employment Programme	2 programmes for unemployed young people were delivered in Athy following an initial pilot programme in Kildare Town. A dedicated Youth Employment Support Worker post was developed as part of SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme).
	Young Person's Support Programme	2 groups of young people affected by the substance misuse of a family member participated in the Young Person's Support Programme.
	Positive Messaging campaign for Parents	The positive messages from the locally-developed online and outdoor billboard campaign reached in excess of 50,000 people.
	Social media talks and information for parents at Play Day	Parents received practical information, advice and tips in relation to social media safety for children and young people.
	Domestic violence workshop	Inter-agency relationships have been strengthened via the process of planning and developing the workshop. A locally-developed workshop will be delivered to personnel from Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Probation Service and Teach Tearmainn in 2019.
Greater understanding and	Specific inputs about the work	Local Councillors have greater

Achievement	Example	Impact
awareness at local, regional and national level of the particular challenges faced by children, young people and families in Co. Kildare	of CYPSC and the needs of children, young people and families in our county at County Council Municipal District meetings.	awareness of the key issues and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective. Enhanced consistency of message being conveyed in relation to needs and priorities for Co. Kildare.
	Meeting and communication with local TDs	Local TDs have greater awareness of the key issues and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective. Enhanced consistency of message being conveyed in relation to needs and priorities for Co. Kildare. Needs and issues in Co. Kildare being discussed at national level e.g. in Dáil discussions.
	Meetings and communication with Minister for Children and Department officials	Minister and Department officials have greater awareness of the key issues, needs and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective. Needs and issues in Co. Kildare being discussed at national level.

OVERALL IMPACT

- Increased awareness at all levels – local, regional and national - of the particular needs and challenges in Co. Kildare.
- Inter-agency coherence: Greater coherence of “message” across agencies and structures as to needs of Co. Kildare i.e. collective priorities of CYPSC, shared priorities with LCDC.
- Strengthening of inter-agency relationships and creation of increasingly supportive environment for inter-agency working in the county.
- Increased level of resourcing into the county e.g. Healthy Ireland Fund, Tusla Family Resource Centre programme.
- Enhanced service levels in the county i.e. new services established such as Family Resource Centres, iScoil hubs, Youth Officer Post, the Hive Youth hub.

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE	Effecting positive change at local level when systems change is required at national policy level.
	Influencing change at national level.
	The absence of basic essential service infrastructure means that leveraging in new additional supports – programmes and funding – is challenging
	Low service levels affect capacity to avail of resourcing opportunities when they become available i.e. identifying an appropriate applicant; identifying an appropriate implementer.
	Securing core mainstream funding for proven initiatives is a challenge.
	Restrictive and unfeasible timeframes and processes for some national funding streams.
	Ensuring ongoing meaningful participation of children, young people and parents in guiding the work of CYPSC.
	Keeping abreast of new strategy, policy and practice developments in the sector.
	Ongoing promotion and awareness-raising in relation to CYPSC and its work.
	Ever-growing and competing demands on CYPSC structure from local, regional and national levels.
	The physical scale of Co. Kildare is a challenge for service planning and delivery.
	The perception of affluence in relation to Co. Kildare, which obscures the true picture of need in the county.
	Measuring the overall impact of the work of Kildare CYPSC.
	Balancing alignment with agency plans and supporting other interagency plans while ensuring that CYPSC has a unique contribution and body of work.
Achieving a mandate and “top down” recognition of their role on CYPSC is a challenge for some member organisations.	

LEARNING

LEARNING	Collective strength in championing shared priorities can bring about positive change.
	A clear, strong, shared case, underpinned by evidence, is difficult to discount.
	It is important to strike a balance between the strategic focus of the work of the CYPSC and the action focus of the work – both elements are required to maintain commitment, momentum and to facilitate positive change.
	It is important to establish key service infrastructure hubs around which to build community and family supports.
	Maintaining a strong focus on the needs of children, young people and parents, as opposed to service or organisational needs, supports constructive engagement and productive inter-agency partnership.
	Building and maintaining positive inter-agency relationships is essential to the work of the Committee.
	Alignment of CYPSC and member organisation plans in terms of objectives and actions is key to clearly demonstrating to members their contribution and relevance to the work of CYPSC.
	Real change takes time.
	In order for actions from the plan to be implemented, it is essential that a sole lead agency is identified to drive the initiative forward.
	In order for collaborative actions to be implemented, it is important that they appear in individual organisational work plans, to reaffirm that they are a priority for the organisation that will be taken into account when allocating resources (financial and human).

How the Children and Young People’s Plan was developed

Please go to Appendix 2 for full details of how the Plan was developed

The development of the Children and Young People’s Plan comprised a number of different elements and stages:

- Agreeing the “plan for the plan”
- Review of previous plan
- Literature Review
- Consultation
- Data Collection
- Analysis

Agreeing the “plan for the plan”

- A proposed methodology was presented to the CYPSC and was agreed following discussion.

Review of previous plan

- This comprised of a Literature Review, an externally facilitated session with CYPSC members and Coordinator and online consultation with Sub Group members.

Literature Review

- The literature review element of the planning process was extensive. A review was undertaken of local, regional and national documents – meeting Minutes, Strategies, Annual Reports, strategic plans, thematic reports, evaluations, research reports and work plans.

Consultation

- Consultation was undertaken with young people, CYPSC members, service providers and Public Representatives.
- In addition to the above, data from local consultations recently completed with parents, children and young people informed the plan.

Data Collection

- Relevant data was gathered via the literature review, consultation, directly from CYPSC member organisations and from online sources, including national databases.

Analysis

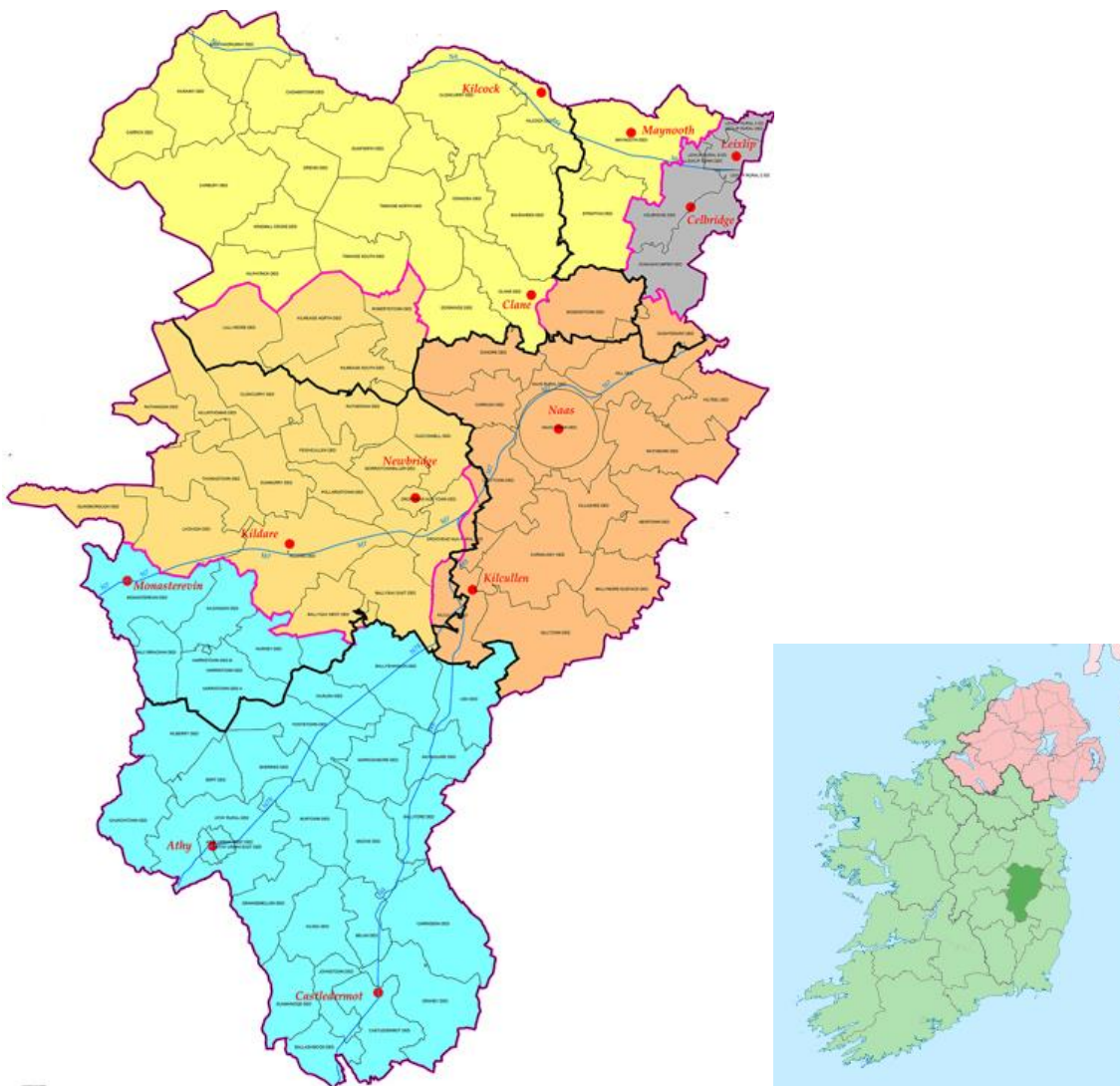
- The process of local needs analysis and the identification of priority areas and related actions took place on a phased basis.
- An initial analysis identified key messages emerging from the literature review, data collection and consultation.
- This was presented to the main Committee for discussion, comment and feedback over the course of the 4 facilitated group sessions.
- When priority actions were identified, CYPSC members were invited to consider each action and identify if their organisation would be a lead or partner.
- Actions without an identified lead organisation were not included in the plan.
- Actions without at least one partner, in addition to the lead organisation, were not included in the plan.
- Indicators were chosen on the basis of relevance and feasibility as a means of measuring if the outcome was achieved.

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Co. Kildare

Introduction

The relevant socio-demographic information for Co. Kildare is presented below under a number of headings. The figures are drawn from the 2016 Census figures unless otherwise stated. County and sub-county information has been included where available. Where possible the Co. Kildare figures are compared to the national context. The section commences with a summary of the notable findings from the socio-demographic profile, which highlight the key features and characteristics of the county.

Map of Co. Kildare



Notable Characteristics and Features of Co. Kildare

Kildare is a significant population base within the State (4.7% of the total). As a county, it has the fifth highest population, with only Dublin City, Cork County, Fingal and South Dublin with higher populations.

Kildare has a rapidly growing population. From 1996-2016, the growth rate is second highest in the State.

Notable Characteristics and Features of Co. Kildare

Kildare has the highest rate of young people aged 0-24 years in the State (81, 517/36.6%).

The birth rate in Co. Kildare exceeds the national birth rate.

Kildare is a diverse county in terms of population density, with a clear rural/urban mix. Approx. 72% of the county's population live on 5% of the county's total land area.

There are a high number of lone parent families with children under 15 in Co. Kildare. The 5th highest number in the State.

Co. Kildare has lower than national and regional rates of Travellers. Most Travellers in the county live in urban areas, with highest rates in the towns of Newbridge and Athy.

Co. Kildare has the 6th highest number of people with a disability in the State. This represents an increase of 13% since 2011.

Polish nationals represent by far the largest non-national community living in Co. Kildare. (30% of all non-nationals/3.3% of total population).

There are 2 Asylum Seeker Direct Provision Centres in Co. Kildare

Co. Kildare has a well educated population, with 36.3% of the population with a third level degree or higher. However, there is clear geographical disparity in education attainment across the county. The west and south west of the county have much lower rates, with Athy Municipal District having a rate of 24.9%.

A rate of progression to third level education by students from Co. Kildare has been recorded as 78%. This is the 11th lowest rate in the State.

The number of young people aged 16-25 years old who are not engaged in education, training or employment in the county is estimated to be 1100.

Kildare is a commuter county. A significant proportion of the workforce travel outside the county for work. (39.1%/37340).

Co. Kildare has the 8th highest number of U25 year olds on the Live Register in the country after Dublin, Cork, Donegal, Wexford, Galway, Limerick and Louth. The rate of U25s on the Live Register in both the Athy and Newbridge offices substantially exceed the national average.

Kildare has an active property market, with increasing prices for rents and sales.

Since 2011, the total number of Private Rented households in Co. Kildare has increased by 3.7%. A sizeable proportion of Private rented housing is supported via State intervention funding schemes such as the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rent Supplement.

There is a high level of mortgage indebtedness in the county. Kildare has the 5th highest number of Owner Occupiers with a Mortgage in the country and the 3rd highest rate.

The number of recorded suicides in Co. Kildare in 2017 is the 3rd highest in the State.

Notable Characteristics and Features of Co. Kildare

Over 1000 1-2-1 support sessions were provided to women by the local Domestic Violence support service in 2018. 38 women and 83 children were accommodated in the refuge. The service was unable to meet refuge requests for 150 women and 243 children.

The total number of children in care in Kildare/West Wicklow Tusla area in 2018 was 148. The 2 most common primary reasons for admission were child welfare concerns and neglect. The total number of child protection and welfare cases in the area as of Dec 2018 is 742.

There are 20,592 people in Co. Kildare living in small areas deemed to be disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged, which represents 9.25% of the total population.

KEY DATA SUMMARY

Indicator	Measure	Co. Kildare	National
Child and Youth Population	The number of children and young people under 25	81517	1583004
	The percentage of total population under 25	36.6	33.2
Child Population	The number of children under 18	62914	1190502
	The percentage of total population under 18	28.3	25
Young Adult Population	The number of young people aged 18 – 24 years	18604	392502
	The percentage of total population aged 18-24 years	8.4	8.2
Nationality	The number of non-Irish nationals	23297	535475
	The percentage of total population who are non-Irish nationals.	10.6	11.4
Family structure	The number of lone parent families with children under 15	4795	107047
	The percentage of families with children under 15 who are lone parent families	16.9	20
Educational Attainment	The number of people aged 15 years+ with no formal/Primary Education only	13718	386498
	The percentage of people aged 15 years+ with no formal/Primary Education only	10	12.5
	The number of people aged 15 years+ with Higher Secondary only	26837	573643
	The percentage of people aged 15 years+ with Higher Secondary only	19.5	18.5
Travelling Community	The number of people in the Travelling community	739	30987
	The percentage of the total population that come from the Travelling Community	0.3%	0.7%

KEY DATA SUMMARY			
Indicator	Measure	Co. Kildare	National
People with a disability	The number of people with a disability	27768	643131
	The percentage of the total population with a disability	12.5	13.5

Acronyms

MD = Municipal District

LA = Local Authority

ED = Electoral Division

Kil-Nwb = Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Cel-Lxp = Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

Population

- The population of Co. Kildare is 222,504 (2016).
- This is the 5th highest population of all 31 Local Authority areas in the country.
- Over a 20 year period (1996 to 2016) Kildare experienced a 64.8% (+87,512) increase in its population base – the second highest rate in the State.
- Co. Kildare has the 3rd highest population growth rate between the 2011 and 2016 Census: 5.8%, which significantly exceeds the national figure of 3.8%.
- Of the 89 EDs in Co. Kildare, the highest increases in population from 2011 to 2016 were recorded in Naas Rural (+16.3%), Maynooth (+16.8%), Straffan (+19.3%) and Oldconnell (+22.7%). A total of 13 EDs experienced population decline over this period.
- Population density (population per km²) varies across the county. Highest density levels are in the towns of Sallins, Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip and Kill. At Municipal District level, the Celbridge/Leixlip MD has by far the highest density levels at 702.9 persons per sq. Km and is more than five times more densely populated than the county average.

Age Profile of Population

Age Range	No.	No./31 LAs	% of Co. pop.	%/31 LAs	% State	+/- State	Highest no. MD	Highest % MD
0-4	17314	5 th	7.8	3 rd	7	+	Maynooth	Maynooth
5-12	29453	5 th	13.2	4 th	11.5	+	Kil-Nwb	Athy
13-17	16147	5 th	7.3	3 rd	6.5	+	Kil-Nwb	Athy/Maynooth/Naas
18-24	18604	6 th	8.4	6 th	8.2	+	Maynooth	Maynooth
0-18	62914	5 th	28.3	3 rd	25	+	Kil-Nwb	Athy
0-24	81517	5 th	36.6	1 st	33.2	+	Maynooth	Maynooth

Births

- There were 3182 births to Co. Kildare residents in 2017. The 5th highest number out of 34 Local Authority areas.
- The birth rate in the county in 2017 was 14.1 births per 1,000 population.
- This exceeds the national birth rate of 12.9.

Age of mother

Age of Mother	Under 20 years	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+
No. of births	62	234	497	1155	1013	221

Deaths

- There were 1029 deaths of Co. Kildare residents in 2017.
- This is a rate of 4.5 per year per 1,000 population and is less than the national rate of 6.4.

Lone Parent Families (children Under 15)

According to 2016 Census, the total number of Lone Parent families with children under 15 years is 4795 and represents 16.9% of all the families with children under 15. This rate is lower than the State average of 20%.

Since 2011, the total number of Lone Parent families residing in Co. Kildare has decreased by 259 which represents 5.1%.

Although the proportion of lone parents in the county is below the national average, the number of lone parents in the county is high – 5th highest of the 31 Local Authority areas in the country.

The proportion of lone parent families in Athy Municipal District (22.4%) exceeds the national figure.

Newbridge has the highest number of lone parent families with children under 15 (635), followed by Athy (424), Celbridge (414), Naas (377) and Kildare Town (299).

Family Type	No.	No./31 LAs	% of all families	%/31 LAs	% State	+/- State	Highest no. MD	Highest % MD
Lone Parent (children under 15 years)	4795	5 th	16.9	23 rd	20	-	Kil-Nwb	Athy

Travelling Community

- According to the 2016 Census, the total number of people from the Travelling community in Co. Kildare is 739, which is 0.3% of the total population. This rate is lower than the State average of 0.7%.
- Co. Kildare has the 10th lowest number of people from the Travelling community, relative to other local authorities and the 3rd lowest rate.
- Since 2011, the total number of people from the Travelling community in Co. Kildare has decreased from a total of 874 (-15.4%), when the rate was 0.42%. Over the same period, the population from the Travelling community in Ireland has increased by +5.1%.
- Highest number of Travellers live in the Kildare-Newbridge MD (238)
- Highest rate (as a proportion of the total population) is in Athy MD (0.5% of the total population are Travellers) and Kildare-Newbridge MD (0.5%).

Disability

- There are 27768 people in Kildare with a disability, being the 6th highest number in the State.
- Since 2011, there has been an increase of 13% or 3399.
- This increasing trend is also evident at State level where numbers have also increased by 13%.
- Of those with a disability, the most common were 'chronic illness' (17.1%), 'substantial physical limitation' (13.1%) and 'difficulty in participating in activities' (12.4%).
- The least common reported disability was 'blindness/impaired vision' (2.9%).

No. in county (2016)	No./31 LAs	% of Co. pop.	%/31 LAs	% State	+/- State	Highest no. MD	Highest % MD
27768	6 th	12.5	28 th	13.5	-	Kil-Nwb	Athy

A disabled person is someone who responded "Yes" to any of the 7 categories in Q.16 on long-lasting conditions or "yes" to any of the 4 categories in Q.17 on difficulties on the Census 2016 form.

New Communities

- According to the 2016 Census, the population identifying as non-Irish nationals residing in Co. Kildare is 23297.
- This represents 10.6% of the total population, which is lower than the State average.
- The 2 largest groups are from Poland and the UK.
- Polish people represent 3.3% of the non-Irish national population in Co. Kildare, which exceeds the State average of 2.6%.

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. identifying as non-Irish nationals	23297	535475	
% of total Population	10.6	11.4	-
No./rate of Polish nationals	7199/3.3%	122515/2.6%	+
No./rate of UK nationals	3789/1.7%		
Rate of EU27 nationals	2.5%		
Rate of Rest of World nationals	2.2%		
Rate of Lithuanian nationals	0.8%		

- Kildare has the 11th highest number of non-Irish nationals in the State and the 13th highest rate (out of 31 Local Authority areas).
- At Municipal District level, Naas MD has the highest number and rate of non-Irish national residents (5624/11.5%). Athy MD has the lowest number and rate (2470, 7.7%)

Asylum seekers

- There are 2 Asylum Seeker Direct Provision Centres in Co. Kildare: the Eyre Powell in Newbridge and the Hazel Hotel in Monasterevin. The combined capacity of both centres is: 233 people.

Educational Attainment

- 240 students from the 2010 Cohort in State-aided schools in Co. Kildare did not complete the Leaving Certificate. Of these, 67 did not complete the Junior Certificate.
- There is a slightly higher proportion of primary students absent for 20 days or more in Co. Kildare than the State average.
- 36.8% of the population aged 15 years+ have attained a Third Level education. However, there is significant variation at Municipal District level, with the lowest rates in Athy MD (24.9%) and Kildare-Newbridge MD (28.2%).

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. aged 15 years+ with No Formal/Primary Education only (2016)	13718	386498	
% aged 15 years+ with No Formal/Primary Education only (2016)	10	12.5	-
No. aged 15 years+ with Lower Secondary only (2016)	18958	449766	

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or – State
% aged 15 years+ with Lower Secondary only (2016)	13.8	14.5	-
No. aged 15 years+ with Higher Secondary only (2016)	26837	573643	
% aged 15 years+ with Higher Secondary only (2016)	19.5	18.5	+
Average % of children absent for 20 days or more at primary level (2015/2016)	11.7	11.4	+
Average % of children absent for 20 days or more at post-primary level (2015/2016)	15.6	16.1	-
Leaving Certificate Retention Rate (2010 cohort)	91.8	91.2	+
Junior Certificate Retention Rate (2010 cohort)	97.7	97.36	+

Progression/Destination of 3rd Level students

According to Irish Times figures (2017) Kildare recorded a progression rate to Third Level (Universities and Institutes of Technology) of 78%. *This excludes progression to Further Education institutions, apprenticeships, UK or overseas destinations.*

- This is the 11th lowest rate in the country. In comparison, Meath has a rate of 81.8% and Louth 87.1%.
- According to Department of Education statistics, a total of 7279 normally resident Kildare students were attending 3rd level education in 2017. This figure represents an increase of 1069 since 2014.
- The vast majority of these students are attending 3rd level institutes in Dublin (52.5%), Kildare/Maynooth (23%) and Carlow (10%).

NEETS: Young people not in education, training or employment

- A recent report (2018, unpublished)³ estimates the figure for NEETS aged 16-24 years in Co. Kildare as 1100.

Commuting to Work

- Kildare has the 6th highest rate of outbound commuters in the State.
- Of the 95,345 workers residing in Kildare, 39.1% or 37340 commute to local authorities outside the county.
- The top employment destinations for Kildare workers are: Dublin City (15481), South Dublin (10593), Fingal (3324), Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (2810) and Meath (969).

Employment and Social Protection

Number of Recipients of Child Related Payments 2017

Child Benefit		Family Income Supplement	Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance
Recipients	Children		
32885	63237	2443	6481
3 rd highest after Dublin and Cork		6 th highest after Dublin, Cork, Galway, Donegal and Limerick	5 th highest after Dublin, Cork, Donegal and Galway

³ Study on Rural Youth in County Kildare, Ann Clarke, Anne Eustace & Tom Martin (December 2018) [Unpublished]

Number of recipients of Illness, Disability and Caring Payments 2017

Disability Allowance	4702	Injury Benefit	62
Carer's benefit	113	Interim Illness Benefit	20
Carer's Allowance	2686	Invalidity Pension	2418
Domiciliary Care Allowance	1666	Illness Benefit	2564

Working Age Income Supports

Number of recipients of Working Age on Income Supports 2017

Jobseekers Allowance	6844	Jobseeker's Benefit	1654
One Parent Family Payment	1588	Pre-Retirement Allowance	4
Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance	725	Health and Safety Benefit	2
Farm Assist	21	Maternity Benefit	1150

Live Register

Number of Persons Under 25 years old on Live Register

	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	No. on Live Register All Ages Dec 2018	U25s as % of total on Live Register Dec 2018
State	38688	30285	24675	19921	199669	9.98
Kildare County	1671	1221	1021	780	8083	9.65
Athy Office	366	264	203	156	1409	11.07
Maynooth office	461	294	284	178	2590	6.87
Newbridge Office	844	663	534	446	4084	10.92

- Co. Kildare has the 8th highest number of U25 year olds on the Live Register (December 2018) in the country after Dublin, Cork, Donegal, Wexford, Galway, Limerick and Louth.
- Under 25 year olds as a proportion of all persons on the Live Register in Co. Kildare is 9.65%, which is below the State average of 9.98%. However, at sub-county level the rate in both the Athy office and the Newbridge office substantially exceed the national average at 11.07% and 10.92% respectively.

Number of recipients of Working Age Employment Supports 2017

Community Employment	756	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance	337
Rural Social Scheme	26	Back to Education Allowance	352
TÚS	194	Partial Capacity Benefit	107
Gateway	3	Part Time Job Incentive	9

Housing

There is a high level of mortgage indebtedness in the county.

- 5th highest number of Owner Occupiers with a Mortgage in the country and the 3rd highest rate.
- Kildare-Newbridge MD highest number (7073)
- Celbridge-Leixlip MD highest rate (44.2%)

	Co. Kildare	State	+ or - State
No. of households who are owner occupied with mortgage	30295		
% of households who are owner occupied with mortgage	41.3%	31.6%	+
No. of households in private rented accommodation	12629	309728	
% of households in private rented accommodation	17.2	18.2	-
No. of renting households who rent from Local Authority or voluntary	5239	159943	
% of renting households who rent from Local Authority or voluntary body	7.1	9.4	-

- The highest number and rate of households in private rented accommodation is in Maynooth MD (3203/19.8%). Since 2011, the total number of Private Rented households in Co. Kildare has increased by 3.7% (+451). A sizeable proportion of Private rented housing is supported via schemes such as RAS, HAP and Rent Supplement.
- The highest number of households renting from Local Authority or voluntary body is in Kildare-Newbridge MD (1577), with the highest rate in Athy MD (10.6%).

Housing Assistance Payment

- According to Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (Q2, 2017), there are a total of 1193 Housing Assistance Payment tenancies in Co. Kildare. This is the 11th highest number in the State.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

- According to the latest Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government statistics on the Rental Accommodation Scheme there were 717 RAS tenancies in Kildare in 2016.

Short-Term and Long-Term Recipients of Rent Supplement by County, 2017

- Short term cases recipients 144
- Short term cases as % of all cases in Co. Kildare 8.4%
- Long term cases recipients 1,573
- Long term cases as % of all cases in Co. Kildare 91.6%
- All cases 1717
- County total as % of national total 5.4%
- We have 4.7% of total population of Ireland living in Co. Kildare but 5.4% of all rent supplement received in the State.
- There were 1717 recipients of rent supplement in Co. Kildare in 2017. This is the 3rd highest number in the country after Dublin and Cork.

Rental Costs

- Average Rent Price Q3 2017 Source: Residential Tenancies Board
- Co. Kildare recorded the 6th highest average rent in the State at €1023 per month.
- Within Co. Kildare the highest average rents were recorded in Leixlip (€1235 p/m), Maynooth €1223 p/m) and Celbridge (€1166 p/m). Athy recorded the lowest average rent of €705 p/m.

Child Welfare and Protection

The figures available from Tusla at present relate to the combined area of Co. Kildare and West Wicklow (as opposed to Co. Kildare alone). Therefore figures below include West Wicklow.

Child Protection and Welfare Referrals

The total number of new child protection and welfare referrals received by Tusla in December 2018 was 144 for the Kildare/West Wicklow area. According to the Tusla Measuring the Pressure reports (MTP)⁴ Dec 2018, there are 243 open cases with an allocated social worker, with a further 128 awaiting allocation. In terms of geographic area, the figures for the area covered by the Athy team are 80 and 83, the Naas team 102 and 11 and the Celbridge team 61 and 34. The total number of cases (allocated and awaiting allocation) in Kildare/West Wicklow is 742.

Children in Care

- 38 young people were admitted into care in 2018. 21 males and 17 females. 16 of which are first time admissions.
- 59 young people were discharged from care in 2018. 37 returned to home/family, 18 remained with foster/relative carer, 1 independent living, 3 other (this relates to those in residential care and got an extension to remain there for about a month after they turned 18).
- 22 young people in care in 2018 were turning 18 and were assessed as needing aftercare.
- All 22 were offered an aftercare service. 22 accepted.

⁴ Available on www.tusla.ie

Young people in care in Kildare/West Wicklow on 31/12/2018

Total no.						148
Gender	Male	Female				
	73	75				
Age	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	
	14	38	26	36	34	
Total Length of Time in Care	Less than a year	1-5 years	5 years +			
	35	52	80			
Type of care	Residential Special Care	Residential Care General	Foster Care General	Foster Care with Relatives	Other Care Placements	
	1	16	92	36	3	
Primary Reason for Admission	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Child Welfare Concern	
	9	3	3	66	67	
Legal Reason for Admission	Emergency Care Order	Interim Care Order	Court Order	Detention Order of the High Court	Another Court Order	Voluntary admission
	0	12	80	0	0	56

Suicide

- In 2017 there were a total of 19 suicides in Co. Kildare. 13 Males and 6 Females.
- The suicide rate in Co. Kildare in 2017 (8.4 deaths per year per 100,000 population) marginally exceeds the State rate of 8.2.
- The female suicide rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 population exceeds the national rate of 3.3.
- There are only 2 Local Authority areas (out of 34) in the country that exceed the Kildare figure for death by suicide in 2017 – Cork City (22) and Cork County (47).

Deliberate Self Harm

- Kildare/West Wicklow has the 2nd highest rate of women presenting at hospital due to deliberate self-harm (no. of persons = 246, rate per 100,000 population 434) from all LHO (Local Health Office) areas nationally (2017).
- Kildare/West Wicklow has the 5th highest rate for men (no. of persons = 163, rate per 100,000 population 293).

Substance Misuse

Drug/Alcohol Treatment

The data refers to episodes of treatment in a calendar year, rather than on the individual person treated. This means individuals may appear in the figures more than once if they receive treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once per year.

	Total (all drugs incl. Alcohol)	Alcohol	Cannabis
Under 18	47	-	37
18 - 24	47	7	10

- Recent findings from the recent NACDA (National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol, 2019) national drug prevalence survey indicated that among people who used cannabis in the last year, 19.7% fulfilled the criteria for cannabis dependence. The rate was higher for males (22.8%) than for females (11.8%) and higher for young adults (15-34 years) (22.3%) than for older respondents (10.4%).
- In the general population, 1.5% of those aged 15+ were classed as cannabis dependent. This rate was found to be significantly higher in males (2.5%) than females (0.5%), and also significantly higher in young adults (15-34years) (3.6%) than older subjects (0.4%).
- Local research conducted as part of the development of the *Cannabis and You* website found that 32 of the 41 (78%) young people (13-21 years) who responded had used cannabis. 30% indicated their age at first use as 14 years.

Domestic Violence

- 274 women accessed the Teach Tearmainn Information and Support Service in 2018.
- 1800 helpline calls were received. Over 1000 1-2-1 support sessions were provided.
- 38 women and 83 children were accommodated in the refuge.
- Teach Tearmainn was unable to meet refuge request for 150 women and 243 children.

Disadvantage

Kildare was affected by the economic downturn

- Co. Kildare has dropped from the 3rd to the 5th most affluent local authority area in Ireland since 2006.
- Co. Kildare has a HP Deprivation Index Relative Score of 3.2 (marginally above average).
- Although the county Deprivation score is *marginally above average*, the number of people living in areas of disadvantage is high. There are 20,592 people living in small areas deemed to be disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged, which represents 9.25% of the total population.

	Number	Population
Disadvantaged Small Areas in Co. Kildare	54	16435
Very Disadvantaged Small Areas in Co. Kildare	16	3860
Extremely Disadvantaged Small Areas in Co. Kildare	1	297
Disadvantaged, Very Disadvantaged and Extremely Disadvantaged Small Areas	71	20592

- % of Total Population living in Disadvantaged, Very Disadvantaged and Extremely Disadvantaged Small Areas is 9.25%.

ED	No. of <i>Disadvantaged</i> SAs	No. of Very <i>Disadvantaged</i> SAs	No. of <i>Extremely</i> <i>Disadvantaged</i> SAs	Total
Athy Rural	2	0	0	2
Athy East Urban	2	2	0	4
Athy West Urban	5	3	1	9
Ballitore	1	0	0	1
Ballysax West	1	0	0	1
Bodenstown	1	0	0	1
Carbury	1	1	0	2
Castledermot	2	0	0	2
Celbridge	4	0	0	4
Clane	1	0	0	1
Downings	0	1	0	1
Newbridge Urban	5	4	0	9
Grangemellon	1	0	0	1
Kilberry	1	0	0	1
Kilcock	2	0	0	2
Kilcullen	2	0	0	2
Kildare	3	3	0	6
Kilmeage North	1	0	0	1
Kilmeage South	1	0	0	1
Kilpatrick	1	0	0	1
Leixlip	2	0	0	2
Maynooth	1	0	0	1
Monasterevin	1	1	0	2
Morrinstownbillar	4	0	0	4
Naas Urban	4	0	0	4
Rathangan	1	1	0	2
Robertstown	3	0	0	3
Skerries	1	0	0	1
	54	16	1	71

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

The table below provides an overview of the main services provided to children, young people aged 0-24 years and their parents by the Kildare CYPSC member organisations and partners in alphabetical order.

Services are listed under Provider Organisation and then categorised as universal, targeted or both and Level of Need based on Hardiker scale. (Please see Appendix 3 for explanation of Hardiker scale).

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
An Garda Síochana	Garda stations x 15	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1,2 & 3
	Community Policing e.g. neighbourhood watch, community alert	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Schools Programme	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Juvenile Liaison Officers x 4	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Specialist Officers e.g. Immigration, Diversity, Crime Prevention, Family Liaison	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Barrettstown Gang Camp	Palliative/Respite Care for children.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	Delivery of Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Enterprise and employment supports: 1-2-1 and group programme	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Community development supports	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Ability programme for 16-19 year olds with a disability who are interested in education, training and employment	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Youth Employment Programme for 18-25 years old	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Employment Support for Roma Community	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Heads Up Mental Health and	Voluntary	Targeted,

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Co. Kildare LEADER Partnership	wellbeing programme for men		Hardiker Level 2
	TUS and Rural Social Scheme	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Dara Project: specialist CE Scheme for people in recovery	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Integration Worker to support refugees	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Co. Kildare Primary Health Care Project for Travellers	Outreach visits, health promotion information, advocacy, assistance with literacy issues	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Cuan Mhuire	140 bed residential treatment and rehabilitation centre in Athy for adults with addiction issues.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Department of Employment and Social Protection	Intreo offices x 3: Athy, Newbridge and Maynooth – single point of contact for all employment and income supports.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Local Employment Service: Newbridge	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Central Rent Unit: assessment of applications from Co. Kildare for rent supplement.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Education	Early Years Care and Education: 192 ECCE services, 4 stand-alone after schools; 97 childminders (on KCCC database)	Private and Community	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	100 Primary schools 7 DEIS Primary schools – Curragh, Kildare Town, Newbridge, Athy	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	28 Post Primary schools 7 DEIS Post primary schools – Rathangan, Prosperous, Naas, Monasterevin, the Curragh, Athy, Newbridge	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	4 Special Schools – Celbridge, Curragh, Newbridge, Naas	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	NUI Maynooth: third level university	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Extern	Garda Youth Diversion Projects x 2 in Naas and Athy Janus Programme	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Family Resource Centres	4 x Family Resource Centres: Athy, Kildare Town, Newbridge and the Curragh offering range of supports to families including counselling, play therapy, parent and toddler groups, parenting programme, group programmes for children, women's groups, men's groups.	Voluntary	Universal and targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Preparing for Life Home Visiting Programme offered to parents and young children from ante-natal to 3 years in Newbridge, the Curragh, Kildare Town, Kilcullen and Allenwood.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Foróige	Drug Prevention and Education Initiative: Programmes for parents e.g. Building self-esteem and resiliency; drug awareness programmes, Strengthening Families Programme.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Drug Prevention and Education Initiative: Programme for Young People e.g. Putting the Pieces Together, Be Healthy, Be Happy; X-Hale; Young Person's Support Programme; brief intervention.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Drug Prevention and Education Initiative: Training and Policy Development: Drug and Alcohol Awareness Training; Strengthening Families Programme Facilitator training; Policy Development.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Voluntary youth clubs	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
HSE Primary Care	Primary Care Centres x 7: Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Clane, Rathangan. Health Centres x 10	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
HSE Public Health Nursing Service	Developmental screening, immunisations, breastfeeding support, Post natal depression screening and listening visits	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
HSE Out-of-Hours GP Service	KDoc out-of-hours GP service.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1, 2, & 3
HSE Primary Care	Psychologist in 4 of 5 Primary care	Statutory	Universal,

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Psychology Service	Network areas: individual and group interventions across the lifespan. Parent Advice drop in clinics.		Hardiker Level 1 & 2
HSE Primary Care Social Work Service	Primary Care Social Work service: information, advice and support; 1-2-1 and group interventions including parenting programmes.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
HSE Addiction Service	Addiction Services – counselling (Newbridge), Outreach workers x 2, Education Officer, needle exchange service	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2,3 & 4
HSE Adult Mental Health Service	4 x Multi-disciplinary mental health teams – North Kildare, North West Kildare, Mid East Kildare/West Wicklow, South Kildare/West Wicklow. Services include: outpatient community services, day hospital, home care, day centre, inpatient treatment.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE Alba Counselling Service	Individual counselling for adults who have been abused in childhood.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
HSE Community Dietetic Service	Dietary assessment, advice and support for children and young people.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
HSE Community Speech and Language Service	Service for children, young people and adults with speech and language difficulties including parent advice clinics	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
HSE Counselling in Primary Care	1-2-1 counselling of up to 8 sessions for adults with a medical card experiencing mild to moderate difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
HSE Dental Service	Dental services, including emergency services for children aged 16 years and under.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
HSE Disability Services	3 x Disability Network Teams (North, Mid and South Kildare): multi-disciplinary teams including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, clinical nurse specialist, social work.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
HSE General Hospital	Naas Hospital – Emergency Department (14 years+) Social Worker, Clinical Nurse Manager	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
HSE Paediatric OT service	Assessment, intervention, advice/consultation for children and young people presenting with fine and gross motor difficulties, parent advice clinics	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	4 x multi-disciplinary teams: North Kildare, Mid Kildare, East Kildare and West Kildare for young people aged 17 years and under experiencing mental health difficulties.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3
	Inpatient services: Hazel and Oak wards, Cherry Orchard Campus	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention	Support for the implementation of Local Connecting for Life Action Plan; response to deaths by suspected suicide.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2 & 3
Jack and Jill Foundation	Palliative/Respite Care for children	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	Post Primary schools x 14 (4 of which as Joint Trustee) Primary school x 1	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Post Leaving Certificate Programmes: 5 centres.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Adult Education Guidance Service: countywide career and education information and advice service.	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Community Education (16yrs +) group education and training programmes on a community outreach basis and/or centre-based.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Back To Education Initiative: education and training programmes for 16yrs + on a community outreach basis and/or centre-based.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Youth Officer post to support development of new and existing youth work provision including administration of grant schemes.	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	Youthreach x 3 Leixlip, Naas, Athy (16-20yrs)	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	VTOS (Vocational Training	Statutory	Targeted,

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board	Opportunity Scheme) for 21yrs+ 2 x centres (Leixlip and Athy)		Hardiker Level 2
	Basic Education - literacy, numeracy, ESOL(English for speakers of other languages), Family Literacy	Targeted	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Kildare County Childcare Committee	Parent and Toddler Group grant scheme.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Quality Outreach Service for childcare service providers	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Training for parents and childcare service providers	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Information service for parents, professionals, students and childcare providers.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Parent Support: information, training, networking	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Support for administration of Government schemes e.g. ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme), Affordable Childcare Scheme and others.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Kildare County Council	Housing service, including Homeless Outreach Workers x 2, Community Development team	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
	Social Workers x2	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2, 3 & 4
	Planning and Economic Development, Transportation and Public Safety, Water and Environmental Services – schools programmes	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Leisure services – playgrounds, leisure centre, swimming pools, skate parks	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	Library and Arts Services: Libraries x 15; Let's Talk About Parenting Programme; Toys Technology and Training Programme, Right to Read, Shelf Help, Riverbank Arts Centre	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Kildare Sports Partnership	Club development grant scheme, volunteer training, information	Voluntary

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kildare Sports Partnership	provision, support for enhanced participation in sport and recreation at local level especially for targeted groups.		Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
Kildare Traveller Action	Information, education and community development supports for Travellers	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Kildare Youth Services	Youth Information Service	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Youth Counselling Service for 11-25 year olds and their parents.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2 & 3
	Youth Projects x 7 (Athy, Leixlip, Naas/Clane, Newbridge, the Curragh, Kildare Town, West Wicklow) plus outreach to Sallins, Prosperous, Monread.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	HALO Project Adolescent Substance Misuse treatment service	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Naas Child and Family Project: parenting and family assessment and intervention.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	EOLAS Project: mental health information and support programme for adults with mental health disorders and their family/close friends.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	FAIM (Family Assessment and Intervention Model) alternative response to Tusla referrals for child welfare: assessment and brief intervention.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Support for Comhairle na nÓg (youth participation structure)	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1
	LGBTI supports	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Garda Youth Diversion Projects x 2	Voluntary	Targeted,

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Kildare Youth Services	(Leixlip and Newbridge/Curragh)		Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Youth Mental Health Initiative: support and training via projects, clubs and schools, including peer education programme.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
National Educational Psychological Service	Support and development : whole school approaches, SEN team cluster meetings, Teacher-training, Incredible Years training and FRIENDS programmes	Statutory	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
	2 teams in Naas - North Kildare and South Kildare/West Wicklow 9 x psychologists	Statutory	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1, 2 & 3
	Individual case work:	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Critical incident support: support in the aftermath of a tragedy, bereavement or other traumatic event.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Consultative service for schools in relation to children of concern.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
National Learning Network	Training courses and support services for people 18 years+ who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, people with an illness or disability) in two centres: Naas and Maynooth	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
Parent and Toddler Groups	37 Parent and Toddler Groups in the county.	Voluntary	Universal, Hardiker Level 1
Peter McVerry Trust	Provision of accommodation and other supports to individuals and families affected by homelessness.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Probation Service	Young Persons Probation Worker x 1 Individual case work 12-18yrs	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Athy Alternative Project 16-25yrs group programmes, drop-in, outreach	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Probation Service	Le Chéile Mentoring Service – youth (12-18yrs.) and parent, group parenting programmes	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Family Conference/ Restorative Justice:	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2
	Sex Offender Risk and Management Committee (SORAM): 6-weekly meeting of Gardaí, Probation and Tusla.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Community Service for 16yrs+ as an alternative to custody. Individual placements and supervised placements	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
St. Patricks Mental Health Services	Willow Grove Adolescent Service, Dublin: 14-bed in-patient unit	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
South Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Funded project: Foróige Drug Prevention and Education Initiative.	Voluntary	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Hope Cottage Family Support Service: supporting individuals affected by a family member's substance misuse. 1-2-1 and group programmes.	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Rehab Coordinator post	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2
	Funded project: HALO (see above under Kildare Youth Services)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Funded project: ARAS Community Addiction Service	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
Teach Tearmainn	Refuge accommodation (4 x self-contained units)	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Child Support Worker for 1-2-1 and group support for children in refuge.		Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Domestic Violence Information and Support Service: helpline, 1-2-1 support, court accompaniment, accommodation	Voluntary	Targeted, Hardiker Level 23, & 4
Tusla	Early Year Services: Information,	Statutory	Universal,

Organisation/Agency	Service	Statutory or Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both
Tusla	advice and inspection of early years services e.g. pre-school, daycare.		Hardiker Level 1
	Family Support Service: home-based family support service	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Education Welfare Service: service to families and schools where there are issues regarding school attendance, school places and home education. 4 x Education Welfare Officers; 1 x Senior Education Welfare Officer.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Child Protection and Welfare Intake Service: discuss child protection and welfare concerns and respond to referrals	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Children in Community Team x3 in Kildare/West Wicklow: assessment of child protection and welfare concerns. Coordinate child protection and family support plans.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Children in Care Team x 3 in Kildare/West Wicklow: service to children and young people in foster and residential care.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 3 & 4
	Fostering Team x 1 in Kildare/West Wicklow: Recruitment, assessment, training and support for foster carers.	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 2 & 3
	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support: development and implementation of Meitheal and the Local Area Pathway framework including Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs)	Statutory	Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 & 2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Co. Kildare

The local needs analysis takes account of:

- Key evidence from the data, socio-demographic profile, audit of services and literature review.
- Key priorities emerging from the consultation.

OVERALL MESSAGE FROM LOCAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

While Kildare CYPSC acknowledges the positive characteristics of our county as a place in which to live - such as the range of natural amenities available, the supports provided to families and the dynamic approach to inter-agency working that exists - the clear message emerging from the local needs analysis is that **service levels in Co. Kildare are not sufficient to meet the needs of our children, young people and families.**

As identified in the previous plan, an overreliance on deprivation measures in regional and national resource allocation, without due consideration of population or baseline service levels has negatively affected service development in Co. Kildare.

This approach, coupled with exceptional population growth and historically low levels of service in the county continues to make the task of achieving the 5 national outcomes particularly challenging.

However, it should be noted, that the efforts of Kildare CYPSC, in partnership with the Kildare LCDC have achieved valuable progress in gaining recognition and increasing understanding at national level of the particular needs and challenges for Co. Kildare, which is most welcome. The continuation of this work underpins the Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

In addition to the overall need for enhanced service levels across a range of essential services, the local needs analysis identified that a concerted inter-agency approach is required in relation to a number of key priority areas over the next 3 years:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Family Support
- Parent Support
- Youth Facilities and Activities
- Substance Misuse
- Progression Pathways in education, training and employment
- Child and Youth Development
- Domestic Violence
- Childcare Infrastructure
- Inclusion of minority groups
- Inter-Agency Coordination
- Workforce Development
- Youth Participation
- Resourcing

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ACHIEVING NATIONAL OUTCOMES

Kildare CYPSC's strategic approach to addressing the stated priorities above is underpinned by the following cross-cutting themes:

Enhancing Coordination

Improving the way in which existing services coordinate their inter-agency response can secure benefits for the children, young people and families they support.

Achieving Sustainability

Identifying the existing supports and interventions in our county that are proven as valuable and ensuring that they are put on a secure footing in terms of ongoing resourcing, core funding and mainstreaming.

Innovation

Incorporating innovation into existing services and establishing new services and interventions is a core part of the plan.

Increasing Access to Services

Making services and supports more widely available to those who need them is an important theme in this plan.

Continuous Professional Development

Supporting our workforce to build their capacity to deliver quality services and supports to families through enhancing knowledge, skills and experience.

Progressive Universalism

Strengthening services and supports for all, with particular measures for those who need additional support, with services and interventions that are proportionate to the level of disadvantage.

Early Intervention and Prevention

The approach recognises the impact of adverse childhood experiences on later outcomes for children, young people and families and takes account of the the body of evidence that strongly demonstrates the value of intervening in the early years of a child's life and early in the development of the need.

Geographic Focus

Kildare CYPSC acknowledges that there are areas of the county where meeting the needs of children and families can be particularly challenging for a variety of reasons e.g. high levels of deprivation, low levels of service provision, population growth pressures, rural depopulation, high prevalence of critical incidents, and this will be given due consideration in the implementation of this plan.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PRIORITY AREA AND RELATED ACTIONS

Below is a summary of the analysis that informed the identification of each priority area and the related actions:

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Significant gaps persist in the universal services in this area, with significant waiting lists for both universal and specialist supports. The mental health of children and young people is of growing concern to schools, parents and service providers. The data supports the validity of this concern. Co. Kildare has the third highest number of deaths by suicide in 2017 (out of 34 Local Authority areas nationally).

The existing inter-agency protocol, the *Community Response Plan to death by suspected suicide* was developed in 2011. The protocol has been activated on several occasions since its publication. Organisations involved in operating in accordance with the plan in the aftermath of a death by suicide, including CYPSC member organisations, have identified a need to reflect on their experience, to review the protocol and to use the learning to improve practice and revise the protocol as needed.

Youth mental health and wellbeing was a recurrent theme throughout the range of consultations undertaken as part of the development of the CYPP. Schools were identified as a key mechanism through which supports can be offered to young people. This is reflected in national policy as evidenced by a number of recent

publications e.g. Griffin et al (2018) Both schools and young people identified the potential benefit of harnessing external supports to complement or add value to what is being provided by the school itself. Local services highlighted that the current approach to the provision of “in-school” supports by external agencies can be somewhat ad hoc, piecemeal, reactive and disjointed.

Local service providers identified a need and interest in professional development in the areas of self-harm and infant mental health.

An external evaluation of the innovative community-based mental health programme for men, Heads Up is currently underway. A gap in supports for men was identified locally and Heads Up developed in response to this gap. The need has been further evidenced by the demand for the programme once established, and level of engagement and participation of the men who have benefitted from the programme to date. A specific programme was developed for men aged 18-24 years as part of the CYPSC/LCDC Healthy Ireland initiative.

Link to Action Plan

- To support a review of the existing inter-agency Community Response Plan following a death by suspected suicide
- To check-in with a sample of schools (primary and post-primary) to ascertain current external sources of support, themes, gaps and needs and to pilot an inter-agency response where needed.
- To support the establishment of an Infant Mental Health Network for professionals.
- To support the delivery of training for professionals in relation to Self-Harm
- To map current provision of mental health supports from ante-natal to 24 years, identify gaps and appropriate services/service models to address gaps.
- To secure the required resourcing to establish the proposed new services/interventions.
- To consider and respond to the findings of the Heads Up evaluation

Family Support

While some positive progress has been made in addressing the significant service deficits in Co. Kildare in relation to family Support i.e. the establishment of 2 new Family Resource Centres; much remains to be achieved in order to meet the needs of families in our county. As evidenced in the socio-demographic profile, Co. Kildare has the 5th largest population in the country (222, 504) that is young and growing, with a birth rate that exceeds the national rate. Service levels remain inadequate in responding to needs.

In recent research⁵, access to a range of services was identified by parents as presenting a high level of difficulty due to absence of service and/or long waiting lists. There is only one Family Support project in the county. The Strengthening Families Programme is the sole group intervention in the county that adopts a whole family approach and it is not currently core-funded. The majority of families in the county do not have access to the supports provided via the Preparing for Life programme.

Tusla’s Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme represents a positive development for the county. There are opportunities for families to gain benefits from the supports available under PPFS e.g. Meitheal and Family Support Services. Recent local research recommended that family support needs to be strengthened *as an integral part of childcare provision*. By making early year’s service providers more aware of PPFS this in turn may strengthen the ability of these services to act as conduit for information and access to support for families.

The consultation process highlighted the particular vulnerability experienced by families in emergency homeless accommodation. The negative impact of homelessness on child and family wellbeing has also been

⁵ *Needs and Concerns of Parents in Co. Kildare: Report from the Research and Consultation Process*, Nexus Research Cooperative. Kildare CYPSC & Kildare/West Wicklow Parenting Forum (August 2017).

documented (Children’s Rights Alliance, 2018)⁶. There were 125 households in Local Authority-managed emergency accommodation (Jan 2019)⁷. The 6th highest number in the country.

The growing acknowledgement of the impact for children living in families where substance misuse exists is reflected in the development of the national Hidden Harm Strategy⁸ (Tusla/HSE, 2019). This further highlighted the importance of ensuring the sustainability of existing supports for families affected by substance misuse, such as Hope Cottage.

Link to Action Plan

1. To support the establishment of a dedicated part-time Strengthening Families Programme post
2. To support the establishment of additional Preparing for Life mentor posts in the county.
3. To provide pre-development and other relevant supports to communities to facilitate the establishment of additional Family Resource Centres in the county.
4. To provide a range of information sessions for early year’s providers about Tusla’s Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme.
5. To provide a range of supportive, developmental and recreational activities for families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including the family hub in Athy.
6. To support the sustainability and ongoing development of Hope Cottage Family Support Service

Parent Support

Parent support is a cornerstone of local and national policy in relation to child wellbeing i.e. Better outcomes Brighter Futures, First 5⁹. It is clearly evidenced in both national and international research that the parent-child relationship and parenting styles have a tremendous influence on outcomes for children.

The recent research commissioned by Kildare CYPSC identified a number of key concerns and needs for parents e.g. the challenge of work-life balance for working parents, concern for children’s wellbeing; financial pressure; keeping children safe; access to services, social media. The consultation process for the CYPSC highlighted the information needs of parents and professionals who work with them in relation to available services and supports and how to access them.

There is a growing awareness, understanding and knowledge of the impact of adverse experiences in early childhood on outcomes for children in later life. The concept of ACES is a significant feature of professional discourse about child and family wellbeing at national and local level. *National and international evidence is unequivocal that the ante natal to age 5 phase is the most critical period in a child’s life and is vital for development over the life course.* (First 5, 2019). The limited nature of inter-agency supports to expectant parents in Co. Kildare was highlighted during the consultation process.

Work undertaken by the local youth service with LGBTI+ young people identified peer support needs for their parents. CYPSCs are identified as a key structure in LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020¹⁰.

Link to Action Plan

- To continue to develop the parentingsupport.ie website and related social media sites as an information hub for parents and professionals who work with them
- To develop information resources for parents in relation to systems and referral pathways for mental health and disability services.
- To continue to consider and respond to the findings of the Parenting Research (2017)

⁶ *Home Works: A Study on the Educational Needs of Children Experiencing Homelessness & Living in Emergency Accommodation.* Dr. Geraldine Scanlon & Gráinne McKenna. Childrens Rights Alliance (2018).

⁷ Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Homelessness Report (January 2019).

⁸ *Hidden Harm Practice Guide and Strategic Statement.* Tusla/HSE (2019)

⁹ *First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028.* Government of Ireland

¹⁰ *LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020.* Department of Children and Youth Affairs

- To establish a facilitated Peer Support group for parents of LGBTI+ young people
- To develop an innovative approach to support for working parents via engagement with employers and workplace-based initiatives.
- To provide parenting information, advice and support in a group setting at the ante natal stage

Youth Facilities and Activities

A comprehensive consultation was undertaken with parents and young people are part of the development of the Co. Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028. One of the key findings from the consultation was that the belief held by the young people that they were ‘not welcome’ in certain public spaces e.g. playgrounds, shops, shopping centres, restaurants and cafes: *Young people growing up in Kildare feel a strong sense of exclusion from public and community spaces by virtue of being ‘a young person’*. (Barron, 2017)¹¹.

The report recommends that this *should be addressed within the planning and development of play and recreational spaces and places throughout the county*. Newbridge is a town with a significant youth population, with very limited access to dedicated space for developmental, recreational and cultural activity. The issue of payment of significant rent to private landlords for youth facilities is a persistent challenge both in Newbridge and throughout the county.

Link to Action Plan:

- To pilot the development of an innovative teen “play” space in the county
- To consider the findings of the feasibility study in relation to a youth space in Newbridge and respond as appropriate.

Substance Misuse

The normalisation of cannabis use amongst young people is a concern for parents and service providers. The extensive media discourse in relation to the positive benefits of medicinal cannabis risks causing confusion amongst the general public, including parents and young people and is open to misinterpretation. There is a sense from services that the awareness of cannabis related harms is low. In reality, the research demonstrates that cannabis can act as a gateway to tobacco-related harms; the potency of cannabis has more than doubled since 1969; drug debt intimidation is a common experience for users and cannabis use can have a detrimental effect on mental health.

Link to Action Plan:

- To consider the findings of the Service Review of treatment services in the county and respond as appropriate
- To launch the Cannabis and You website and engage in ongoing promotion of same
- To support the development and delivery of a cannabis-specific group programme for young people.

Progression Pathways in Education, Training and Employment

Alternative education options for young early school leavers (under 16 years) in Co. Kildare are limited. There are currently 3 iScoil e-learning hubs in Co. Kildare, with a capacity for 9 students. Recent consultation with young early school leavers in Co. Kildare (unpublished) highlighted the significant challenges posed in engaging and participating in mainstream education e.g. learning difficulties, bullying, behavioural difficulties, negative school experience. IScoil offers an alternative to these students.

While positive developments in the economy have meant a decline in youth unemployment, there is still a cohort of young people who require further support before they can successfully engage or re-engage with mainstream education services and supports. It is estimated that there are about 1100 NEETS in Co. Kildare NEETS are young people 16-24 years not engaged in education, employment or training.

¹¹ *Play and Recreation needs of children & young people growing up in Co. Kildare, Ireland* (Carol Barron, 2017) [unpublished]

A prevailing view is that unless the issues are tackled, NEET young people are likely to remain NEET and possibly become long term NEET. NEETs are at risk of poorer outcomes, with increased costs to the individual, their local community and the state. (Unpublished report, 2018).

Link to Action Plan

- To consolidate existing iScoil e-learning hubs in Co. Kildare.
- To support the delivery of the Youth Employment Programme for 18-24 year NEETS.
- To support the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) for 16-18 year olds.
- To use the learning from the NEET initiatives and other relevant projects e.g. Ability programme, Heads Up, to consider the future strategic direction with regard to youth unemployment.

Child and Youth Development

There are under 34,751 13-25 year olds living in Co. Kildare. There are large areas of the county in which there is no youth work provision. Young people in these areas do not have access to youth work supports. Kildare CYPSC is committed to supporting the development of the Youth Work Plan for Co. Kildare and harnessing the collective impetus of the Committee to make youth work supports more widely available to the young people in our county.

In line with *First 5: a Whole-Government Strategy for babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028*, Kildare CYPSC is supporting play-based learning for young children and providing opportunities for parents and children to share and benefit from, the experience of play-based interactions. Peer support, clearly identified by parents as a key source of information, support and learning is also a feature of the proposed group programme.

Link to Action Plan

1. To support the establishment of new youth projects and the augmentation of existing projects in response to need.
2. To develop and deliver a play-based programme for parents and under 5s, aligned with Aistear principles and practice.

Domestic Violence

There is growing awareness of Domestic violence (DV) as a significant issue in Co. Kildare, evidenced by the number of women accessing the services of the local support service, Teach Tearmainn. One of the actions from the previous CYPP was the hosting of an inter-agency discussion for frontline workers in relation to domestic violence and their experience of supporting children, young people and families affected by DV. One of the recommendations from the session was the development of awareness training. In addition to this, Domestic violence emerged as a persistent theme via the consultation process. This pertained to both intimate partner violence, child-to-parent violence and working with perpetrators. The need to strengthen the relationships and referral pathways between the organisations with primary and legislative responsibility for this issue was identified.

Link to Action Plan:

- To develop and deliver a series of inter-agency domestic violence awareness workshops for staff of Tusla, An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and Teach Tearmainn.
- To establish an inter-agency working group to explore working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.

Childcare Infrastructure

The recent research report: *Needs Analysis of Early Years Childcare in County Kildare (2018)*¹² identified a number of key gaps and recommendations in relation to childcare infrastructure in Co. Kildare including: insufficient pre-school services in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, rural areas in mid to north of county and in

¹² *Childcare Needs Analysis: An Examination of Childcare Needs from the perspective of children, parents, childcare services and childminders in Co. Kildare.* Ann Clarke. Kildare County Childcare Committee (2018).

Monasterevin/Kildare area; gaps in provision for babies and under 2s. In relation to the range of needs identified in the report it stated: *No one agency has the capacity to address them all and a countywide inter-agency and collaborative approach is recommended. Given the importance of the private sector, it needs to be included in any interagency approach to addressing needs in the county.* These views were echoed in the consultation for the CYPP. Indeed, childcare was identified by the young people in the Comhairle na nÓg county panel as a key priority area to be addressed in the plan. Adequate, quality childcare provision is a key component in facilitating parents' access to education, training and employment.

Link to Action Plan:

- To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to forward planning for childcare infrastructure needs
- To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to new childcare service development in the county.

Inclusion of Minority Groups

Development of the Co. Kildare Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy is currently underway. According to *Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment (2018)* there are estimated to be 1115 Roma people resident in Leinster (outside of Dublin City and county). The report identifies Co. Kildare as one of 8 counties in which the largest communities of Roma live. According to Census 2016 figures, there are 739 people from the Travelling Community living in the county. There are 2 asylum seeker direct provision centres in Co. Kildare, with a combined capacity of 233 people. Although the numbers of Roma, people from the Travelling Community and asylum seekers in Direct provision are relatively low, the evidence of the level of marginalisation of these communities and the less favourable outcomes for children and families is well documented.

Link to Action Plan:

- To consider the actions in the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy and identify those for which CYPSC support will be provided.
- To link with Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) to establish profile of residents e.g. age, gender, family composition
- To develop links with Newbridge Asylum Seeker Support Group and Hazel Friends of the Centre
- To convene meeting of stakeholders to identify roles and responsibilities and actions required if any.

Inter-Agency Coordination

A number of critical incidents have been experienced in the county over the course of the previous plan e.g. gun crime-related death; tragic death by drowning, which threatened to overwhelm the communities in which they occurred. While there is a written protocol in place for an inter-agency response to death by suspected suicide in Co. Kildare, there is no existing agreed procedure to respond to critical incidents of other kinds that have a similar potential to overwhelm a community's ability to cope e.g. homicide, road traffic fatality, tragic death. CYPSC member organisations identified the need for written agreement in relation to procedures, roles and responsibilities in responding to critical incidents to ensure that the needs of communities are met. This was a named action in the previous CYPP and the process of developing the policy has been initiated. This will be continued in this plan, with the goal of finalising the policy during the lifecycle of the new plan.

Link to Action Plan:

- To develop an Inter-agency Critical Incident Policy for Co. Kildare.

Workforce Development

Kildare CYPSC is committed to supporting our workforce to ensure quality services for children and young people and to offer professional development opportunities. It important to do this in a coordinated manner that optimises the use of resources and provides relevant opportunities in response to identified need.

Link to Action Plan:

- To undertake a training needs analysis of professionals working with children, young people and families

Youth Participation

The *National Strategy for Children’s and Young People’s Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020* is influenced by *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures*, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Its goal is to give young people (primarily those aged under 18, but also those entering adulthood up to age 24) a voice in decision-making in local communities, education, health and the legal system. The rationale for this is based on international evidence of individual and societal benefits arising from participation and engagement by young people in decision-making. Since its inception, Kildare CYPSC has continued to develop the positive relationship with Kildare Comhairle na nÓg. As part of the implementation of the new CYPP, Kildare CYPSC is committed to exploring how youth participation can be further embedded into the work of the Committee.

Link to Action Plan:

- To reflect on and agree the Kildare CYPSC approach and methodology in relation to youth participation

Resourcing

Kildare CYPSC is committed to continuing to identify and source external funding to support the implementation of the 3-Year Action Plan. The Committee aims to build on the successful partnership with the Kildare Local Community Development Committee in relation to the Healthy Ireland Fund.

Link to Action Plan

- To continue to support the CYPSC/LCDC joint application to the Healthy Ireland Fund.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ACHIEVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Rationale for Objectives

The table below outlines the rationale for each objective chosen as the means to achieve the stated outcomes.

Chosen Objective	Rationale
To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a death by suspected suicide in the county	A more effective response will enhance the capacity of the community to respond in the immediate aftermath of a tragic death and in the event of future tragedies. A more effective response will lessen the likelihood of a suicide cluster/contagion occurring.
To identify the requirements, if any, for enhanced coordination and effectiveness of external supports to schools in relation to health and wellbeing	Providing coordinated, appropriate supports via schools in response to identified need will benefit the health and wellbeing of students.
To enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of professionals	Enhancing the knowledge, skills and practice of professionals will lead to an improved quality of service provided to children, young people and families with expected benefits in terms of outcomes.
To increase service levels in the	Increasing the level of available services for young people will

Chosen Objective	Rationale
provision of mental health supports to young people.	lead to a reduction in waiting lists, wait times, inappropriate referrals and will make timely supports more readily available for the young people who require them.
To support the sustainability of the Heads Up programme	Securing ongoing core funding for interventions that have demonstrated responsiveness to need and evidence of positive impact is a key element of progress toward achieving outcomes for children and families.
To consolidate the Strengthening Families Programme	Securing ongoing core funding for interventions that have demonstrated responsiveness to need and evidence of positive impact is a key element of progress toward achieving outcomes for children and families.
To make the Preparing for Life programme more widely available to families in Co. Kildare	An evidence-based programme/ intervention that has proven benefits for families in one area of the county should be expanded to enable families in need living in other locations to access it. Access to support should not be contingent on address.
To increase the number of Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare	Family Resource Centres are essential family support infrastructure which act as hubs around which diverse supports can be offered to families in an easily accessible way. FRCs can be the strong base from which other resources for families can be leveraged into the county.
To develop the relationship between the Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support team and the Early Years Service Providers in the county	Developing this relationship will facilitate greater access to Tusla supports e.g. Meitheal, by families linked to early year's services.
<p>To enhance to level of support to vulnerable families in Co. Kildare</p> <p>To enhance the level of support to targeted groups of parents.</p>	<p>This is underpinned by the progressive universalism approach to the CYPP which acknowledges the particular vulnerabilities of certain families – in this case homeless families, those affected by substance misuse and asylum seeker families living in Direct Provision Centres. Developing targeted supports can enhance likelihood of engagement and participation and can also lead to accessing mainstream community supports. Working parents and parents of LGBTI young people have also been identified in the Plan as</p>

Chosen Objective	Rationale
	benefiting from targeted supports.
To enhance the level of awareness among parents of available supports and services in Co. Kildare	Having an awareness of the supports available will increase the likelihood that support will be sought and received by parents when needed.
To listen to the voice of parents in informing response to meet their needs.	Listening to parents increases the likelihood that the responses developed will be appropriate, relevant and effective.
To enhance the level and inter-agency nature of the support provided to expectant parents	The ante-natal stage represents a really opportune time to offer support to parents to complement the supports provided via the maternal health system. If parents become aware of and comfortable with accessing supports at this stage, it will increase the likelihood of seeking help when needed across the lifecycle.
To support the development of appropriate play, recreational and cultural spaces for teens	If appropriate opportunities are offered to teens in youth-friendly spaces this will increase the likelihood of engagement and participation with all the accompanying benefits from same.
To increase the availability of and access to treatment services for young people.	Increased availability and access to service means increased uptake and enhanced likelihood of positive outcomes for young people who are in receipt of appropriate treatment.
To raise awareness among young people of cannabis-related harms.	Making young people more aware that cannabis use can be harmful and the ways in which this harm can impact on their quality of life will encourage them to consider positive behaviour change.
To encourage positive behavioural change among young cannabis users	Giving young people the tools and support to change their behaviour will increase the likelihood that change will happen and positive benefits for young person will follow.
To enhance the range of alternative education options available to early school leavers in Co. Kildare	Providing a range of options will increase the opportunity for young people out-of-school to remain in education, with the associated benefits in terms of future outcomes.
To make youth work supports more widely available to young	Youth work provision should be available to young people as needed, irrespective of the location of the county in which

Chosen Objective	Rationale
people in Co. Kildare	they live.
To enhance opportunities for parents and their young children to experience the benefits of shared play-based activities.	Play-based learning for parents and children together has proven benefits in terms of the parent-child relationship, child development and developing positive habits for life.
To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence	By working together more effectively, the response received by women and children experiencing domestic violence will improve.
To enhance the knowledge, skills and understanding of professionals in working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.	Building workforce capacity in working safely with perpetrators of Domestic violence will improve the quality of the response provided to families affected.
To enhance inter-agency coordination and effectiveness of forward planning in relation to the identification of childcare infrastructure needs in the county	Working together more effectively will help to ensure that childcare infrastructure is planned in an open, transparent and needs-led fashion so that appropriate services can be provided where required.
To identify an agreed inter-agency approach to the pre-development and development of new childcare service provision when a need is identified.	Having an agreed approach to service development will enhance the likelihood that supports will be available so that services can be developed when a need is identified.
To support 16-24 year old NEETS to identify pathways to education, training and employment	Supporting young NEETS to identify and engage in a progression pathway will enhance likelihood of future positive life outcomes for them.
To support the implementation of the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy	Traveller/Roma families have been identified as a particularly vulnerable group in the Plan.
To improve the coordination and	A more effective response will enhance the capacity of the

Chosen Objective	Rationale
effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a critical incident.	community to respond in the immediate aftermath of a critical incident and in the event of future incidents.
To identify the training needs of frontline workers	Identifying the common training needs across services and organisation will allow the pooling of resources to effectively meet these training needs. Inter-agency training builds relationships, facilitates peer learning while building workforce capacity.
To ensure that the voice of children and young people informs the work of CYPSC	Listening to young peoples' voice increases the likelihood that the responses developed will be appropriate, relevant and effective.
To leverage additional funds to support the implementation of the CYPP	Extra funding is required to fully implement the Children and Young People's Plan for Co. Kildare

Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Co. Kildare

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	Mental Health and Wellbeing, Family Support, Parent Support, Youth Facilities and Activities, Substance Misuse
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	Progression Pathways in education, training and employment, Child and Youth Development
3. Safe and protected from harm	Domestic Violence
4. Economic security and opportunity	Childcare Infrastructure, Progression Pathways in education, training and employment
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Inclusion of minority groups

Change Management	Local Priority Areas
Change management - CYPSC may also identify priority areas relating to change management and supports needed to enable interagency collaboration at local level, e.g. development of interagency protocols, development of information sharing protocols, interagency training.	Inter-agency Coordination, Workforce Development, Participation, Resourcing,

Section 6: Action Plan for Co. Kildare Children and Young People’s Services Committee

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a death by suicide in the county.	No. of reviews completed	1 review completed	To support a review of the existing inter-agency Community Response Plan following a death by suspected suicide	2020	HSE, NEPS, KYS, SWRDATAF, Tusla	Connecting for Life	Outcome 3 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
	To identify the requirements, if any, for enhanced coordination and effectiveness of external supports to schools in relation to health and wellbeing	No. of schools engaged in process	2 primary schools and 2 post-primary schools engaged in process	To check-in with a sample of schools (primary and post-primary) to ascertain current external sources of support, themes, gaps and needs and to pilot an inter-agency response where needed.	2020	Tusla EWS, HSE, SWRDATAF, KYS, Maynooth University, An Garda Síochána, CKLP	Connecting for Life and National Drugs Strategy, Wellbeing Framework for Post Primary Schools (2018)	Outcome 2 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
	To enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of professionals in Co. Kildare	No. of networks established	1 network established	To support the establishment of an Infant Mental Health Network for professionals.	2019	KYS, HSE, FRCs	Connecting for Life and First 5	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
		No. of training programmes delivered	2 training programmes delivered	To support the delivery of training for professionals in relation to Self-Harm	2020	HSE, KYS	Connecting for Life	Outcome 3 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
	To increase service levels in the provision of mental health supports to young people.	No. of mapping exercises completed. No. of models identified.	1 mapping exercise completed. 1 model identified.	To map current provision of mental health supports from ante-natal to 24 years, identify gaps	2020	HSE, KYS, Tusla, CKLP, SWRDATAF	Connecting for Life	Outcomes 2, 3 & 4 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
		No. of funding proposal developed Amount of funding secured	1 funding proposal developed Adequate funding secured	and appropriate services/service models to address gaps. To secure the required resourcing to establish the proposed new services/ interventions.				
	To support the sustainability of the Heads Up programme in Co. Kildare (mental health and wellbeing programme for men)	No. of sessions to consider Heads Up evaluation findings	1 session to consider finding of Heads Up evaluation	To consider and respond to the findings of the Heads Up evaluation	2019	CKLP, HSE, SWRDATAF, KCoCo/LCDC, KYS	Connecting for Life	Outcomes 2, 3, 4 & 5 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
Family Support	To consolidate the Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare	No. of part-time posts created	1 part-time post created	To support the establishment of a dedicated part-time Strengthening Families Programme post	2020	Tusla, SWRDATAF, CKLP, Foróige, An Garda Síochána	National Drug Strategy	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
	To make the Preparing for Life programme more widely available to families in Co. Kildare	No. of additional mentor posts established	2.5 posts established	To support the establishment of additional Preparing for Life mentor posts in the county.	2021	Family Resource Centres, Tusla, CKLP	First 5	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
	To increase the number of Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare	No. of additional Family Resource Centre	2 additional Family Resource Centres	To provide pre-development and other relevant supports to	2021	Kildare County Council, Tusla, CKLP	BOBF	Outcomes 2, 3 & 5 Transformational Goal: Earlier Intervention and

Action Plan for **Co. Kildare** 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)
				communities to facilitate the establishment of additional Family Resource Centres in the county.				Prevention
	To develop the relationship between the Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support team and early years service providers in the county	No. of information sessions	3 information sessions	To provide a range of information sessions for early years providers about Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme	2021	Kildare County Childcare Committee, Tusla	First 5	Outcome 3 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
	To enhance the level of support to vulnerable families in Co. Kildare	No. of interventions	3 interventions	To provide a range of supportive, developmental and recreational activities for families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including the family hub in Athy.	2021	Tusla, Kildare County Council, Peter McVerry Trust	BOBF	Outcomes 2, 3 & 5 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
		Amount of core funding secured	Adequate core funding secured	To support the sustainability and ongoing development of Hope Cottage Family Support Service	2021	SWRDATAF, CKLP	National Drugs Strategy, HSE/Tusla Hidden Harm strategy	Outcomes 2, 3 & 5 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
Parent Support	To enhance the level of awareness among parents of available	Increase in no. of visits to the website	10% increase in visits to the site	To continue to develop the parentingsupport.ie	2021	Tusla, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare	BOBF, First 5	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Support

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
	services and supports in Co. Kildare	.		website and related social media sites as an information hub for parents and professionals who work with them.		County Council		Parents
		No. of information resources produced	2 information resources produced.	To develop information resources for parents in relation to systems and referral pathways for mental health and disability services.	2020	HSE, Tusla	BOBF	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
	To listen to the voice of parents in informing responses to meet their needs.	No. of initiatives developed to respond to the findings of the research	3 initiatives developed	To continue to consider and respond to the findings of the Parenting Research (2017)	2019	Tusla, KYS, CKLP, KCCC, HSE, Foróige	BOBF	Outcome 5 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
	To enhance the level of support to targetted groups of parents	No. of groups established	1 group established	To establish a facilitated Peer Support group for parents of LGBTI+ young people	2020	KYS, HSE, CKLP	National LGBTI+ Strategy	Outcomes 2 & 5 Transformational Goal: Support Parents
		No. of employers engaged	2 employers engaged	To develop an innovative approach to support for working parents via engagement with employers and workplace-based initiatives.	2020	Tusla, KCCC, Foróige	First 5	Outcome 5 Transformational Goal: Support Parents

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
	To enhance the level and inter-agency nature of the support provided to expectant parents	No. of group sessions	4 group sessions	To provide parenting information, advice and support in a group setting at the ante natal stage.	2020	HSE, Tusla, SWRDATEF	First 5, Connecting for Life	Outcome 2 & 3 Earlier Intervention and Prevention
Youth facilities and activities	To support the development of appropriate play, recreation and cultural spaces for teens	No. of teen play spaces developed	1 teen play space developed	To pilot the development of an innovative teen "play" space in the county	2021	Kildare County Council, Kildare Youth Services	Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028	Outcomes 2 & 5 Transformational Goal: Listen to & Involve Children & Young People
		No. of sessions to consider findings of feasibility study	2 sessions	To consider the findings of the feasibility study in relation to a youth space in Newbridge and respond as appropriate	2020	CKLP, Kildare County Council, Kildare Youth Services, Tusla, KWETB	National Youth Strategy	Outcomes 2 & 5 Transformational Goal: Listen to & Involve Children & Young People
Substance Misuse	To increase the availability of and access to treatment services for young people.	No. of sessions to consider findings of feasibility study	2 sessions	To consider the findings of the Service Review of treatment services in the county and respond as appropriate	2021	SWRDATEF, KYS, HSE	National Drug Strategy	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
	To raise awareness among young people of cannabis-related harms. To encourage positive behavioural	No. of launches completed No. of business cards and posters distributed	1 launch completed 250 business cards and poster distributed. 1 programme	To launch the Cannabis and You website and engage in ongoing promotion of same. To support the	2019	SWRDATEF, KYS, An Garda Síochána, Extern, Youthreach, Foróige	National Drug Strategy	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Earlier Intervention & Prevention

Action Plan for **Co. Kildare** 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)
	change among young cannabis users.	No. of programmes developed and delivered	developed and delivered.	development and delivery of a cannabis-specific group programme for young people.				

Action Plan for Co. Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 2: Achieving full potential 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)
Examples								
Progression	To enhance the range of alternative education options available to early school leavers in Co. Kildare	No. of hubs mainstreamed	3 hubs mainstreamed	To consolidate existing iScoil e-learning hubs in Co. Kildare	2021	Tusla EWS, KYS, Curragh/Kildare School Completion Programme	BOBF	Outcomes 4 & 5 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
Child and Youth Development	To make youth work supports more widely available to young people in Co. Kildare	No. of additional youth projects	1 additional youth project	To support the establishment of new youth projects and the augmentation of existing projects in response to need.	2021	KWETB, KYS, Kildare County Council	National Youth Strategy	Outcomes 1 & 5 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
	To enhance opportunities for parents and their young children to experience the benefits of shared play-based activities.	No. of group programmes	2 group programmes	To develop and deliver a play-based programme for parents and under 5s, aligned with Aistear principles and practice.	2021	Kildare County Childcare Committee, Tusla, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service	First 5	Outcomes 1 & 3 Transformational Goal: Support Parents

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
Domestic violence	To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence	No. of workshops delivered	2 workshops delivered	To develop and deliver a series of inter-agency domestic violence awareness workshops for staff of Tusla, An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and Teach Tearmainn.	2020	Teach Tearmainn, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Probation Service	Policing Plan	Outcomes 1 & 2 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
	To enhance the knowledge, skills and understanding of professionals in working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.	No. of working groups established	1 working group established	To establish an inter-agency working group to explore working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.	2020	Kildare Youth Services, Teach Tearmainn, MEND, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Probation Service, SWRDATAF	Policing Plan	Outcomes 1 & 2 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
Childcare Infrastructure	To enhance inter-agency coordination and effectiveness of forward planning in relation to the identification of childcare infrastructure needs in the county	No. of sessions	2 sessions	To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to forward planning for childcare infrastructure needs.	2020	Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare County Council, CKLP	KCCC Plan, SICAP Plan	Outcomes 1 & 2 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
	To identify an agreed inter-agency approach to the pre-development and development of new childcare service provision when a need is identified.	No. of sessions	2 sessions	To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to new childcare service development in the county.	2020	Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare County Council, CKLP	KCCC Plan, SICAP Plan	Outcomes 1 & 2 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
Progression	To support 16-24 year old NEETS to identify pathways to education, training and employment	No. of programmes	1 per annum	To support the delivery of the Youth Employment Programme for 18-24 year NEETS.		CKLP, DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána		Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Strengthen Transitions
		No. of posts created	1 post created	To support the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative for 16-18 year olds		CKLP, DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána		Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Strengthen Transitions
		No. of sessions to consider future strategic direction	2 sessions	To use the learning from the NEET initiatives and other relevant projects e.g.	2020	CKLP, DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána	Youth Employment Initiative	Outcomes 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
				Ability programme, Heads Up, to consider the future strategic direction with regard to youth unemployment.				agency Collaboration & Coordination

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
Inclusion	To support the implementation of the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy	No. of actions identified	2 actions	To consider the actions in the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy and identify those for which CYPSC support will be provided.	2020	CKLP, Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE	National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy	Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 4 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
	To identify and respond to the support needs of families living in the asylum seeker Direct Provision Centres: Eyre Powell, Newbridge and Hazel Hotel, Monasterevin.	Information received from RIA No. of contacts with Centre support groups No. of meetings convened	Profile of residents received from RIA 2 contact with support groups 3 meetings convened	To link with Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) to establish profile of residents e.g. age, gender, family composition To develop links with Newbridge Asylum Seeker Support Group and Hazel Friends of the Centre To convene meeting of stakeholders to identify roles and responsibilities and actions required if any.	2020	CKLP, Tusla, HSE, KCCC, KWETB, KCoCo	BOBF	Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 4 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination

Action Plan for Co. Kildare 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)
Inter-agency Coordination	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a critical incident.	No. of critical incident policies developed	1 policy developed	To develop an inter-agency Critical Incident Policy	2020	Tusla, HSE, NEPS, SWRDATAF, KYS		Outcome 3 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination
Workforce Development	To identify the training needs of frontline workers	No. of training analyses completed	1 training analysis completed	To undertake a training needs analysis of professionals working with children, young people and families	2021	Maynooth University, KYS		Outcomes 1, 2 & 3 Transformational Goal: Ensure Quality Services
Participation	To ensure that the voice of children and young people informs the work of CYPSC	No. of mechanisms agreed	1 mechanism agreed	To reflect on and agree the Kildare CYPSC approach and methodology in relation to youth participation	2019	KYS, KCoCo, Tusla, KWETB	National Participation Strategy	Outcome 5 Transformational Goal: Listen to & Involve Children & Young People.
Resourcing	To leverage additional funds to support the implementation of the CYPP	No. of applications	1 per annum	To continue to support the CYPSC/LCDC joint application to the Healthy Ireland Fund	2019-2021	Kildare County Council, SWRDATAF, HSE	Healthy Ireland Framework	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Transformational Goal: Cross-Government & Inter-agency Collaboration & Coordination

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and review of this plan will be undertaken in line with the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework.

An annual Work Plan will be agreed for each of the 3 years of the plan and an Annual Programme of Work will be submitted to Tusla National CYPSC Office and will be available on www.cypsc.ie

A Work Plan Progress update will be presented at every Kildare CYPSC meeting.

A mid-term and annual review of the Work Plan will be completed. An Annual Progress Report will be submitted to the Tusla national CYPSC office and for the attention of the CYPSC National Steering Group and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

An overall review of the 3-year Plan will be completed as part of the planning process for the next 3-year Plan.

The CYPSC website, www.cypsc.ie will be used as a tool to support the implementation of the CYPP (Children and Young People's Plan).

Both Main Committee and Sub Groups will have a role in the ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan.

Section 8: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF DATA SOURCES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Long Term Social Exclusion in Athy, Dec 2018 (draft internal doc unpublished)
- An Evaluation of the Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare (Furlong, M et al., May 2017)
- Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: A National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020
- Childcare Needs Analysis: An examination of childcare needs from the perspective of children, parents, childcare services and childminders in Co. Kildare (2018)
- Co. Kildare Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (unpublished draft, 2019)
- Connecting for Life Local Action Plan Kildare/West Wicklow
- County Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019
- CSO Vital Statistics www.cso.ie
- First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028, Government of Ireland
- Giving Our Children the Best Start in Life: The Voices of Parents: Summary Report from Online Consultation with Parents Katherine Howard Foundation (March, 2018)
- Growing Up in Ireland Key Findings: Cohort 08 at 9 Years Old, Nov. 2018
- Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- *Home Works: A Study on the Educational Needs of Children Experiencing Homelessness and Living in Emergency Accommodation*. Dr. Geraldine Scanlon, Gráinne McKenna. Childrens Rights Alliance (2018).
- *Increasing rates of self-harm among children, adolescents and young adults: A 10-year national registry study 2007-2016* (Griffin, E. et al., 2018)
- Infant Mental Health Network Group Evaluation. Infant Mental Health Learning Network North Cork, 2016
- Kildare Census 2016 Profiles, AIRO (All-Ireland Research Observatory) on behalf of Kildare Local Community Development Committee and Kildare County Council.
- Kildare Play Strategy (2018 – 2028)
- LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 LGBTI+ young people: visible, valued and included
- Measuring the Pressure Report Dec 2018 Tusla (internal report)
- National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Annual Report 2017, National Suicide Research Foundation
- National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021, Department of Justice and Equality
- NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY 2015–2020
- Needs and Concerns of Parents in Co. Kildare: Report from the Research and Consultation Process (2017)
- *Play and recreation needs of children and young people growing up in Co. Kildare, Ireland (2017)*
- Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025
- Review of Athy Youth Employment Programme (C. Dunne, Nov 2018) (unpublished draft)
- Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment (2018) Pavee Point, Department of Justice and equality
- Society at a Glance: A Spotlight on Youth OECD Report (2016)

- Reception and Integration Agency Annual Report 2017
- State of the Nation's Children 2016, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Statistical Information on Social Welfare Services Annual Report 2017, Department of Employment and Social Protection.
- Study on Rural Youth in County Kildare Ann Clarke, Anne Eustace and Tom Martin (2018) (unpublished)
- *The National Strategy for Children's and Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020*
- Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Homelessness Report Jan 2019
- National Drug Treatment online database
- Cannabis Use in Ireland: New Findings from fourth general population survey Drugnet Ireland Miller, S. (2019) National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol (NACDA)
- Kildare Division Annual Policing Plan 2018
- Tusla/HSE Hidden Harm Practice Guide and Strategic Statement (2019)

APPENDIX 2: HOW THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

The development of the Children and Young People’s Plan comprised a number of different elements and stages:

- Agreeing the “plan for the plan”
- Review of previous plan
- Literature Review
- Consultation
- Data Collection
- Analysis

Agreeing the “plan for the plan”

A proposed methodology was presented to the CYPSC and was agreed following discussion. CYPSC members highlighted the importance of taking the following into account as part of the planning process:

- Achieving a balance between the consolidation of existing work and incorporating innovation
- Achieving a balance between action and strategy.
- Learning from our previous plans.
- Responding to findings of local research to ensure that CYPSC is listening and addressing concerns that we know about, as opposed to repeated consultation as an end in itself.

Review of previous plan

The review comprised the following:

- Literature Review of Action Plan Progress reports to CYPSC and annual review documents.
- An externally facilitated review session with CYPSC members and Coordinator
- Online consultation with Sub Group members

The learning from this review, as outlined in the previous section, informed the plan.

Literature Review

The literature review element of the planning process was extensive. A review was undertaken of local, regional and national documents – Strategies, Annual Reports, strategic plans, thematic reports, evaluations, research reports and work plans.

In addition to the above, the meeting Minutes from several relevant local fora were analysed for the period from submission of the previous plan (February 2015) to identify themes, issues, vulnerable groups, blocks and gaps e.g. main CYPSC, CYPSC sub- groups, Child and Family Support Network, Parenting Forum, School Completion Programme Local Committee.

These fora operate on an on-going basis as a means for workers on the ground to highlight current and emerging issues experienced by the children, young people and families with whom they work. The consultative nature of these groups was recognised by the CYPSC and it was agreed that the analysis of meeting Minutes would form part of the input from a cross section of organisations working with children, young people and families in the county.

Consultation

The consultation element of the Children and Young People’s Plan comprised a number of features:

- 1-2-1 meetings with each CYPSC member
- 1-2-1 and group meetings with key individuals (within and external to CYPSC member organisations)
- Online consultation with local services (30 professionals)

- Online consultations with local Public Representatives (County Councillors and TDs).
- Facilitated planning session with Comhairle na nÓg county panel (14 young people)
- Consultation with Kildare Local Community Development Committee in relation to the draft Plan.
- Consultation with young people about their cannabis use as part of the development of Local Cannabis-related Harm Action plan. (41 young people)
- Consultation with young early school leavers undertaken by local Youth Training and Development Centre. (23 young people)

In addition to the above, data from local consultations recently completed with parents, children and young people informed the plan:

1. Needs and Concerns of Parents in Co. Kildare: Report from the Research and Consultation Process (2017)
2. Play and recreation needs of children and young people growing up in Co. Kildare, Ireland (2017)
3. Kildare Play Strategy (2018 – 2028)
4. Childcare Needs Analysis: An examination of childcare needs from the perspective of children, parents, childcare services and childminders in Co. Kildare (2018)

Data Collection

Relevant data was gathered via the literature review, consultation, directly from CYPSC member organisations and from online sources, including national databases.

The socio-demographic profile for the plan was based in large part on the Kildare Census 2016 Profiles developed by AIRO (All-Ireland Research Observatory) on behalf of Kildare Local Community Development Committee and Kildare County Council.

The updated audit of services was informed by local knowledge gleaned from the ongoing work of the CYPSC in consultation with CYPSC member organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

Analysis

The process of local needs analysis and the identification of priority areas and related actions took place on a phased basis.

An initial analysis identified key messages emerging from the literature review, data collection and consultation.

This was presented to the main Committee for discussion, comment and feedback over the course of the 4 facilitated group sessions.

In deciding on priority areas and related actions, the CYPSC took account of the following:

- Data and Evidence (what is it telling us about need?)
- Available resources
- Local Priorities (individual organisational priorities and shared priorities)
- CYPSC role
- Consultation
- Local Research
- Experience and learning from previous plans
- National priorities (from DCYA and other relevant departments, initiatives)
- Gaps
- Existing priority areas.
- Likelihood of positive change within remit and capacity of CYPSC.

- Balance between innovation/new areas/actions and building on work that is already underway/has taken place.

When priority actions were identified, CYPSC members were invited to consider each action and identify if their organisation would be a lead or partner.

Actions without an identified lead organisation were not included in the plan.

Actions without at least one partner, in addition to the lead organisation, were not included in the plan.

Indicators were chosen on the basis of relevance and feasibility as a means of measuring if the outcome was achieved.

APPENDIX 3: HARDIKER MODEL OF NEED

