



Kildare

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

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

March 2019

Contact

This is a summary of the Kildare Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP). The full document, including detailed demographic profile, overview of services, needs analysis, appendices and references is available from: Emma Berney, Kildare CYPSC Coordinator emma.berney@tusla.ie 086-4178220 and on www.cypsc.ie

Introduction

The purpose of 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 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

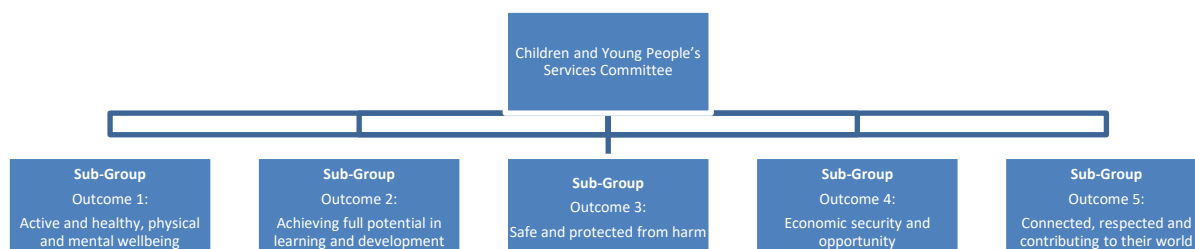
- The inaugural meeting of the Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee took place in June 2010.
- In March 2011, a Coordinator was appointed to support the work of the Committee.
- In September 2011, the Committee's first 3 –Year Plan was submitted to the Department of Children and Youth 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.
- This is the third Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for Kildare CYPSC.

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 Síochána	Ciara McCormack	Sergeant
HSE	Geraldine Peelo	Manager Primary Care
Irish Primary Principals Network	Marion Sherlock	Principal
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
	Audrey Warren	Area Manager
	Caroline Sheehan	Senior Manager, Prevention Partnership & Family Support
Tusla, Educational Welfare Service	Jean Rafter	Regional Manager

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



The role of the Sub Groups isto 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

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	Teach Dara Family Resource Centre in Kildare Town, which has been operating in the absence of core funding since its inception, has now secured mainstream funding to ensure the continued support to children and families in the area.

Achievement	Example	Impact
		<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	<p>Alternative education options are now available in Athy and Kildare Town for young people aged 13-16 who are not in mainstream education.</p> <p>iScoil provides recognised accredited learning QQI Level 3 and can act as a bridge back to school or on to Youthreach or other education options.</p>
	Youth Officer post in Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board	<p>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.</p> <p>The KWETB Youth Work Committee has been established and work has</p>

Achievement	Example	Impact
		commenced on the development of the Youth Work Plan.
Leveraging additional resources into the county	Healthy Ireland Fund (Round 1 and Round 2)	<p>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,</p> <p>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.</p>
	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 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.

Achievement	Example	Impact
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 and brief intervention elements.

Achievement	Example	Impact
	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 the 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.</p> <p>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</p>

Achievement	Example	Impact
		parents (online and outdoor billboard campaign).
	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 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 CYPP.
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).

Achievement	Example	Impact
	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)	<p>The relationship with the Local Committee Development Committee has supported CYPSC in achieving its objectives.</p> <p>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.</p>
	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	2 groups of young people affected by the substance

Achievement	Example	Impact
	Programme	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	<p>Inter-agency relationships have been strengthened via the process of planning and developing the workshop.</p> <p>A locally-developed workshop will be delivered to personnel from Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Probation Service and Teach Tearmainn in 2019.</p>
Greater understanding and awareness at local, regional and national level of the particular challenges faced by children, young people and families in Co. Kildare	Specific inputs about the work of CYPSC and the needs of children, young people and families in our county at County Council Municipal District meetings.	<p>Local Councillors have greater awareness of the key issues and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective.</p> <p>Enhanced consistency of message being conveyed in relation to needs and priorities for Co. Kildare.</p>
	Meeting and communication with local TDs	<p>Local TDs have greater awareness of the key issues and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective.</p> <p>Enhanced consistency of message being conveyed in relation to needs and priorities for Co. Kildare.</p>

Achievement	Example	Impact
		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	<p>Minister and Department officials have greater awareness of the key issues, needs and priorities for our county from a CYPSC perspective.</p> <p>Needs and issues in Co. Kildare being discussed at national level.</p>

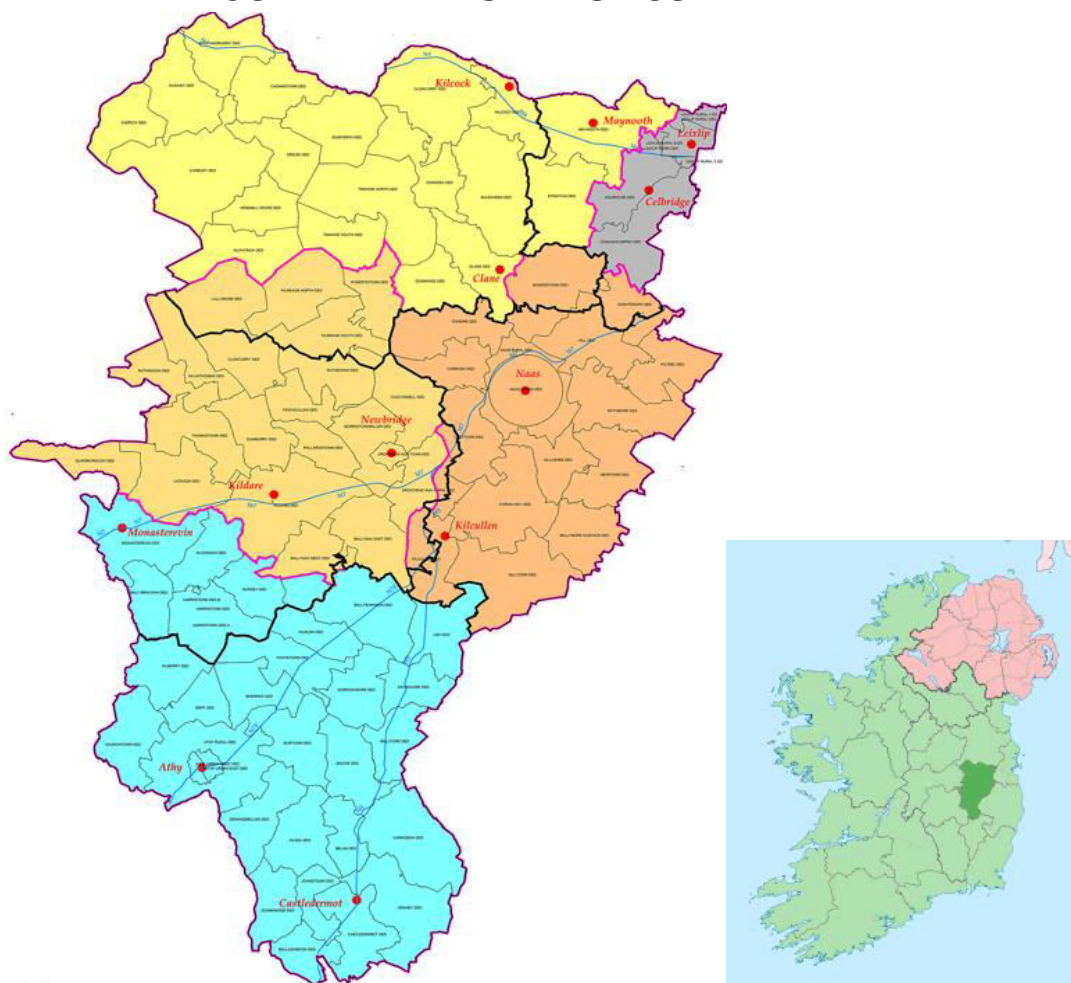
OVERALL IMPACT

- 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.

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).

SUMMARY PROFILE 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.

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.

Notable Characteristics and Features of Co. Kildare

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 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), 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.

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.

LOCAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

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 AREAS

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.

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 research, 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 years 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 documented (Children’s Rights Alliance, 2018). There were

125 households in Local Authority-managed emergency accommodation (Jan 2019). 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 Strategy (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.

Parent Support

Parent support is a cornerstone of local and national policy in relation to child wellbeing i.e. Better Outcomes Brighter Futures. First 5. 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 CYPP 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 2018-2020.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

Childcare Infrastructure

The recent research report: Needs Analysis of Early Years Childcare in County Kildare (2018) 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 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 approaches 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.

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.

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.

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 is important to do this in a coordinated manner that optimises the use of resources and provides relevant opportunities in response to identified need.

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.

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.

ACTION PLAN

OUTCOME 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing				
PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Mental Health and Wellbeing	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a death by suicide in the county.	To support a review of the existing inter-agency Community Response Plan following a death by suspected suicide	HSE	NEPS, KYS, SWRDATAF, Tusla
	To identify the requirements, if any, for enhanced coordination and effectiveness of external supports to schools in relation to health and wellbeing	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.	Tusla EWS	HSE, SWRDATAF, KYS, Maynooth University, An Garda Síochána, CKLP
	To enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of professionals in Co. Kildare	To support the establishment of an Infant Mental Health Network for professionals.	KYS	HSE, FRCs
	To enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of professionals in Co. Kildare	To support the delivery of training for professionals in relation to Self-Harm	HSE	KYS
	To increase service levels in the provision of mental health supports to young people	To map current provision of mental health supports from ante-natal to 24 years, identify gaps and appropriate services/service	HSE	KYS, Tusla, CKLP, SWRDATAF

OUTCOME 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
		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)	To consider and respond to the findings of the Heads Up evaluation	CKLP	HSE, SWRDATEF, KCoCo/LCDC, KYS
Family Support	To consolidate the Strengthening Families Programme in Co. Kildare	To support the establishment of a dedicated part-time Strengthening Families Programme post	Tusla	SWRDATEF, CKLP, Foróige, An Garda Síochána
	To make the Preparing for Life programme more widely available to families in Co. Kildare	To support the establishment of additional Preparing for Life mentor posts in the county.	Family Resource Centres	Tusla, CKLP
	To increase the number of Family Resource Centres in Co. Kildare	To provide pre-development and other relevant supports to communities to facilitate the establishment of additional Family Resource Centres in the county.	Kildare County Council	Tusla, CKLP
	To develop the relationship between the Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support team and early years service providers in the county	To provide a range of information sessions for early years providers about Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme	Kildare County Childcare Committee	Tusla
	To enhance the level of support to vulnerable families in Co. Kildare	To provide a range of supportive, developmental and recreational activities for families living in emergency homeless accommodation, including the family hub in Athy.	Tusla	Kildare County Council, Peter McVerry Trust
	To enhance the level of support to vulnerable families in Co. Kildare	To support the sustainability and ongoing development of Hope Cottage Family Support Service	SWRDATEF	CKLP
Parent Support	To enhance the level of awareness among parents of available services and supports in Co. Kildare	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.	Tusla	Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare County Council

OUTCOME 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
	To enhance the level of awareness among parents of available services and supports in Co. Kildare	To develop information resources for parents in relation to systems and referral pathways for mental health and disability services.	HSE	Tusla
	To listen to the voice of parents in informing responses to meet their needs	To continue to consider and respond to the findings of the Parenting Research (2017)	Tusla	KYS, CKLP, KCCC, HSE, Foróige
	To enhance the level of support to targetted groups of parents	To establish a facilitated Peer Support group for parents of LGBTI+ young people	KYS	HSE, CKLP
	To enhance the level of support to targetted groups of parents	To develop an innovative approach to support for working parents via engagement with employers and workplace-based initiatives.	Tusla	KCCC, Foróige
	To enhance the level and inter-agency nature of the support provided to expectant parents	To provide parenting information, advice and support in a group setting at the ante natal stage.	HSE	Tusla, SWRDATF
Youth facilities and activities	To support the development of appropriate play, recreation and cultural spaces for teens	To pilot the development of an innovative teen “play” space in the county	Kildare County Council	Kildare Youth Services
	To support the development of appropriate play, recreation and cultural spaces for teens	To consider the findings of the feasibility study in relation to a youth space in Newbridge and respond as appropriate	CKLP	Kildare County Council, Kildare Youth Services, Tusla, KWETB
Substance Misuse	To increase the availability of and access to treatment services for young people.	To consider the findings of the Service Review of treatment services in the county and respond as appropriate	SWRDATF	KYS, HSE
	To raise awareness among young people of cannabis-related harms. To encourage positive behavioural change among young cannabis users	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.	SWRDATF	KYS, An Garda Síochána, Extern, Youthreach, Foróige

OUTCOME 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Progression	To enhance the range of alternative education options available to early school leavers in Co. Kildare	To consolidate existing iScoil e-learning hubs in Co. Kildare	Tusla EWS	KYS, Curragh/Kildare School Completion Programme
Child and Youth Development	To make youth work supports more widely available to young people in Co. Kildare	To support the establishment of new youth projects and the augmentation of existing projects in response to need.	KWETB	KYS, Kildare County Council
	To enhance opportunities for parents and their young children to experience the benefits of shared play-based activities.	To develop and deliver a play-based programme for parents and under 5s, aligned with Aistear principles and practice.	Kildare County Childcare Committee	Tusla, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service

OUTCOME 3: Safe and protected from harm

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Domestic violence	To enhance the quality and coordination of the inter-agency response to families affected by domestic violence	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.	Teach Tearmainn	An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Probation Service
	To enhance the knowledge, skills and understanding of professionals in working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.	To establish an inter-agency working group to explore working safely with perpetrators of domestic violence.	Kildare Youth Services	Teach Tearmainn, MEND, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Probation Service, SWRDATF

OUTCOME 4: Economic security and opportunity

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Childcare Infrastructure	To enhance inter-agency coordination and effectiveness of forward planning in relation to the identification of childcare infrastructure needs in the county	To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to forward planning for childcare infrastructure needs.	Kildare County Childcare Committee	Kildare County Council, CKLP

OUTCOME 4: Economic security and opportunity

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
	To identify an agreed inter-agency approach to the pre-development and development of new childcare service provision when a need is identified.	To convene an inter-agency discussion in relation to new childcare service development in the county.	Kildare County Childcare Committee	Kildare County Council, CKLP
Progression	To support 16-24 year old NEETS to identify pathways to education, training and employment	To support the delivery of the Youth Employment Programme for 18-24 year NEETS.	CKLP	DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána
		To support the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative for 16-18 year olds	CKLP	DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána
		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.	CKLP	DEASP, KYS, KWETB, An Garda Síochána

OUTCOME 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Inclusion	To support the implementation of the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy	To consider the actions in the Co. Kildare Roma/Traveller Inclusion Strategy and identify those for which CYPSC support will be provided.	CKLP	Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE
	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.	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.	CKLP	Tusla, HSE, KCCC, KWETB, KCoCo

CHANGE MANAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS
Inter-agency Coordination	To improve the coordination and effectiveness of the inter-agency response following a critical incident.	To develop an inter-agency Critical Incident Policy	Tusla	HSE, NEPS, SWRDATAF, KYS
Workforce Development	To identify the training needs of frontline workers	To undertake a training needs analysis of professionals working with children, young people and families	Maynooth University	KYS
Participation	To ensure that the voice of children and young people informs the work of CYPSC	To reflect on and agree the Kildare CYPSC approach and methodology in relation to youth participation	KYS	KCoCo, Tusla, KWETB
Resourcing	To leverage additional funds to support the implementation of the CYPP	To continue to support the CYPSC/LCDC joint application to the Healthy Ireland Fund	Kildare County Council	SWRDATAF, HSE

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.
- 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 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.