



**County Wicklow Public Participation Network**  
**Seminar Report**  
**Let's Talk About Children & Young People**  
**An Tairseach Ecology Centre, Wicklow Town**  
**December 2018**

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

c/o CEART

Crinion Park

Wicklow Town

Tel: 087 189 5145

Email: [countywicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:countywicklowppn@gmail.com)

## Introducing County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co Wicklow PPN is a diverse network of 177 community groups and voluntary organisations working at local level throughout Co Wicklow.

PPNs were set up under government legislation, and through the Local Government Act 2014 in particular, to provide a structure through which the community voice and valuable expertise could be fed into local decision making.

The PPN acts as a channel for two-way information between the community and various boards and committees. We do this by organising or facilitating consultations, running seminars, and constantly providing information and seeking feedback and opinion.


At times members of Co Wicklow PPN can nominate community Representatives on to various committees including the Wicklow County Council 5 Strategic Policy Committees (Housing, Economic Development, Community Cultural & Social Development, Planning, and Transport Water & Environmental Services), the Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee, County Childcare Committee, Children & Young Peoples Services Committee and more.

The Representatives let interested groups know what is coming up at the meetings they attend, bring any issues or input from members to the meetings and then feed-back from the meetings by way of a brief report.

More information about Co Wicklow PPN can be found on our Website:

[www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) or through our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/CWPPN](https://www.facebook.com/CWPPN)

**Let's Talk About Children and Young People** – is one of a series of Co Wicklow PPN community information and engagement seminars. The seminars are used as a method of providing information to member groups as well as gathering feedback for the Co Wicklow PPN Representatives. Many of our Co Wicklow PPN member groups work with children. This seminar was run to link our members into the work of the Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services committee as well as highlighting the imminent enactment of Children First legislation which will impact on some of our members.



**Let's Talk About Children & Young People!**

*A Co Wicklow PPN seminar for Community Groups, organisations working with Children & Young People in County Wicklow.*

**When:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7pm-9pm

**Where:** An Tairseach Ecology Centre, Wicklow Town  
*Domestic College Wicklow Town*

**Find Out About:**



Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) – What is it & What does it do?

- The CYPSC Strategic Plan – What are the priorities in services for Children & Young People in Co Wicklow?
- Enacting Children First Legislation - Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse – What this means for community groups
- County Wicklow PPN and how it supports local community groups

And feed into the Co Wicklow PPN Representatives that sit on the Co Wicklow Children & Young Peoples Services Committee and Wicklow County Childcare Committee

Please Register Your Attendance By Sunday 3rd December

Email: [countywicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:countywicklowppn@gmail.com) or Tel: 087 389 5145



## **Presentation by Fionnuala Curry, Coordinator, Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee**

### **Background to Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)**

- Champions in Co. Wicklow came together at the end 2010
- Part of Phase 3 CSCs (in 2014 became CYPSCs)
- Co-ordinator Appointed in March 2012
- First workplan submitted October 2012
- Second workplan submitted October 2016
- Current CYPP 2016-2019

### **Principles – Children, Young People & Families**

- Champions in Co. Wicklow came together at the end 2010
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### **Collaboration and Operation of Wicklow CYPSC**

- We will learn from other CYPSCs
- All involved will have a clear understanding of the role of CYPSCs and of Wicklow CYPSC
- We will build understanding of each other's roles, open doors and work flexibly
- We are committed to and open to the process
- We are open to change and realise that change is often necessary to ensure better outcomes
- We will openly communicate and cascade the work of the CYPSC into our organisations
- Wicklow CYPSC will act as an inclusive body and will work with the wider community to input into plans and implementation
- We will agree on how decisions will be reached
- We will maximise and share resources, funding and other resources to reach shared goals

### **Our Plans and Delivery**

- Our work and plans will be based on data, fact and evidence
- They will be realistic and set goals and targeted outcomes
- We are committed to delivery, implementing plans and ensuring that action happens
- We will share and transfer good practice across our work together and into our organisations at large
- Our plans will be reviewed and evaluated which will inform future plans and working

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

- CYPSC Work underpinned by 'Better Outcome, Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020'
- *Our vision is for Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.*

- 5 National Outcomes and 6 Transformational Goals
- 0-24 Years



### Co Wicklow CYPSC

- Interagency Committee – Chaired by Tusla and Vice-Chaired by Wicklow County Council
- Decision makers across the education, health, child protection & welfare, family support, local development companies, drugs & alcohol, justice, community and voluntary groups
- 3 Year Children and Young People’s Plan [CYPP] 2016/19 - Priorities Identified based on local needs, national policy, consultation with children and young people
- Work overseen by seven subgroups one of which is focussed on the area of West Wicklow

### Membership

- Agencies: Tusla, HSE, Wicklow County Council, Partnership Companies, An Garda Síochána, KWETB (formerly VEC), Lucena Clinic, Education Welfare Services, Wicklow County Childcare Committee, IPPN and NAPD Reps, Drug & Alcohol Task Forces Rep (3)
- One PPN Representative (Alice O’Donnell)
- Three Voluntary Group Representatives (ISPCC, Crosscare - East Wicklow Youth Services and Daughters of Charity)

### Development of Children & Young People’s Plan

- Socio-demographic Profile for Co. Wicklow
- Audit of Services
- Local Needs Analysis (identifying priority areas)
- Voice of Children and Young People

### **Socio-demographic Profile**

- Majority of population live on the East Coast (65%)
- Majority of services and admin centres on East Coast
- Population 136,640 and 47,686 24 or under i.e. 35% of the population (38k 0-18 i.e. 28%)
- High numbers of pre-school and early school children
- 313 Traveller children
- High numbers of lone parent families
- Only 4 DEIS primary schools & high-class numbers
- 1,154 young people on live register Jan 16
- 2,365 children in the county have a disability
- Deprivation – needs to be looked at by small area

### **Audit of Services**

- Services weighted to the East Coast and the dense areas of population in the urban centres
- Lack of services in West Wicklow including Youth Service
- Adequacy of current education provision in light of high numbers of children in pre-school and primary school age groups
- Long waiting lists for therapeutic services
- Lack of specialist family support service in Bray
- Lack of specialist substance misuse services for young people up to 18 years of age for the county
- Lack of employment opportunities for young people and Travellers
- Lack of funding/resources to meet growing demands
- Travelling Community: education/ employment /discrimination
- Lack of Public Transport in rural areas
- Lack of Domestic Violence services in the South and West of the county
- Homelessness- lack of social housing, limited private rental, high cost of existing private rented accommodation, low level of rent supplement, overcrowding

### **Voice of Children & Young People**

- Comhairle Survey 2015 (1,001)
- Consultation with seldom heard young people 2014 (60 from 7 groups)
- Survey of young people in relation to priority areas identified within the plan undertaken in May 2016 (1,028)

### **Outcome 1 Active and Health**

#### **Physical Health Priorities:**

- **Physical Activity** – (a) improving recreational infrastructure (b) increasing participation in physical activity by identified target groups (c) sports leadership programme for young women (d) promoting physical activity and use of outdoor spaces
- **Physical Health** – (a) promoting vaccination (b) Nurture Programme 0-3years (c) healthy eating
- **Disability** – monitoring impact of new disability networks and briefing HSE

#### **Mental Health Priorities:**

- **Youth Mental Health and Emotional Well-being** – (a) improving information on services (b) positive YMH promotion (c) supporting a Jigsaw project for Co. Wicklow
- **Drugs & Alcohol** – (a) securing a specialist substance misuse service for under 18s (b) education and prevention (c) alcohol reduction

### **Outcome 2: Achieving in all areas of Learning and Development**

- **Literacy and Numeracy** – (a)improving awareness for parents on oral language development (b) encourage engagement between P&T groups and libraries
- **Transitions** – (a) pre-school to primary and (b) primary to secondary
- **Access and Inclusion** –improving access to pre-school for children with disability
- **Progression Pathways** – into education and training for those with disabilities

### **Outcome 3: Safe and Secure**

- **PPFS & Meitheal** – 1 steering committee and 4 networks
- **Parental Participation** – 2 projects (Dunlavin/Carnew)
- **Training** – identifying and addressing training needs
- **Parenting Courses** – ongoing co-ordination of courses and training for trainers
- **SPECS** – ABC project in Bray supporting and advocating for mainstreaming of project
- **Domestic Violence** – training for target groups
- **Mandatory Reporting** – supporting roll-out
- **Refugee Reunification** – establishing interagency committee to address arising issues
- **Homelessness** – monitor impact and share information with Local Authority
- **Online Safety** – promoting online safety to young people and parents
- **Garda Youth Awards** – support GYA as means of recognising young people in Co. Wicklow

### **Outcome 4: Economic Opportunity & Change Management**

- **Link with LCDC** on issues of concern for children, young people and their families
- **Reducing Poverty** – reducing number of young people experiencing poverty
- **Youth Unemployment** (a) reducing number of young people on live register (b) promoting learning from pilot interagency youth employment initiative (c) use of social clause in public contracts

#### **Change Management:**

- Link with LCDC
- Addressing impact of public transport gaps on young people
- Data Collection
- CYPSC Network and Events and Website
- Community Directory
- Aftercare Steering Committee
- Commissioning
- West Wicklow

### **Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing**

- **Active Participation of Children and Young People** (a) engage young person 18-24 onto CYPSC (b) Comhairle Steering Committee (c) participation models in Co. Wicklow (d) exploring impact of public transport gaps on young people (e) participation in Meitheal
- **Youth Services** for West Wicklow and South Wicklow
- **Equality** (a) LGBT training (b) extending 'shelf-help' in libraries in Co. Wicklow (c) improving diversity, equality and inclusion in early years' settings
- **Healthy Relationships** making information available on healthy relationships in user-friendly format to stakeholders

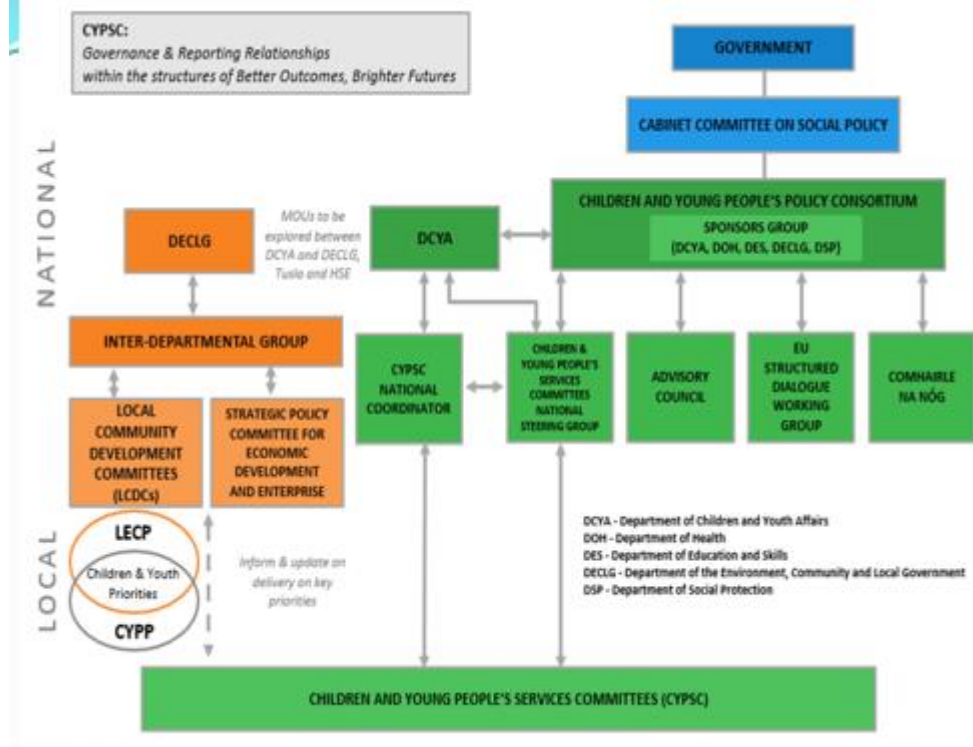
### Achievement to Date

- Children and Young People in Co. Wicklow have more places to play and be active
- Children and Young People know more about healthy eating
- ECCE workers in Co. Wicklow know how to support literacy and numeracy in their settings
- Better structures have been established to support the welfare of children and young people in Co. Wicklow
- We helped to secure an ABC funded programme in Bray to support children and their families and continue to support the roll out of this programme
- We have created a structure to address the gaps in services in West Wicklow and supported the introduction of a Youth Work Service in West Wicklow
- ASD Conference October 2017

### Added Value of CYPSC



Figure 3: National governance and reporting relationships



## Challenges

- Up to start of 2016 Co-ordinator role Part-time
- Reduction in funding to all agencies
- Restructuring: VEC/ETBs, HSE/Tusla, Local Authorities, Community Fora
- Boundaries: HSE, Tusla
- Getting the right people at the table and keeping them there!
- Getting buy-in and becoming CYPSC Champions
- Keeping everyone in the loop

## Role of PPN

- Representative sits directly on the CYPSC
- Communicate following each CYPSC meeting
- Opportunity to raise issues of concern for Children and Young People in your area and in Co. Wicklow
- Experience of those working directly with children and young people essential
- It is possible to raise issues through the national structure

## Co. Wicklow CYPSC Contact

For more information on Co. Wicklow CYPSC contact:

**Fionnuala Curry**

**Co-ordinator Co. Wicklow CYPSC**

Tusla – Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre

Knockrobin

Wicklow Town

087 6043511

<http://www.cypsc.ie/your-county-cypsc/wicklow.254.html>





## Children First Guidance and Act

The Children First Act 2015, enacted on 19th November 2015 came into force on the December 11th 2017.

The Act places a number of statutory obligations on specific groups of professionals and on particular organisations providing services to children. The Act intended to:

- Raise awareness of child abuse and neglect
- Provide for mandatory reporting by key professionals
- Improve child safeguarding arrangements in organisations providing services to children
- Provide for cooperation and information-sharing between agencies when Tusla – Child and Family Agency, is undertaking child protection

The legislation will operate alongside the existing non-statutory obligations provided for in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).

Each Government Department, under the Children First Act 2015 is required to ‘ensure’ that ‘anybody that provides a relevant service and receives funding from the Department concerned in that regard, complies with the provisions of this (The Children First) Act and of the guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 6 (The Children First Guidance)’.

### Support Resources

Tusla has developed a universal e-learning training programme called ‘Introduction to Children First’. The programme has been written to support people of all backgrounds and experience in recognising concerns about children and reporting such concerns if they arise.

The programme is based on [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children](#) and the Children First Act 2015.

The programme takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete but it can be done in a number of sittings. It covers topics including:

- Recognising and reporting child abuse
- The role of mandated persons
- The responsibilities of organisations working with children to safeguard children
- The role of designated liaison persons

Tusla have also developed a suite of support resources which are available on their website:

- [\*A Guide for the Reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns\*](#)
- [\*Best Practice Principles for Organisations in Developing Children First Training Programmes\*](#)
- [\*Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement\*](#)
- [\*Mandated Assisting Protocol for Tusla Staff\*](#)
- Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

<http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/children-first-2017/>