



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Cork

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Children and Young People’s Services Committees.....	3
3. Alignment of Action Plans.....	4
4. Child Friendly Cities.....	
5. Comments and Recommendations.....	

1. Introduction

This submission relates to Cork Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC). CYPSC are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.

Child and youth participation is a key principle of Cork CYPSC including hearing the voice of seldom heard young people to ensure an inclusive approach. The impact of COVID on Young people has been immense and particularly for those who face greater barriers to accessing supports and services. It is essential to hear directly from these young people regarding how this has affected them, what improvements and supports they would like to see in Cork to improve their wellbeing and quality of life.

This submission is a request for further engagement / consultation with CYPSC to consider how we can work collaboratively to align our plans to improve outcomes for children & young people and to ensure active participation by children and young people in the decisions that affect the quality of their lives in Cork City

2. Children and Young People's Services Committees

CYPSC are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity and for oversight of local policy and provision, to ensure that children, young people and their families receive optimum services. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the five national outcomes set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020*¹.

CYPSC are an initiative of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (now the DCEDIY) with oversight provided by a CYPSC National Steering Group. The CYPSC National Steering Group is part of the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* national implementation structures.

The CYPSC model of inter-agency working has developed and grown in Ireland since 2007. The *Blueprint for the development of Children and Young People's Services Committees* (DCYA, 2015)² provides an overview of CYPSC. Each Children and Young People's Services Committee develops and oversees the implementation of an evidenced-informed, strategic three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the county / CYPSC area, designed to improve outcomes for children and young people. The CYPPs respond to national priorities and local priorities that the CYPSC has agreed to address, and includes a detailed action plan of activities which will be undertaken by the CYPSC and its sub groups to make impact on those priorities. The CYPSC plan is developed in partnership with children, young people and families as well as in partnership with member agencies and sub groups and is responsive to local needs.

¹ https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf

² https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Documents/Resources/Blueprint_for_the_development_of_CYPSC.pdf

CYPSC membership comprises senior management from the statutory, community and voluntary providers in any county, that are working to provide services and to deliver better outcomes for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years . The CYPSC chairperson is drawn from Tusla Child and Family Agency with the CYPSC Vice Chairperson (vacant position in Cork) is drawn from the local authority. See figure 1 for CYPSC membership.

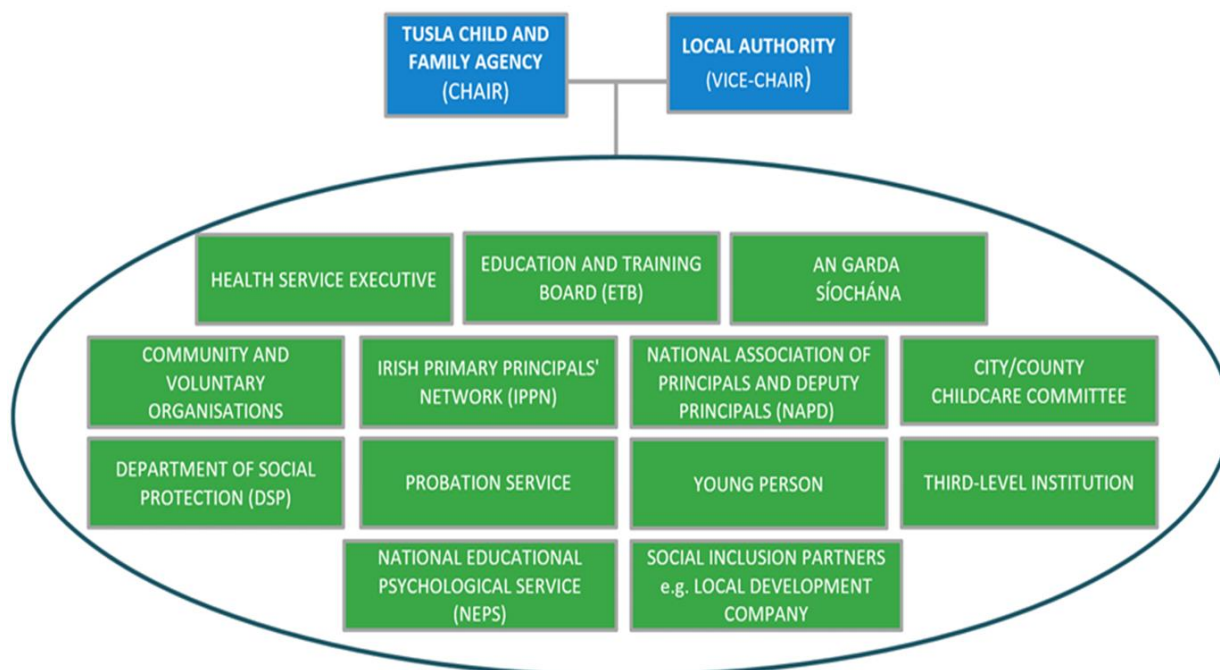


Figure 1. CYPSC membership.

3. Alignment of Action Plans

CYPSC priorities are aligned to the five National Outcomes for children and young people as outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. These outcomes are that children and young people in Ireland:

1. Are **active and healthy**, with positive physical and mental well-being;
2. Are achieving their 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.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) outlines 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSO). These outcomes are underpinned by an overarching policy initiative of Government (reflected also in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*) to make Ireland a better country for all its citizens.

Cork CYPSC will be entering its next planning cycle for our Children and Young People's plan 2022 – 2025, and we would welcome further collaboration with the City Council in our planning cycles, to align our plans and improve outcome for children and young people.

4. Child Friendly Cities

CORK CYPSC is a member of the Child Friendly Cities Steering Group.

“A child-friendly city (CFC) is a city, town, community or any system of local governance committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realizing their rights as articulated in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

In practice, it is a city, town or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions.”

<https://childfriendlycities.org/what-is-a-child-friendly-city/>

CYPSC promotes best participation practice advocating for the participation of children and young people in decision-making. Evidence tells us that involving children and young people in decision-making can result in improved service outcomes and population outcomes such as health outcomes. It is desirable therefore that the voice of children and young people be made more visible within any new Plan

5. Comments and Recommendations:

1. As with the Child Friendly Cities submission we would request that *‘Children need to be specifically named within the City plan. Specific mention should also be considered to address the inclusion of all children, incorporating neurodiversity, mixed abilities, and those experiencing poverty, deprivation and marginalization’*.
2. Ref 3.62 where you identify that the City Council will prepare an Appraisal tool to indicate the likely number of children that will arise from developments across different age cohorts and translate this data into indicative childcare, education and open space needs. We would request and welcome involvement in this process. As well as having access to the findings from the data to inform future planning, this would support the better alignment of our respective plans.
3. 2.29 The concept of 'The Walkable Neighbourhood'.
 - a. This concept could be utilised when identifying areas of particular need where the 'walkable neighbourhood' is not present or our target groups require additional support to access these services. We would welcome further consultation in this area.
6. We would fully support the Evidence Based approach and would request that this includes the voice of seldom heard young people and evidence collated from our CYPSC partners in the Community and Voluntary sector.

7. We welcome the identified need to plan for a more inclusive society and hope to see a strong stance on the inclusion of seldom heard voices, particularly those who are more marginalised, may experience racism and social exclusion, including migrants, young people from the Traveller and Roma community, children and young people living in Direct provision and young people with additional needs, and the LGBTQ community etc.

Further consultation on all of the above and an exploration of how we can align our respective plans for improving outcomes for children and young people would be very welcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute through this call for submissions.

For more information / queries contact:

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