



Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee

Children and Young
People's Plan 2025 – 2027

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



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Glossary of Terms

AIRO	All-Island Research Observatory
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
BOBF	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFL	Connecting for Life
CFSN	Child and Family Support Network
CHO	Community Healthcare Organisations
CNN	Comhairle na nÓg
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSP	Child Safety Programme
CYPSC	Children and Young People’s Services Committee
CYPP	Children and Young People’s Plan
CYP	Children and Young People
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DESSA	Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency
DSP	Department of Social Protection
ED	Electoral Districts
ELC	Early Learning and Care
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
FET	Further Education and Training
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GMS	General Medical Service
HI	Healthy Ireland
HSCL	Home School Community Liaison
IAIMH	Irish Association of Infant Mental Health
IPA	International Protection Accommodation
IPPN	Irish Primary Principals Network
LA	Local Authority
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual +
LHO	Local Health Office

LTi	Local Training Initiatives
MABS	Money Advice and Budgeting Service
MBA	Marginally Below Average
MD	Municipal District
MEND	Men Ending Domestic Violence
NAPD	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
NEETS	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention
NPRS	National Perinatal Reporting System
NSRF	National Suicide Research Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCRS	Primary Care Reimbursement Service
PFG	Programme for Government
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
PPN	Public Participation Network
R2R	Right to Read
SAP	Small Area Population
SCP	School Completion Programme
SERDAFT	South Eastern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
SETU	South East Technological University
SHIP	Self Harm Intervention Programme
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
STAR	Supporting Travellers and Roma
SONC	State of the Nation’s Children
TG	Transformational Goals
TIG	Traveller Interagency Strategy
TTRS	Touch, Type, Read and Spell
TESS	Tusla Education Support Service
UNCRC	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
YNR	Youth New Ross
WxCCC	Wexford County Childcare Committee
WEXRC	Wexford Rape Crisis

Foreword

As Chairperson of Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the third Wexford Children and Young People’s Plan.

I have had the honour of working closely with a committee who continually go that extra mile to ensure children and families are championed and cared for in an increasingly challenging environment.

Expertly led by our dedicated and skilled coordinator Sheila Barrett, we have been in very good hands for the duration.

This new plan is the product of many collaborative hours of reflection, planning and strategic thinking around the needs of children and young people in this area.

The Wexford area is extremely lucky to have a large and eclectic mix of statutory and community agencies who continually come together to find new ways of creating better outcomes for children and young people. This interagency work model is at the heart of a very successful and active Wexford CYPSC.

Thank you to the members of the CYPSC and its Sub Groups for their unwavering commitment to this process. Your resilience and commitment to the fine detail has led us to a point where we can be proud of a very strong Children and Young People’s Plan.

I would like to especially thank the children and young people who participated in the consultation process. Your voices are central to all we do and indeed you are our future.

I now look forward to witnessing our plan implementation and the positive outcomes it will undoubtedly generate for our children and families.

Greg Mullan
Chairperson, Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC) is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective integration of existing services and interventions at local level. Their remit spans all children and young people aged from 0 to 24 years.

Wexford CYPSC works towards progressing the five national outcomes as stated in “Young Ireland the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-28” in County Wexford.



Figure 1: Five National Outcomes for Children & Young People

Background to Children and Young People’s Services Committees

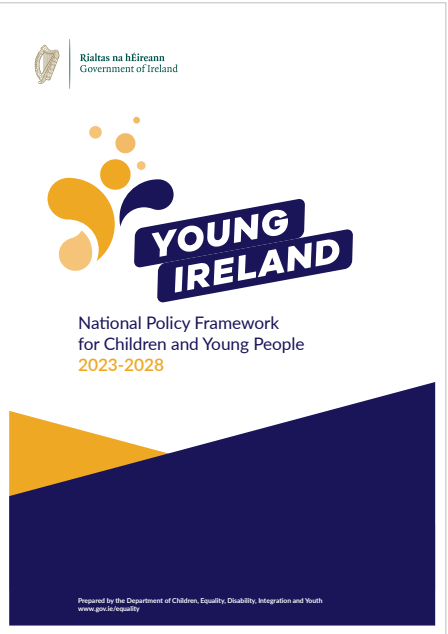
The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), now the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE), established the Children and Young People’s Services Committees in 2007. Since then, CYPSC have increased incrementally in number and are now a key structure for Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland.

CYPSC bring together all major organisations and agencies working locally that have a remit on behalf of children and young people. They work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through integrated planning and improved service delivery. The development of CYPSC has been shaped and will continue to be informed by several major government policies and strategies.

“Young Ireland” (2023-2028)

“Young Ireland” is the new policy framework for children and young people which covers the period from 2023-2028 and envisages an Ireland in which all children and young people can fully access their rights. It is focused on tackling the biggest challenges that affect children and young people in Ireland today and setting up robust structures, so children's rights are foremost whenever decisions are made affecting the lives of children and young people.

“Young Ireland” is a whole of government policy emphasising the importance of everyone working together for the development, to their maximum potential, of children and young people. It identifies five national outcomes for children and young people and recognises CYPSC as the key vehicle for inter-agency work and development of local Children and Young People's Plans (CYPP).



“First 5” (2019 - 2028)

This is Ireland's first ever strategy for early childhood and is a ten-year plan to help ensure that all children have positive early experiences. The “First 5 Strategy” uses evidence to identify goals, objectives and the specific actions required across Government to support children and their families in the early years of life. This whole-of government strategy aims to deliver.

- A broader range of options to parents to balance working and caring.
- A new model of parenting support.
- New developments in child health, including a dedicated child health workforce.
- Reform of the Early Learning and Care System, including a new funding model.
- A package of measures to tackle childhood poverty.

“National Healthy Childhood Programme” 2014-2025

The Health Service Executive (HSE), through the delivery of the “National Healthy Childhood Programme”, has a key role in supporting families so that babies can fully realise their potential into adulthood. The Programme covers the antenatal stage to the first year in secondary school with a focus on prevention and early intervention (screening and surveillance including health promotion strategies and interventions) and is provided by health services across a range of settings from homes to hospitals. The “Nurture Infant Health and Well-being Programme” is a key enabler for the implementation of the “National Healthy Childhood Programme”, focusing on supporting the development and delivery of the universal child health service for 0-2-year-olds.

“Healthy Ireland Framework” 2019-2025

Six key priority areas have been identified under the “Healthy Ireland Framework” which is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland, and these are replicated for “Healthy Wexford”.

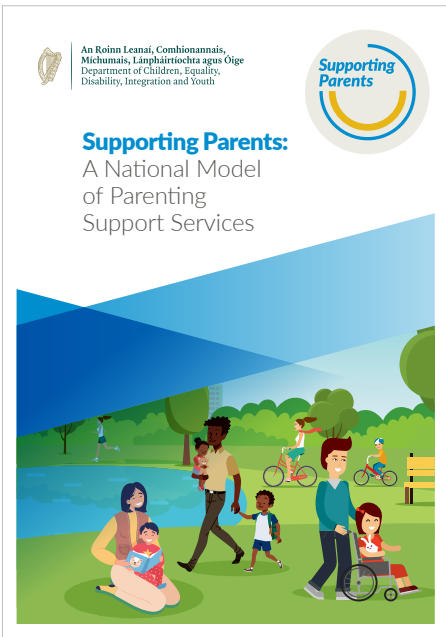
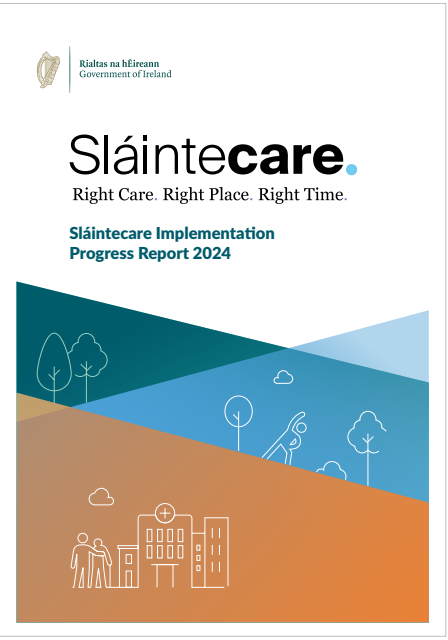
1. Physical activity
2. Healthy weight
3. Tobacco free
4. Sexual health
5. Alcohol and drug related harm
6. Mental health



Local Authorities have a significant role in protecting and promoting their citizens' health and wellbeing. Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Wexford Healthy County Committee, working with a range of organisations and groups, oversee the implementation of the Healthy Wexford Plan which was updated in 2024. Wexford CYPSC receives funding under the Healthy Ireland Fund.

Sláintecare

The vision for healthcare set out in the Programme for Government (PFG) is a universal model of healthcare through a public health service which provides people with access to high quality, affordable care when they need it. “Sláintecare” is designed to enable the reorientation of service delivery towards general practice and community-based services, thereby providing health services closer to people’s homes and reducing pressure on acute hospitals. This is particularly relevant to County Wexford which is a largely rural county. The “Sláintecare 2023 Action Plan” sets out the ongoing reform priorities aligned with the Programme for Government, the “Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023”, Department of Health priorities and the “HSE’s National Service Plan 2023”.



A National Model of Parenting Support Services 2022

“Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services” addresses parenting support services from pre-birth up to adulthood. It describes the provision of parenting supports in Ireland and respective roles and responsibilities and sets out actions to improve parenting supports. It acknowledges that for parents to get the right parenting support, at the right time, the provision of high-quality, accessible information and high-quality services that are visible, inclusive, and easily accessible are essential.

It seeks to strengthen and develop mechanisms for effective coordination, co-operation, and collaboration. It recognises the roles and strengths of individual sectors in supporting parents and seeks to identify how stakeholders can work together to maximise all efforts and deliver better results for parents and their children.

The model sets out the vision, principles and delivery mechanisms for parenting supports in Ireland. The four goals identified as essential to achieving the vision are: 1. Greater awareness of parenting support services 2. Greater access to parenting support services 3. More inclusive parenting support services 4. Needs-led and evidence-informed parenting support services.

This will help to guide the implementation of current and future parenting support actions and promote a cohesive, joined-up national approach across different sectors. The first stage in achieving these goals is described in its action plan illustrated in Figure 2 which will be realised through a 5-year implementation plan accompanying the model.



Figure 2: Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services - Action Plan

“CYPSC Shared Vision Next Steps”
2019-2024

The aim of “Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024” is to provide a succinct road map for the ongoing development of CYPSC. It identifies the most immediate actions to be addressed to assist CYPSC to further develop in a strategic, integrated and sustainable manner. It seeks to expand the capacity of CYPSC to reflect relevant policies and emerging developments and respond to emerging needs, both national and local.

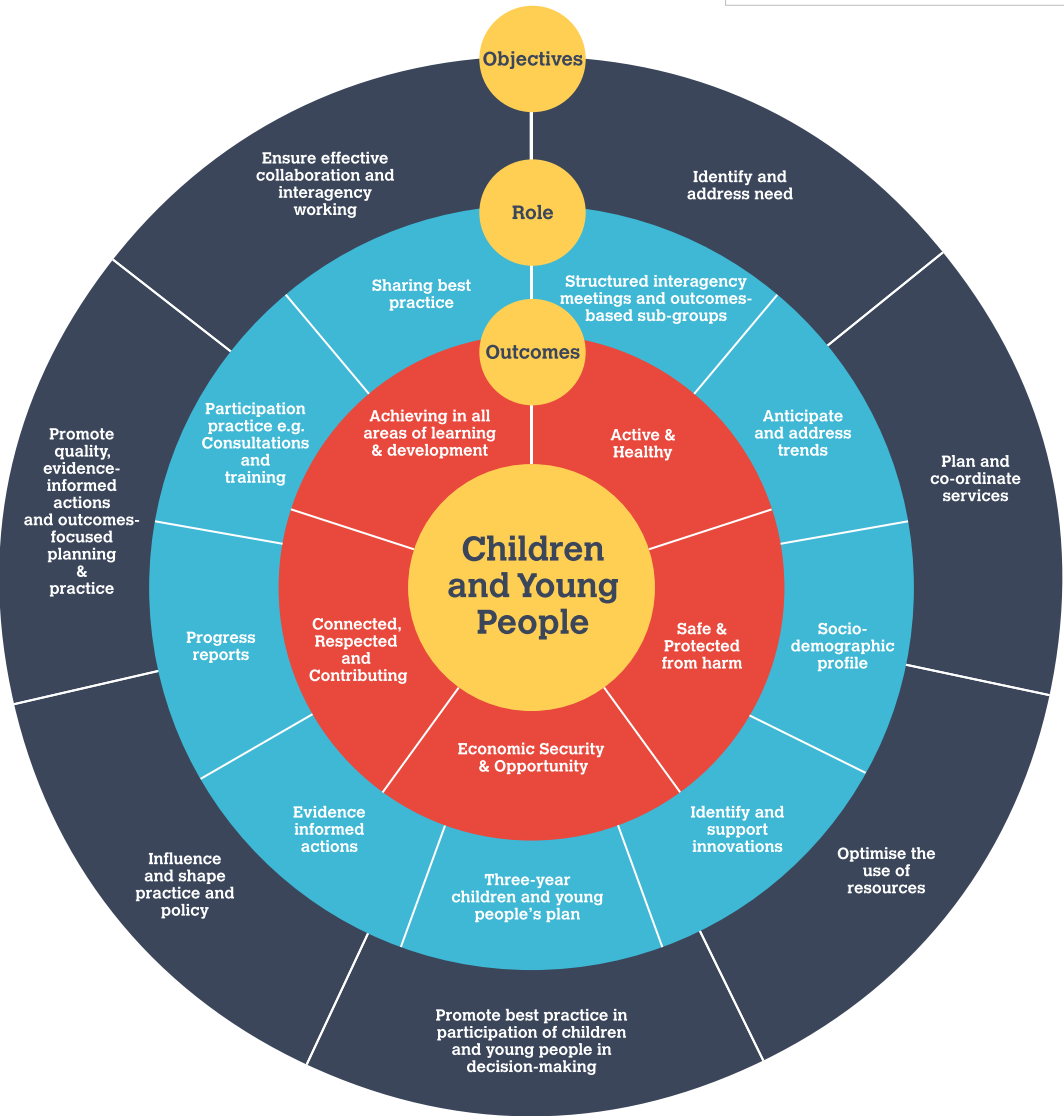


Figure 3: Summary of objectives, roles and outcomes of CYPSC

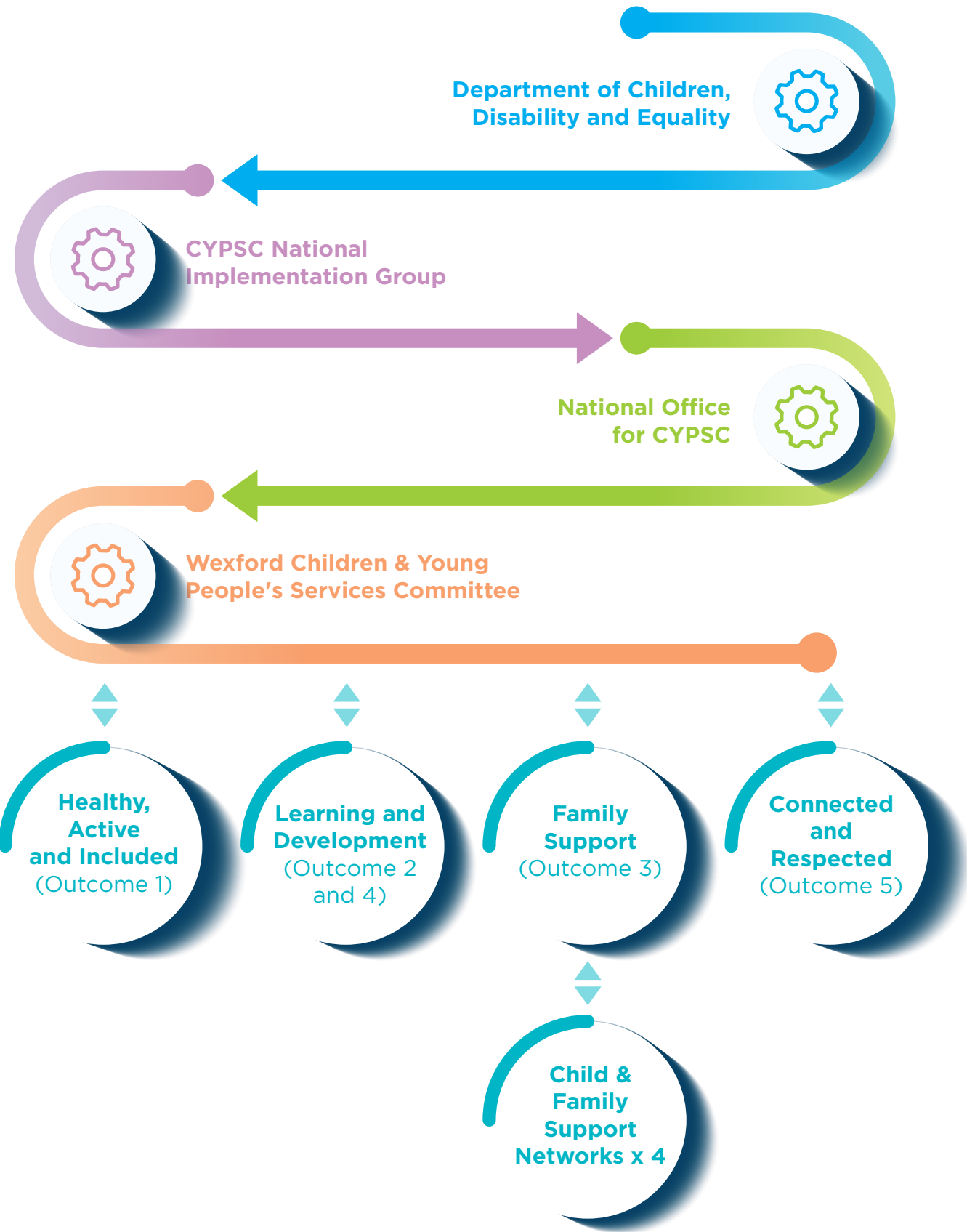
Children and Young People's Services Committee in County Wexford

“Young Ireland - The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023 - 2028” underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this. Wexford CYPSC is supported by a Co-ordinator who is employed by Tusla Child and Family Agency. The interagency committee is chaired by the Tusla Area Manager for Waterford/Wexford and the Vice Chairperson role is held by the Chief Officer of the LCD in Wexford County Council. Each CYPSC reports to the national CYPSC office in Tusla Child and Family Agency which in turn reports to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Wexford CYPSC membership is comprised of senior managers from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors who have a remit to work with children, young people, and families. In addition to the main Committee, Wexford CYPSC has Sub Groups to support the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). These are based on the five national outcomes contained in “Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028”.



Wexford CYPSC Organisational Chart



Who We Are

Wexford CYPSC brings together all major organisations and agencies working locally with or on behalf of children and young people. The current membership is listed in Table 1.

Name	Agency
Greg Mullan	Tusla Child and Family Agency (Chairperson)
Dymphna O'Connor	Wexford County Council (Vice Chairperson)
Jane Byrne	HSE (Childrens Disability Rep)
Vicky Barron	Irish Primary Principals Network
Lillian Byrne	South East Technological University
Polly Connors	Traveller Primary Healthcare Programme
Anne Cullen	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
Siobhán Cummins	Wexford County Childcare Committee (WxCCC)
Kieran Donohoe	Ferns Diocesan Youth Service
Emer Hickey	Family Resource Centre Rep
Emer Hyland	Tusla TESS (Tusla Education Support Service)
Catherine Joyce	Barnardos
Tony Kennedy	Tusla PPFS
Leah Manning	Young Person 18-24 Rep
Catherine McCurdy	Wexford Women's Refuge
Emma Plesca	Roma Community Rep
Elaine O'Connor	Youth New Ross
Graham Rowley	Garda Siochána
Clare Ryan	Wexford Local Development
Susan Sheehan	Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board
Mandi Tighe	Gorey Youth Needs Group
Bridget Wall	Traveller Health Care Programme
Michelle Weir	Probation Service
Clare Williams	Wexford Rape Crisis
Eilish Whelan	HSE (PHN – Public Health Nursing) Rep

Table 1: Wexford CYPSC Membership 2024



CYPSC Sub Groups

Wexford CYPSC has four Sub Groups which are aligned to the National Outcomes in “Young Ireland”).

- Healthy, Active and Included (Outcome 1)
- Learning and Development (Outcomes 2 and 4)
- Family Support (Outcome 3)
- Connected, Respected and Contributing (Outcome 5)

For the duration of Wexford CYPP 2020-2023, Outcome 5 “Connected, Respected and Contributing to Their World” was shared across the other four sub groups. One of the objectives of this plan is to establish a specific Sub Group for Outcome 5.

The role of the sub groups is to ensure implementation of actions in the CYPP. Regular progress reports are presented to the main CYPSC, and emerging issues, concerns and gaps are highlighted. Sub Groups establish Task Groups as required. They are time-bound and specific. Some examples over the period 2020-2023 include,

- Breastfeeding Task Group
- Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Task Group
- Domestic Abuse Task Group
- Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Task Group

Synergy with Other Structures

There are several interagency structures in Co. Wexford that either have a direct remit for children and young people or have an advocacy role in relation to them. Wexford CYPSC is represented on eighteen such structures. This ensures synergy with the Children and Young People's Plan. It is also a mechanism through which CYPSC can influence the way agencies work and encourage them to look at their own work through the CYPSC lens. See Appendix 2 for a full list of the structures that Wexford CYPSC currently engages with.

Wexford CYPSC is continuing to enhance its relationship with the “Local Community Development Committee” (LCDC). The Chief Officer of the LCDC is also the Vice Chairperson of the CYPSC committee. The CYPSC Co-ordinator is a member of the “Wexford Healthy County Committee” and on the “Connecting for Life” (CfL) South East Group. Wexford CYPSC has built strong links with the local Comhairle na nÓg (CNN) over the course of the previous plan. Both structures are committed to ongoing consultation and participation during the lifespan of the CYPP to ensure that the plan remains relevant to the young people of Co. Wexford.



Achievements to Date

Outcome 1: “Active & Healthy, Physical and Mental Health”
Connecting Young People with Outdoor Spaces This project was led by Wexford County Childcare Committee (WxCCC) with support from Wexford CYPSC and involved delivery of a suite of programmes to the Early Years sector which included, <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provision of mentoring sessions to promote outdoor play with Early Years Practitioners.- Delivery of programmes to school age practitioners with Playboard Northern Ireland which focused on planning play opportunities and creative play.
Promoting Physical Activity Wexford CYPSC collaborated with the Sports Active Wexford (Local Sports Partnership) to support the delivery of “Experiencing Success”, “Learn to Surf” and Equine Therapy to young people attending Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Funding was also allocated towards the purchase of balance bikes and stencils.
Early Childhood Nutrition The CYPSC Breastfeeding Task Group organised and hosted coffee mornings in Ennis-corthy and Wexford for mums and babies, with lactation consultants from HSE/South East Community Healthcare and Wexford General Hospital, Public Health Nurses, Traveller Health Workers and representatives of the La Leche League and Cuidiú present. The aim was to support and promote breastfeeding particularly in communities where breastfeeding may not be commonplace.
Supporting Mental Health in the School Community “Building Connectedness in our School Communities” - this series of nine online talks promoted positive mental health. It specifically targeted young people, parents and teachers in Post Primary schools in Co. Wexford. The talks were delivered by local and national speakers. The talks were launched in October 2021 to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. “A Face in the Crowd” – this theatre based preventative mental health intervention aims to increase mental health literacy and reduce stigma among young people. Working with Wexford Mental Health Association, secondary level students from schools across Co. Wexford were facilitated to attend the performance and a follow-up support workshop.

Outcome 2: “Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development”
Wexford Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Resource Pack This project was developed in response to concerns raised about young people who were experiencing emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA). The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) was the lead agency, and they worked with several stakeholders to develop the resource. The EBSA Resource pack includes sections on the impact of COVID and world events, a focus on early years interventions, supporting autistic young people and the inclusion of EBSA stories from young people and their caregivers. The resource pack is available in hard copy from the Wexford CYPSC Co-ordinator and to download from the Wexford CYPSC website at www.wexfordcypsc.ie . Trauma Informed Care in the Early Years and School Settings The school community identified the need for capacity building in terms of becoming more trauma informed. “Reframing Challenging Behaviours” was developed in association with the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) and was delivered to primary school teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNA) to identify behaviours in children which may be a precursor to mental health issues as they progress through school. Sessions focused on neurobiology of stress, its impact on behaviour and what can be done to address it in schools. Trauma and Attachment in Practice workshops were delivered to Early Years practitioners. CYPSC partners participated on “Trauma Informed Care” online workshops and “Decider” training which uses evidence- based CBT skills to deal with anxiety/distress.
Outcome 3: “Safe and Protected from Harm”
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Wexford CYPSC supported the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Task Group. Members identified the need for an information resource highlighting local and national supports for those experiencing DSGBV. The development of resource was led by Wexford Women’s Refuge with interagency partners and supported through Wexford CYPSC. Supporting Parents Wexford CYPSC supported the extension of programmes and supports offered through Wexford Parents Hub. It continues to host the Hub on the Wexford CYPSC website. Through the Wexford Hub Steering Group chaired by Barnardos, additional training needs were identified. Examples of training supported through Wexford CYPSC include “Circle of Security” and “Parents Plus ADHD Children’s Programme”.

Outcome 4: “Economic Security and Opportunity”

Young People who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Organisations working to support young people who are NEET often experience persistent challenges in engaging meaningfully with them. In recognition of these challenges, the Youth Services section of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) and Wexford CYPSC collaborated to commission research. [“Building Relationships, Sharing Journeys”](#) was published in 2023. Wexford CYPSC supported the roll out of the Life Skills programmes with partners in the School Completion Projects (SCP) and Youth Services.

Outcome 5: “Connected, Respected & Contributing to their World”

Supporting Young People from the Traveller and Roma Communities

Young people from the Traveller and Roma communities were supported through an innovative project called “PATH” (Pre-Adolescent Traveller Holistic Programme). Originally a pilot project supported by CYPSC Programme Funding, it focused on young people from the Traveller community. Due to its success, it was expanded to reach more areas and to include young people from the Roma community. This programme is led by Ferns Diocesan Youth Service.

Supporting Young People from International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and Ukraine

Working with partner organisations from the community and voluntary sectors, a series of programmes and supports were rolled out to young people living in International Protection accommodation as well as young people from Ukraine. Examples of IPAS supports provided include the roll out of the “Home from Home” family support programme, delivery of summer programmes and provision of baby packs containing basic equipment and essentials for new parents. Wexford CYPSC also supported the delivery of Creative Mindfulness training, family days out, provision of sports and physical activity equipment, materials and care packs to young people from Ukraine.

Consultation & Participation

Robust and creative consultations with children and young people have given them the opportunity to have their voice heard. 841 children and young people aged 2-24 years contributed to the mixed method consultation for the Wexford Children and Young People’s Plan. Wexford CYPSC representation on the Comhairle na nÓg (CNN) Advisory Group ensures current insights on the issues of interest to young people.

Young Person Rep 18-24 years: A young person representative has joined the main CYPSC committee ensuring that the voice of young people is heard during meetings.

Change Management

Disability Equality

Capacity Building: Working with the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency (DESSA), a series of capacity building workshops were offered to CYPSC member organisations. Parents were supported through “Empowering Parents” – a programme that supports parents to acquire the knowledge and skills to effectively advocate on behalf of their children.

Introduction to Disability Equality eLearning Course

Wexford CYPSC was a partner in the development of an innovative eLearning Course **“Introduction to Disability Equality”**. Launched in 2023, this training aimed to increase accessibility to disability equality training among the community and voluntary sector. This project received a Bronze Tusla Excellence Award in 2024.

Communication

A weekly CYPSC newsletter listing activities, training, events, and other matters of interest to those working with children, young people and families is circulated to over 200 professionals throughout Wexford. There have been ongoing upgrades and development of the [Wexford CYPSC website](#) to include a series of service videos and a translation function. The website serves as a single point of information on services and supports for children, young people and families in the county.



Learning, Challenges, Impacts and Strengths

Wexford CYPSC engaged an external facilitator to host a review session in September 2023. The information below is derived from that session.

Learning points/Areas for Improvement

The following points were noted.

- CYPSC needs to be more strategic, and outcome focussed, demonstrating where it is making a difference against the five national outcomes.
- Maintaining a singular focus on the needs of children, young people, and families, as opposed to service or organisational needs, supports constructive engagement and productive inter-agency partnership.
- For actions in the CYPP to be implemented, it is essential that a sole lead agency is identified to drive the initiative forward.
- The collective strength of CYPSC in championing shared priorities when fully mobilised can bring about positive change.
- The HP Deprivation Index has highlighted the emergence of six “Extremely Disadvantaged” Small Areas, three in Wexford Town and one each in Enniscorthy, Bunclody and Taghmon. This is a new development since the previous plan and requires further attention.
- Having the voice of young people heard in an evidence-based way strengthens the work of CYPSC and its member organisations.
- Agencies and services adopting trauma-informed approaches will become even more important in supporting children, young people, and families from new communities as their needs become more apparent and visible.



Challenges

Several challenges were evident from the review of the previous Wexford CYPP.

- There were 122 actions under 67 objectives in the Wexford 2020-2023 CYPP which rendered it challenging to monitor and track. Contributors felt that some of the actions were the responsibility of a funded service or would have happened anyway and that such actions should not be included in the new plan.
- Balancing alignment with national policy and strategy and supporting other interagency plans can make it challenging for CYPSC to identify its niche and demonstrate its unique impact.
- The nature of many of the national funding streams is challenging i.e. fragmented, once-off, small grants rather than the multi-annual core funding needed to achieve meaningful change. The timelines can be unpredictable, resulting in CYPSC having limited time to plan and develop an application.
- Access to and availability of data essential for the planning and delivery of services for children and young people 0-24 was a challenge. While the Census 2022 was available to the CYPP review, countywide profiling of the deprivation data is ongoing. The Tusla Data and Information Hub <https://data.tusla.ie/> provides data on 163 metrics for the Wexford/Waterford Tusla area but does not segment this exclusively for County Wexford.
- Difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff in community, voluntary and statutory services affect consistency, quality, and access to services for children and young people in County Wexford. It also impacts on the ability of agencies to commit to CYPSC meetings.
- There is a lack of engagement with CYPSC from some services and key stakeholders.
- As the CYPSC profile increases nationally, so too do the demands placed on it.
- CYPSC does not have the mandate and authority to challenge agencies that are not addressing gaps in services for children and young people and those who consistently fail to engage with CYPSC.

Impact and Strengths

The following impacts and strengths are noted.

- Service providers are more aware of the specific needs and challenges for children, young people and families living in County Wexford.
- Increased awareness among service providers of the integration needs and challenges for children, young people and families from new communities and war-torn countries arriving and living in County Wexford which will help inform statutory and community service provision.

- Stronger inter-agency relationships and increased knowledge of referral pathways results in a better service experience for children, young people and families.
- Increased level of resourcing into the county to respond to identified needs.
- Enhanced range and scope of supports and interventions in the county created due to CYPSC interventions.
- CYPSC members identify gaps in training and resources. In response, CYPSC has organised and delivered training, information, tools and resources thus increasing the capacity of CYPSC members.
- Greater awareness among young people, parents, and professionals of available supports and services ensuring that people can access information and support when required.
- Strengthening of youth voice and youth participation in the work of CYPSC and its member organisations. This is crucial to ensuring good participatory practice and to ensuring that children and young people are placed at the centre of CYPSC practice.

Issues we need to be aware of in the external environment

- A national evaluation of CYPSC due for publication in late 2024 has not been published to date and may have impacts on the structure and resourcing of CYPSC. According to the CES Information Leaflet that was issued to CYPSC Co-ordinators, this evaluation has two aims. (1) Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of CYPSCs (2) Inform future resourcing of CYPSC.
- Tusla collaborated on a scoping exercise on Hidden Harm services and resources that was commissioned by the HSE. This will impact how Hidden Harm supports are resourced and delivered in the future.
- The National Drug Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2025. Prevention, education and additional supports for young people and families impacted by substance misuse will likely be part of the terms of reference.
- Tusla conducted a national scoping exercise regarding Parenting Hubs and is developing a standardised approach to their development.
- The Department of Education is undertaking a review of the "Social Personal and Health Education" (SPHE) curriculum which may impact on drug and sex education programmes.
- The Tusla Corporate Plan 2024-2026 commits to designing and implementing a new Local Integrated Service Delivery Model (inclusive of an integrated screening and local integrated teams) to provide consistency in their response. This will have an impact on how Tusla commission services in the future.

- Values Lab generated a report on the outcome of a local consultation process with Traveller and Roma organisations and community groups. This informed the development of the successor strategy to the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS). There is a national programme of work in partnership with the national Traveller organisations under the theme of "Children and Young People" for Tusla in NTRIS II.

How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

The Wexford Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027 was developed by Wexford CYPSC and its Sub Groups between March and September 2024. The following were the key steps undertaken when developing the plan.

- Review of Wexford CYPP 2020-2023
- Agreement on Schedule for Development of new CYPP
- Identification of consultant to assist in development of CYPP
- Socio Demographic Profile
- Consultation
- Review of Data
- Needs Analysis developed based on socio demographic profile and results of consultation
- Development of Draft Actions and review by CYPSC and Sub Groups
- Draft Plan
- Submission for Screening

Review of Wexford CYPP 2020-2023

As outlined in the previous section, a review and planning session for Wexford CYPSC was delivered by an external consultant in September 2023.

The purpose of the facilitated session was to

- Review the progress made in delivering the 2020 CYPP
- Identify successes, challenges and learning
- Commence preparation for the 2025 plan

Time Frame	Activities
September 2023	Review of 2020 Plan. Members agree timeframe for development of new plan
October 2023	Terms of Reference for Tender to assist in development of the CYPP advertised
March 2024	Consultant secured and work commences on desk research. See Appendix 1 for details of documents reviewed during the desk research phase.
March – June 2024	Consultations with children, young people, families and professionals. Focus Groups and meetings with Sub Groups Findings collated
June – July 2024	Socio Demographic Profile and outcomes of consultations used to inform Needs Analysis Draft actions formulated Lead Agencies for actions agreed
September - November 2024	Draft Plan presented and amendments made
January 2025	Plan submitted for screening

Table 2: Schedule for Development of Wexford CYPP 2025-2027

Consultation with Children, Young People and Parents

To decipher local needs for the CYPP, Wexford CYPSC conducted a consultation process with children, young people and parents in Q.2 and Q.3 2024. The aim of this process was to identify the main issues affecting children and young people in Co Wexford. Questionnaires were drafted and administered. A total of 933 individuals participated in the consultation process. A sample questionnaire is available in Appendix 5 and a summary of the key findings is outlined in Table 3.

Age Group	Methodology	No. of Responses	Key Findings
Early Years (2-6 yrs)	Consultation with children in rural and urban areas of the county facilitated by Wexford County Childcare Committee	86	Positive: Close to nature and family, local amenities and facilities Areas for Improvement: Distance from facilities, pollution, traffic, too much noise
Children (5-12 yrs)	Consultation with primary school children in rural and urban areas of County Wexford, facilitated by the CYPSC IPPN representative	189	Positive: Part of a community, local sports clubs, close to the beach, being around nature, quiet and peaceful Areas for Improvement: Lack of transport, vaping, homelessness, dereliction, anti-social behaviour, bullying
Young Adults (13-24 yrs)	Survey co-designed with Wexford CNN Focus Groups - New Ross Youthreach - FDYS - Comhairle na nÓg - Gorey Youth Needs Group - Wexford Young Carers	477(survey) 89 (focus groups)	Positive: Family, friends, sports, activities, being close to the beach and opportunities in education Areas for Improvement: Lack of accessible youth friendly activities and facilities, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol & vaping
Parents	Survey disseminated via Wexford Parents Hub and Focus Group discussions with parents.	85(survey) 7 (focus group)	Support Issues Identified: Advocating for parents, One stop shop for information and guidance Forums for Peer Support

Table 3: Summary of Consultation Methodology and Key Findings

Top 10 Issues Identified by Young Adults through Survey	Top 10 Issues for Young People Identified through Parents Survey	Top 10 issues for Parents in Wexford from the Parents Surve
1. Lack of accessible youth friendly activities and facilities	1. Mental Health	1. Financial concerns
2. Mental Wellbeing	2. School/Education Challenges	2. Managing anxiety and the mental health of their children
3. Drugs, Alcohol & Vaping	3. Vaping, Drugs & Alcohol	3. Boundaries & behaviour
4. Education pressures	4. Unhealthy Lifestyle	4. Managing children’s screentime
5. Cyber Bullying	5. Peer Pressure	5. Navigating the system for children/young people with additional needs
6. Poverty	6. Cannot be themselves.	6. Access to Disability Services
7. Unhealthy Lifestyle	7. On-line issues and challenges	7. Parental wellbeing
8. Relationship Issues	8. Accessible services and activities for those not involved in sports	8. Parenting alone
9. Youth unemployment	9. Relationship issues	9. School avoidance
10. Lack of accessible transport	10. Integration into a new area if recently arrived in the county	10. Respite time

Table 4: Top 10 Issues Identified During Consultations

In the children’s words:



In the children’s words:



Stakeholder Consultation

A range of consultations were undertaken as part of the development of Wexford CYPP. All consultations with children and young people were undertaken in accordance with the Lundy Model of Child and Youth Participation and involved a mix of focus groups, semi-structured interviews and online surveys as follows.

Workshops and semi-structured discussions were facilitated to obtain perspectives on the previous Wexford CYPP and to identify the current needs of children, young people and parents which informed the priorities for the 2025-2027 CYPP. The consultations addressed how consultees felt children and young people were doing under the five national outcome and what they considered to be the strengths and gaps in existing services, facilities, resources and supports.

	Method	Number of Participants
CYPSC membership and Sub Groups	Workshops	25 organisations
Stakeholders working with children and young people 0-24	Semi Structured Interviews	42 professionals

Table 5: Stakeholder Consultation

Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile

A key element in the development of the Wexford CYPP was the compilation of a comprehensive socio-demographic profile for Co. Wexford.

This was crucial in terms of ensuring that the decision-making of the CYPSC members was evidence informed by the most current information. This section presents an overview of the social and demographic profile for the target population (0-24 years) in Co. Wexford based on a combination of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2022 Census data and primary research and data sources. National comparisons are provided where appropriate.

Positioned in the South-East corner of Ireland, County Wexford is bounded on two sides by the sea, on the South by the Atlantic Ocean and the East by St. Georges Channel and the Irish Sea. The four adjoining counties are Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow and Wicklow. The county comprises the four Municipal Districts (MDs): New Ross, Gorey/Kilmuckridge, Rosslare and Enniscorthy and the Borough District of Wexford. The population of County Wexford grew by 9% to 163,919 as the number of people living in the county increase by 14,197 between April 2016 and April 2022. This resulted in Wexford moving from the 12th most populated County in Ireland in 2016 to the ninth most populated in 2022. Most of the population growth (48%) occurred in the Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD in the north of the county.

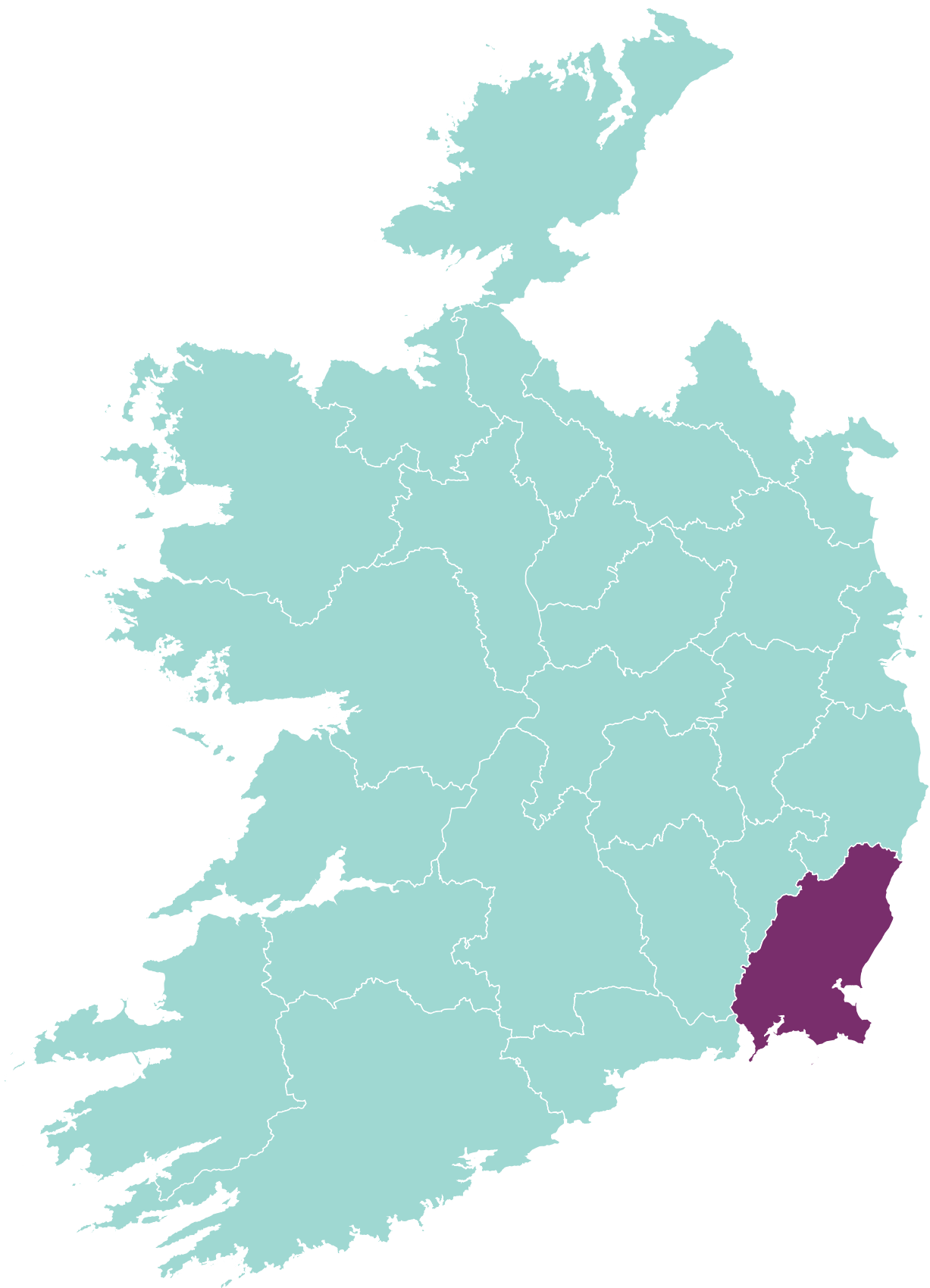


Figure 4: Map of Wexford County Boundary

Key Facts and Figures

The key facts and figures for children and young people in the county are presented in Table 4 with salient socio-demographic indicators explored later in this section.

Indicator & Source	Description	Wexford	State
Total Population	Total population of Wexford	163,919	5,149,139
CSO Census 2022		9.5% increase on 2016 Census	8.1% increase on 2016 Census
Child Population	Total number of children 0-17 living in Co. Wexford	39,414	1,349,915
CSO Census 2022	% of total population	26.1%	26.2%
	Total number of young people 0-24 living in Co. Wexford	51,882	1,657,058
	% of total population	31.7%	32.2%
Young Adult Population	Total Number of young people aged 18-24 living in Co. Wexford	12,486	438,491
CSO Census 2022	% of total population	7.3%	9%
	Total number of young people aged 20-24 living in Co. Wexford	8,429	307,143
	% of total population	5.1%	6%
Infant Mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births classified by the area of residence in 2022	5	191
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Rate	2.9	3.3
Neonatal Mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 28 days old per 1,000 live births classified by area of residence of the mother	6	140
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Rate	3.3	2.4

Indicator & Source	Description	Wexford	State
Child Mortality	Number of deaths among children under 18 in 2022	16	427
CSO Vital Statistics 2022			
New Births	Number of new births in Wexford, 2022	1750	57,540
CSO Vital Statistics, 2022 Children born to Teenage Mothers	Number of births to mothers under 20 years of age in 2022	24	798
CSO Vital Statistics 2022	Births to mothers under 20 years as a percentage of all births in 2022	1.4%	1.4%
Traveller Children	Number of Traveller children in 2022	522	14,142
CSO Census 2022	Rate per 1,000 children	13.2	11.6
Foreign National Children	Number of foreign national children	2,294	88,630
State of the Nation's Children (SONC) 2022	Rate per 1,000 children	58.2	64.4
Children with Disabilities	Number of children with a disability aged 0 – 19 yrs.	2,361	81,210
CSO Census 2022	Rate per 1,000 children	54.33	64.4
Suicides	Number of deaths by suicide in 2022	27 (18 male, 9 female)	412
CSO Vital Statistics, 2022 ¹	Suicide Rates for all persons, males and females, per 1,000 population	16.8	8.1

1. [Vital Statistics Yearly Summary 2022](#)

Indicator & Source	Description	Wexford	State
Education Retention rate of pupils in second level schools – Entry Cohort 2016 Primary and Post-Primary Schools And Student Absence Reports Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022 Tusla Education Support Services	Retention rate to Junior Certificate for the 2016 Wexford entry cohort	97%	98%
	Retention rate to Leaving Certificate for the 2016 Wexford entry cohort	90.1%	91.2%
	Average percentage of Post Primary pupils absent for 20 days or more (2021/22 Covid Year)	34.5%	28%
Children by Educational Attainment of Mother State of Nation's Children 2022 (SONC) (2016 data)	Percentage of children in Wexford classified by the educational attainment of mother in 2016	10%: Primary	8%
		16%: Lower secondary	13%
		43%: Upper secondary	38%
		29%: Third level or higher	38%
		2%: Other/not stated	3%

Indicator & Source	Description	Wexford	State
Child Protection Referrals to Social Work Tusla, Wexford https://data.tusla.ie/	Number of child protection referrals to the Social Work Department in Wexford in 2023	Total: 3,642	82,885
		Child Welfare Concerns 1847	
		Emotional Abuse: 1049	
		Neglect: 80	
Children in Care Tusla, Wexford https://data.tusla.ie/	Number of children in Wexford in the care of Tusla Child and Family Agency in December 2023	Physical Abuse: 341	
		Sexual Abuse: 298	
		Total: 224	5,755
		Residential: 28	
Garda Youth Diversion Programme SONC 2022 SONC 2022	Number of children aged 10-17 years referred to Garda Youth Diversion Programme in Wexford	Foster Care: 194	
		Other: 2	
		62 children in care in Wexford in 2023 had a disability.	
		193	8,404
Probation Probation Service	Number of young people aged under 25 referred to the Probation Service in Wexford in 2023	34	N/A
Children in Lone Parent Households SONC 2022	Number of children living in a lone parent household in Wexford % of total child population	16,925	197,908
		32%	26%

Indicator & Source	Description	Wexford	State
Childhood Immunisations HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre 2021	The % uptake of immunisations among children at 24 months of age (2021)	95% (% who received 3rd “6 in 1” vaccination) 92% (MMR1)	94% 90%
Breast Feeding SONC 2022 (2021 data)	% of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital in Wexford (2021)	55.2%	61.9%
Housing Waiting List Wexford County Council 2022	Number of households on Social Housing Waiting List in 2022	1,348	57,842 qualified for housing support nationally in 2022
 The Housing Agency – Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2022	No. of Social Housing Applicants on housing list as single adults with one or more children (child may not reside with adult)	414	13,579
Clients Receiving Treatment for Substance Abuse Health Research Board 2022	Number of people receiving substance misuse treatment in 2022 who gave a Wexford address.	Total all ages 678 <18 years = 6 18-24 years = 37	8,922
Youth Unemployment CSO, 23	Number of young people (under 25) signing on the Live Register in Co. Wexford (Aug 2023)	Total: 874 Male: 437 Female: 437	Total: 21,061 Male: 11,306 Female: 9,755
IPAS Occupancy IPAS Weekly Accommodation and Arrivals Statistics - DECDIY	IPAS Children Occupancy in four centres in Wexford (May 5th, 2024)	215	7,314

Table 6: Wexford Key Facts & Figures

Deprivation

Policy makers use the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for the purposes of determining DEIS² schools, allocating funding under the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), identifying communities to work with as part of the Family Resource Centre (FRC) Programme, and to determine the location of healthcare facilities based on the predicted health needs and outcomes of a local population.



Figure 5: Pobal HP Deprivation Index

2. Programme for schools serving disadvantaged students

Though there was an improvement in score since 2016 of +0.72, Wexford has moved from the fourth to the third most disadvantaged county in Ireland. As per Table 7, It is the 2nd most deprived county in Leinster with a score of -4.09 and a classification of Marginally Below Average (MBA). Figure 5 illustrates the concentration of deprivation.

County	2016	2022	Change
Dublin	4.12	2.69	-1.43
Kildare	3.18	3.11	-0.07
Kilkenny	-0.33	-0.41	-0.08
Laois	-2.53	-2.02	+0.51
Longford	-6.01	-5.33	+0.68
Louth	-2.96	-3.59	-0.63
Meath	1.83	1.56	-0.27
Offaly	-4.58	-3.95	+0.63
Westmeath	-2.08	-1.43	+0.65
Wexford	-4.81	-4.09	+0.72
Wicklow	1.43	1.12	-0.31
Carlow	-3.66	-2.76	+0.9

Table 7: Deprivation in Leinster - Source HP Deprivation Index CSO Census 2022

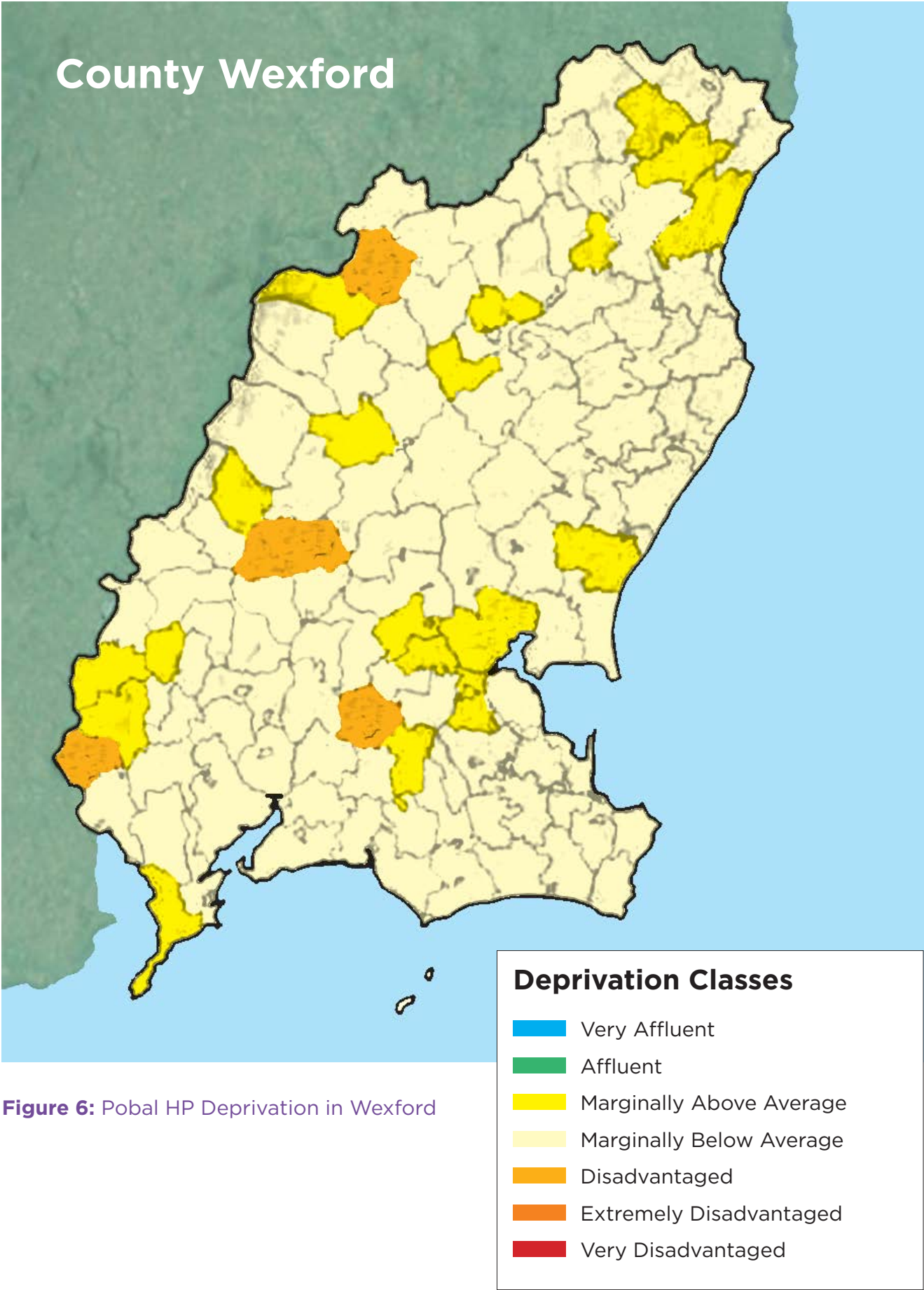


Figure 6: Pobal HP Deprivation in Wexford

Since 2011, the Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) are published at the level of Small Areas (SAs). SAs are standardised in size, with a minimum of 50 households and a mean of just under 100, thus effectively providing street-level information on the Irish population. 2022 Census SA data for County Wexford reveals.

- 90 Disadvantaged Small Areas (vs. 110 in 2016) with 22,756 persons, equivalent to 13.9% of the total population.
- 31 Very Disadvantaged Small Areas (vs. 27 in 2016) with 7,472 persons, equivalent to 4.6% of the total population.
- 6 Extremely Disadvantage Small Areas (vs. 0 in 2016) with 1,573 persons equivalent to 0.9% of the total population.
- 127 or 20.5% of the 620 Small Areas (2022) are in one of the three disadvantaged categories. There were 615 Small Areas in the 2016 census.
- 2022 Population in Disadvantaged Areas (all 3 bands) =31,801, 19.4% of the total of 163,919 - 2016 Population in Disadvantaged Areas (all 3 bands) =31,263, 20.9% of the total of 149,425

The population of 6,651 in very disadvantaged small areas in 2016, increased to 9,045 in 2022 combining very disadvantaged areas (7,472) and for the first time, extremely disadvantaged small areas (1,573). This represents a total increase of 36% in populations in the two categories of highest disadvantage compared to 2016³.

All six Wexford local Electoral Areas are categorised by the HP Index as ‘marginally below average’⁴

County	2016	2022	Change	Change
Enniscorthy	27,253	29,314	7.56	-7.29
New Ross	27,739	29,946	7.96	-5.23
Rosslare	21,758	23,573	8.34	-3.64
Wexford	28,896	31,547	9.17	-3.21
Gorey	27,351	31,140	13.85	-2.57
Kilmuckridge	16,725	18,399	10.01	-1.83

Table 8: Wexford Local Electoral Areas Deprivation Scores Source CSO Census 2022

3. Wexford local Development – Initial Analysis of County Wexford HP Deprivation Index Data for 2022

4. Deprivation score of between 0 and -10

There are nine Electoral Districts (EDs) categorised as ‘disadvantaged’⁵.

Electoral District (ED)	Relative Deprivation Score
1. Taghmon	-17.54
2. Enniscorthy Urban	-16.79
3. New Ross Urban	-15.73
4. Wexford No.2 Urban	-12.19
5. Clonroche	-11.14
6. Kilmokea	-10.80
7. Ferns	-10.40
8. Newtownbarry	-10.37
9. Enniscorthy Rural	-10.34

Table 9: Disadvantaged Electoral Divisions Source CSO Census 2022

5. Deprivation score of between -10 and -20



There are 31 Very Disadvantaged SAs, 10 in Enniscorthy, 7 in New Ross, 5 in Wexford, 4 in Gorey.

SA No.:	SA Location	Detail	HP Deprivation Score
247046005	Enniscorthy	Loreto Village, Pearse Rd, Parnell Rd, Mernagh St, Redmond St	-21.84
247046012	Enniscorthy	The Shannon, Barley Field, Park Ave, Ramsfort Ave	-23.14
247045019	Enniscorthy	Gimont Ave(S), Killagooley Villas	-29.43
247045021	Enniscorthy	Esmonde Rd, Gimont Ave(N)	-26.86
247045023	Enniscorthy	Andy Doyle Close, Sli na Slaine, Ross Rd	-21.35
247045024	Enniscorthy	Bellefield Rd, Moran Park(E)	-28.24
247045025	Enniscorthy	Bellefield Rd + Tce, Moran Park(W)	-20.44
247045029	Enniscorthy	Sean Browne Crescent+Court, Nolans Lawn	-20.05
247045038	Enniscorthy	Vinegar Hill Lane, Rectory Field, Fr. Murphy Close	-23.86
247046003	Enniscorthy	St Patricks St+ Place, Na Sean Garrai, Duffry Gate	-27.19
247090013	New Ross	Woodbine Close	-27.62
247091004	New Ross	Pondfields	-24.40
247091011	New Ross	Irishtown, Haughton Place	-22.79
247091012	New Ross	Irishtown Heights, Longstone Drive	-20.36
247091016	New Ross	Mary St, Ball Alley Lane, Nunnery Lane, Windmill Lane, Bewley St	-20.28
247091017	New Ross	Bosheen	-29.61
247091018	New Ross	Bishopsland, Mount Carmel	-22.50
247117008	Wexford	Liam Mellows Park	-23.31
247117012	Wexford	Kennedy Park	-23.36
247117022	Wexford	Belvedere Grove	-29.39
247117024	Wexford	Ashfield	-22.48
247124015	Wexford	Talbot Green	-26.38

SA No.:	SA Location	Detail	HP Deprivation Score
247040016/02	Gorey	Mill Lands, Hillcrest Drive	-26.38
247052017	Gorey	Allenwood Drive, Fort Rd, Park Ave, Ramsfort Ave	-22.39
247052019	Gorey	Willow Park, Ashford Grove, Cois Doire	-20.70
247053005	Gorey	Garden City	-25.17
247075002	Campile	Abbey View, Sliabh Coillte	-27.28
247104005	Rosslare Hr	Greenore Park, Mary's Terrace	-23.96
247047001/01	Ferns	Castle Manor Court	-24.25
247002008	Riverchapel	Etchingham Heights	-23.63
247038002	Clonroche	Woodlands, The Villas	-23.92

Table 10: Very Disadvantaged Small Areas CSO Census 2022

There are six Extremely Disadvantaged⁶ SAs, three in Wexford and one each in Enniscorthy, Bunclody and Taghmon)

SA No.:	SA Location	Detail	HP Deprivation Score
247117002	Wexford	Ferndale Park	-30.31
247124002	Wexford	Hantoon Rd, Antelope Rd, Gulbar Rd	-33.85
247124010	Wexford	Wolfe Tone Villas	-32.97
247045039	Enniscorthy	Fr. Murphy Park, Slaney View Park(N)	-31.31
247094004	Bunclody	Strawberry Hill, Carraig Ban	-33.35
247107002	Taghmon	Monastery Avenue	-33.97

Table 11: Extremely Disadvantaged Small Areas CSO Census 2022

Based on the indicators including deprivation, SICAP alignment, and number of families with young children, Wexford Town and Enniscorthy are two of 19 sites nationwide selected for the 2020-2024 Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP), a Healthy Ireland initiative to reduce health inequalities in Ireland.

6. Deprivation score of between -30 and -40 People who experience the highest deprivation face the worst health inequalities. The CSO research paper, 'Mortality differentials in Ireland 2016-17', identifies that persons in the most deprived quintile of our population have the lowest life expectancy.

Child and Youth Population - Age Structure

Age Group	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24
No. of children and young people in Wexford	9,156 (5.59%)	11,066 (6.75%)	12,260 (7.48%)	10,971 (6.69%)	8,429 (5.14%)
No. of children and young people in Ireland	304,169	349,033	377,311	335,102	321,560

Table 12: Wexford Child & Youth Population Source CSO Census 2022

Age Dependency

Wexford has a total population of 163,919. 51,882 of the population are aged 0-24, representing 32% of its total population. The age dependency rate, expressed as ‘the percentage of persons aged 0 to 14 plus those aged 65+, relative to the population’ in County Wexford is 36.53%. There were 1,772 births in Wexford in 2023. Given the size of the 0-24 age population and the upward trajectory of population growth, it is probable that this age cohort has not yet peaked and there is likely to be an increased demand for children and young people’s services over the next decade.

Family Structure

Wexford has 43,062 families and the highest proportion (13.42%) have children in the adolescent age range. There were 32,482 children aged 15 and under in Wexford in April 2022⁷. Of these, 10,976 (34%) were in childcare, compared with 33% nationally.

No. of Families	Wexford 43,062	Ireland 1,279,951
Pre-family	6.52%	9.31%
Pre-school	7.11%	8.13%
Early School	9.27%	9.87%
Pre-Adolescent	11.65%	11.89%
Adolescent	13.42%	12.32%
Adult	27.18%	27%

Table 13: Wexford Family Structure Source CSO Census 2022

7. CSO 2022

Table 12 outlines the make-up of households in the county and gives insights into the type of households in which children in County Wexford are living. Wexford’s families included 18,055 married couples with children and 3,634 cohabiting couples with children. A further 6,670 families with children were headed by single mothers and 1,198 by single fathers. A total of 16,925 children and young people aged 0-24 are living in a lone parent household in Wexford resulting in a lone parent ratio of 29.2%. The average number of children per family in the county was 1.32, compared with 1.34 nationally. There were also 10,737 married couples without children and 2,768 cohabiting couples without children.

Type of Household	Households	Persons
One person	14,219	14,219
Married couple	9717	19,434
Cohabiting couple	2441	4882
Married couple and children	16,569	67,558
Cohabiting couple and children	3269	12,681
Father and children	956	2325
Mother and children	5383	14,600
Couple and others	752	2493
Couple, children and others	1403	7331
Father, children and others	166	634
Mother, children and others	757	2900
Two or more family units	1013	5519
Non-family households and relations	1136	2701
Two or more non-related persons	1608	4249
Total	59,389	161,526

Table 14: Private Households in Wexford by Type CSO Census 2022

Nationality & Ethnicity

Wexford is home to 16,812 non-Irish nationals and persons of dual nationality accounting for 10.5 % of the county's population.

- UK nationals (3,561) account for the largest cohort of non-Irish nationals followed by Polish (3,356), Lithuanian (725) and Romanian (719).
- As of February 2024, Wexford hosted 3,471 Ukrainian refugees.
- The number of Ukrainian children enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Wexford were 526 and 238 respectively, as of February 2024.
- Irish Travellers comprise 0.88% (1,441) of Wexford's resident population (163,919) which is slightly higher than the national average of 0.64% (32,349)⁸
- Irish Travellers comprise 8.9 per 1,000 of the population in Wexford, which is higher than the national average of 6.5⁹.
- It is challenging within the Census to capture the true number from the Roma community, however it is estimated by Wexford Local Development that there are 500 members of the Roma community living in Enniscorthy.

Education

The proportion of the adult population in Wexford, with a third-level qualification stands at 32.3%, below the State average of 35.7%. The proportion of persons who have completed formal full-time education, and who did not progress beyond lower secondary education (Group and Junior/Intermediate Certificate or equivalent) is higher in the county and region (33%), than is the case across the State (29%). However, this trend is being slowly eroded as a national retention study on the 2016 school entry cohort by the Department of Education found Wexford to be at the national average for retention to Leaving Certificate¹⁰. In 2022 13% of the population was educated to primary level only.

Suicide and Self Harm

The three-year suicide moving average for Wexford has been on an upward trajectory for most of the past decade reaching 13.7¹¹ in 2018-2020 which was the highest across the five South Eastern counties (Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, South Tipperary). However, for the most recent period available 2020-2022, it had reduced to 11.8. Based on 2019 data from the National Self Harm Registry Ireland, Wexford had the highest presentations of self-harm for the South Eastern counties among females and the second highest for males¹². In Wexford, the presentation among females was highest in those aged under 19. Young people are identified as a priority group for suicide prevention activities in the Southeast Region in the *Connecting for Life South East Community Healthcare 2022-2024* Action Plan.

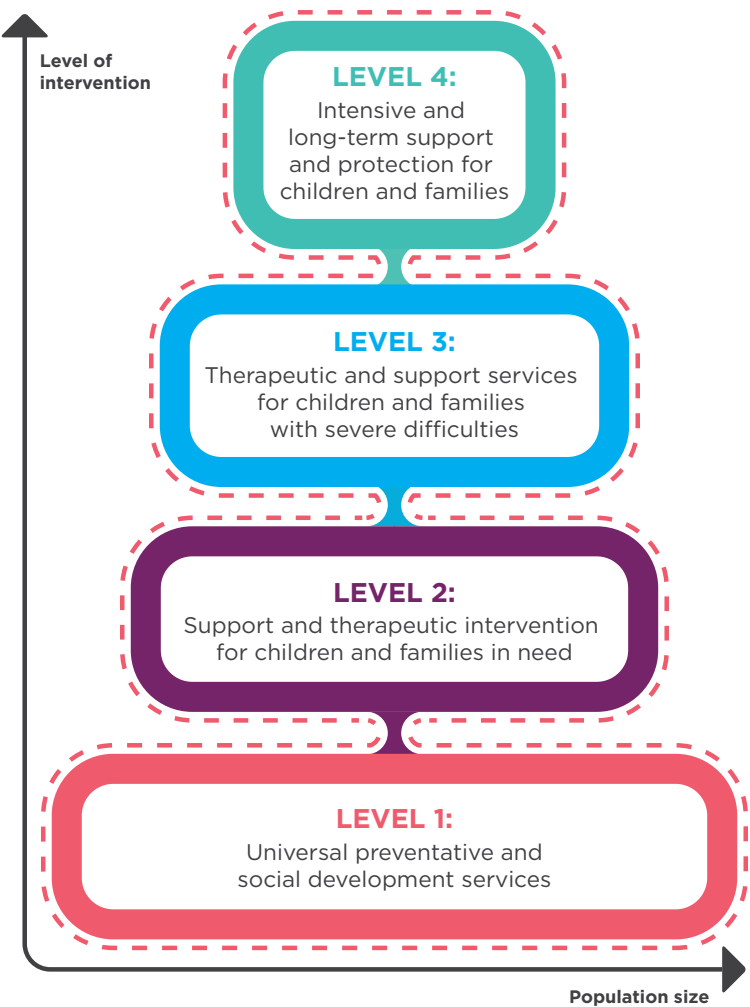
8. CSO Census data 2022
9. CSO Census data 2022 (<https://data.cso.ie/>- Irish Travellers per 1,000 of total population
10.Retention rate of pupils in second level schools Entry Cohort 2016, Department of Education 2023.
11. They are calculated using CSO finalised year of occurrence data and per 100,000 population for each county.
12.263 per 100,000 population for females and 199 per 100,000 for males

Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in County Wexford

This section provides an overview of the services available to children, young people and their families in the county.

The following table lists the services along with the Hardiker model¹³ level at which they operate and whether they are a statutory or community/voluntary service.

Hardiker Model



13. The Hardiker Model is widely used in the planning of child and family services. It shows the level of intervention provided by services i.e. from Level 1 - a universal preventative and social development service to Level 4 intensive and long-term support and protection.

Services for Children, Young People and Families in County Wexford

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Health and Social Services : HSE Services			
HSE Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Area Medical Office- Audiology Service- Child Psychology- Community Schemes- Dental Service- Early Intervention Team (Disability)- Childrens Disability Network Teams (CDNT) x 4 (Enniscorthy, New Ross, Wexford, Gorey)- G.P Out of Hours (contracted)- Health Promotion- Immunisations- Occupational Therapy- Orthodontic Services- Ophthalmology- Physiotherapy- Public Health Nursing- Speech and Language Therapy	Statutory	Targeted & Universal 1-3
HSE Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)- Self-Harm Intervention Programme (SHIP)- CIPC (Counselling in Primary Care)- HSE Office for Suicide Prevention	Statutory	Targeted 3-4

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Health and Social Services : HSE Services			
HSE Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Screening, Assessment- Care Planning, Detoxification- Opiate Substitution Treatment- Individual and Group Counselling, Needle Exchange- Family Support- Community Based Drugs Initiative Project Workers x 5- Aiséiri Treatment Service- Cornmarket Project	Statutory Community	Targeted 2-4
HSE Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Traveller Health Project x 2 (North and South Teams)- Homeless Service- LGBTIQ+- County Wexford Roma Health Advocacy Project- Intercultural Health/New Communities- Substance Misuse (as above)	Statutory - Also provides funding to Voluntary Organisations	Targeted & Universal 1-3
Health and Social Services – Youth Mental Health			
Services to Support Youth Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAMHS- NEPS- Psychology- Self-Harm Intervention Programme (SHIP 16yrs+)- HSE Suicide Resource Office- School Guidance Teachers- Youth Services	Statutory Voluntary	Targeted 2-4 Targeted 2-3

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Health and Social Services - Counselling			
Community Based Counselling Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's Good To Talk - FDYS Youth Counselling Service - Pieta House - Futures in Mind - Taghmon, Gorey, ARC and Southwest Wexford FRC's - School Completion Programmes 	Community	Universal & Targeted Level 1-2
Health and Social Services : Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wexford Rape Crisis - Wexford Women's Refuge 	Voluntary	Targeted 2-3
Health and Social Services : Social Housing			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clúid - Focus Ireland - Respond 	Voluntary	Targeted & Universal 1-2
Health and Social Services : Traveller Community			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traveller Health Project x 2 (HSE) - Traveller Inclusion Programme (FDYS) 	Community	Universal 1
Health and Social Services : Child Protection and Welfare			
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Family Support	Statutory	Targeted & Universal 1-3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPFS - Child & Family Support Networks x 4 		
	Early Years	Statutory	Universal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Years Inspection 		

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Health and Social Services : Child Protection and Welfare			
Tusla Child and Family Agency	Social Work	Statutory	Targeted 3-4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult Assessment Team - Adoption - Aftercare - Children in Care Team - Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Team - Therapeutic Services - Fostering and Alternative Care 		
Education			
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary Schools x 106 (32 DEIS) - Post Primary Schools x 22 (11 DEIS) - Special Schools x 2 - School Completion Programmes x 5 (Bunclody & Enniscorthy, Bridgetown, Gorey, South West Wexford, Wexford Town) - National Education Psychology Service (NEPS) - Wexford Campus, South East Technological University (SETU) 	Statutory	Targeted & Universal 1-3
	Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)	Statutory	Targeted & Universal 1-3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education Welfare Officer x 3 FTE Posts. - Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) x 1 - School Completion Programme (SCP) - 2 x Community Education Workers) 		

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Education			
	Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult and Community Education - Adult Education Guidance Service - Adult Literacy - BTEI (Back to Education Initiative) - Community Training Centres - Community Education Programme - FET (Further Education and Training) - Music Generation Wexford - VTOS - Youthreach 	Statutory	Targeted & Universal 1-3
Family Support Services			
Family Resource Centres	FRC's x 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Gorey, ARC, Southend, South West Wexford, Taghmon) - Traveller Family Support Workers in ARC FRC and Taghmon FRC 	Community	Universal & Targeted 1-3
Community Based Projects	Barnardos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Support - Teen Parent Support Programme - Wexford Parents Hub The Family Project - Youth New Ross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Support - Parent Child+ Programme - Home from Home Transition Programme 	Voluntary	Universal & Targeted 2-3

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Policing and Youth Justice			
	Gardai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers x 3 (Gorey, New Ross, Wexford) - Youth Diversion Projects x 3 (Safe Wexford Town, Slaney Project Enniscorthy, Treoin Project New Ross) - Probation Service - Wexford Restorative Practice Partnership 	Statutory Statutory Community Statutory Voluntary	Universal & Targeted 2-3
Children and Youth			
Early Years Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wexford County Childcare Committee - No. Childcare Providers - 149 + 1 registered Childminder - No. Community Providers - 43 - No. Private Providers - 106 - No. School Age Only Service-27 - No. Offering ECCE - 121 - No. Special Needs Preschools -2 - No. Parent & Toddler Groups - 21 	Community & Private	Universal Level 1
Youth Services	FDYS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bunclody Traveller Project - Afterschool - Childcare - Drop In/Café x 2 (Wexford Town, New Ross) - Community Youth Projects x 3 (Coolcots, Enniscorthy, Gorey) - Local Voluntary Youth Club Network - Risk and Resilience Project - Young Women's Project - Youth Information Service 	Community	Targeted & Universal 2-3

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Children and Youth			
Early Years Services	Foróige x 9 Clubs		Universal 1
	Gorey Youth Needs Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Daisies Community Childcare - Gorey Youth Services - Gorey Training Initiative - Courtown Local Training Initiative - The Rise Project - Ukrainian Family Support Service - Early Years Family Support Service - Integration Youth Work Youth New Ross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Support Project - Youth Diversion Project - Youth Project 		Targeted & Universal 2-3

Agency Organisation	Service	Statutory or Community/Voluntary	Universal or Targeted or Both Hardiker Level
Local Authority Services			
Wexford County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts Department - Comhairle na nÓg (FDYS) - Community Development - Economic Development - Environment - Amenities - Public Parks x 4/Playgrounds x 35 - Public Leisure Centres & Pools x 3 - Outdoor Gyms x 9 - Healthy Wexford - Housing - Library Service x 5 branches & mobile service - Local Authority Integration Team - Social Workers x 4 - Sports Active Wexford, LSP - LCDC - Sláintecare Healthy Communities - Covering Enniscorthy, Wexford Town areas, Taghmon and Edermine 	Statutory	Universal & Targeted Level 1-2
Other Services			
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money Advice Budgeting Service (MABS) - Wexford Local Development (SICAP, LEADER, Cornmarket Project and the Tús Project) 	Statutory Community	Universal & Targeted Level 1-2

Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in County Wexford

This section is informed by the data presented in sections 1-3. In developing the needs analysis, CYPSC adopted the following approach.

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken. The results of this combined with the Socio-Demographic Profile helped to inform the Needs Analysis and subsequently assisted in the identification of actions for the plan.

Consultation: As outlined on P.25, an extensive consultation process was undertaken with children, young people and families. A total of 933 individuals were consulted including 86 preschool children (2-6 years), 189 children of primary school age (5-12 years), 566 young adults (13-24 years) and 92 parents. In addition, the stakeholder consultation included semi-structured interviews with 42 professionals and workshops with representatives of 25 organisations.

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Local Priorities: Infant and Youth Mental Health, Physical Activity, Early Childhood Nutrition, Young Carers, Substance Use, Bereavement Support, Disability Equality.



Why is Mental Health A Concern

- The three-year suicide moving average for Wexford has consistently been in the top three in the South East in the past decade.
- In 2022, there were 27 deaths by suicide in Wexford reducing to 20 in 2023.
- In 2019 Wexford had the highest presentations of self-harm in the South East among females and the second highest for males.
- Young people are identified as a priority group in the “Connecting for Life South East 2022-2024 Action Plan”.

A number of issues were highlighted through the consultation process as outlined below

Resilience: Professionals and parents identified a deficit in resilience among young people which may be a Covid legacy.

Access to Services: This is regarded as a significant challenge with a perception of “zero community based therapeutic services in some areas” and long waiting lists particularly for mental health services such as CAMHS, counselling and therapeutic interventions.

Additional Supports: Supports for primary school aged children, those in the 18-24-year cohort with undiagnosed issues and for young people with a disability are perceived to be limited.

Infant and Youth Mental Health and Bereavement Support

Mental health emerged strongly as a priority during the consultations. It was identified by young people and parents as one of the top ten issues of concern in relation to young people. Parents are worried about issues affecting the mental health and wellbeing of their children. They highlighted issues related to gender identity, technology and social media as topics of concern.

Young people highlighted a range of factors that negatively affect their mental health such as exam and peer pressure, transitioning to secondary school, bullying, body image, lack of facilities, drug use, discrimination, poor transport, cost of living, school system, worry about being liked/judged, climate change, their future and wars in the world.

Professionals identified the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people as a primary concern. Specific references were made to anxiety and self-harm and the impact of domestic violence on children and young people. Other issues that were highlighted as having a negative impact on youth mental health were social media, alienation of minority groups, poverty, financial pressure, time pressure, normalisation of drug use and vaping, health inequalities and limited opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities.

Parents and professionals indicated that finding out what support services are available in relation to youth mental health can be challenging. Those that had availed of services shared their experience and difficulty of navigating the system.

Professionals cited trauma-informed approaches as a valuable means of effectively understanding and responding to the needs of children, young people and families and expressed a keen interest in further developing knowledge and experience in this area. Professionals felt that infant mental health and bereavement support should be priorities for the 2025-2027 Wexford CYPP.

Wexford CYPSC will continue to support the roll out of the HSE “Connecting for Life” strategy through representation on the CFL Steering Group and Sub Groups as appropriate. Similarly, CYPSC will continue to engage with other structures such as “Healthy Wexford” to collaborate as appropriate and prevent duplication.

The actions in the CYPP focus on the following key priority areas in relation to mental health.

- Supporting development of the Infant Mental Health Network and promoting bereavement supports.
- Increasing awareness of mental health supports and referral pathways for parents, professionals and young people.

Substance Use

Substance use, particularly drugs, vaping and alcohol was highlighted as an issue of concern in the consultation process. Both parents and young people both identified this issue as being in their top three issues of concern.

Worries around drug/alcohol misuse and associated anti-social behaviour were expressed by parents. The growth of vaping both within and outside the school environment is a concern for parents due to its potential as a gateway drug. They highlighted that the absence of locally accessible and affordable activities led to boredom, which they felt could increase the likelihood of drug/alcohol use and anti-social behaviour.

Concern about the impact of living in a home where there is problematic substance use and the complexity of responding to the needs of these children and young people was also highlighted by professionals.

- A survey conducted by CNN in 2022 was completed by 1700 young people across the county. It found that that 86% of respondents knew someone of their age who vapes. 91% of people surveyed agreed that vaping is common amongst young people. Over 1 in 4 respondents disclosed that they had used an e-cigarette.
- The Health Research Board statistics for 2023 indicate that 178 residents in County Wexford received treatment for drug and alcohol issues.
- 82 people aged 24 or under presented to the Wexford Community Based Drugs Initiative in 2023. Cannabis was the most common drug for those aged 18-24 followed by cocaine and alcohol.

The following actions have been identified for inclusion in the CYPP.

- Ensuring that children and young people impacted by substance use are aware of the services available to them.
- Raising awareness of safe practices for young people while out socialising through the “Sound Out” campaign.

Promoting Physical Activity in Teenage Girls

According to Sport Ireland’s “Girls Get Active” research (2021), evidence suggests that only 7% of girls 14-15 years and 5% of girls 16-20 years are meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines (moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes per day). This research has established that the term “sporty” or “sporty person” is strongly linked with disengagement of physical activity/sports within the teenage girl population. In Ireland, Sport Ireland recognise the need for additional support and have established the “Her Moves” campaign, designed to inspire, and support more teenage girls to be active.

Physical Activity/Obesity Prevention were identified as priority areas under Outcome 1 of Wexford Children and Young People’s Plan 2020-2023. Youth mental health and anxiety were also identified as priority areas. Wexford CYPSC’s “Health & Diversity” Sub Group identified teenage girls as a cohort that they would like to focus on based on local knowledge and the evidence based outlined above. A Task-Group was formed to further develop this concept into a project idea resulting in the “Girls Get Active” initiative. The initiative was successfully delivered in 2023 and 2024. It has been evaluated and adapted based on recommendations.

Moving into the new planning phase, Wexford CYPSC has identified this as a cohort requiring continued focus. The initiative will continue to concentrate on teenage girls particularly those less likely to be heard such as the Traveller and Roma communities.

Young Carers

Young carers provide care, assistance and support to a family member. This can involve housework, providing support to family members or caring for siblings. Many young carers do not identify as being a “carer” and see their caring role as a normal part of being a family member.

In some instances, the caring role can affect their school work or the amount of time they have available to socialise or engage in hobbies or extra-curricular activities.

A group of young carers welcomed the opportunity to engage in the consultation process.

This is a cohort that Wexford CYPSC has not actively targeted or actively engaged with before, and members were anxious to have their views included. Young carers under the age of 18 in Wexford are a seldom heard and difficult to identify cohort with limited social and recreational opportunities. A social group, a place to meet and day breaks were among the needs identified by them in this consultation. Wexford CYPSC will work with Family Carers Ireland initially to raise awareness of carers and to highlight the supports available to them.

Early Childhood Nutrition

As outlined in “A Healthy Weight for Ireland”, overweight and obesity are largely preventable. However, in the last two decades, levels of overweight and obesity have doubled. Only 40% of the population now has a healthy weight. Levels of overweight and obesity are much higher in disadvantaged groups. In public health terms, this is one of the biggest challenges facing Ireland today.

Statistics show that currently one in four children is over-weight or obese. However, overweight and obesity is not equally distributed across the population. Research shows that those living in disadvantaged communities and certain ethnic/cultural minority groups are more at risk. This places children at a higher risk of bullying, poor physical and mental health and obesity as adults.

The CYPP concentrates on the following key priority area in relation to nutrition and obesity prevention “Promotion of Early Childhood Nutrition”

Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in all areas of Learning and Development

Local Priorities: Supporting Transitions/Access to Higher Education, Traveller and Roma Education, Emotionally Based School Avoidance, Literacy Awareness

At primary school level 2021-2022, Wexford has higher rates of 20+ day absences (31.3%), and a lower rate of suspensions (zero) compared to Leinster and the national average. At post primary level, Wexford has similar rates of 20 + day absences (9.5%) and suspensions (2.5%) compared to Leinster and the national average¹⁴. The proportion of students within the second level system who complete Junior Certificate (97%) and Leaving Certificate (90%) in Wexford is similar to the national average.

However, the following statistics illustrate how Wexford is underperforming in terms of education progression.

- 32.3% of the adult population have a third-level qualification with 13% educated to primary level only.
- Early school leavers are three times as likely to be unemployed than the general population aged 18-24 (CSO, 2019).
- The proportion of children in the county who are living in a household where the mother¹⁵ went on to 3rd-level education in the county is 29.4%, below the State rate of 32.3% (CSO, 2022)
- Wexford has the 5th highest Traveller population in Ireland who continue to have very low school attendance and retention.

The consultation process resulted in several issues being raised. It is not possible for Wexford CYPSC to address all the issues and some of them are outside the remit of CYPSC. However, it is important that they are noted here.

14. Tusla Education Support Service, School Attendance Data Primary and Post-Primary Schools and Student Absence Reports Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2019-2022
15. The Educational Attainment level of the Primary Care Giver of the child, usually the mother, is acknowledged as a reliable indicator of the child’s educational trajectory and future occupational prospects.

School Transport: Parents highlighted challenges in relation to school transport. They identified that there is a need for increased support for parents of children with additional needs and more Special Needs Assistants for students. It should be acknowledged that 15 additional schools in the county (12 primary and three secondary) were granted DEIS status in 2023. However, this allocation was based on 2016 Census data and there remains just one DEIS school in Gorey.

School Attendance: Concerns were raised in relation to school attendance and the complex issues that can impact school attendance including anxiety, family issues, school issues, additional needs, literacy/numeracy concerns, cultural issues and the increasing trend of missing school to work and financially contribute to the household income.

Navigating the System: Access to support and navigating the system is particularly challenging for young people with ASD and their families due to a number of issues such as limited or no available services, eligibility criteria, and poor transport infrastructure. Parents must be involved in the process of identifying the needs of their child and the type of service/setting which would best support them to achieve their learning potential.

Broadband Access: Access to good quality broadband is vital for the education of children and young people. This has improved greatly in Wexford in recent years, however poor coverage remains in some rural areas.

Supporting Transitions/Access to Higher Education

The need for support for children and young people when making the transition across the levels of education was reinforced through the consultation process. This is a challenging phase for many children and young people, and they can be vulnerable to EBSA at this time. Respondents highlighted that a tailored approach for cohorts of children such as Travellers and children with disability was warranted. It was acknowledged that transition programmes are in place, but they are not universal and vary from school to school.

Wexford CYPSC has agreed to focus on supporting transitions and promoting access to higher education.



Traveller and Roma Supports

There are 1,441 Travellers residing in Wexford which represents .88% of Wexford's resident population of 163,919. This is slightly higher than the national average of .64% (32,349). The Roma population (estimated by Wexford Local Development to be about 500 people) mainly resides in Enniscorthy and its environs. While they are distinct ethnic groups, there are some similarities in terms of the challenges facing these groups in terms of educational attainment and progression.

Wexford CYPSC will continue to build a relationship with the Traveller Interagency Group to explore how the Traveller community can be supported to access education and training.

Under the previous CYPP, young people from the Traveller and Roma communities were supported through an innovative project called "PATH" (Pre-Adolescent Traveller Holistic Programme). This programme aimed to improve health outcomes but has also had a positive impact on school attendance. Originally a pilot project supported by CYPSC Programme Funding, it focused on young people from the Traveller community. Due to its success, it was expanded to reach more geographical areas and to include young people from the Roma community. This programme is led by Ferns Diocesan Youth Service with support from partner organisations. Wexford CYPSC ensured that this project was externally evaluated and the recommendations have informed the roll out of phase 3 of the PATH programme.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

EBSA is a broad umbrella term used to describe a group of children and young people who have severe difficulties attending school due to emotional factors, resulting in prolonged absences from school (West Sussex County Council, 2022). While EBSA is not a new concept, there is a perception that it has increased since the Covid 19 pandemic. The closure of schools and educational facilities resulted in home-schooling and for some young people the return to education has been very challenging. This issue emerged as a significant concern in Wexford post-Covid. Over the course of the previous CYPP, Wexford CYPSC supported the development of an interagency steering group which resulted in the creation of an “EBSA Resource Pack for Co. Wexford”.

EBSA continues to be an issue of concern and Wexford CYPSC has agreed to continue to focus on this issue. Through the EBSA Implementation Group, CYPSC will continue to build on the work initiated through the Resource Pack and develop further resources and supports such as workshops for parents, teachers and support staff.

Promoting Literacy

Wexford CYPSC recognises that there are unmet literacy needs in Co. Wexford. It is not possible to specify the exact statistics as this is often a hidden issue that is unreported. However, based on Wexford’s educational attainment levels and the fact that it is the third most disadvantaged county in Ireland, it is reasonable to assume that the unmet literacy needs should be at least equal to or exceed the national average.

The current national figures are that 20% of adults have unmet literacy needs, 25% have unmet needs in maths and 25% have unmet digital literacy needs (PIACC and DESI Reports¹⁶).

Wexford CYPSC recognises the importance of education in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and disadvantage. Removing barriers to literacy and numeracy is the first step in improving access to education and training. The family unit is the first and primary educator of children and young people. For this reason, Wexford CYPSC has identified the promotion of literacy awareness as a priority for this plan. Through the Learning and Development Sub Group, literacy awareness and the importance of using Plain English will be promoted.

16.PIACC : Programme of International Assessment of Adult Competencies DESI: Digital Economy and Society

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Local Priorities: Parenting Support, Supporting those in International Protection and new communities, Online Safety, Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Current Issues related to Child Protection and Safety in County Wexford

- In 2023, there were 3,642 child protection referrals to Tusla Social Work, 1874 were for a child welfare concern, 1049 related to emotional issues, 341 were due to a physical concern, 298 were sexual related concerns with 80 for neglect.
- At the end of 2023 in Wexford, there were 222 children in care, 194 in foster care and 28 in residential care. 62 children in care had a disability.
- There were 307 Meitheal requests received and 17 Meitheal meetings open in 2023¹⁷.
- 55 people were in emergency accommodation in Wexford in December 2023¹⁸.
- There are four International Protection Accommodation centres in Wexford with total occupancy of 582 (May 5th, 2024).
- There are five Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in Wexford providing a range of community development, social inclusion and family supports across the lifecycle.
- Wexford County Childcare Committee supports 20 Parent & Toddler groups in the county with grant funding.

Important Issues that were highlighted during the consultation process

Young People’s Safety Concerns: Crime and safety challenges were highlighted in the young people’s survey results including worries about stranger danger, being robbed, being beaten up, road and farm safety, bullying, gender-based violence, racism, anti-social behaviour and drug related activity.

Protection for Specific Groups: Respondents felt that there were vulnerable groups requiring additional protection and support such as homeless families, those affected by domestic violence, families affected by substance misuse, families with children with additional needs and migrant, Traveller and Roma families.

Trauma Informed Approaches: The value of adopting approaches that are trauma informed, focus on early intervention and prevention, provide peer support and are culturally sensitive was highlighted. The issue of substance misuse and the adverse impact of childhood trauma on an individual’s mental, physical, social or emotional wellbeing were noted as cross-cutting across all five outcome areas.

17. Tusla Waterford Wexford Area Office

18.South East Radio Article Jan 27 25

Parenting Support

The essential role of parents in keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm is highlighted in “First Five” and “Supporting Parents” – the national model for parenting support services. This is based on the understanding that supporting children and families at an early stage, can prevent issues escalating to the point that they require more radical forms of intervention.

Wexford CYPSC supported the establishment of Wexford Parents Hub, an interagency initiative that has been developed using best practice. “Young Ireland” contains an action to establish Parenting Hubs in all CYPSC areas by 2026. Wexford CYPSC will continue to support the further development and expansion of Wexford Parents Hub for the duration of this plan.

Using the HP Index, Wexford CYPSC has selected six extremely disadvantaged small areas where it will focus on improving family supports for children, young people and families.

Children and Families in International Protection Accommodation and New Communities

There are currently four International Accommodation Centres in Co. Wexford. All centres are presently accommodating children and young people. Services have already engaged with the centres to address some of the family support issues that have arisen. There is a common understanding that the complexity of needs being presented by some families (mental health issues, trauma, parenting, access to education, language barriers etc.) will best be addressed by a co-ordinated effort that will maximise the available resources. Similarly, the diverse needs of children, young people and families experiencing homelessness requires a multi-agency response.

Online Safety

The digital landscape has changed vastly in the last number of years, and it is now commonplace for children and young people to have devices that allow them access the online world. Young people are growing up in a digital world and it is necessary for them to be able to navigate through it safely.

When used responsibly, technology can be a useful learning tool, However, if access is not carefully monitored, this increased connectivity also has the potential to lead to increased challenges and risks.

Online safety emerged as a top ten issue for parents and young people. Young people specified fears about cyber-bullying. Parents also expressed concerns about managing screentime and the stress associated with monitoring time spent online. There are fears about the prevalence and accessibility of toxic material online. There is an abundance of information about online safety available, however this issue is regularly raised by parents. Wexford CYPSC will endeavour to find new and innovative ways to address online safety and the management of screentime.

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)

Tusla defines domestic and/or sexual violence as “the threat or use of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse in close adult relationships” This can include destruction of property, isolation from family and friends or other important sources of support and threat to others including children. Stalking and control over access to money, personal items, food transport and means of communication are also examples of domestic violence.

Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use of threat of physical or sexual violence) is recognised as a criminal offence in Ireland under Section 39 of the Domestic Violence Act 2019. Women’s Aid has noted an increase in the incidence of online and digital abuse in recent years.

Wexford CYPSC acknowledges the detrimental impact of DSGBV on society and particularly on women and children. While many CYPSC organisations provide support to those affected by DSGBV, Wexford Women’s Refuge and Wexford Rape Crisis are funded by Cuan to provide direct supports. The statistics below demonstrate the impact of the issue in Wexford and the demand for services

In 2023 Wexford Women’s Refuge accommodated 69 children in their 4-bedroom refuge. In 2023, they recorded 617 enquiries from women impacted by domestic with 446 enquiries to date in 2024.

Wexford Rape Crisis operates an adolescent one-to-one counselling service for young people aged between 12 and 25 years in Wexford and Gorey. 57 young people accessed this counselling service in 2023, providing 1,504 hours of adolescent counselling hours. 115 hours of Parental Support was provided to parents/guardians whose children were impacted by DSGBV. 4,074 hours of counselling were provided to those impacted by DSGBV.

Wexford CYPSC acknowledges that recognising and responding to DSGBV requires an interagency response and has identified several actions in the CYPP.

Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Local Priorities: Young People not in Education, Employment or Training, Young Travellers, Child Poverty, Young Carers

Economic Indicators

- Less than one in five children, aged 0 – 17 years in Wexford live in families that are dependent on Social Welfare. (DSP, 2022)
- At the end of 2023, there were 2800 people¹⁹ on the Wexford County Council housing waiting list.
- There was a net decline in youth unemployment figures for Wexford over the last two years 2022-24²⁰
- There is a high demand for childcare places in Wexford with increasing waiting lists and pressures on the community childcare sector.
- Wexford is the third most disadvantaged county in Ireland as per the 2022 Census.

Parents ranked financial issues as their biggest concern. For young adults, financial issues related to the costs of undertaking 3rd-level education or further training, The prospects of securing employment, debt, and cost of living were their main concerns. Money was also a challenge for some children and young people who cannot access some recreational and sporting activities due to the cost.

For young adults at risk of social exclusion, obstacles to employment in County Wexford include not having the requisite experience, not enough jobs, not knowing how to access available jobs, employer prejudice and limited social connections hindering opportunities to get work experience, let alone the prospect of employment. Lack of transport further reduces the possibilities of getting employment. Young people from the Traveller community struggle to secure Transition Year work experience.

Professionals identified a need for evidence based timely data in relation to the incidence of young people who are not in education, employment or training in Wexford. The importance of developing key life, soft and transferable skills, especially for more vulnerable young people was highlighted as key to access and progression in education, employment and training.

The Government “Pathways to Work Strategy” (2021-2025) recognises the importance of supporting young people to develop general and transferable skills to gain and sustain employment.

The “Local Youth Employment Strategies Report” (OECD, 2014) recommends mapping local options and pathways, strengthening the role of existing linkers and brokers and integrating community and youth work more fully into networks of employment, education, and training.

19. [Wexford People Newspaper Article](#)

20. CSO

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Local Priorities: Participation of Children and Young People, Supporting New Communities, Youth Spaces

Wexford CYPSC recognises the importance of providing opportunities for ongoing participation of children and young people. Providing continuous opportunities for active participation is crucial to ensuring that the plan remains relevant to the needs of children and young people.

841 children and young people contributed to the mixed method consultation for this plan. CYPSC will continue to engage with Comhairle na nÓg as the mandated structure. To date, Wexford CYPSC has incorporated consultation and participation across the Sub Group structure. It has committed to establishing a new Sub Group under outcome 5 “Connected Respected and Contributing” in year one of this plan.



Issues Identified in the Consultation

A significant proportion of children and young people under 18 years and aged 18-24 in Wexford live in a rural setting. (CSO 2022). The availability of transport is crucial to access the facilities and services necessary for their social, emotional and personal development. (AIRO, 2017)

All respondents agreed that the need for more amenities and activities for children and young people in Co. Wexford is a priority. There is a clear demand for social activities outside of sport with 30% of respondents to the survey (13-24 yrs) indicating a desire for participation in clubs involving arts/theatre, arts/crafts and music.

Safe “hang out” spaces; covered areas with benches; parks; trees, music studios; plants and wildlife areas; forest walks; sports, facilities – basketball, football, tennis, horse riding, trampoline, swimming were mentioned. Some young people engaged via focus group indicated that they intend to live in another country at some point in their 20s but if this transpires most expect to return to live in Ireland.

Wexford CYPSC engages regularly with Comhairle na nÓg (CNN), however the lack of representation on CNN from the northern part of the county is a concern. Consultation with young people must therefore include the three main youth organisations in County Wexford (Youth New Ross, Gorey Youth Needs Group and Ferns Diocesan Youth Service).

Wexford CYPSC will continue to explore innovative methods of engaging young people from seldom heard communities. It will encourage agencies to develop and implement policies that promote listening to the voice of children and young people in service planning, delivery and in decision making affecting their lives.

Hearing the voice of children, young people and families living in International Protection Accommodation is recognised as requiring a coordinated focus.

Professionals in the youthwork sector felt that there is limited opportunity for universal youth work. Others recommended considering whether Planet Youth which is being implemented in other counties such as Dublin, Cavan, Monaghan or another data-driven, prevention approach is appropriate and feasible in a Wexford context.

Change Management

The key priorities to emerge from the consultation relating to change management include.

- Availability and access to county wide data is challenging. There is considerable reliance placed on the Census data, however there are a broad range of other datasets relevant to the planning of children and young person’s services. With additional resources, Wexford CYPSC could become the hosting site for all data relating to children and young people in the county.
- Within the Wexford Children and Young People’s Plan, there is a focus on strategic outcome focussed priorities which can be measured. This may result in less defined actions in the CYPP with the scope and flexibility to respond to changing need and policy.
- Ensure all agencies necessary to the achievement of the Wexford CYPP 2025-2027 are fully engaging as CYPSC members. Wexford CYPSC should have policy makers and funders as members while the Sub Groups can be more operational.
- The impending addition of a Project Support post to each CYPSC will increase the capacity of CYPSC to demonstrate the difference it is making to the lives of children and young people.



Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for County Wexford

Based on the socio-demographic profile, overview of services and the findings from the local needs analysis. Wexford CYPSC have identified priority areas under each of the five national outcomes.

Outcome Area	Local Priority Area
Active and healthy, physical, and mental wellbeing	Infant and Youth Mental Health Physical Activity Early Childhood Nutrition Young Carers Substance Use Bereavement Support Disability Equality
Achieving full potential in learning and development	Literacy Transitions through the Education System 3rd Level Participation Emotionally Based School Avoidance Traveller and Roma Education
Safe and protected from harm	Parenting Support Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence Family Support Safe Internet Use
Economic security and opportunity	Young People who are not in education, training or employment Young Travellers Aftercare Child Poverty

Outcome Area	Local Priority Area
Connected, respected, and contributing to their world	Participation of children and young people New Communities Comhairle na nÓg Youth Spaces
Change Management	Disability Equality Interagency Communication Membership Research

Wexford CYPSC’s approach to delivering against each priority area of the CYPP is underpinned by a series of strategic considerations.

Context for Setting Priorities

The 2025-2027 Wexford CYPP has fewer objectives, indicators and activities than its predecessors. This emanates from the membership consensus around the need to be more strategic and outcome focussed. It recognises that Wexford CYPSC has mature structures with a lot happening through business as usual or through the work of member organisations which does not need to be documented in the plan.

Co. Wexford is the third most disadvantaged county in Ireland which increases the priority for Wexford CYPSC to advocate for additional resources such as DEIS schools, Family Resource Centres and healthcare services based on the Department of Health (DoH) population-based resource allocation model. It is challenging to anticipate and plan for all scenarios over a three-year period; hence Wexford CYPP must retain the flexibility to pivot quickly to prioritise an objective/action based on need. For instance, if a further round of Healthy Ireland funding was confirmed for 2026, this would shape activities towards the end of this plan.

Prevention & Early Intervention

This approach recognises the body of evidence that demonstrates the value of intervening in the early years of a child’s life where vulnerability exists. Coupled with this is the concept of “progressive universalism”. This approach advocates for the strengthening of services and supports for all, with bespoke measures for those who need additional support through services and interventions that are proportionate to the level of need.

Where children and young people are referenced as a homogeneous group in the five outcomes in Section 6, it is understood that tailored interventions may be required for disabled children and young people, those recently arrived in Ireland, members of the Traveller community, LGBTQIA+ and those who are living in International Protection Centres. In some cases, there are bespoke objectives and actions relating to these groups.

Geographic Need

Wexford CYPSC acknowledges that there are areas of the county where meeting the needs of children, young people and families can be particularly challenging for a variety of reasons, such as high levels of deprivation, low levels of service provision, population growth pressures, rural depopulation or high prevalence of critical incidents. This will be given due consideration in the implementation of this plan. The HP Deprivation Index has highlighted the emergence of six Extremely Disadvantaged Small Areas, three in Wexford and one each in Enniscorthy, Bunclody and Taghmon where targeted initiatives will be focused.

Collaboration

Improving the way in which existing services coordinate their inter-agency response, can secure benefits for the children, young people and families they support. Strengthening partnership and collaboration is key to achieving this. Establishing and maintaining good relationships across all levels and aspects of CYPSC work and structures is essential. Positive relationships with other relevant organisations and agencies throughout the county supports effective collaboration, identifies gaps and emerging needs in services and avoids duplication.

Community Development

Wexford CYPSC acknowledges that communities can drive change and improvement internally by mobilising existing, but often unrecognised assets. The CYPSC will listen to and be informed by the community and voluntary sector as to how best to implement improvements in local communities.

Reconfiguration of Sub Groups

Wexford CYPSC has considered how best to structure Sub Groups to ensure alignment with each of the five national outcomes. The “Health and Diversity” and “Young People and Mental Health” Sub Groups have merged into the “Healthy, Active and Included Sub Group”. A Sub Group for outcome 5 “Connected, Respected and Contributing” will be formed in 2025.

Section 6: Action Plan for County Wexford CYPSC

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee									
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health									
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals	
Infant Mental Health	The capacity of professionals in relation to Infant Mental Health (IMH) is increased	The number of participants The number of training programmes delivered	21 participants 1 programme	Delivery of 2-day foundation infant mental health training using the "Solihull Approach"	2025	Lead: Wexford IMH Network Partners: Tusla, CYPSC Outcome 1 Sub Group	Babies, Young Children and Their Families 2019-2028 The Nurture Programme Infant Health and Wellbeing First 5 (2019-2028)	TG : Earlier Intervention and Prevention	
	Practitioners are trained in baby massage to encourage baby to parent bonding and wellbeing	The number of training programmes delivered	1 programme	Delivery of baby massage training	2025	Lead: Wexford IMH Network Partners: Tusla, CYPSC Outcome 1 Sub Group	Babies, Young Children and Their Families 2019-2028 The Nurture Programme Infant Health and Wellbeing First 5 (2019-2028)	TG : Earlier Intervention and Prevention	
Early Childhood Nutrition	Breastfeeding is promoted in the community	The number of agencies and organisations who participate	5 FRC's and 5 Community and voluntary organisations in Co. Wexford	Promote "Breastfeeding week" Develop initiatives targeting women who are less likely to breastfeed	2025-2027	Lead: HSE Partners: Breastfeeding Task Group, La Leche League, Cuidiu, GYNG, FRC's, Traveller Healthcare Programme, Roma Community Programme, Healthy Wexford	Breastfeeding in a Healthy Ireland Action Plan A Healthy Weight for Ireland: Obesity Policy and Action Plan 2016-2025		

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Promoting Physical Activity in Teenage Girls	Awareness of the importance of physical activity is increased	The number of "Girls Get Active" initiatives delivered	2 initiatives	Delivery of 8 dance and movement classes to 4 girls' groups in 2 clusters	2025-2027	Lead: Sports Active Wexford, LSP Partners: Gorey Youth Needs Group, Youth organisations, FRC's, Healthy Wexford	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027	TG : Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	Levels of physical activity among teenage girls are increased	The number of girls participating	38					
		The number of workshops delivered	1 workshop	Workshop delivered to youthwork leaders to upskill them to integrate key health and wellbeing messages into dance sessions				
		The number of events hosted	1 event	Hosting end of programme activity event attended by all participating groups and tutors Review and design programme for delivery in 2026				

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Youth Mental Health - Information for Professionals	Awareness of mental health referral pathways for young people are increased among all statutory and community services	The number of resources	1 online resource	Update existing "Guidelines for Referrals to Child and Youth Mental Health Services" poster and convert into online resource	2025	Lead: HSE Suicide Resource Office Partners: Outcome 1 Sub Group	Connecting for Life Southeast 2022-2024 Sharing the Vision – a revised Mental Health Policy for everyone 2020 -2030	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	The range of mental health supports available for young people in Co. Wexford are highlighted and promoted	The number of networking events The number of professionals attending	1 event 50 professionals	Deliver networking event with stakeholders to promote the updated "Referral Guidelines" poster and highlight mental health services available in Co. Wexford	2025	Lead: Outcome 1 Sub Group Partners: CYPSC member Organisations, Wexford Parents Hub	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health Wellbeing 2013 – 2025	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	Awareness of the services and supports available to young people in relation to youth mental health and anxiety is increased	The number of resources	1 resource	Co-produce a "youth friendly" information resource in consultation with young people Promote and distribute the resource	2025-2026	Lead: HSE Suicide Resource Office Partners: CNIN, Young organisations	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025	TG: Supporting Parents

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee						
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health			Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals			
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners
Young Carers	Awareness of young carers and the supports available for them is increased	The number of events	2 events	Awareness raising events hosted by youth organisations during "Young Carers Week"	2025 -2026	Lead: Family Carers Ireland Partners: FRC's, GYNG, FDYS, YNR
		The number of online events	1 online event	Online event for young carers to provide information on supports available Explore feasibility of establishing a young carers online group		Caregiving Among Young Adults in Ireland 2024
Disability Equality	Clear information on pathways to access disability services and social supports is available for parents	The number of resources	1 information resource 0-17 years 1 information resource 18-24 years	Form "Disability Pathways" Task Group Develop Terms of Reference for project Collate information and consult on most accessible formats Develop and promote resource using CYPSC networks, website and CYPSC partners social media	2025 2026	Lead: CYPSC Outcome 1 Sub Group Partners: CFSN's HSE Disability Services, Disability Organisations, Schools, NEPS, HSE, FDYS
						National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-22 (Extended) TG: Supporting Parents TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health								
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to Other Plans	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Substance Use	A holistic information and awareness pilot programme on substance misuse targeting teaching staff and parents is developed	Pilot programme developed	1 pilot	Develop and deliver a pilot programme that incorporates:	2025	Lead: HSE Partners: CBDI, NAPD, Wexford Parents Hub, CFSN's, CNN	Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.	TG: Supporting Parents
		The number of sessions for teachers	1 session	Information session delivered to teachers to increase their capacity to address the topic with students				
		The number of sessions for parents	1 session	Information session on substance misuse for parents				
				Review pilot and offer to interested schools/ education providers in Co. Wexford	2026-2027			
	To raise awareness of young people keeping safe while out socialising	The number of events	4 events	Support the roll out of the "Sound Out ^{2H} " campaign Promote the campaign Distribute campaign resources	2025	Lead: CBDI Partners: Wexford Co. Co, CYPSC, FDYS, YNR, GYNG, FRC's, Youthreach	"Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025" "Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023 to 2028"	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

21. “Sound Out” is a campaign by the Community Based Drugs Initiative to promote safer practices for young people when socialising

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Health							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Interagency Co-operation	Interagency relationships for agencies supporting youth mental health are improved	The number of “Connections” workshops	4 workshops each year	Delivery of information workshops under South Wexford “Connections Project”	2025-2027	Lead: CAMHS South Wexford Partners: NEPS, CYPSC, CFSN’s, Youth New Ross, Southend FRC	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	Awareness of bereavement supports available locally and nationally is increased	The number of awareness campaigns	1 each year	Review, update and promote regional #HereForYou Bereavement Campaign	2025-2027	Lead: HSE Suicide Resource Office Partners: CYPSC Outcome 1 Sub Group	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
Bereavement Support	Understanding of the impact of childhood bereavement and the capacity to respond is increased among professionals	The number of workshops No. of participants	1 workshop 25	Host a workshop on understanding childhood bereavement	2025	Lead: Irish Childhood Bereavement Network Partners: CYPSC members organisations	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Literacy	Literacy and reading development are promoted	The number of “Right to Read” network meetings	4 per year	CYPSC Learning & Development Sub Group functions as “Right to Read Development Network” Group identifies priorities and contributes to the “Right to Read” action plan each year	Annually - 2025-2027	Lead: Wexford County Council Public Library Service Partners: L&D Sub Group	TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention National Strategy for Numeracy and Literacy The Library is the Place: information, recreation, inspiration. National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027
Supporting Transitions/ Access to Higher Education	Best practice in transition programmes from primary to secondary education are promoted	The number of schools targeted The number of participants	All primary schools in Co. Wexford	Diverse models of Transition Programmes in County Wexford are reviewed Schools are brought together to network and share good practice	Q. 4 2025	Lead: IPPN Partners: FDYS Youth Info, WLD, SCP’s, Tusla, Primary and Post Primary Schools	TG: Cross Government and Interagency Collaboration and Co-ordination -
	Barriers in relation to the application process for higher education are reduced	The number of workshops	1 per Year	Facilitate a workshop for parents/students on completion of college application forms, grants etc. Focus on engagement of Traveller, Roma and minority groups	2025-2027	Lead: SETU Partners: WLD, WWETB, Wexford Public Library Service, NAPD, FDYS, YNR, GYNG	National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Promoting Access to Higher Education	Barriers to accessing further education are identified	Consultation report completed	Evidence informed report available for all stakeholders	Consultation with young people in Co. Wexford to identify gaps in support for progressing to higher education	2026	Lead: SETU Partners: Learning & Development Sub Group members	National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028
	Health and social outcomes for young people from the Traveller, Roma and socially excluded communities are improved	The number of participants	50 participants	Build on the PATH ²² Programme and utilise youthwork approaches to deliver a range of health and social wellbeing initiatives to target group	2025	Lead: FDYS Partners: YNR, GYNG, FRC’s	Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention Outcomes 1 and 3
Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)	Information and guidance for parents on how to respond to EBSA is available	The number of parents attending workshops	40 parents	Develop and deliver a pilot workshop on EBSA to parents	2025	Lead: SCP & Wexford Parent Hub	Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023 (DE Policy on Wellbeing)
		The number of staff attending workshops	50 teachers and support staff	Develop and deliver a “Train the Trainers” workshop to support the county-wide dissemination of parent workshops	2025-2026	Partners: NEPS, WWETB, Wexford Co. Childcare Committee, IPPN	

22. PATH : Pre-Adolescent Holistic Training Programme for young people from the Traveller and Roma communities in Co. Wexford

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in All Areas of Learning and Development							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)	Resources are available for parents and young people experiencing EBSA	The number of resources developed	2 resources	Develop posters, videos and information resources in relation to EBSA	2025-2026	Lead: NEPS Partners: SCP, Wexford Parents Hub, WWETB, Wexford Co. Childcare Committee	Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023 TG: Support Parents
	Professionals have the capacity to provide parents with the tools to reduce anxiety/ EBSA	The number of courses delivered The number of training participants	1 course 40 participants	SPACE (Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions) online training delivered to professionals	2026	Lead: Wexford Parents Hub Partners: Tusla PPFS, CFSN’s, CYPSC Partner organisations	Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023 TG: Support Parents
Literacy	Family Literacy in Wexford is supported	The number of programmes The number of learners	1 programme 20 learners	Support the delivery of the Level 6, 10 credit programme in Family Literacy in support of the “Adult Literacy for Life” Strategy	2025	Lead: SETU Partners: Wexford Public Library, CYPSC, RALC, WWETB	Adult Literacy for Life Strategy 2021
	CYPSC members have increased awareness and capacity to respond to unmet literacy needs among service users	The number of workshops No of participants No. of organisations	1 workshop 10 10	Literacy Awareness workshop delivered which focuses on creating a literacy friendly environment and communications	2025	Lead: WWETB Partners: SETU, Focus, Barnardos, Wexford Parents Hub, Southend and ARC FRC’s, FDYS	Adult Literacy for Life Strategy 2021

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Parenting Support	Parents and guardians are aware of the supports available to them	The number of communications re: Parents Hub	Weekly	Weekly signposting to Parents Hub in CYPSC newsletter	2025-2027	Lead: Wexford Parents Hub Partners: Parents Hub Steering Group, Barnardos, Tusla, Parenting Champions, CYPSC member organisations	A National Model of Parenting Support Services TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
		The number of promotional materials developed	2 per annum	Support development and dissemination of promotional materials in association with the Parent Hub Steering Group	2025		Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028
		The number of training programmes delivered	1 per annum	Support training in relevant programmes as needs emerge	2025-2027		
Family Support	Early years education and development is supported among the Traveller community	Number of Parent and Toddler Groups	1	Work with the Traveller community and other relevant stakeholders to set up Parent and Toddler groups	2025	Lead: Taghmon and ARC FRC’s Partners: Co. Wexford Traveller Parent Support Group, WxCCC, FRC’s, PHN’s, Tusla,TIG	Wexford TIG Action Plan Needs Analysis of the Traveller Community in Co. Wexford TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	Family support for children, young people and families in six extremely disadvantaged areas is improved	The number of extremely disadvantaged areas targeted The number of initiatives supported	6 areas 6 initiatives	Using the HP Index, select the areas for family support intervention Consult with local communities on needs and design and implement appropriate responses	2025-2027	Lead: Outcome 3 Sub Group Partners: FRC’s, Wexford Local Development, Tusla, Wexford Parents Hub	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028 National Service Delivery Model, Tusla Child and Family Agency TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Family Support/New Communities	An inter-agency response to the family support needs of children and families in IPAS Centres, BOTP and new communities is co-ordinated	The number of inter-agency family support initiatives delivered The number of meetings of the CYPSC of the CYPSC IPAS/New Communities Task Group	3 per year 4 per year	Consult with families to identify gaps in services for children and families Develop and deliver appropriate responses	2025-2027	Lead: Tusla PPFS Partners: IPAS New Communities Task Group Youth New Ross, Gorey Youth Needs Group, LCDC, SICAP, PHNs	Wexford LECP 2023-28 & Wexford County Council Integration Strategy South-East Region Homeless Action Plan 2023-2026 TG: Support Parents TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	Professionals have increased capacity to support families experiencing homelessness	The number of networking events	1 per year	Organise networking/information sharing event to ensure that all stakeholders can signpost families to the appropriate service/support	2025-2027	Lead: Tusla Partners: Wexford County Council, Focus Ireland, CFSN’s, WLD, Barnardos, Youth New Ross, Gorey Youth Needs Group, FDYS	Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025 Government Action Plan for Online Safety TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	Parents have increased awareness of safe internet use	The number of campaigns	1 campaign	Collate evidence-based information for parents and share through online campaign Disseminate through CYPSC networks, CFSN’s and Wexford Parents Hub	2025-2027	Lead: Tusla PPFS Partners: Barnardos, Wexford Parents Hub Youth New Ross Gorey Youth Needs Group, Wexford Public Library Service	TG: Support Parents

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Online Safety	Young people understand safe & healthy online activity	The number of campaigns delivered	1 campaign	Annual Internet Safety Campaign	2025-2027	Lead: Outcome 3 Subgroup Partners: Schools, SCP, Wexford Parents Hub, Wexford Public Library Service, Gorey Youth Needs Group, FDYS, Youth New Ross	Outcome 1 TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention
	CYPSC members have increased capacity to understand and respond to DSGBV	The number of courses provided The number of participants	1 course 20 participants	Collaborate with SETU and partners to deliver “Certificate in Understanding and Responding to DSGBV” training course Evaluate impact and repeat if need is identified	2025 2026	Lead: SETU Partners: Wexford Women’s Refuge, Wexford Rape Crisis, Barnardos, Gorey Youth Needs Group, Youth New Ross, FRC’s, Tusla	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	Young people impacted by DSGBV have an opportunity for their voice to be heard	The number of interagency meetings per year	2	Two interagency meetings per year focus on hearing the voices of children and young people impacted by DSGBV	2025-2027	Lead: Wexford Women’s Refuge, Wexford Rape Crisis, Barnardos Partners: FRC’s, YNR, GYNG, SCP’s, Tusla	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Domestic, Sexual & Gender Based Violence	Young people experiencing DSGBV have access to mental health supports	The number of groups The number of group participants Increased levels of self-compassion	3 groups 45 participants Increase in reported level of self-compassion	Roll out of “Compassion-Focused” therapy 12-week group programme	Jan-April 2025-2027	Lead: Wexford Rape Crisis Partners: Wexford Women’s Refuge, Barnardos, GYNG, FRC’s YNR, Tusla	Outcome 1 TG: Listen to and involve children and young people
	Children impacted by domestic violence are supported to recover and feel safe	The number of children and mothers who receive support through the TLC Programme	20 children/ or parents annually	The ongoing roll out of “TLC Kidz” programme is supported	2025-2027	Lead: Barnardos, Partners: FRC’s, YNR, GYNG, SCP’s, Tusla Wexford Women’s Refuge	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination
	To increase children’s understanding of feeling safe and to promote behaviours that will contribute to a safer environment	The number of participants trained The number of participants trained The number of programmes delivered	4 people 2 people 2 programmes	Deliver training on “Helping Hands” programme Deliver training on “You and Me Mum training programme Deliver “Helping Hands “ and “You and Me Mum” programmes in the community	2025 2025 2025	Lead: Wexford Women’s Refuge Partners: Barnardos, Schools, FRC’s, YNR, GYNG, SCP’s, Tusla	TG: Cross government and interagency collaboration and co-ordination

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Young People in Aftercare	Young people in aftercare are supported to progress to education or employment	Collaborative Framework is developed		Support the roll out of a collaborative framework between relevant stakeholders as recommended in the “Report on the Pilot Aftercare Career Guidance Programme” ²³	2025- 2027	Lead: Outcome 4 Subgroup Partners: Tusla Aftercare, WWETB, WLD, Youth Services	Strategic Plan for Aftercare Services for Young People and Young Adults 2023-2026 Outcome 2
Young People Not in Education, Training or Employment	Young people who are already or likely to become “NEET” have supports available	Recommendations from the 2022 “Building Relationships Sharing Journeys” Research reviewed	Review recommendations Identify actions to be implemented	Review recommendations from “Building Relationships Sharing Journeys” Identify current priorities and opportunities for interagency collaboration for this target group	2025-2027	Lead: FDYS Partners: WWETB WLD DEIS Schools WWETB Ed. Welfare Officers Home School Community Liaison Officers, Youth New Ross, FDYS (Youth Info)	Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 WLD SICAP Plan 2023-2028 WWETB Statement of Strategy

23. Independent evaluation of Tusla Care Leaver Guidance Pilot operated in Waterford/Wexford March 2022-Sept 2023

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Young Travellers	Young Travellers are supported to remain in education to improve their economic security and opportunity	Needs Analysis Updated	Clear recommendations identified in terms of supporting young Travellers	Support review of “Needs Analysis of Traveller Community in Co. Wexford” 2018	2025-2027	Lead: TIG Partners: Wexford CYPSC	National Traveller and Roma Strategic Plan Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024- 2028 Wexford TIG Outcome 2
Child Poverty	Wexford CYPSC addresses child poverty in an area of disadvantage	The number of successful funding applications	Funding secured for rollout of project in 1 area of high deprivation	Stakeholders are supported to apply for a Child Poverty Project as funding opportunities arise	2025-2027	CYPSC	Child Poverty and Well Being 2023-2025 TG: Earlier Intervention and Prevention

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Participation of Children and Young People	The voices of children and young people underpin CYPSC priorities and programme of work	The number of sub group meetings	4 per year	Outcome 5 Sub Group established Programme of work developed	2025-2027	Lead: Wexford CYPSC Partners: YNR, GYNG, FDYS, FRC’s	National Framework for Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-Making Listen to and involve children and young people
	The voices of children and young people are heard in matters concerning their lives	The number of info sessions The number of applications	4 information sessions Increase in number of applications	Promote Tusla “Child and Youth Participation” Training Promote the “Investment in Children Awards” among CYPSC members	2025-2027	Lead: Wexford CYPSC Outcome 5 Sub Group	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights European Youth Goals - 2019 - 2027 Listen to and involve children and young people
	Young people will have capacity to engage in the democratic process	The number of young people engaged The number of young people’s groups affiliated to PPN	50 young people engaged Increase in young people’s groups affiliated to Wexford PPN	Collaborate with Wexford PPN to increase the engagement of young people in local democratic processes	2025-2027	Lead: Wexford CYPSC Outcome 5 Subgroup Partners: Wexford PPN	Public Participation Strategy 2024 National Framework for Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-Making Listen to and involve children and young people

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Comhairle na nÓg	Strategic linkages with Comhairle na nÓg (CNN) will be embedded in CYPSC	The number of meetings	1 per year	Comhairle na nÓg representatives will attend CYPSC meetings once per year to update on activities and strategic priorities	2025-2027	Lead: CYPSC Partners: Comhairle na nÓg	Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2020-2028 Listen to and involve children and young people
		The number of Sub Groups	1 Sub Group	CNN will participate in CYPSC Task-Groups as appropriate			
		The number of meetings	4 per year	CYPSC Coordinator will be a member of the CNN Steering Group			

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Change Management							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Membership	All agencies necessary to the achievement of the Wexford CYP 2025-2027 are fully engaging as CYPSC members	The number of key statutory and community agencies represented	All agencies influential in the Wexford CYP are represented	Map those agencies that are not currently represented and extend invitations	Ongoing	Lead: CYPSC	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2023-2028 Cross government and interagency collaboration and coordination
Inter-Agency Communication	Information on the services and supports available to children, young people and families will be accessible online	The number of website user	500 users per week	Maintenance and updating of Wexford CYPSC website wexfordcypsc.ie	2025-2027	Lead: CYPSC	Wexford CYPSC members strategic plans Cross government and interagency collaboration and coordination

Action Plan for Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee							
Change Management							
Priority Area	Objective	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for Completion	Lead Responsibility and Partners	Link to other National Outcomes and/or Transformational Goals
Disability Equality	CYPSC members will have increased understanding and capacity in relation to disability equality and human rights issues	The number of CYPSC members who complete the course	20 per year	Promote “An Introduction to Disability Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights” eLearning course among CYPSC members	2025-2027	Lead: CYPSC Partners: CYPSC member Organisations, DESSA	UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021
Research	All CYPSC priorities will be informed by evidence-based research	The number of research projects commissioned	2 research projects over course of plan	Secure additional resources for research Develop a process for selecting research areas to be pursued	2025-2027	Lead: CYPSC Co-ordinator Partners: CYPSC members	Young Ireland National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2023-2028

Section 7: Monitoring and Review

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will guide the work of the Wexford CYPSC from 2025 to 2027. The actions will be implemented through the Subgroups with the respective chairpersons providing regular updates to the CYPSC.

The CYPP is a live document and therefore may be amended to respond to changing needs or circumstances throughout the 3 year span, if agreed by the CYPSC. Wexford CYPSC will ensure that the Action Plan is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in accordance with the *CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework*:

- **CYPSC Mid-Year Progress Update:** Wexford CYPSC will produce a Mid-Year Progress Update to Tusla Child and Family Agency, as the nominated agent of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Mid-Year Progress Update will be utilised by CYPSC as a tool for mutual accountability and learning. It will be utilised as a monitoring tool to determine whether the CYPSC annual programme of work is on schedule. This Mid-Year Progress Update will also provide the CYPSC with a mid-year opportunity to highlight to national level structures any issues or challenges being experienced locally.
- **Annual Review of the CYPP:** The plan will be reviewed at a facilitated session of the CYPSC to identify what actions have been completed, what actions are underway, and any barriers or challenges which may be preventing the implementation of the Plan. The review report will be available to CYPSC members. Any necessary adjustments and actions to address barriers and challenges will be integrated in the annual programme of work for the subsequent year.
- **Annual Programme of Work:** An Annual Programme of Work will be prepared at the start of each calendar year. This will provide a statement of the high-level goals and CYPP actions planned for the coming year using the National CYPSC Annual Programme of Work template. This will also be submitted to the National Coordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees.
- **CYPSC Annual Progress Report:** An Annual Progress Report will be produced to report on the work for the year, whether the actions were carried out and any barriers encountered. It will also highlight any developments locally or nationally during the year and any changes to the CYPP which may be necessary as a result. The report will follow the template designed by the National CYPSC office and give an update on interagency working, work of Sub Groups and participation of children and young people throughout the year. This will also be submitted to the National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees.

Section 8: Appendices

Appendix 1:
Bibliography & References

Appendix 2:
Wexford CYPSC Membership of Committees and Interagency Structures

Appendix 3:
Terms of Reference for County Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee

Appendix 4:
Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee Equality and Human Rights Statement

Appendix 5:
Consultation Templates

Appendix 6:
Consultation Findings



Appendix 1: Bibliography & References

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17. Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health & Wellbeing. 2013-2025
18. Healthy Ireland Framework 2013-2025
19. Health Services Healthy Ireland Framework and Implementation Plan 2023-2027
20. Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022
21. HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2015 - 2021 Drug Treatment Data
22. HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2015 - 2021 Alcohol Treatment Data
23. Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025
24. Irish School Climate Study 2022
25. LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020²⁴
26. National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028.
27. National Drug Treatment and Reporting System Health Research Board
28. National Strategy on Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020²⁵
29. National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 - Dept. of Education and Skills
30. National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021
31. National Traveller and Roma Strategy 2018-2023
32. National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025
24. Both policies are coming up for renewal during 2021. The LGBTI+ Youth Strategy was extended by one year to allow actions delayed by Covid-19 to be completed.
25. This strategy is primarily aimed at children and young people under the age of 18 and embraces the voice of young people in the transition to adulthood up to the age of 24. The strategy is guided and influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

- 33. New Skills Agenda 2020 (VET)
- 34. Parenting Support Strategy and the National Model of Parenting Support Services 2022-2027
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- 53. Wexford Comhairle na nÓg survey 2021 on mental health with 531 responses from young people across the county
- 54. Wexford Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2020-2023²⁶
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- 58. Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028

26. This was informed initially by a desk review of reports and action plans shared by Wexford CYPSC and their members and subsequently by findings from the stakeholder consultations.

Appendix 2: Wexford CYPSC Membership of Committees and Interagency Structures

Agency	No. Meetings Per Year
Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	4
Community Integration Forum	6
“Connecting for Life” Wexford County Committee	4
“Connecting for Life” Suicide Prevention Regional Working Group	8
County Wexford Traveller Parenting Support Group	4
CYPSC Co-ordinators Network	4
CYPSC/HSE Healthy Childhood Group	4
Ferndale Interagency Working Group	4
International Refugee Protection Programme Working Group	6
Regional Adult Literacy Coalition	4
Riverchapel Hub Support Group	2
Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Sub Group	4
South East Community Healthcare (SECH) Healthy Weight for Children Implementation group	4
SECH Healthy Weight for Children “START” Sub Group	3
Wexford Healthy County Committee	4
Wexford Healthy County Committee “Wellbeing” Sub Group	4
Wexford Healthy County Committee “Not Around Us” Sub Group	4
Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board Youthwork Committee	4

Appendix 3: Terms of Reference for County Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee

1. Mandate

The mandate for CYPSC’s has derived from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of “Young Ireland : The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (0-24) 2023-2028”. This charges CYPSC’s with providing strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in a county/counties.

2. Purpose

The overall purpose of Wexford CYPSC is to improve outcomes for children aged 0-24 years across five aspects of their lives otherwise known as the five National Outcomes outlined in “Young Ireland”.

The Five National Outcomes being that children and young people;

- 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.

3. Objectives of CYPSC’s

CYPSC’s bring together relevant statutory, community and voluntary organisations providing services to children and young people to maximise the reach, coverage and impact of such services through:

- Ensuring the needs of children and young people are identified and addressed.
- Planning and co-ordination of services.
- Ensuring effective collaboration and interagency working.
- Promoting quality, evidence-informed planning and practice.
- Optimising the use of resources.
- Promoting best participation practice.

4. Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from January 30th, 2024 and continue until January 2025 when they will be reviewed by Wexford CYPSC members. The Terms of Reference can be amended after consultation and agreement by CYPSC members.

5. Membership

Wexford CYPSC will comprise.

Chairperson: Area Manager Waterford/Wexford – Tusla Child & Family Agency	
Vice Chairperson: Director of Services, Wexford County Council	
CYPSC Co-ordinator: Tusla Child and Family Agency	
An Garda Síochána	1 Representative
Barnardos	1 Representative
Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)	1 Representative
Family Resource Centres	1 Representative
FDYS	1 Representative
Gorey Youth Needs Group	1 Representative
Health Service Executive (Primary Care, Nursing, Disability)	3 Representatives
Irish Primary Principals Network	1 Representative
National Association for Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	1 Representative
Probation & Welfare Service	1 Representative
Roma Community	1 Representative
Traveller Community	2 Representatives
Tusla Child & Family Agency Education Support Service (TESS) and Social Work Service	2 Representatives
Young Person (18-24yrs)	1 Representative
Waterford & Wexford Education Training Board	1 Representative
Wexford County Childcare Committee	1 Representative
Wexford Local Development	1 Representative
Wexford Rape Crisis Centre	1 Representative
Wexford Women’s Refuge	1 Representative
Youth New Ross	1 Representative

Wexford CYPSC may extend membership to other agencies as appropriate, following discussion and agreement at a CYPSC meeting.

6. Principles and Values

Wexford CYPSC has developed the following principles for working with;

(a) Children and Young People

Wexford CYPSC.....

- Embraces diversity
- Actively listens and provides meaningful participation and engagement in the work of the WCYPSC for young people and children.
- Focuses on early intervention and easily accessible services for children/families.
- Supports Restorative Justice Principles – affording everyone the opportunity to restore their mistakes and move on from them.
- Will advocate nationally for our children and young people re: their unmet needs – working within the national framework of Children & Young People’s Services Committees.
- Will advocate locally – raising issues with agencies and at the CYPSC table.
- Recognises and respects the pivotal role of parents and families and support them in that role.
- Will be active and make decisions
- Will adopt a “Strengths and Assets” based approach.

(b) Inter-Agency Working

Wexford CYPSC.....

- Advocates real interagency working: keeping the lines of communication open between all our agencies.
- Uses genuine multi-disciplinary practice.
- Members will be flexible within their roles and keep the focus on achieving best outcomes for children and young people.
- Will encourage joint or shared planning and working between the CYPSC agencies.
- Account will be taken of existing agency principles and practice and continue to develop these for the benefit of children and young people.
- CYPSC members will lead and champion interagency working within their individual agencies.
- Will aim for inclusive and consensus decision-making: in the spirit of partnership.
- Will be practical in setting objectives and work plans.
- Will share the information necessary to support our young people and children – where possible, within the data protection constraints.

(c) Equality & Human Rights Statement

Wexford CYPSC has also developed an Equality & Human Rights Statement which will underpin our work going forward.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities regarding local governance of the CYPSC are outlined in the “Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024” document from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. (DCEDIY)

Role of Chairperson:

- Provide leadership and direction for the local committee.
- Ensure the effectiveness of the committee in all aspects of its role, including delivery of its Children and Young People's Plan.
- Ensure active participation and contributions from all members across all sectors.
- Ensure appropriate interaction between the committee and external stakeholders.

Role of Vice-Chair:

- Support the CYPSC Chairperson in the performance of his or her duties.
- In the case of unavailability of the Chairperson at any committee meeting, to take the role of Chairperson for that meeting.
- Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairpersons organisation and that of other member organisations.

Role of Co-ordinator:

- Support the establishment and development of the CYPSC and its sub-groups.
- Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the CYPSC.
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of the CYPSC's 3-Year Children and Young People's Plan.
- Assist the overall committee and sub-groups to implement the 3-year work plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in “Young Ireland”.

8. Meetings

All meetings will be chaired by the Area Manager Waterford/Wexford Child & Family Services, Tusla Child & Family Agency or in his/her absence by the Vice-Chairperson, Wexford County Council.

- A meeting quorum will be one third (33.3%) of the total members of the CYPSC.
- Decisions will be made by consensus. If that is not possible, the CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision.
- Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the CYPSC Co-ordinator, Tusla Child & Family Agency in advance of committee meetings. This includes:
 - Preparing agendas and supporting papers.
 - Preparing minutes/meeting notes and relevant information.
- Five meetings will take place each year. Meeting dates will be set and circulated at the start of the year.
- Members are required to commit to attendance at a minimum of 3 meetings per year. If members miss more than 3 consecutive meetings, the organisation will be asked to consider if the named individual can give the necessary commitment to CYPSC or whether another nominee is required.
- Delegation is not accepted at CYPSC meetings. There is a named representative for each organisation. In the case that this individual is not available to attend, apologies should be forwarded to the CYPSC Co-ordinator in advance of the meeting.
- There is no limitation on the length of term that can be served by agency representatives. However, in the case of sectoral representatives (Family Resource Centres, Traveller and Roma), these can be changed on an annual basis.
- Sub Group meetings will be arranged outside these times at a time convenient to Sub Group members.

9. Amendment, Modification or Variation

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

10. Reporting Mechanisms

National Level: The CYPSC will report to the National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People’s Services Committees, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as required. **Local Level:** The CYPSC will provide update reports to the LCDC as required.

Appendix 4 : Wexford Children and Young People’s Services Committee Equality and Human Rights Statement

Introduction

This statement demonstrates our commitment to equality and human rights for all children and young people especially those who are vulnerable. It informs the implementation, ongoing review and evaluation of the WCYPSC plan in a manner that reflects available resources and alignment with “Better Outcomes Brighter Futures - The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People” (2014-2020).

We work to bring the concepts of equality and human rights to life in all aspects of our work for children and young people in County Wexford. This can be in relation to gender and gender identity, civil status, family status (carers and lone parents), age, disability, sexual orientation, race (migrants and Black and minority ethnic groups, including Travellers and Roma), religion, and socio-economic status.

By honouring this statement, we fulfil our obligations under the “Irish Human Rights Equality and Commission Act 2014” (S.42) to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights.

Our Values

Five values underpin our commitment to equality and human rights. We bring these values to our work with children and young people so as to advance the promotion and achievement of equality, and the fulfilment of human rights.

1. Dignity is about how we value human worth. It is about the esteem in which we hold children and young people and their value in society. Dignity involves understanding and appreciating difference and diversity among children and young people.

WCYPSC seeks to ensure that all children and young people are valued and respected. Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- All children and young people in institutional and community settings are nurtured and cared for.
- All children and young people in the education system are valued.
- Organisations develop their capacity, understanding, resources and knowledge to respond appropriately to the needs and aspirations of children and young people.
- There are places of safety and protection for children and young people in emergencies, including for children and young people in situations where domestic violence occurs.
- We have appropriate facilities for the detention of young people.

2. Inclusion is about children and young people feeling a sense of belonging and connection within their community. Inclusion involves actively involving and consulting with children and young people and listening to their views. Inclusion requires creating systems and processes to encourage and facilitate participation.

WCYPSC seeks to ensure that children and young people feel included and valued. Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- The attitudinal, organisational and cultural barriers to inclusion of children and young people are identified, challenged and changed for good.
- Opportunities for active participation by children and young people are promoted and supported, and that children and young people have access to and connection with their peers, communities, and society.
- Proactive measures are taken to reach children and young people who live in rural or isolated areas.
- Proactive steps are taken to enable participation in society and independent living for children and young people with disabilities.
- All children and young people have access to necessary supports and services to meet their needs, e.g. health, educational, recreational, etc.

3. Democracy is about children and young people having a voice, being involved in decision making and having an opportunity to participate in civil society. It involves accountability to children and young people from those in positions of leadership and power.

WCYPSC seeks to ensure that the voice of the full diversity of children and young people is sought, listened to and responded to in its own work and in the work of all other organisations and agencies in County Wexford. Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- The necessary inclusive, educational and community approaches are developed and implemented to ensure the voice of children is sought and heard.
- There are ample meaningful opportunities created for children and young people to input effectively into decision-making.
- There is accountability to children and young people within the range of relevant organisations and services that serve the needs of children and young people.
- Opportunities and pathways are created for children and young people to engage with political structures.
- A culture and environment is created and nurtured where children, young people and their families feel able and encouraged to speak up and raise issues about policies and procedures.

4. Autonomy is about children and young people being and feeling involved in making decisions for themselves. It involves freedom, independence and empowerment of children and young people. Autonomy is about children and young people having choices and control in their interactions with their community and wider society.

WCYPSC seeks to ensure that children and young people are supported and encouraged to feel a sense of autonomy and involvement in decision making about matters relating to their lives.

Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- Children and young people, in County Wexford, have the capacity and support, including family supports, needed to be involved in decision-making for themselves.
- The necessary structures are put in place to enable and encourage children and young people to formulate their views and communicate them and that real choices are available to them in their lives.
- The challenges and barriers that limit choice making for children and young people are clearly named and addressed, e.g. poverty, stereotyping, literacy, mental health and discrimination.
- Supports are in place for children and young people and their families to help them in making choices that affect their lives and wellbeing.

5. Social Justice is about fairness and balance in relation to access to resources for all children and young people. It requires placing attention on who benefits in relation to employment and social goods such as education, health, and accommodation and ensuring that this is fair and transparent. It is about children and young people being encouraged and enabled to contribute to the society in which they live.

WCYPSC seeks to ensure that children and young people are empowered to actively participate and effect change, that outcomes are enhanced for all children and young people, and, in particular, that the physical health, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is enhanced. Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- There are preventative initiatives and improved access to and outcomes from mental health services to support the well-being of children and young people.
- Supports and services to meet the physical health needs of children and young people, particularly in relation to preventing obesity.
- Provision of and access to services for children and young people, in particular education supports and youth and community services.
- Access to accommodation and a safe home for children and young people.
- Opportunities available to children and young people to access training and employment.

How We Bring this Statement to Life in Our Work:

This statement serves as a set of guiding principles to bring an equality, and human rights focus to the work of WCYPSC. The values underpin and shape the implementation and ongoing review of our WCYPSC plan. We return to them regularly as a reminder of the spirit and intentions that drive our work to serve and support children and young people in County Wexford.

Appendix 5 : Consultation Templates

Wexford Children & Young People’s Plan 2025-2027 Consultation with Young People aged 13-24 years

1. Which municipal area of the County do you live in

- ☐ Wexford
- ☐ Enniscorthy
- ☐ Gorey-Kilmuckridge
- ☐ New Ross
- ☐ Rosslare

2. Do you live in

- ☐ A town
- ☐ Village
- ☐ Countryside

3. What age are you

- ☐ Aged 13-15
- ☐ Aged 16-18
- ☐ Aged 19-24

4. Are you in

☐ School

☐ Training

☐ Employment

☐ Other Please Specify

☐ None of the above

5. What clubs/group/services are you involved in? Please tick the relevant boxes

Club/Group/Supports	Please Tick Here
Counselling Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug & Alcohol Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homework Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scouts/Guides	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Arts (Dance, theatre, art, music etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not involved in any group/club	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are not involved in any group/club, what is preventing/stopping you from becoming involved. Please tell us about any other club/group that you would like to participate in

6. In your view, what are the main issues affecting young people in Wexford.

Please number in order of priority from 1-10

Issue	Rating
Accessible Public Transport	
Alcohol misuse	
Bullying/Cyberbullying	
Crime	
Drug misuse	
Vaping/smoking	
Gender Based Violence	
Housing Issues	
Mental Health Issues	
Peer Pressure	
Poverty/Not having enough money	
Relationship Issues	
Unhealthy Lifestyles (Nutrition/Inactivity)	
Youth Unemployment	
Accessible youth friendly activities	
Other (please specify)	

Please use the comment box below to tell us your reasons for how/why you rated the issues the way you did.

7. What are the good things about the place you live? (Your town, village, community)

8. What are the bad things about the place you live (Your town, village, community)

What would make life better?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Wexford Parents Survey

1. Which municipal area of the County do you live in

☐

Wexford Town

☐

Enniscorthy

☐

Gorey-Kilmuckridge

☐

New Ross

☐

Rosslare Muncipal

☐

Other Please Specify

Do you live in

☐

Rural Area

☐

Urban Area

2. Family Type

☐

Two parents

☐

Single parent

☐

Co parenting

☐

Fostering

☐

Carer/Guardian

3. Number of children

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ More than 4

4. Children ages?

- ☐ 0-6
- ☐ 7-12
- ☐ 13-17
- ☐ 18-24

If you have children aged 18-24, are they living at home

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. What clubs/group/services are your children involved in? Please tick the relevant boxes

Club/Group/Supports	Please Tick Here
Homework Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scouts/Guides	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Arts (Dance, theatre, art, music etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Counselling Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not involved in any group/club	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. If your children are not involved in any group/club, what is preventing/stopping them from becoming involved?

- ☐ No groups/clubs available locally
- ☐ Cost of Participation (membership fee/uniform etc)
- ☐ Lack of Transport
- ☐ Access Issues (group not accessible to wheelchair users/disabled children)
- ☐ Lack of activities for children/young people who are not interested in sport
- ☐ Young Person is unmotivated
- ☐ Include option for other reason (not listed above)

7. Please tell us about any other clubs/groups that you would like your children to participate in

8. In your view, what are the main issues affecting young people in Wexford.
Please number in order of priority from 1-10

Issue	Rating
Accessible Public Transport	
Alcohol misuse	
Bullying/Cyberbullying	
Crime	
Drug misuse	
Vaping/smoking	
Gender Based Violence	
Housing Issues	
Mental Health Issues	
Peer Pressure	
Poverty/Not having enough money	
Relationship Issues	
Unhealthy Lifestyles (Nutrition/Inactivity)	
Youth Unemployment	
Accessible youth friendly activities	
Other (Please Specify)	

Please use the comment box below to tell us your reasons for how/why you rated the issues the way you did.



9. What do you feel are currently the top four needs that are presenting for parents in your area?

- ☐ Excessive Screen time
- ☐ Bullying/Cyberbullying
- ☐ Youth Mental Health
- ☐ Access to Disability Services
- ☐ Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- ☐ Lack of Physical Activity

Include option for other need (not listed above)

10. Please tell us how Wexford CYPSC could most effectively support Parents across the County.

- ☐ Advocate for Parents
- ☐ Support Provision of Parenting Programmes through Wexford Parents Hub
- ☐ Signposting to services and supports
- ☐ Providing digital/online supports such as webinars
- ☐ Provide forum for Parent Peer Support

11. Please use the section below for any further comments that you feel are relevant to the Wexford Children and Young Person’s Plan

Appendix 6: Consultation Results

Early Years Consultation Results

No. of Children consulted: 86.

Age Range: 2-6 year olds.

Methodologies Used

- Observation and non-verbal gestures/cues (non-verbal children in attendance)
- General discussion
- Chatting with children in small groups (approx. 4) during circle time and lunch
- Interview with children
- Asking parents to discuss with children at home and send photographs. Photographs then used during show and tell.

Areas: Children from the following areas were consulted.

Gorey, Monamolin, Ramsgrange, Crossabeg, Screen, Crossabeg, Oylegate, Castlebridge, Curracloe, St Leanords village (Ballycullane), Kilmuckridge.

1. What is your favourite thing about the place you live?

- **Proximity to friends/family:** seeing friends at local shops, living close to their grannies.
- **Local facilities/amenities:** the town park, local library, local shops, playground, cinema, Kidzone, local church, cinema, local hotel for dinner
- **Being active/in nature:** farm walks, local woods, the beaches, going to the playground with friends

In the children’s words:

“ I love seeing all my friends and my granny. ”

“ Going outside to Costcutter playground. ”

“ I like all the flowers around because I love to pick them. ”

“ Living nearest to my nanny. ”

2. Is there anything you don’t like about where you live?

- **Distance from facilities/amenities:** having to travel to playgrounds, distance from shops.
- **Environmental pollution:** rubbish in public places
- **Overcrowding:** noisy/busy areas, facilities not relative to crowds at times

In the children’s words:

“ There was rubbish in the ditch! ”

“ Too many visitors in the summer. ”

“ There is no nice playground as we have to travel into town. ”

“ There are no parking spaces... there is too many cars. ”

3. If you had a magic wand, what would you do to make life better?

Facilities/Activities	Nature
Bigger/nicer playground	Walking distance to beach
Gymnastics class nearby	Walks in the forest
More areas for children that are secure – prevent wandering off	

Proximity to friends/relatives	Community/Environment
Live closer to relatives to see more frequently	Too many cars
Gymnastics class nearby	Reduce noise from festival

In the children’s words:

“ We would love a playground in our village! ”

“ I would love if we could walk to the seaside. ”

“ I would like a toy shop so Mammy could buy me something after school. ”

“ I wish we could see my granny every day, but she lives too far away. ”

Primary School Consultation Results

Responses from: Scoil Mhaodhoig Poulfur Fethard-on-Sea, St Kevin’s Gorey, Kilmyshall National School Bunclody, Scoil Mhuire Our Lady’s Island Carne Tacumshane, Scoil Mhuire Rosslare, St Fintan’s Taghmon,

Total responses: 189

Age Cohort: 6-13 years

1. What is your favourite thing about the place you live?

Facilities/Activities	Sense of Community
GAA pitch	Family
Skate park	Nice neighbours
Community centre	Safe to walk/play/cycle
Shopping centre	Feel safe generally
Cinema	GAA/soccer clubs
Swimming pool	Clubs in the community
Local shop	Friends close by

Nature	Rurality
Close to beaches	Countryside yet close to shops
The views	Less traffic
Walking through farms among wildlife	Able to walk most places
Beautiful forest nearby for walks	Quiet
	Far away from Dublin

In the children’s words:

“ The views and mountains.”

“ My favourite thing is that I live in the countryside.”

“ I like how I am close to the pitch.”

“ I am surrounded by animals from my Grandads farm, and I like going for cycles.”

2. Is there anything you don’t like about where you live?

Infrastructure	Environmental/Nature
Poor roads/potholes	Litter
Lack of footpaths	Summertime tourists leaving rubbish
Public transport	Dog poo
Cycle lanes	Vapes, cigarettes
Zebra crossings	Hedges not cut properly
Inaccessible to school	
Not enough parking	

Housing/Facilities	Community/Activities
Homelessness issue	Bullying
Abandoned houses	Anti-social behaviour
More sports facilities, e.g. basketball court	Noisy neighbours
More places to hang out	Distance from friends/family
No playground	More young people to join sports clubs
Poor medical facilities	More colour; murals/paintings
	Not much to do during holidays

In the children’s words:

“ The litter and the damage to the environment.”

“ There are no shops I can walk to and not much going on.”

“ There is a pub where people are loud, and they are drink driving.”

3. If you had a magic wand, what would you like to change or wish for?

Activities/Facilities	Infrastructure
Better and more sports facilities, e.g. netting at pitch, swimming pool, public gym	Safer cycling
Wider variety of activities, e.g. cinema, skate park	More footpaths
Improved local library (more books)	Less speeding from cars
	Drink driving
	More parking – overcrowding during summer and parking on driveways
	Public transport options

Environment/Nature	Community/Facilities
Rubbish – cleaner beach	Closer to family/friends
No fly tipping	Housing for homeless
More wildflower parks	Houses more spread out-
No cutting down of trees	More and better shops
No alcohol/cigarettes	More restaurants and pubs

Societal/Moral Issues
End to war in Ukraine
Bullying – for people to be more accepting of those who are different
Poverty – all kids should have food and toys

In the children’s words:

“ Too many people are speeding around the place. ”

“ I would expand the village and add more houses. ”

“ I would make the place tidier. ”

“ Have more things to do outside. ”

Young Persons Survey Results

No. of people responding (to at least one question): 461.

Age Range: 58% (n=267) of respondents were aged 13-15, 34% (n=157) were aged 16-18 with 8% (n=37) were aged 19-24.

Areas: Young people surveyed were from the following areas;

- Gorey-Kilmuckridge – 32%
- Wexford Town – 20%
- New Ross – 16%
- Enniscorthy – 13%
- Rosslare – 10%
- Bunclody – 9%

What clubs/groups/services are you involved in?

1. Sports club (includes gym, equestrian club, karate club) – 237
2. Not involved in any group/club – 82
3. Youth Club/Project – 63
4. Youth Arts (Dance, theatre, music) – 47
5. Other – 35
6. Counselling service – 20
7. School-related club (Student council, homework club) – 15
8. Scouts/guides – 9
9. Chess club – 6
10. Drug and alcohol services – 3

As identified in consultations of different age groups, sports involvement plays an integral role in the wellbeing of young people. This is clear given the sheer amount of involvement from young people, vastly outweighing the involvement with any other groups. It is important to note however that many respondents indicated no involvement with clubs/ groups which is worrying and perhaps points to the lack of alternatives for those not involved with sport, but possibly interested in other activities which are not sufficiently catered for or promoted.

Please tell us about any other clubs/groups that you would like to participate in? (136 respondents)

- 1. Sports (excluding GAA and Soccer) – 59 (43%)
 - a. Boxing – 8
 - b. Basketball – 7
 - c. Rugby – 7
 - d. Fencing/Archery – 7
 - e. Sailing – 3
 - f. Equestrian – 3
 - g. Martial Arts – 2
 - h. Athletics – 2
 - i. Pool – 2
- 2. Arts/Theatre (Dancing, Music, Drama) – 27 (20%)
- 3. Soccer – 8 (6%)
- 4. GAA – 7 (5%)
- 5. Arts & Crafts – 7 (5%)
- 6. Music – 7 (5%)

Once again, we can acknowledge the demand for sports as a means of socialising/staying active for young people. Tying in with respondents from earlier consultations, perhaps there is a need for more multifaceted sports facilities, providing spaces for a wider variety of sports for young people to engage in. Furthermore, there is a clear demand for social activities outside of sport: with 30% highlighting a desire for participation in clubs involving arts/theatre, arts/crafts and music.

What are the good things about the place you live? (242 respondents)

- **Facilities (29%):** proximity to nice shops/cafés, facilities/activities which provide somewhere to go with friends, the GAA pitch and the library.
- **Community (25%):** neighbours are nice, with a strong sense of community.
- **Rurality (19%):** the quiet nature and lack of crime arising from this.
- **Nature (16%):** living close to the sea and having trees and greenery around.
- **Infrastructure (7%):** ability to safely cycle/walk the roads.

What are the bad things about the place you live? (336 respondents)

- **Community (36%):** feeling unsafe with groups engaging in antisocial behaviour, drugs and junkies on street, crime/violence, intimidation (inciting bullying and peer pressure) and a general lack of a community element.
- **Connectivity/Infrastructure (31%):** lack of public transport, dangerous roads with no footpaths/streetlights, no shops nearby, isolation (particularly in winter), lack of local job opportunities and abandoned/rundown buildings.
- **Facilities (22%):** pointing to a lack of facilities/activities for young people, resulting in them being bored and tying into the consequential issues mentioned above of isolation, antisocial behaviour and bullying.
- **Litter and broken glass (5%)**

What would make life better? (238 respondents)

- **Community engagement (39%):** reduced antisocial behaviour (drinking/vaping on streets), people being nicer to each other/less bullying, safer environment with less crime/violence and a generally enhanced community atmosphere which encourages better communication among people.
- **Connectivity/Infrastructure (25%):** more public transport, job opportunities, better roads/footpaths and more housing.
- **Facilities/services (23%):** more facilities/activities for young people and better mental health support.
- **Policing/education (12%):** more Gardai visible, ID checks for alcohol/vapes/cigarettes, education/ban on drugs and increased punishment for those teens/individuals who commit crimes.

In the young people's own words:

“ Lack of youth-friendly activities results in boredom, and boredom then turns to bullying (as some find this funny/entertaining), bullying then leads to mental health issues, mental health issues result in succumbing to peer pressure which ultimately results in consuming alcohol/vapes ”

“ Many youth don't have a proper nutritional diet due to lack of knowledge ”

“ Lack of transportation and pricing is affecting young people in Wexford and making it difficult to socialise with others ”

“ Lack of education on healthy relationships ”

“ Young people feel isolated because they can't access supports due to transport costs ”

“ Lack of youth employment reduces our independence ”

“ Parents swear at their children and treat them badly, which probably translates to students misbehaving in school...I heard a girl behind me on the phone with her mum and they were swearing at each other ”

“ Services do nothing but tell you to find a hobby ”



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