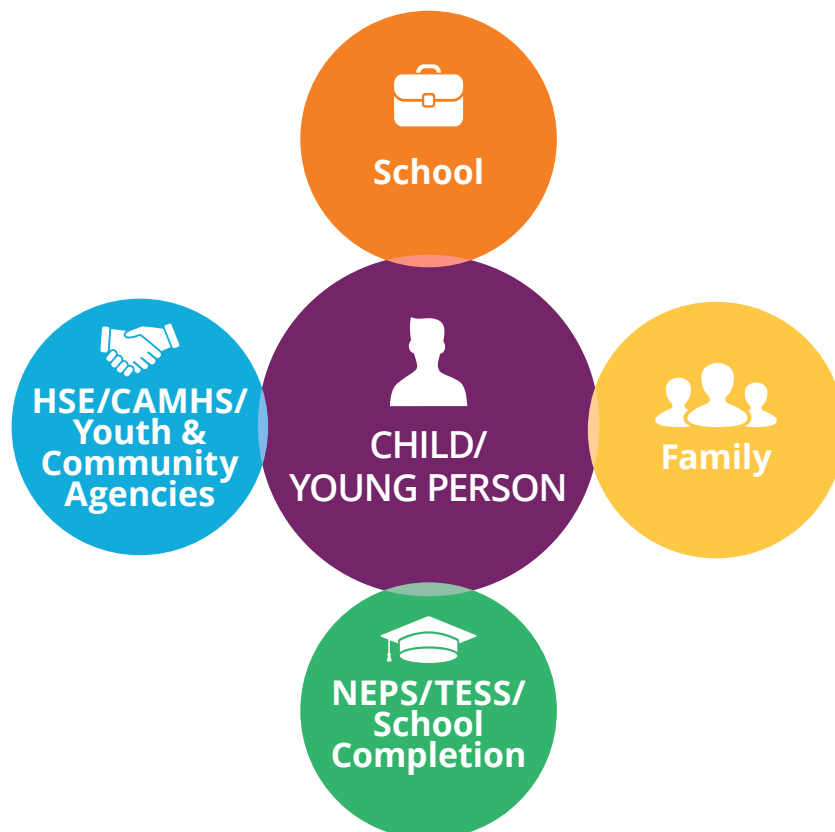


Section 8: External Professionals and Agencies

A collaborative working approach.

There are many aspects to a child's life, and while working with children all have one thing in common- The child is the main priority. Therefore, it is necessary for all to work collaboratively to ensure best outcomes for the child, empowering them, embracing differences, and fostering their uniqueness. Identifying the possible causes for the child's difficulties and exploring all areas of their life. The solution is more likely when everyone is clear on their role in supporting the child to successfully attend school.

Figure 17: Visual representation of collaborative approach with child in centre



Services and Referral Routes in Wexford

There are a number of services that provide information and support to young people in Co. Wexford. These vary from universal to more targeted support depending on the requirements of the young person and the stage they are at in their EBSA journey. Complex cases will obviously require more intervention.

- A young person's case should be referred to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) when they continue to struggle with school attendance within the academic year. The Education Welfare Service is part of Tusla's Education Support Service (TESS) that deals with children and families who have difficulties in relation to school attendance, participation and retention. Involvement may include Duty advice/guidance, an assessment to establish the barriers to education, meeting with the family and child, liaising with other agencies, organising of Educational Review Conferences and support to devise an educational plans with all involved. For more information see: <https://www.tusla.ie/tess/>.
- With parental/guardian consent, the case may be considered for the Meitheal process. Meitheal is a multi-agency approach to assist children and their families when they need support from more than one service. Meitheal identifies the strengths and needs of the young person and family and coordinates services in order to develop an agreed action plan. See <https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/prevention-partnership-and-family-support-programme/meitheal-national-practice-model/>.
- If no significant progress has been made about a young person's emotional wellbeing or mental health, a referral can be made through the GP or relevant clinician to:

Primary Care Psychology (if behavioural or mild-moderate mental health difficulties are present). Primary Care Psychology in County Wexford follows a stepped care model of intervention in line with Primary Care services nationally. The aim is to assist parents, children, and young people to develop skills to better understand and manage emotional and behavioural difficulties and challenges. Research has repeatedly shown that difficulties that arise for children and adolescents are best responded to in a family context- no matter how the problem has developed, parents/carers are always part of the solution. Therefore, parents and carers of children who are referred to Primary Care Psychology are offered group training and education to enable them to make changes to assist their child. In some circumstances assessment and/or individual work is required.

Parents/Carers are asked to opt-in to the Primary Care Psychology service by completing and returning a Pre-Screening Questionnaire. They are then offered an initial screening consultation appointment with a Psychologist and are waitlisted for the most appropriate group or intervention. Please note, individual therapy for children is not offered on a routine basis.

Older adolescents, i.e., 16 years up their 18th birthday, referred to Primary Care Psychology are considered old enough to consent to a service or intervention themselves (they can decide to opt in or not) and will generally be waitlisted for a CBT (cognitive-behavioural therapy) and/or group for young people. See:

[http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/young-people-and-mental-health/hse-psychology-services-wexford.](http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/young-people-and-mental-health/hse-psychology-services-wexford)

- A referral should be made to Tusla Child and Family Agency if it is deemed that the parents/guardians are not supporting the young person to meet their identified unmet needs. See: [https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/concerns/.](https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/concerns/)
- It may be beneficial to link in with the local Youth Service (FDYS) to support the young person, outside of school. FDYS provides a range of targeted and universal services to young people and their families including information points, youth clubs and youth counselling. See: [https://fdys.ie/.](https://fdys.ie/)
- Other youth organisations that provide youth programmes include Gorey Youth Needs Group and Youth New Ross. See: <https://www.youthnewross.com/> and [https://gyng.ie/wp/.](https://gyng.ie/wp/)
- Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN's) operate in Co. Wexford. Membership is drawn from all the services that play a role in the lives of children and families in their network area. They work together to ensure that there is no "wrong doors" for families. CFSN co-ordinators support the development of networks and oversee the Meitheal programme.

It may be worthwhile to recommend that the young person's family make contact with **Wexford's Family Support Drop-in Service**. Tusla, Barnardos, Youth New Ross, Gorey Youth Needs Group and Family Resource Centres across County Wexford provide a free, confidential drop-in support service for parents and carers where they can discuss a concern they have about their child. Help and support can be provided on a range of issues affecting children from 0-18 years. This includes behavioural difficulties, parenting dilemmas, issues in school, relationships, concerns around drugs or alcohol and more.

General Family Support/Information

See: <http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/services> for information on services/supports for children, young people and families. Some services have developed short videos outlining the supports they provide. These can be accessed on the Wexford CYPSC website here:

[http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/children-and-young-peoples-plan/videos.](http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/children-and-young-peoples-plan/videos)

School Completion Programmes

School Completion Programmes will endeavour to link with the young person, their family and the school. Within their catchment population, they run programmes that address specific topics e.g., anxiety, behavioural issues with the young person, to work towards a return to education. This work and support is provided through in- school settings and home visits to ensure that the young person is met where they are most capable of engagement. The SCP will liaise with the school and family to consistently work towards a positive outcome for the young person and where necessary make appropriate onward referrals and support to access these services.

There are currently five SCP's in Co. Wexford. Details can be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/education-and-training>.

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)

NEPS is a school based educational psychology service . NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools and are concerned with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools. Referrals come from the school principal.

NEPS psychologists work in partnership with teachers, parents and children in identifying educational needs. They offer a range of services aimed at meeting these needs, for example, supporting individual students (through consultation and assessment), special projects and research.

Barnardos

Supports available from Barnardos in Co. Wexford include the Family Support Service, Teen Parent Support Programme and Wexford Parent's Hub. The "Parents Hub" is a "one stop shop" for parents, providing easily accessible information on forth-coming talks and parenting programmes available in Co. Wexford. Examples include "Parenting When Separated" and "Non Violent Resistance".

See <http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/wexford-parents-hub> for details of current courses. There is also an online safety programme for schools and webinars for parents. This can be accessed on the Barnardos website at ;
<https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme>.

Barnardos Wexford is contactable at 053 923 6342 or at info.wexford@barnardos.ie.

SECONDARY SERVICES (after primary services have responded):

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

(if moderate to severe mental health issues are present).

What is CAMHS?

The function of the CAMHS Team is to provide a specialist mental health service to children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years old who have moderate to severe mental health disorders that require the input of a specialist multidisciplinary mental health team.

Who is on the CAMHS Team?

The multidisciplinary team is under the clinical leadership of a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist and includes junior medical staff, psychologist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, clinical nurse specialists, social worker and social care worker.

Who can attend CAMHS?

The CAMHS Team accept referrals for the assessment and treatment of disorders such as moderate to severe depression, mood disorders, psychosis, anxiety disorders, moderate to severe Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), moderate to severe eating disorder, suicidal behaviours and ideation where intent is present.

The diagnosis of autism and intellectual disability remains the remit of primary care and disability services. Children and young people with a mild intellectual disability are seen by CAMHS only when there is a co-morbid moderate to severe mental health disorder. Children and young people with moderate to severe intellectual disability should be referred to Mental Health Intellectual Disability Services for Children and Adolescents (CAMHS-MHID).

How to refer to CAMHS team?

GPs are usually the first point of contact for families who seek help for various problems and determine whether to refer to primary care services or specialist services such as CAMHS. An important role of primary care services is to identify when a child or young person needs more specialist mental health care and to initiate such referral through the child's GP. Paediatricians and consultant liaison psychiatrist may also refer to CAMHS. Tusla- Child and Family agency via GP may also refer. There are two CAMHS teams.

-Wexford (North) CAMHS Team (Enniscorthy & Gorey): Arnold House, Parnell Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Y21 A272. Tel. 053 9259860

-Wexford (South) CAMHS Team (Wexford and New Ross): Arden House, Whitemill Industrial Estate, Wexford, Y35VK59, Tel. 053 9243220

What will the CAMHS Team do?

The aim of the CAMHS service is to provide clinical assessment with diagnosis, based on the needs identified with specific intervention appropriate to the needs of each individual child/young person and his/her family. It also enables families, carers and other professionals to positively support children/young people by providing them with appropriate strategies and skills to improve their mental health.

For additional information please see pages 17-37 of the CAMHS Operation Guidelines 2019 available on [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)



Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS)

PDS is a significant change programme for the provision of therapeutic services for children from birth to 18 years of age. It has been rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. PDS;

- Provides a clear pathway and fairer access to services for all children with a disability.
- Makes the best use of available resources for the benefit of children and their families
- Ensures effective teams working in partnership with families and with education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

A child's access to services will be based on his/her needs, each Childrens Disability Network Team (CDNT) will provide for all children with complex needs who live in that area. Children with non-complex needs will receive services at Primary Care level. A small number of children with very complex needs will need a level of expertise which may not solely be met by Primary Care services or the Children Disability Network Team. Specialist services will be developed to support and work with the CDNT and Primary Care services to meet the needs of this group of children. Children will be able to move between primary care and the team depending on their needs at a point in time.

Referrers will submit a completed national Children's Services Referral Form, including signed parental consent, and an age specific Additional Information Form to the local Primary Care Service or Children's Disability Network Team.

All of the agencies in the South East, the HSE, Enable Ireland, the Central Remedial Clinic and the Brothers of Charity, are working together to roll out this programme;

The Ability Programme

The programme facilitates support to students and families to set expectations and create pathways to provide opportunities, to exercise their rights to further education, employment opportunities, inclusive access to their communities and the continued development of their independence.

- The programme works with young adults 16+ with a disability and their family members access 4 counties.
- The programme provides support in the school during school terms and the student's home community during school holidays for the final two years of school and six month after the start of the students chosen pathway.
- The aim is to provide the participant with a clear pathway, of their choice, and to support the transition from school to this chosen pathway. These pathways have so far included College, PLC Courses, Apprenticeships, RT Training, Support Services, Adult Day Services and employment.
- This is done by discussing such topics as Decision making, Social Skills, Friendships Relationship, Vulnerability, Confidence/Self-Esteem, Boundaries, Change, Change in Support, Accepting New Support and more.

For more information contact info@schoolleaversap.ie.

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