



Working together
to improve the
lives of children,
young people
and families

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TÚSLA

An Boinn Leanaí, Comhairleoireacht,
Dúchomars, Leanaí agus Teaghlaigh Óg
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Children and Young People's Services Committees

Presentation for the Healthy Ireland Local Government Seminar

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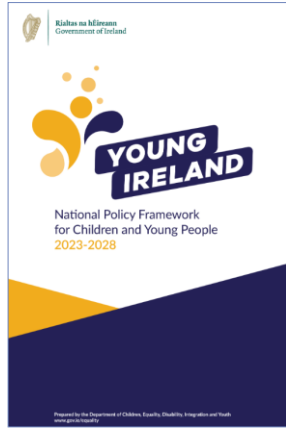


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3. Strengths and challenges of joined up working
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1. Ireland's children and young people's policy context



1.1 Ireland's children and young people's policy context

- 1 **ACTIVE AND HEALTHY**
- 2 **ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 3 **SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM**
- 4 **ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY**
- 5 **CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR WORLD**

CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR WORLD

- They are aware of their rights, and are civically socially and environmentally engaged offline and online.
- They are accepted, respected and valued at home, school, and in their community.
- They have their own identity, connected to their culture, language and beliefs.



ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

- They are protected from poverty and social exclusion;
- They live in stable housing that is affordable, warm and dry, in child- and youth-friendly communities;
- They have pathways to economic participation and independent living.

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

- They have the best possible physical and mental health;
- They make informed health and lifestyle choices;
- They enjoy leisure time, express themselves creatively and access nature and recreation.

ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

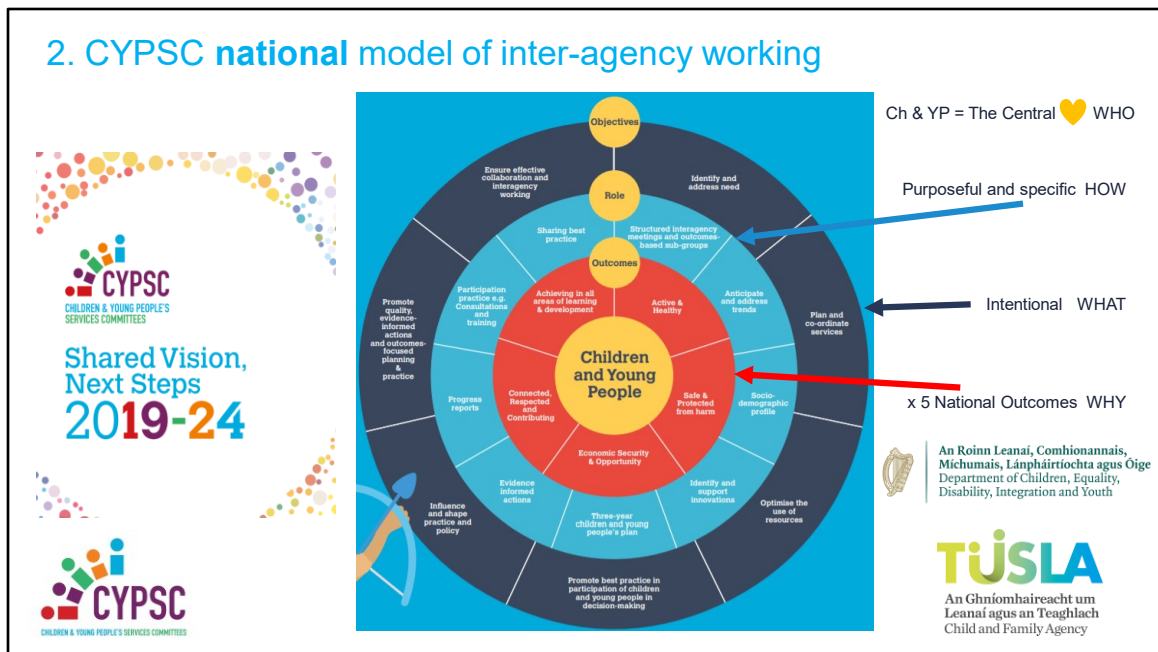
- They are positively engaging with their learning and development from birth;
- They can successfully navigate life's transitions and make informed choices around their future;
- They have the social, emotional and communication skills to achieve their potential and lead fulfilling lives.

SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

- They have family and homes that are loving, connected, safe and nurturing;
- They are protected from violence, neglect, ill-treatment and harm;
- Everyone is alert to child protection issues and knows how to report a concern.



2. CYPSC national model of inter-agency working



CYPSC national model of inter-agency working

Through “*Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-24*” (DCYA, 2019) the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) has set out the future of inter-agency working, and the leadership role which will be played by CYPSC. *Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-24* recognises the good work of the CYPSC initiative to date and aims to maximise its value for professionals and all service users.

The CYPSC model places children and young people 0-24 years at the centre of each local CYPSC inter-agency committee’s planning and annual cycle of delivery. Each Committee pursues a core set of CYPSC objectives, and actions are organised to respond to improving outcomes for Ireland’s children and young people, aligned to the five national outcomes for children and young people.

Implementation

27 CYPSC

27 local CYPSC Co-ordinators

1 National CYPSC Office

Chairperson – Tusla Child and Family Agency
Vice Chairperson – Local Authority
810+ Member Organisations

2.1 CYPSC national model of inter-agency working



CYPSC national model of inter-agency working

Each local CYPSC operates one main interagency CYPSC committee and at least five interagency CYPSC Sub-groups. Each Sub-group is aligned to one of the five national outcomes for children and young people as guided in “Young Ireland national policy framework for children and young people 2023-2028.” *Young Ireland* retains and preserves the five national outcomes for children and young people (introduced with BOBF) and accordingly CYPSC continues to configure its local implementation infrastructure to align with those 5 national outcomes.

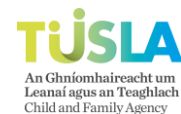
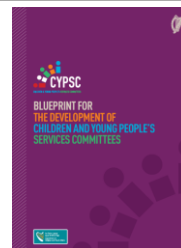


2.2 CYPSC national model of inter-agency working

- **Children's rights:** The rights of children as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are recognised and child-centred-approaches are adopted.
- **Family-orientated:** The family is recognised as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children and young people.
- **Equality:** The diversity of children and young people's experiences, abilities, identities and cultures is acknowledged, and reducing inequalities is promoted as a means of improving outcomes and achieving greater social inclusion.
- **Evidence-informed and outcomes-focused:** To be effective, policies and services must be supported by evidence and focused on the achievement of agreed outcomes.
- **Accountability and resource efficiency:** Clear implementation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and lines of responsibility for delivery are in place to drive timely and effective policy implementation.



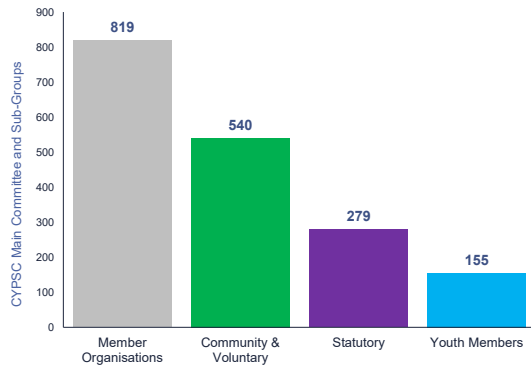
Source: (DCYA, 2015) *Blueprint...*, p.7



Principles underpinning CYPSC interagency working

2.3 CYPSC national model of inter-agency working

Inter-agency Engagement:



3. Strengths & Challenges of Joined Up Working: **STRENGTHS**

Strengths				
Theme	Responses		CYPSC	
	N	%	N	%
Strong engagement and commitment of members to the CYPSC	30	38%	18	69%
Delivery of projects, services and positive outcomes	17	22%	14	54%
Collaborative work internal to CYPSC and with other structures	9	12%	9	35%
Leveraging resources and funding	8	10%	8	31%
Responsive needs led approach to decision-making	7	9%	7	27%
Participation and representation of CYP and their families in the CYPSC Structure	7	9%	5	19%



CYPSC described how the strong engagement with its members as well as the commitment of members to the structure of CYPSC provided a shared collaborative working environment for statutory as well as community and voluntary agencies.

Of the 30 strengths of working within an interagency structure:

- CYPSC described the networking that is achieved by members of local CYPSC. The networks formed within CYPSC provide an opportunity to enhance service delivery to children, young people and their families.
- having strong and committed members from key agencies in local CYPSC areas was a strength.
- noted information sharing between member of CYPSC as well as effective communication.

Of the strengths related to the delivery of projects, services and positive outcomes:

- CYPSC described how projects were delivered through actions arising from CYPSC Children and Young People's Plans (CYPP) and Healthy Ireland, ongoing projects that support local communities, networking events and participative research
- how events and supports facilitated through CYPSC sustained positive outcomes for children, young people and their families at a local level including holistic support for children and families.
- emphasised how the CYPSC structure achieved integrated and coordinated service delivery in some areas, particularly when working with the most disadvantaged children, young people and their parents in communities.

3.1 Strengths & Challenges of Joined Up Working: **CHALLENGES**

Challenges				
Theme	Responses		CYPSC	
	N	%	N	%
Workload of CYPSC personnel	28	36%	19	73%
Needs of the community	16	21%	13	50%
Funding related challenges	13	17%	11	42%



- 13 CYPSC (or 50% of 26) described how there are many challenges facing CYPSC related the needs of the community, in particular gaps in critical services and overstretched services trying to respond to community needs.
 - some services are overstretched and unable to respond to the needs of the local community.
 - a growing population within local CYPSC areas as well as new and emerging needs that services need to respond to as challenging.
 - having to be more aware of intercultural needs and the current geopolitical situation across the world and its effect on local areas in Ireland as challenging

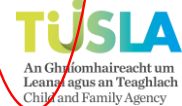
- 11 CYPSC (or 42% of 26) outlined how there were some funding related challenges.
 - dealing with annualised funding, multiple funding streams, lack of

funding security to provide consistent projects

- challenges operating one CYPSC area budget across two counties (Laois Offaly and Longford Westmeath)

4. Priority Needs of Children and Young People in Ireland

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Priority Need 1	Mental health (13)	Mental health (15)	Mental health (18)	Mental health (13)	Mental health (15)
Priority Need 2	Disability inclusion and services (5)	Vulnerable families due to Covid 19 (7)	Education supports (6)	New communities (10)	Disability inclusion and services (8)
Priority Need 3	Education supports (5)	Education supports (4)	Disability inclusion and services (5)	Disability inclusion and services (6)	New communities (8)
Priority Need 4	Homelessness (5)	Digital poverty (4)	Domestic violence (4)	Parental support (4)	Parental support (3)
Priority Need 5	Parental support (4)	Disability inclusion and services (3)	Parental support (3)	School avoidance (2)	School avoidance (3)

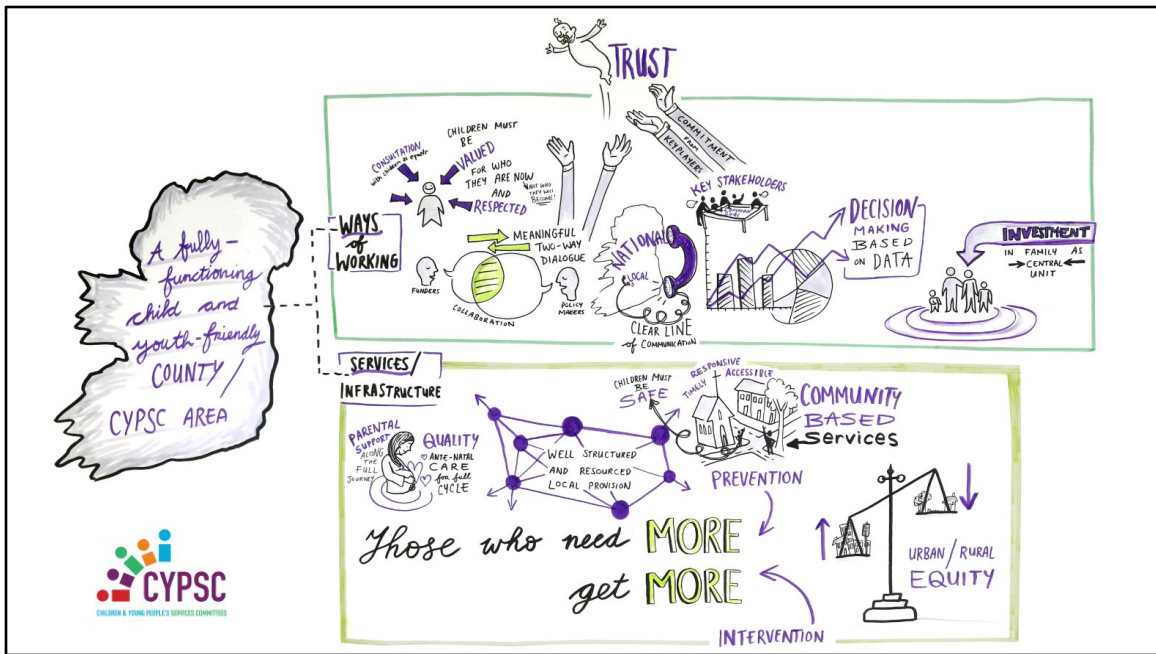


Top 5 priority needs from 2019 to 2023

CYPSC report on the top two priority needs (Priorities 1 and 2) of children and young people as identified by the CYPSC every year since annual progress reporting commenced; 2019 to 2023. The first or second priorities do not necessarily have precedence one over the other.

Priority needs 1 and 2 between 2019 and 2023 have been categorised and grouped by type allowing for a cross comparison of the types of priority needs that were noted over the five years.

Mental Health was the most prominent need type reported every year between 2019 and 2023.



A fully functioning child and youth friendly county / CYPSC area

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