

Outcome 5: Connected and Respected Subgroup



Gambling



The issue of gambling particularly by young men arose during the consultation phase for the new plan. In late 2023 the ESRI launched new research into problem gambling which estimates that 1-in-30 adults in Ireland suffer from problem gambling, which is ten times higher than a previous measure from 2019. The ESRI research also pointed to a strong link between problem gambling and childhood experiences of gambling. Those who gambled before the age of 18 were found to be almost twice as likely to have PG, as are those who had a parent who gambled with high intensity during the person's childhood. As an initial step two actions are taking place this year. Training on gambling and gaming amongst young people is to be offered to professionals in October 2024. In addition, a group of young people in Wicklow are going to work with the Wicklow Youth Officer from KWETB to produce some messages for young people about this issue of gambling.

Substance Misuse

During our previous CYPP research was conducted with young people on their views regarding cannabis use. The 'Young People and Cannabis' research was referenced multiple times by CYPSC members and stakeholders throughout the consultation for this CYPP. CYPSC members wish to see this expanded and continued throughout the next planning period. The report from this work will inform the development of further work in the new plan.



Supporting Young Carers



Young Ireland the successor to Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures has called on all CYPSC to support Young Carers. In the first year of this plan, we have linked with Family Carers Ireland and Youth Services in the county. We are looking to encourage existing services not currently working with Young Carers to reach out to them. Initial research has found one service which supports young carers in the Vault Youth Service in Arklow. We have had a presentation from the facilitator of that group who highlighted for us the needs of young carers, how important it is for them to connect with others but also to feel a part of the mainstream activities of the youth services. Further work will continue in 2024 and during the lifetime of this plan.

