



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board

KILKENNY AND CARLOW ETB

Youth Work Plan
2018 – 2022

Youth Work Plan 2018 – 2022



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Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
*Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board*

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Foreword

CHIEF EXECUTIVE KILKENNY AND CARLOW ETB - MS. EILEEN CURTIS

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board has a legislative responsibility to support youth work across the two counties of Kilkenny and Carlow. The remit of the ETB is to support the provision, co-ordination, administration and assessment of youth work in an efficient and effective manner.

The ETB through its Youth Work Committee is committed to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of its activities through its support for a range of provision which encourages enjoyment, challenge and learning for young people. A wide range of projects are supported which extend from volunteer led activities to youth projects with paid staff. This KCETB Youth Work Plan reflects the priorities as set out in the National Youth Work Strategy to enable young people to maximise their potential, respect their rights and have their voices as they transition to adulthood. This plan has, through the consultation process, endeavoured to listen to and give voice to key stakeholders within the youth work community but most especially to the young people to ensure that the plan is informed and relevant and charts a future course which will enhance the lives of young people in Kilkenny and Carlow.

I would like to thank the members of the Youth Work Committee for their support and guidance, Sandra Roe for her research and our youth officers, Mairead Donohoe and Saoirse Prendergast for their compilation of such a comprehensive plan. I would like to acknowledge also the guidance of our Director of Further Education and Training, Ms. Martha Bolger and our Adult Education Officer, Ms. Sarah Barron together with our administrative staff team who have supported this work. I look forward to the direction and engagement which this plan will bring to our work in KCETB in this area.

CATHAOIRLEACH; KCETB YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE - MS. MARY HILDA CAVANAGH

As Cathaoirleach of the Youth Work Committee I would like to welcome the development the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board Youth Work Plan.

In doing so I extend my gratitude to my fellow members on the Youth Work Committee who have assisted in providing direction on the preparation of this Youth Work Plan. The members have come together to advance the interests and supports for youth people and have together shared their varying perspectives and enriched the discussions which have underpinned the consultation process, informed the needs analysis and supported the setting of priorities for a programme of work for future years.

I would like to thank the members of the KCETB staff team who have led and directed this work and also Sandra Roe Research for their expertise in engaging with the key stakeholders throughout the process.

Finally I want to express my appreciation to the young people who shared their views so articulately and willingly during the period of consultation.

I look forward to seeing the work advance in the years ahead.



Overview of KCETB

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is a local education authority, established on the 1st July 2013. The 33 Vocational Education Committees (VECs) were dissolved and replaced by 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs). The Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is governed under Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

OUR MISSION

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board enables learners to achieve their full potential and contributes to the social, cultural and economic development of our area and of the country.

OUR VISION

Our ambition for the future is to:

Lead the development of education and training opportunities throughout our two counties by engaging with learners and communities, creating positive learning environments and experiences for people at all stages of lifelong learning, and contributing to social and economic development.

In everything we do, we aim to be **“the education and training service that others use as a benchmark of excellence.”**



“the education and training service that others use as a benchmark of excellence.”

OUR VALUES

We value learning and recognise its role in the development, cohesion and wellbeing of society. Everything we do is guided by serving the best interests of learners.

We aim for excellence and are committed to continuous improvement throughout our organisation. We value relationships and working in collaboration within the education and training sector and with the wider community.

As a public service organisation, KCETB has a culture of accountability, integrity, fairness, openness and respect.

We adopt high standards of professionalism, honesty, objectivity and quality, which are central to serving all learners. We embrace diversity and we are open to new ideas.

We provide a comprehensive range of quality education programmes and supports designed to meet the needs of young people and adults throughout the counties of Kilkenny and Carlow. Over the years it has developed a range of educational provision to meet the diverse and ever changing demands of learners. Today Kilkenny and Carlow ETB runs thirteen second level schools, an extensive adult education service and a range of post-leaving certificate courses. It is involved in many partnership activities at local level and provides a range of educational supports to enhance the quality of its education programmes.

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB supports young people and adult learners through its four main areas of activity:

Second Level Education

Abbey Community College, Ferrybank
Borris Vocational School
Coláiste Aindriú, Bagenalstown
Coláiste Cois Siúire, Mooncoin
Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown
Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown
Coláiste Pobail Osraí, Kilkenny
Duiske College, Graignamanagh
Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach
Grennan College, Thomastown
Kilkenny City Vocational School
Ormonde College of Further Education, Kilkenny
Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale
Tyndall College

Further Education and Training

Adult Education Guidance Service
Adult Literacy Scheme
Back to Education Initiative(BTEI)
Community Education
Co-operation Activities
Evening Courses/Part-time Courses
Interagency Projects
Music Generation
Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme(VTOS)
Youthreach
Youth Work Activities
Training Services
Educational Partnership Initiatives
Carlow Institute of Further Education and Training

Partnership Activities

in association with
County Development Boards
County Childcare Committees
Family Resource Centres
Leader Programmes
Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)
Recreation and Sports Partnerships
Local Drugs Task Groups
School Completion Programmes
Social Inclusion Measures Group

Educational Support Services

Finance
ICT
Capital Projects
Corporate Services
Customer Services
Health and Safety
Recruitment and Human Resource Services

Acknowledgements

KCETB would like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of the Young People, Youth Workers, Youth Work Volunteers and Service Providers in Kilkenny and Carlow who gave up their time to engage in the consultation process. Without their insight and expertise, the completion of the plan would not have been possible.

KCETB would also like to thank the KCETB Youth Work Committee for their guidance and support in completion of the plan.

KCETB wish to thank Sandra Roe Research for the research undertaken for the purpose of this report. Sandra's expertise, diligence and interest ensured the plan has been written to the highest standard. This report has been compiled by Mairead Donohoe and Saoirse Prendergast, Youth Officers for Kilkenny and Carlow, on behalf of Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board

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Section 1

Background and Context

1.1 YOUTH WORK AND THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) have a legislative responsibility in relation to youth work in Ireland. This is set out in the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013, which states that the functions of ETBs with regard to youth work are to:

Support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area and provide such information as may be requested by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to such support; and

Assess whether the manner in which it performs its functions is economical, efficient and effective.

(Education and Training Boards Act, Section 10(1)(j,k)).

The Education and Training Boards Act goes on to state (Section 10(6)) that “youth work” has the same meaning as it has in the Youth Work Act 2001, where it is defined that:

“Youth work” means a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is –

(a) complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and

(b) provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.

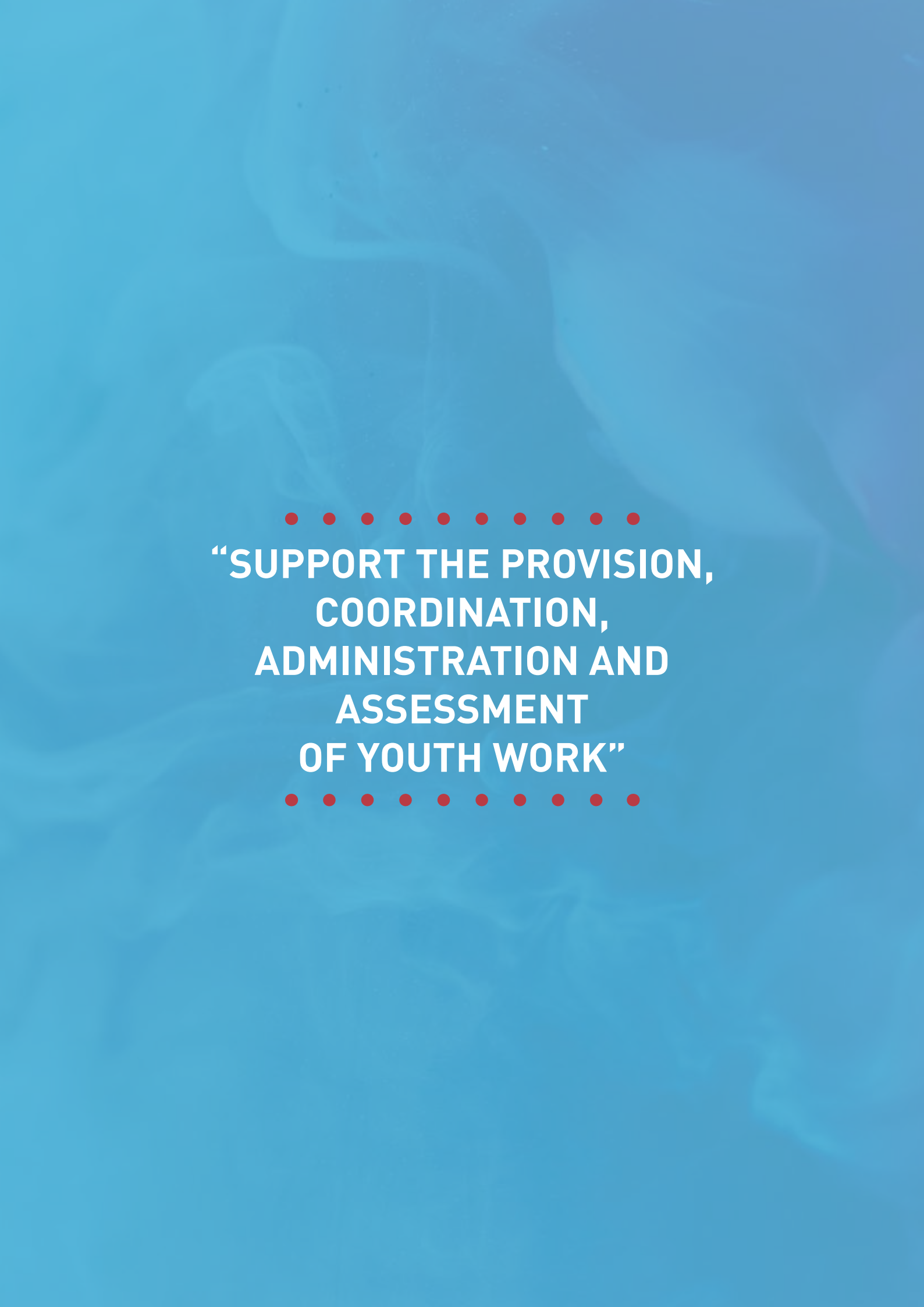
(Youth Work Act, 2001, Section 3).

In the Youth Work Act (Section 2(1)), a “young person” is interpreted as a person who has not attained the age of 25 years.

Youth work is primarily focused on young people aged 10 to 24 years, although there is also a significant level of activity with the under 10s. Youth work achieves a range of outcomes for young people, for example, communication skills, confidence and building relationships, through activities combining enjoyment, challenge and learning. (DCYA, 2014b). (See section 1.2.4 for further information on outcomes.)

In practice, this includes volunteer-led youth groups, as well as youth projects with paid workers. The latter category incorporates a wide range of projects, including ones supporting young people considered to be at risk of exclusion, youth information centres, projects supporting voluntary youth activity and general youth work services. Youth work is delivered by both paid staff and volunteers, who play a key role in ensuring that young people have opportunities to be active members of their local communities. Youth workers support a range of approaches, which allow young people to engage and help ensure that services are responsive to young people’s needs and circumstances.

The quality of youth work carried out in each ETB area is supported through national quality standards initiatives. (DCYA, 2010; DCYA, 2013). (See section 1.2.5 for further details on quality standards.)



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**“SUPPORT THE PROVISION,
COORDINATION,
ADMINISTRATION AND
ASSESSMENT
OF YOUTH WORK”**

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

1.2 POLICY CONTEXT

1.2.1 Role of Department of Children and Youth Affairs

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed early 2017 between the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI). (DCYA and ETBI, 2017). This sets out, inter alia, the role of DCYA and ETBI as described in this section.

DCYA was established in June 2011 and it is the principal Department to whom ETBs report in relation to their youth work functions. It has a mandate in relation to policy and service provision for children and young people. It comprises a number of interrelated strands, including the direct provision of universal and targeted services, and working to achieve the harmonisation of relevant policy and provision across Government so as to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

The DCYA strategic and operational objectives are informed by the following:

- Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The national policy framework for children and young people, 2014-2020
- National Youth Strategy, 2015 – 2020
- Recommendations of the Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes, 2014 (VfMPR)
- National Strategy on Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-making, 2015-2020
- National Quality Standards Initiatives (National Quality Standards Framework for the Youth Work Sector / National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth groups).
- Directives and circulars pertaining to public accounts procedures and by needs identified by ETBs locally.

1.2.2 Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The national policy framework for children and young people, 2014-2020 (BOBF) is the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people (aged 0-24 years), developed and led by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on behalf of the Government. Almost all policy areas have a direct or indirect effect on children and young people’s lives. The purpose of the framework is to coordinate policy across Government to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. (DCYA, 2014a). It advances the following vision:

“Our vision is to make Ireland the best small country in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.” (p.22).

BOBF identifies five national outcomes areas, namely

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world. (p.22).



**“YOUTH WORK ENHANCES
THE PERSONAL AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF YOUNG PEOPLE”**

1.2.3 National Youth Strategy

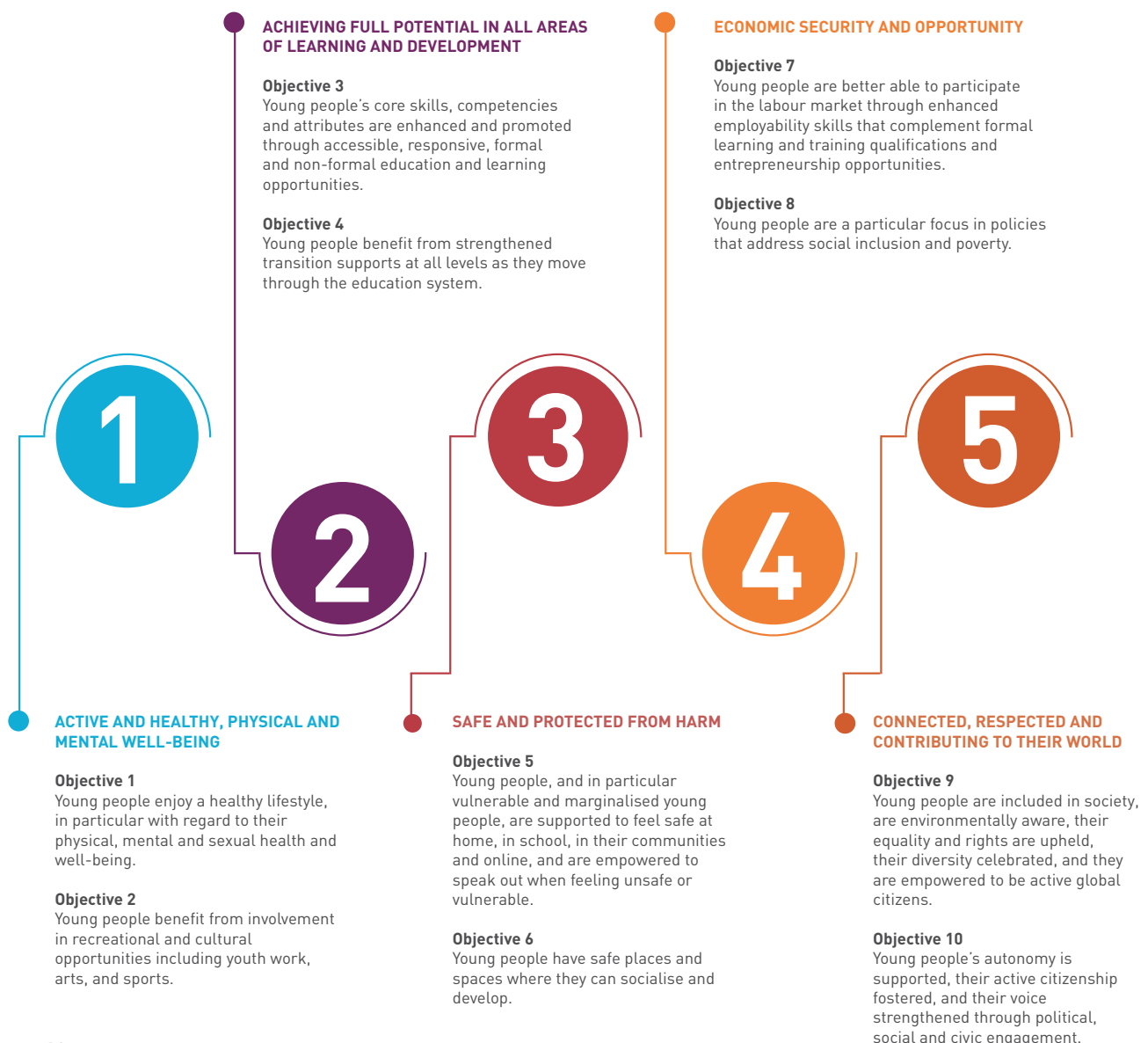
The National Youth Strategy, 2015-2020 has its basis in BOBF and, in particular, its youth-specific commitments. The purpose of the National Youth Strategy is to coordinate policy and services across Government and other stakeholders so as to enable all young people aged 10-24 years to realise their maximum potential (DCYA, 2015a).

The National Youth Strategy is a universal strategy for all young people aged 10 to 24 years, while having particular regard to those young people who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing the poorest outcomes and, therefore, in most need of support (DCYA, 2015a).

The aim of the National Youth Strategy is “to enable all young people to realise their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood.”



Figure 1: Key national policy documents



The strategy identifies some fifty priority actions to be delivered by Government Departments, state agencies and by others, including the voluntary youth services sector, from 2015 to 2017. These actions are designed to address matters that are a high priority for young people themselves. With specific regard to young people, the DCYA works to support and promote non-formal and informal education (youth work) and other developmental opportunities and activities to secure good outcomes for young people. The DCYA administers funding to support the provision of youth services by the voluntary youth sector for these purposes.

Importantly in the context of the ETB Youth Work Plan, the strategy also identifies DCYA-led enabling actions in support of the National Youth Strategy, as follows:

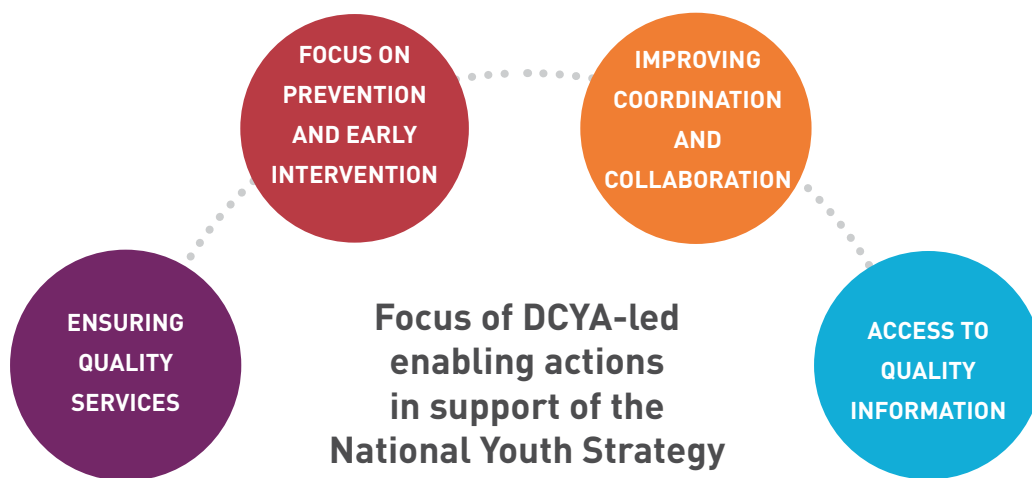


Table 2: Enabling Actions in National Youth Strategy

Some of these areas have a direct relevance in relation to the statutory youth work functions of ETBs. For example, ensuring quality services encompasses the quality standards initiatives for the youth work sector.

1.2.4 Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes

The Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes (VfMPR) (DCYA, 2014b) involved an in-depth scrutiny of three major funding programmes that target disadvantaged young people and are administered by the DCYA. The three schemes that were the subject of the VfMPR are:

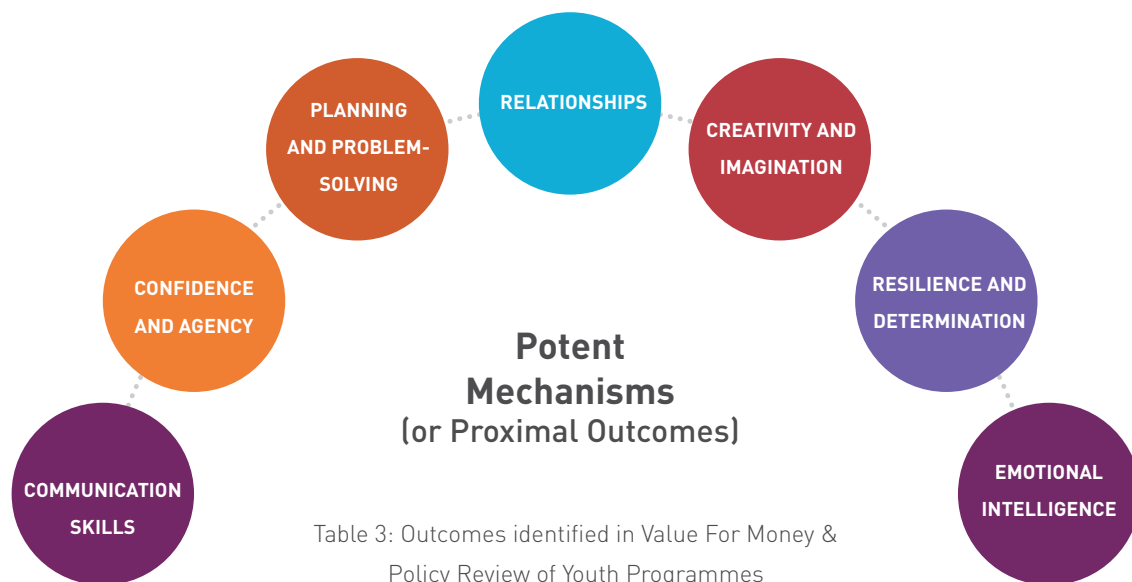
- Special Projects for Youth (SPY)
- Young People’s Facilities and Services Fund 1 and 2
- Local Drugs Task Force Projects.

The review makes recommendations for the future operation of the schemes and in relation to their future development to ensure effective, value for money services that are designed to secure the best outcomes for young people. In particular, it recommends that one targeted scheme should replace the existing three schemes and that this new scheme should be based on evidence of what works and clear objectives to be achieved for young people.

As part of the VfMPR, a focused literature review was commissioned, which identifies seven potent mechanisms, or outcomes, that have relevance to DCYA policy objectives. The review states that:

“In short, these attributes should help young people to be more employable, less likely to engage in problematic drug-taking or alcohol misuse, and less likely to drop out of school and/ or engage in anti-social behaviour.” (p.115).

These potent mechanisms are set out below. Note that, in its work to implement the recommendations of the VfMPPR, DCYA has used the term proximal outcomes in place of potent mechanisms.



The implementation of the recommendations of the VfMPPR has been identified by DCYA and ETBI as a priority area of work in their current MOU. (DCYA and ETBI, 2017). As such, the ETB Youth Work Plan acknowledges the recommendations arising from the review and endeavours to progress relevant actions in line with these recommendations in conjunction with the DCYA and, where appropriate, with ETB Youth Work Committees.

1.2.5 Targeted Youth Funding Scheme

In July 2018, The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Katherine Zappone indicated her intention to introduce the reformed single Targeted Youth Funding Scheme in 2020. Further to recommendations set out in the Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes (2014), four DCYA funding schemes will be collapsed into one single new scheme.

The overall mission of the TYFS is to provide 'out-of-school' supports to young people in their local communities to enable them to overcome adverse circumstances and achieve their full potential by improving their personal and social development outcomes.

In parallel to the aim of the National Youth Strategy, the vision of the TYFS is that all young people are enabled to realise their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

As described in the National Youth Strategy, young people aged between 10 and 24 years old who are experiencing marginalisation or are disadvantaged or vulnerable are the primary target group for projects funded by the TYFS.

The TYFS has two overarching goals, to be achieved through the attainment of specific objectives.

These are:

- To provide young person-centred, community-based and out-of school youth services to young people in need of support
- To ensure that each layer of the governance structure adds value to the direct work with young people. In the context of the TYFS, these layers include DYCA, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and funded organisations.

1.2.6 Quality Standards Initiatives

The DCYA is responsible for facilitating the implementation of Quality Standards Initiatives within the youth sector – the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work (NQS) and National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth groups (NQSFLYG).

According to the DCYA (2010), the NQS is primarily a support and developmental tool for youth work organisations. It enables organisations to assess service provision and to identify areas for development. There is also an external assessment function, carried out by the ETB, which serves to validate the self-assessment process. Services partaking in the NQS process are expected to commit to a process of continuous improvement, through engagement in the standards. All projects and services funded through the following DCYA funding lines are required to participate in the NQS:

- Youth Services Grant Scheme
- Special Projects for Youth
- Youth Information Centres
- Young People's Facilities and Services Fund 1 and 2.

Standards for volunteer-led youth groups (NQSFLYG) were introduced by the DCYA in 2013, with the aim being "to help to improve the quality of programmes and activities for young people and the way in which they are provided". (DCYA, 2013, p.v). Through the standards, young people are encouraged and supported to be centrally involved in aspects of their youth group, in areas such as planning, design and delivery of activities.

National youth organisations have a role in supporting their affiliated youth groups to attain the standards. For non-affiliated youth groups, it is the role of ETBs to support the implementation of the standards. ETBs also provide advice and support in relation to the standards for personnel of national youth organisations where required.

1.2.7 ETB Youth Work Committees

In light of the ETBs' youth work functions as identified in the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013, ETBI has recommended that all ETBs would establish a Youth Work Committee. (ETBI, 2014). In agreeing a standardised approach to the establishment of such committees, Terms of Reference were agreed by ETBI nationally. The Youth Work Committee's role is to make recommendations to the Education and Training Board on the performance of its youth work functions under the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013. The committee brings together members of the ETB itself, along with youth organisations, other state bodies and young people. KCETB established its Youth Work Committee in November 2016 (Please see Appendix A for full terms of reference and Appendix B for list of members of the KCETB Committee.)

1.2.8 Relevant ETB Structures and Strategies

ETB Strategy Statement

Under Section 27 of the ETB Act 2013, the Chief Executive of an ETB is required to prepare and submit a strategy statement to the board for every five-year period. (Government of Ireland, 2013). The KCETB's strategy was approved by the KCETB Board in 2017. The ETB Youth Work Plan forms part of this overall strategy.

Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy

The Further Education and Training Strategy, 2014 -2019 (Solás, 2014) sets out five high-level goals as a roadmap for the FET sector. It is expected that, with the implementation of the Further Education and Training Strategy, the FET sector will be able to respond more effectively to the training needs of young people, thereby delivering better outcomes. Within this and in the context of the ETB Youth Work Plan, there is potential to develop linkages between FET and youth work services.

Second-level Schools

A core element of the work of ETBs is the operation of post-primary schools. Given the complementary nature of youth work in respect of formal education, there is also potential to develop linkages between schools operated by the ETB and youth work services, including for example School Completion Programmes.

1.2.9 Children and Young People's Services Committees

Children and Young People's Services committees (CYPSCs) are established on a county-basis to facilitate an inter-agency approach to meeting the needs of children and young people aged 0-24 years, focussed on the five national outcomes areas identified in BOBF. (DCYA, 2016). CYPSCs bring together representatives of the statutory and community and voluntary sector to provide a forum for joint planning, integrated service delivery and coordination of activity to ensure the delivery of improved and effective services for children, young people and their families.

1.2.10 Other Relevant Initiatives

In addition to national policy and legislation, a number of local area initiatives, plans and services influence the lives of young people and the work of youth service providers and are, therefore, also relevant to this plan. These include:

- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)
- Local youth services' plans
- Local / regional drugs and alcohol strategy
- Local development company strategy.

“TO ENABLE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO REALISE THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL, BY RESPECTING THEIR RIGHTS AND HEARING THEIR VOICES, WHILE PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING THEM AS THEY TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD.”

1.2.11 European Policy Context

In terms of national and international policy provisions, there have been significant developments in the youth work sector at European level which have informed and influenced policy development in Ireland. For example, the European Youth Strategy, 2010-2018, along with the 2008 Council of Europe's Youth Policy Agenda 2020, had an influence on Ireland's Better Outcomes Brighter Futures policy document. Other relevant policy developments at European level include:

- EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering: A renewed open method for coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities
- Europe 2020 Strategy
- Council of Europe Youth Policy Agenda 2020 (2008)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

1.3 STATEMENT OF VISION AND PRINCIPLES

The ETB Youth Work Plan embraces the vision as set out in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures:

“Our vision is to make Ireland the best small country in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.” (DCYA, 2014a, p.22).

The ETB Youth Work Plan subscribes to the following principles, which are central to the National Youth Strategy and its implementation: (DCYA, 2015b, p.iv).

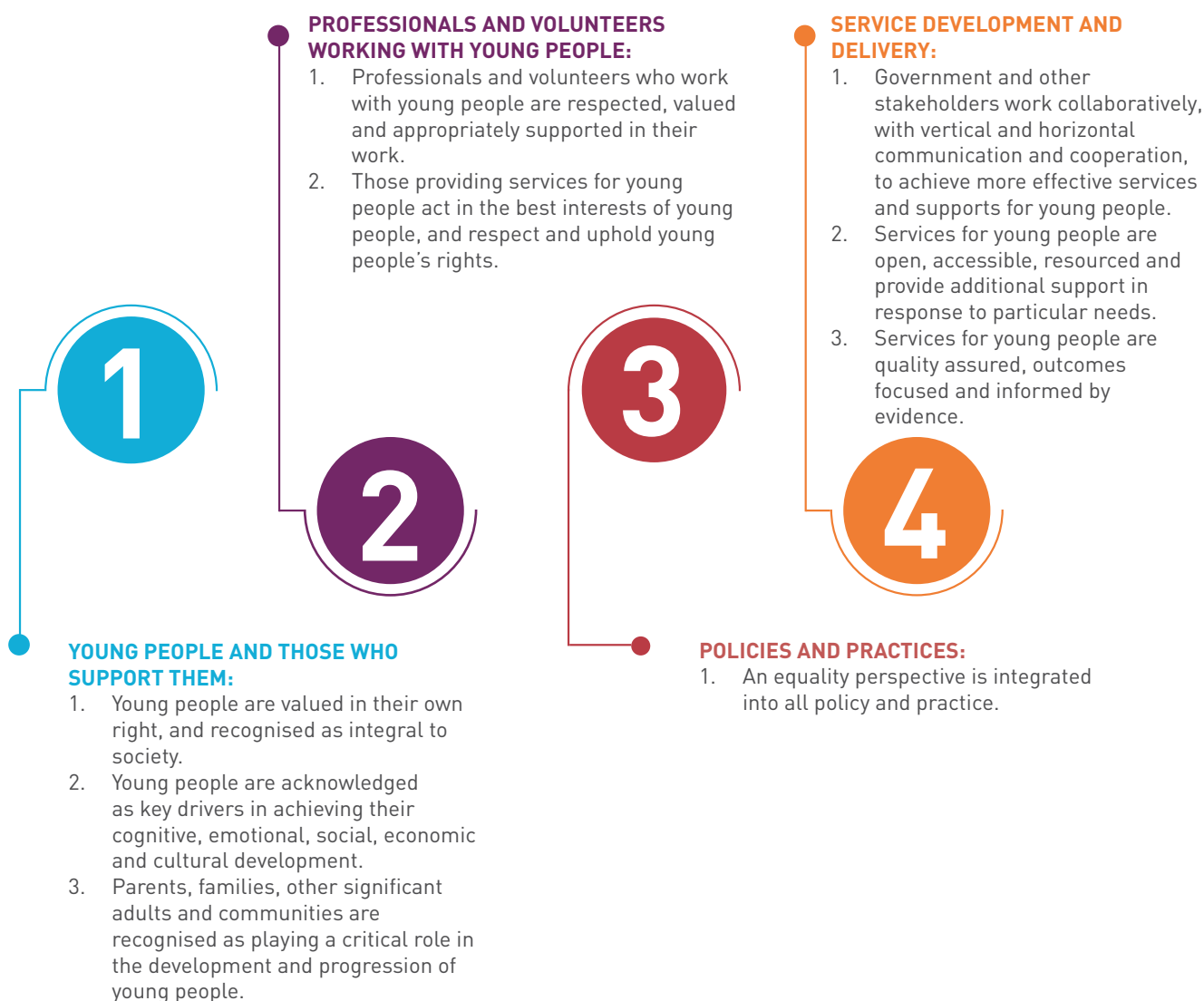
The National Youth Work Development Plan (2003-2007) identified a set of eight principles, which were informed by the results of a comprehensive research and consultation. (DES, 2003). These principles are that the National Youth Work Development Plan should:

1. Uphold the “voluntary dimension” of youth work, in the various senses outlined in Part 2 of this document and as now defined in law, as an integral part of the tradition of youth work and of its distinctive contribution to Irish society.
2. Recognise and uphold the right of young people to participate (in age appropriate levels of responsibility) as full partners in the development and delivery of all aspects of youth work.
3. Promote equality, openness and inclusiveness at all levels and in all areas of youth work.
4. Acknowledge the vital role played by paid youth workers, both in their direct work with young people and their support work with volunteers and organisations.
5. Strive to enhance and support professionalism and the highest standards of quality, efficiency and safety (for both young people and adults) among youth work providers, including organisations, volunteers and paid staff.
6. Learn from, and build on, the many strengths of existing processes, relationships and provision, while also responding flexibly and imaginatively to the changing environment in which youth work is practiced.

7. Acknowledge the right of communities (both local communities and communities of interest or culture) to active participation and involvement in the development and delivery of youth work to meet the needs of their young people.
8. Promote learning by young people through youth work, having regard to, and in a manner complementary with learning undertaken in formal education settings.

The above principles continue to have relevance in the context of the ETB Youth Work Plan and are aligned to the 3 goals of the KCETB Strategy Statement 2017-2021 as follows:

- Improve the learning experience and outcomes for all learners
- Ensure that all our education and training services meet high quality standards
- Strengthen our links with the wider community





Section 2

Methodology

The broad parameters of the ETB Youth Work Plan were agreed through the structures of ETBI, with the plan localised according to the context of KCETB. In line with its terms of reference, the KCETB Youth Work Committee provided input into the preparation of the KCETB Youth Work Overview 2018.

Research Methodology

Research was carried out to inform a needs analysis for the purposes of formulating the plan. Overall, 304 people were consulted as part of the needs analysis research. Of these, 97 were adults and 207 were young people.

Primary research:

97 adults from the youth and community sector in Carlow and Kilkenny were consulted using the following research methods:

- CEOs of youth services in Carlow and Kilkenny (CRYSS, Ossory Youth and Foróige) were consulted through one-to-one interviews
- 12 members of Kilkenny and Carlow Youth Work Committee were consulted through a stakeholder consultation workshop
- 10 members of statutory and other organisations working with young people in Kilkenny were consulted through a focus group
- 25 members of statutory organisations/other organisations working with young people in Carlow were consulted through a stakeholder consultation workshop
- 22 youth workers from youth services in Carlow and Kilkenny were consulted through a stakeholder consultation workshop
- 25 volunteers from voluntary youth services in Carlow and Kilkenny were consulted through an online/hardcopy survey

Refer to Appendix C for a list of organisations consulted as part of the needs analysis research.

As part of the needs analysis research, 207 young people were consulted as part of the needs analysis research. This included:

- 140 young people who were consulted through an online/hardcopy survey
- 50 young people from targeted groups who were consulted through focus groups
- 17 young people from Carlow Comhairle na nÓg and Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg were consulted through two separate consultation workshops
- 50 young people aged 12 – 25 years were consulted through 7 focus groups. Focus groups were conducted with young people from the following targeted groups:
 - Kilkenny Youthreach
 - Carlow Youthreach
 - MUI LGBT group in Carlow Regional Youth Services
 - Young people with physical and intellectual disabilities from the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) in Carlow
 - Young Travellers from Kilkenny
 - Young Travellers from Carlow
 - Young people from Headhackers mental health support group in Ossory Youth Kilkenny



Secondary research:

A review of all relevant statistical data, previous research, reports, policies, strategies and plans was conducted as part of the socio-demographic profile (see bibliography for details).

Data analysis

A descriptive analysis took place on the quantitative data and appropriate methods for summarising information and displaying data were employed depending on the nature of the data. Qualitative data was digitally recorded, transcribed and analysed according to the key emerging themes.

Ethical considerations

All due consideration was given to ethical issues arising at every stage of the research process. However, the main ethical issues which were addressed in this research were:

- child protection and well-being;
- informed consent;
- confidentiality and anonymity; and
- record keeping including data protection and security.

The research was conducted in accordance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2011). In terms of consent, informed written parental/guardian consent was sought for young people under 18 years of age participating in the research. Informed written assent was also sought from young people themselves. No personal information was collected on the young people involved in the research and data was stored in a safe and secure manner.

Report structure

Socio-demographic data for Kilkenny and Carlow are presented in Section 3 and, in Section 4, youth work provision in Kilkenny and Carlow is outlined. Section 5 presents relevant emerging needs and trends, which have been distilled as shown in the Figure 2 below.

Priority Youth Work (and related) areas are identified in Section 6 and Section 7 provides a summary of how the Plan will be implemented and monitored from the KCETB perspective.



Figure 2: Process of needs analysis



BOBF VISION: WHERE THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RESPECTED, PROTECTED AND FULFILLED; WHERE THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD AND WHERE THEY ARE SUPPORTED TO REALISE THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL NOW AND IN THE FUTURE







Section 3

Socio-demographic Profile

Introduction

This section draws on the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census of the Population data from 2011 and 2016 census of the population, and other sources to provide a Socio-Demographic Profile of Kilkenny and Carlow. It focuses on providing an overall view of the area for which Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is responsible, paying particular attention to the population of 10 – 24 years.

Demographic profile of young people

In 2016, the total population of Carlow was 56,875. This was an increase of 4.1% from a population of 54,612 in 2011. In 2016, the total population of Kilkenny was 99,118. This was an increase of 3.9% from a population of 95,419 in 2011. There are 11,145 young people aged 10-24 years living in Carlow and 18,264 young people aged 10 – 24 years living in Kilkenny.

The tables below highlight the numbers of young people in each county in both 2011 and 2016, as well as percentage increases in the population.

COUNTY CARLOW

Age	2011	2016	% Increase/decrease
0-4 Years	4,345	4,056	-6.7%
5-9 Years	4,101	4,420	+7.8%
10-14 Years	3,703	4,135	+11.7%
15-19 Years	3,390	3,686	+8.7%
20-24 Years	3,616	3,324	+8.1%
Total number of young people 0-24 years	19,155	19,621	+2.4%
Total number of young people 10-24 years	10,709	11,145	+4%

Table 5: Number of children and young people in Carlow by age and % increase from 2011 to 2016

COUNTY KILKENNY

Age	2011	2016	% Increase/decrease
0-4 Years	7,501	7,112	-5.2%
5-9 Years	6,925	7,601	+9.8%
10-14 Years	6,774	7,053	+4.1%
15-19 Years	6,080	6,548	+7.7%
20-24 Years	5,182	4,663	-10%
Total number of young people 0-24 years	32,462	32,977	+1.5%
Total number of young people 10-24 years	18,036	18,264	+1.2%

Table 6: Number of children and young people in Kilkenny by age and % increase from 2011 to 2016



The number of young people in both counties increased from 2011 to 2016, to a greater degree in Carlow which saw a 4% rise in young people aged 10-24 years during that period. The 2016 Census indicates the population of young adults aged 19-24 years fell by 7.4% in Kilkenny in the last five years. According to the CSO, internal migration among this young, mainly student, population would contribute to these changes. Tables 7 and 8 below outline the age of children and young people by settlement in Carlow and Kilkenny in 2016.

Settlement	0 – 14 years	15 – 24 years	Total
Bagenalstown	578	311	889
Ballinabrannagh	155	47	202
Ballon	219	73	292
Borris	106	58	164
Carlow	5,504	3,275	8,779
Clonegal	66	25	91
Fennagh	106	52	158
Hacketstown	132	78	210
Kernanstown	31	18	49
Kildavin	35	22	57
Leighlinbridge	201	88	289
Myshall	83	19	102
Palatine	122	41	163
Rathoe	120	35	155
Rathvilly	242	110	352
Tinryland	76	56	132
Tullow	1,189	506	1,695

Table 7: Age of children and young people by Settlement in Carlow, 2016



**“THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN
KILKENNY AND CARLOW INCREASED
FROM 2011 TO 2016”**

Settlement	0 – 14 years	15 – 24 years	Total
Ballyhale	42	12	54
Ballyragget	232	104	336
Bennettsbridge	151	61	212
Callan	590	258	848
Castlecomer-Donaguile	291	180	471
Clogh-Chatsworth	61	49	110
Goresbridge	68	35	103
Gowran	180	81	261
Graiguenamanagh Tinnahinch	270	164	434
Fiddown	114	27	141
Freshford	89	84	173
Inistioge	55	19	74
Johnstown	79	60	139
Kells	69	34	103
Kilkenny	5,358	2,980	8,338
Kilmacow	117	59	176
Kilmoganny	49	18	67
Knocktopher	37	12	49
Lawcus-Stoneyford	111	40	151
Moneenroe	142	95	237
Mooncoin	263	113	376
Mullinavat	33	26	59
Paulstown	264	88	352
Piltown	341	109	450
Thomastown	582	235	817
Urlingford	264	125	389

Table 8: Age of children and young people by settlement in Kilkenny, 2016

Future population trends

The CSO forecasts Regional Population Projections for 2016-2031 based on the 2011 census. The assumptions used are based on regional fertility, mortality trends and external migration from and to each region which are consistent with those used at national level. The population of the South-East region is projected to grow slowly by 0.5% and births are predicted to decline by approximately 25% in the South-East.

According to the CSO, the number of young persons (i.e. those aged 0-14 years) in Ireland is projected to increase steadily up to 2021 before falling again from 2026 and showing a decrease of 9% over the twenty-year period. The South-East region is predicted to have the highest total dependency ratio in 2031, at 63.6% while the Dublin region (47.7%) will have the lowest.

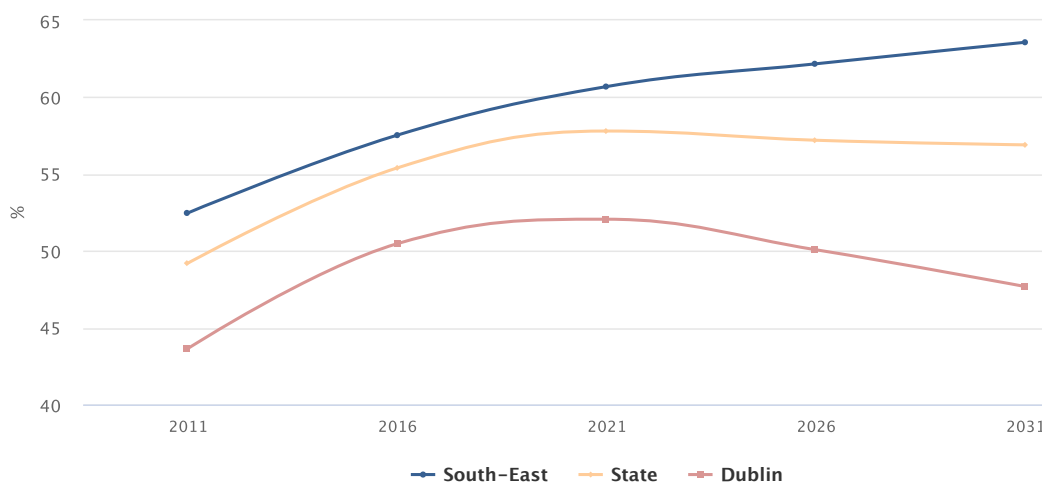


Figure 3: Projected total dependency ratios, 2011 to 2031 (M2F2 Traditional)
Source: CSO Ireland

Location of Carlow and Kilkenny

Carlow

County Carlow is an inland County, located in the South East Region, in the province of Leinster, and is bordered by Counties Wicklow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois and Kildare. The County is 943sq.km .in area. The principal towns in County Carlow are: Carlow, Tullow, Muinebheag, Hacketstown and Borris. The remainder of the population live in towns and villages such as Ballon, Kildavin, Nurney, Rathvilly, Tinryland, Old Leighlin, Leighlinbridge, Myshall, Ardattin and other surrounding villages and countryside throughout the county.



Figure 4: Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in Carlow

The population in an Aggregate Town Area is defined as those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. A town with a legally defined boundary is classified on the basis of its total population including any suburbs or environs. The Aggregate Town Area of Carlow in 2016 was 28,004, which represents a 4.8 percentage change from the 2011 census. The population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Rural Area. The Aggregate Rural Area of Carlow in 2016 was 28,928 which was a 3.7 percentage change from the last census.

Carlow	2016
Aggregate Town Area	
Population (Number)	28,004
Actual change since previous census (Number)	1,285
Percentage change since 2011 (%)	4.8
Aggregate Rural Area	
Population (Number)	28,928
Actual change since previous census (Number)	1,035
Percentage change since 2011 (%)	3.7

Table 9: Population and Actual and Percentage Change 2011 to 2016 for Carlow Aggregate Town and Rural Areas

Kilkenny

Kilkenny is located in the South East Region, in the province of Leinster, and is bordered by Counties Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Laois and Tipperary. The County is 2073sq. km in area, the county contains the city of Kilkenny, located at the centre of the county. The principal towns in Kilkenny are Ballyragget and Castlecomer to the north of the county and Graigueenamanagh, Mooncoin, Callan and Thomastown to the south.

The remainder of the population live in towns and villages such as Ballyhale, Bennettsbridge, Ferrybank, Freshford, Goresbridge, Gowran, Inistioge, Jenkinstown, Johnstown, Johnswell, Kilmacow, Mullinavat, Paulstown, Piltown, Slieverue, Stoneyford, Urlingford, Windgap and other surrounding villages and countryside throughout the county.

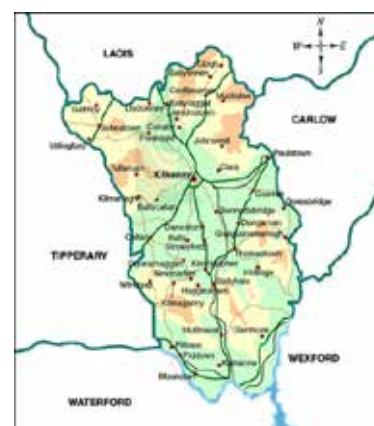


Figure 5: Map of Kilkenny

Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in Kilkenny

The Aggregate Town Area of Kilkenny, i.e. persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants, in 2016 was 38,438, which represents a percentage change of 8.8 from the 2011 census. The population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants, i.e. the Aggregate Rural Area in Kilkenny was 60,794. This represented a 1.2 percentage change from the last census.

Kilkenny	2016
Both sexes	
Aggregate Town Area	
Population (Number)	38,438
Actual change since previous census (Number)	3,109
Percentage change since previous census (%)	8.8
Aggregate Rural Area	
Population (Number)	60,794
Actual change since previous census (Number)	704
Percentage change since previous census (%)	1.2

Table 10: Population and Actual and Percentage Change 2011 to 2016
for Kilkenny Aggregate Town & Rural Areas

Pobal HP Deprivation Indices

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index (Haase and Pratschke, 2016) comprises successive deprivation indices based on the Census of Population, 1991-2016. This HP Index rates small areas as ranking either extremely affluent, very affluent, affluent, marginally above average, marginally below average, disadvantaged, very disadvantaged and extremely disadvantaged. Scoring is given to an area based on national average of zero and ranging from approximately -35 (most disadvantaged) to +35 (most affluent).

Carlow

The Absolute HP Index score for Ireland in 2016 was -3.6. Overall, the South-East Region is the second most disadvantaged region in Ireland with an Absolute HP Index score of -7.3 and a Relative HP Index Score of -3.7 in 2016. There exists a degree of variation within the county, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes with regard to affluence or deprivation. Of the 54 EDs in Carlow most (39) are marginally above average while 12 are marginally below average. The most affluent areas are the wider peripheries around its urban centres, Carlow Town and Tullow, but excluding the towns themselves and their immediate environs. At a local level, there are two EDs that fall into the 'disadvantaged' category. The table below highlights the areas that obtained the lowest scores and therefore ranked the most disadvantaged in Carlow

Geographical area	Relative HP Index Score 2016	Level of Disadvantage
Graigue Urban	-9.0	Marginally Below Average
Hacketstown	-10.6	Disadvantaged
Rathvilly	-9.7	Marginally Below Average
Carlow Urban	-7.6	Marginally Below Average
Bagenalstown Urban	-10.1	Disadvantaged
Tullow	-7.4	Marginally Below Average

Table 11: Level of disadvantage by geographical area in Carlow, 2016

Areas in Carlow classified as disadvantaged and marginally below average and where there are a high population of children and young people include Carlow Town, Bagenalstown and Tullow.

Kilkenny

Kilkenny is the most affluent local authority area within the south east with an Absolute HP Index Score of -4.4 and a Relative HP Index Score of -.3 in 2016. Similarity to Carlow, there exists a degree of variation within the county, but overall the county is not characterised by particular extremes with regard to affluence or deprivation. Of the 113 EDs in Co. Kilkenny, 55 are marginally above average while 56 are marginally below average. The generally more affluent areas are the wider peripheries around Kilkenny City, but excluding the City itself or its immediate environs. The EDs that scored the lowest are highlighted in the table below and therefore ranked the most disadvantaged in Kilkenny.

Geographical area	Relative HP Index Score 2016	Level of Disadvantage
Urlingford	-12.4	Marginally Below Average
Johnstown	-12	Disadvantaged
Freshford	-7.9	Marginally Below Average
Graiguenamanagh	-9.3	Marginally Below Average
Goresbridge	-8.6	Disadvantaged
Clogh	-8.3	Marginally Below Average

Table 12: Level of disadvantage by geographical area and year in Kilkenny

Geographical areas in Kilkenny that are classified as disadvantaged or marginally below average and where there are a high population of children and young people include Graiguenamanagh and Urlingford.

Educational attainment

A strong link exists between educational attainment and earning capacity. Therefore, the level of educational disadvantage in an area may be regarded as an indicator for social and/or economic deprivation. Early school leaving is also an indicator of poverty and social exclusion. The numbers with primary level education only in each county in comparison with nationally are listed in the table below.

	2006	2011	2016
State	18.9	16	13.3
Carlow	20.1	17.4	14.7
Kilkenny	18.4	15.1	13


Table 13: Percentage of population aged 15 and over with primary level education only

Age education ceased

As can be seen from table 14 below, the average age education ceased in Carlow in 2016 was 19.5 years up from 18.8 years in 2011. In Kilkenny the average age education ceased was aged 19.6 years in 2016 up from 18.8 years in 2011. The average age education ceased is slightly lower in Carlow and Kilkenny compared with the state average.

County/City	Statistical indicator	2011	2016
State	Average Age Education Ceased	19.1	19.9
Carlow	Average Age Education Ceased	18.8	19.5
Kilkenny	Average Age Education Ceased	18.8	19.6

Table 14: Average Age Education Ceased of Population Aged 15 Years and Over



**A STRONG LINK EXISTS
BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT AND EARNING
CAPACITY.**

Absenteeism

In terms of absenteeism, Túsła school attendance data Túsła (2016) shows county Carlow has higher percentages of primary school students being absent for 20 days or more compared to the national average. By contrast, Kilkenny recorded lower rates of 20-days absences than the national average. At secondary school level, the mean percentage of student/days lost in Carlow was 7.8% and 8.1% in Kilkenny.

Early school leavers

According to the Department of Education (2016), Kilkenny County Council local authority area has the lowest rates of early school leaving in the country at 1.5%. Conversely, Carlow County Council local authority area has the third highest national rates of early school at 3.4%. In addition, of students who sat their Leaving Cert in either 2015 or 2016, Carlow had the lowest retention rate of 86%. With regard to school attendance figures, data from Tusla Education Welfare Services show that the rate of school completion to the end of second level is lower in Carlow than the state average.

Figures from Carlow Youthreach show there were 25 young people attending the centre in December 2017. Of these, 20 (80%) were male and five (20%) were female. Young people attending Youthreach in Carlow ranged in age from 16 – 20 years. The majority (76%) of young people attending Youthreach in Carlow were from Carlow Town with the largest number from the Pollerton area. The next most common area attendees were from was Athy/Castledermot (12%), followed by Tullow (4%), Leighlinbridge (4%) and Kilkenny (4%).

There were 25 young people attending Youthreach in Kilkenny in 2018. Of these, 55% were females and 45% were males. Young people attending Youthreach in Kilkenny range in age from 15 – 20 years and the average age is 17 years. Approximately 50% of young people attending the centre are from Kilkenny city and 25% are from rural towns such as Thomastown, Callan and Castlecomer and 25% are from rural countryside locations.

Age education ceased

Table 15 below outlines the population aged 15 years and over in Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally by age education ceased (2016). Both Carlow and Kilkenny have a lower rate than the national average for population ceasing education aged 15 and under 15 years. Overall, 11.4% of the population of Carlow ceased education aged 18 years which is slightly less than the national average of 11.6% and 12.7% of the population of Kilkenny ceased education at the age of 18. Carlow (4.6%) and Kilkenny (4.5%) have a higher rate than the national average for those who ceased education at the age of 19 which is 3.9%. Carlow has a lower rate of the population that ceased education aged 20 or 21 and over compared to the national average and Kilkenny has a higher rate.

Age	Carlow	Kilkenny	Nationally
Under 15 years	637 (4.3%)	879 (5%)	184,266 (6%)
15	518 (3.5%)	640 (3.7%)	124,642 (4%)
16	949 (6.5%)	1,276 (7.3%)	226,150 (7.3%)
17	887 (6%)	1,152 (6.6%)	217,663 (7%)
18	1,663 (11.4%)	2,220 (12.7%)	358,642 (11.6%)
19	676 (4.6%)	794 (4.5%)	122,278 (3.9%)
20	536 (3.7%)	743 (4.2%)	117,591 (3.8%)
21 and over	3,100 (21.2%)	4,793 (27.3%)	757,567 (24.5%)
Not stated	5,679 (38.8%)	5,040 (28.7%)	988,253 (31.9%)
Total	14,645 (100%)	17,537 (100%)	3,097,052 (100%)

Table 15: Population aged 15 years and over in Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally by age education ceased (2016)

Highest level of education completed

Table 16 below details the population of Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally aged 15 years and over by highest level of education completed according to the 2016 Census. As can be seen below, 2.1% of the population of Carlow has no formal education which is above the national average of 1.7%. Kilkenny is just below the national average of the population with no formal education at 1.6%. Carlow (9.1%) and Kilkenny (9.3%) are below the national average rate of 10.8% with regard to the number of the population for whom primary education is the highest level of education completed. In relation to degree level education, Kilkenny is above the national average for both ordinary and honours Bachelor's degrees being the highest level of education completed while Carlow is below the national average for both.

Educational level	Carlow	Kilkenny	National
No Formal Education	310 (2.1%)	272 (1.6%)	52,214 (1.7%)
Primary Education	1,337 (9.1%)	1,630 (9.3%)	334,284 (10.8%)
Lower Secondary	2,201 (15%)	2,488 (14.2%)	449,766 (14.5%)
Upper Secondary	2,760 (18.9%)	3,286 (18.7%)	573,643 (18.5%)
Technical or Vocational qualification	1,492 (10.2%)	1,621 (9.2%)	271,532 (8.8%)
Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship	928 (6.3%)	1,029 (5.9%)	182,318 (5.9%)
Higher Certificate	793 (5.4%)	936 (5.3%)	153,351 (4.9%)
Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma	955 (6.5%)	1,455 (8.3%)	237,117 (7.7%)
Honours Bachelor Degree, Professional qualification or both	1,319 (9%)	2,088 (11.9%)	331,293 (10.7%)
Postgraduate Diploma or Degree	932 (6.4%)	1,676 (9.6%)	284,107 (9.2%)
Doctorate(Ph.D) or higher	88 (0.6%)	108 (0.6%)	28,759 (0.9%)
Not stated	1,530 (10.5%)	948 (5.4%)	198,668 (6.4%)
Total	14,645 (100%)	17,537 (100%)	3,097,052 (100%)

Table 16: Population of Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally aged 15 years and over by highest level of education completed (2016)

Third level education

The numbers with third level education in each county in comparison with national averages are listed in table 17 below. Carlow at 36.1% is further below the national average of 42% of the population aged 15 years and over with third level education and lower than Kilkenny at 39.7%.

	2006	2011	2016
Nationally	30.5	30.6	42
Carlow	24.3	24.3	36.1
Kilkenny	26.4	26.8	39.7

Table 17: Percentage of population aged 15 and over with third level education

Despite considerable improvements at county level, there remains several EDS where considerable parts of the adult population in both counties have primary education only. The table below highlights these areas:

Carlow	2016	Kilkenny	2016
Rathornan	24.5	Goresbridge	24.1
Coonogue	23.6	Freshford	21.8
Ridge	22.7	Castlegannon	20.5
Glynn	22.4	Graiguenamanagh	19.6
Clonmore	21.1	Urlingford	19.4

Table 18: EDs in Carlow and Kilkenny with highest levels of primary education only 2016

Mirroring the situation with regard to the higher incidences of low levels of education, there are particularly low shares of population with third level education in the areas listed in the table below.

Carlow	2016
Hacketstown	17.9
Graigue Urban	18.2
Tullow Urban	19.3
Rathvilly	19.4
Bagenalstown Urban	19.5

Kilkenny	2016
Clogh	18.3
Urlingford	18.9
Freshford	19.1
Goresbridge	19.7
Johnstown	20.2
Moneenroe	21.4

Table 19: EDs Carlow and Kilkenny with lowest level of people with a third level education 2016



Young people with disabilities

According to the CSO (2016), there are 1,514 children and young people aged 0 – 24 years in Carlow with a disability. Of children and young people with disabilities in Carlow, 797 (52.6%) are aged 0 - 14 years, 396 (26.2%) are aged 15 - 19 years and 321 (21.2%) are aged 20 - 24 years. Table 20 below lists the numbers and percentages of children and young people in Carlow with a disability in 2016. The most common disability type was difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating with almost half (49.3%) of the population with a disability citing this. The next most common disability type was other disability, including chronic illness (29.9%), followed by difficulty in participating in other activities (29.7%), difficulty in working or attending school/college (29%), an intellectual disability (27%), psychological or emotional condition (24.6%), difficulty in going outside home alone (24.6%), difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home (18.1%), a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities (15.7%), blindness or a serious vision impairment (5.4%) and deafness or a serious hearing impairment (5.1%).

Disability Type	Number (%)*
Total number of children and young people with a disability	1,514 (100%)
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	746 (49.3%)
Other disability, including chronic illness	452 (29.9%)
Difficulty in participating in other activities	450 (29.7%)
Difficulty in working or attending school/college	439 (29%)
An intellectual disability	409 (27%)
Psychological or emotional condition	373 (24.6%)
Difficulty in going outside home alone	372 (24.6%)
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	274 (18.1%)
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	238 (15.7%)
Blindness or a serious vision impairment	82 (5.4%)
Deafness or a serious hearing impairment	77 (5.1%)
Moneenroe	21.4

*Please note that as some children/young people have more than one type of disability, percentages add up to more than 100%

Table 20: Children and young people with a disability by disability type in Carlow (2016)

Children and young people with a disability in Kilkenny

According to the CSO (2016), there are 2,182 children and young people aged 0 – 24 years in Kilkenny with a disability. Of children and young people with disabilities in Kilkenny, 1,137 (52.1%) are aged 0 - 14 years, 627 (28.7%) are aged 15 - 19 years and 418 (19.2%) are aged 20 - 24 years. The most frequently identified type of disability in Kilkenny among children and young people aged 0 –24 years was difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating with almost half (48.5%) of those with a disability in this category. The next most common type of disability among children and young people was difficulty in participating in other activities (30.5%), followed by other disability, including chronic illness (30.1%), difficulty in working or attending school/college (29.8%), an intellectual disability (29.6%), difficulty in going outside home alone (26%), psychological or emotional condition (24.2%), difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home, (19.6%), a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities (15.7%), deafness or a serious hearing impairment (6.2%) and blindness or a serious vision impairment (6%).

Disability Type	Number (%)*
Total number of children and young people with a disability	2,182 (100%)
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	1,059 (48.5%)
Difficulty in participating in other activities	665 (30.5%)
Other disability, including chronic illness	656 (30.1%)
Difficulty in working or attending school/college	650 (29.8%)
An intellectual disability	646 (29.6%)
Difficulty in going outside home alone	567 (26%)
Psychological or emotional condition	529 (24.2%)
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	427 (19.6%)
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	343 (15.7%)
Deafness or a serious hearing impairment	136 (6.2%)
Blindness or a serious vision impairment	130 (6%)
Moneenroe	21.4

*Please note that as some children/young people have more than one type of disability, percentages add up to more than 100%

Table 21: Children and young people with a disability by disability type in Kilkenny (2016)

Cultural background, including ethnic background and Traveller community Carlow

As can be seen in table 22 below, the majority of the resident population in Carlow are of White Irish ethnicity or cultural background (84.2%), followed by other white (9.2%), Asian or Asian Irish (1.3%), other (1.2%), Black or Black Irish (1%) and White Irish Traveller (0.9%). Carlow has a higher proportion of population amongst the 'White Irish' category of ethnicity than the State, and a lower proportion of all other ethnic groups, with the exception of Travellers. In Carlow, Travellers account for a slightly higher percentage of the population in comparison with the State average.

Ethnic or Cultural Background	Persons	%
White Irish	47,527	84.2%
White Irish Traveller	511	0.9%
Other White	5,192	9.2%
Black or Black Irish	590	1%
Asian or Asian Irish	721	1.3%
Other	690	1.2%
Not stated	1,245	2.2%
Total	56,476	100%

Table 22: Usually resident population of Carlow by ethnic or cultural background, 2016

Ethnic or cultural background of young people

Table 23 below outlines the population of young people aged 10 – 24 years in Carlow by ethnic or cultural background and age category. The most common ethnic or cultural background was White Irish with 83.2% of the population in this category. The next most common ethnic or cultural background was any other White background (8.1%) followed by White Irish Traveller (1.6%), Other including mixed background (1.5%), Black or Black Irish – African (1.3%), Asian or Asian Irish – any other Asian background (1.3%), Asian or Asian Irish – Chinese (0.8%) and Black or Black Irish – any other Black background (0.2%).

Ethnic or cultural background	10 – 14 years	15 – 19 years	Total
White Irish	3467	3099	9143 (83.2%)
White Irish Traveller	69	60	171 (1.6%)
Any other White background	324	262	890 (8.1%)
Black or Black Irish - African	62	42	140 (1.3%)
Black or Black Irish - any other Black background	7	4	20 (0.2%)
Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	13	11	90 (0.8%)
Asian or Asian Irish - any other Asian background	48	49	148 (1.3%)
Other including mixed background	70	58	171 (1.5%)
Not stated	78	71	218 (2%)
All ethnic and cultural backgrounds	4138	3656	10991 (100%)

Table 23: Population aged 10 – 24 years usually resident in Carlow by ethnic/cultural background & age category, 2016

Refugees

In 2009 13 Rohingya families (a total of 64 individuals) were resettled in Carlow town as part of a resettlement programme brokered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A total of 80 Syrian refugees are due to be resettled in Carlow in 2018 as part of the Irish government's agreement to resettle 4,000 Syrians under the EU relocation programme, some of which will be comprehended by our understanding of the term young people.

Kilkenny

The majority of the total resident population in Kilkenny are of White Irish ethnicity or cultural background (87.8%), followed by other white (7.4%), Asian or Asian Irish (1%), other (1.2%), Black or Black Irish (0.7%) and White Irish Traveller (0.6%) (see table 24 below).

Ethnic or Cultural Background	Persons	%
White Irish	86,176	87.8%
White Irish Traveller	557	0.6%
Other White	7,271	7.4%
Black or Black Irish	730	0.7%
Asian or Asian Irish	979	1%
Other	935	1%
Not stated	1,477	1.5%
Total	98,125	100%

Table 24: Usually resident population of Kilkenny by ethnic or cultural background, 2016

Ethnic or cultural background of young people

Almost nine out of ten (88.1%) young people aged 10 – 24 years in Kilkenny can be classified as White Irish in terms of ethnic or cultural background. The next most common ethnic or cultural background was any other White background (6%) followed by Black or Black Irish – African (1.2%), Other including mixed background (1.2%), White Irish Traveller (1%), Asian or Asian Irish - any other Asian background (0.8%), Black or Black Irish - any other Black background (0.3%) and Asian or Asian Irish – Chinese (0.1%).



Ethnic or cultural background	10 – 14 years	15 – 19 years	20 – 24 years	Total
White Irish	6,105	5,762	4,201	16,068 (88.1%)
White Irish Traveller	59	60	60	179 (1%)
Any other White background	383	390	325	1,098 (6%)
Black or Black Irish - African	116	70	41	227 (1.2%)
Black or Black Irish - any other Black background	5	5	2	12 (0.1%)
Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	10	4	3	17 (0.1%)
Asian or Asian Irish - any other Asian background	72	63	30	165 (1%)
Other including mixed background	107	72	55	234 (1.3%)
Not stated	87	80	67	234 (1.3%)
All ethnic and cultural backgrounds	6,944	6,506	4,784	18,234 (100%)

Table 25: Population aged 10 – 24 years usually resident in Kilkenny by ethnic/cultural background & age category, 2016

Irish Travellers

According to the 2016 census, there are 557 Irish Travellers living in Kilkenny. Of these, 179 are aged 10 – 24 years. The number of members of the traveller community in Kilkenny city has increased by over 12% in Kilkenny and by over 13% in Kilkenny city from 2011 to 2016. The number of Traveller families living in Kilkenny City environs is approximately 66. Approximately 47% of all Travellers in Kilkenny are residing in Kilkenny City.

Refugees

Approximately 25 to 30 Syrian families are due to be resettled in Kilkenny in 2018 under the EU relocation programmes, some of which will be comprehended by our understanding of the term young people. According to Kilkenny County Council, the areas being considered for the first 18 families are Piltown, Urlingford Callan, Rosbercon, Graiguenamanagh and Ferrybank. Additional locations being considered for the remaining families include Thomastown, Castlecomer and Kilkenny.

Unemployment rate in Carlow and Kilkenny

The unemployment rate in Carlow in 2016 was 17% which is higher than the national average of 12.9% and the third highest in the country. This amounted to 4,507 people unemployed in Carlow in 2016. However, the Live Register in Carlow has fallen by 17.8% between 2016 and 2017. The unemployment rate for Kilkenny in 2016 was 12.7% which is slightly lower than the national average. This amounted to 6,044 people unemployed in Kilkenny in 2016.

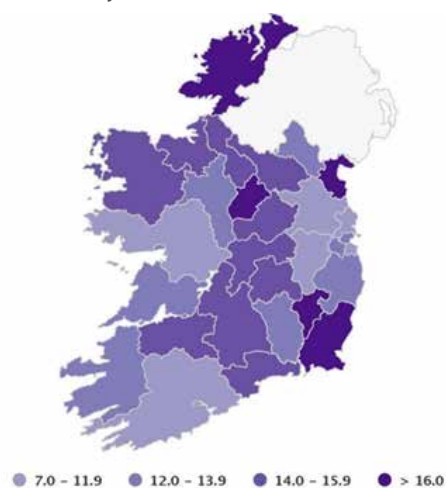


Figure 6: Unemployment rate by county, 2016

Unemployment blackspots

The 2016 census identified one unemployment blackspot in Kilkenny, which was Urlingford, where there is an unemployment rate of 27.5%. Unemployment blackspots are defined as Electoral Districts with at least 200 people in the labour force and an unemployment rate of 27% or higher. There were no unemployment blackspots identified in Carlow.

Youth unemployment

In Ireland, the youth unemployment rate, i.e. the number of unemployed 15 to 24-year olds expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force, peaked at approximately 31% in the second quarter of 2012 but has declined continually since then reaching 12.3% in May 2016. The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate for young people aged 15 – 24 years in February 2018 was 13.2%.

Youth unemployment Carlow

There were a total of 518 young people under 25 years on the Live Register in Carlow in February 2018 (see Table 26 below). This accounts for 7.4% of the total population of young people aged 15-24 years in Carlow. In terms of gender, 57.3% of young people on the Live register in Carlow in February 2018 were male and 42.7% were female. The highest concentration of young people under 25 years on the Live Register (68.3%) attended the Social Welfare Office in Carlow town, followed by Bagenalstown (16.2%) and Tullow (15.4%).

Social Welfare Office	Males	Females	Total
Bagenalstown	49	35	84 (16.2%)
Carlow	206	148	354 (68.3%)
Tullow	42	38	80 (15.4%)
Total	297 (57.3%)	221 (42.7%)	518 (100%)

Table 26: Young people under 25 years on the Live register in Carlow in February 2018

Youth unemployment Kilkenny

In February 2018, there were a total of 395 young people under 25 years on the Live Register in Kilkenny. This accounts for 3.5% of the total population of young people aged 15-24 years in Kilkenny. As regards gender, almost six out of ten (59.7%) young people on the Live Register were male and 42.3% were female. Over eight out of ten attended the Social Welfare Office in Kilkenny and 17.5% attended the Social Welfare Office in Thomastown.

Social Welfare Office	Males	Females	Total
Kilkenny	195	131	326 (82.5%)
Thomastown	41	28	69 (17.5%)
Total	236 (59.7%)	159 (42.3%)	395(100%)

Table 27: Young people under 25 years on the Live register in Kilkenny in February 2018

Young people and mental health

The Hospital In-Patient Enquiry System (HIPE) (www.hpo.ie) records hospital discharges and are published by the county of residence of the patient. Mental and behavioural discharges according to HIPE include: disorders due to substance use (drugs and alcohol), mood disorders and behavioural and emotional disorders occurring in childhood and adolescence.

Carlow

In 2016, there were 46 discharges of young people aged 13 to 24 years with a diagnosis of mental or behavioural disorders in Carlow. This figure equates to a rate of 5.5 per 1,000 population aged 13 to 24 years. This was slightly above the state average of 5 per 1,000 population aged 13 to 24 years. Compared to other counties, Carlow had the seventh highest rate with Cavan having the highest at 7.3 and Longford the lowest at 2.9.



A survey on mental health conducted by Youthreach in Carlow found that all 15 respondents thought that young people in Carlow had difficulties with mental health. Over seven out of ten respondents identified anxiety and depression as the key issues in terms of mental health in the Carlow area. Other issues identified included societal issues such as social media and feeling like they were not able to talk to others at the risk of being judged.

Kilkenny

In Kilkenny, there were 60 discharges of young people aged 13 to 24 years with a diagnosis of mental or behavioural disorders in 2016, which equates to a rate of 4.4 per 1,000 population aged 13 to 24 years. Kilkenny reported the ninth lowest rate in the country.

A survey of 160 young people aged 12 -18 years in Kilkenny conducted by Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg reported that 26.25% of young people rated their mental health as very good, 31.25% as good, 25.6% as moderate, 11.9% as bad and 5% as very bad.

Self-harm

The National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) records the numbers of those presenting to hospital following self-harm. The data is published as a rate per 100,000 population, by age group and gender. Methods of self-harm include overdoses of medication and drugs, cutting and attempted hanging.

The rate of self-harm in males aged 24 years and under in Carlow and Kilkenny in 2015 was 117.8 per 100,000 males of the population. This is below the national rate of 161.6 per 100,000 males of the population and the tenth lowest rate in the country. The rate of self-harm in females aged 24 years and under in Carlow and Kilkenny in 2015 was 251.9 per 100,000 females of the population. This was close to the national rate of 253.2 per 100,000 females of the population and was the thirteenth highest rate in the country.

Suicide

Ireland has the fourth highest suicide rate among teenagers in the EU (Unicef, 2017). The suicide rate among teenagers in Ireland is 10.3 per 100,000 population amongst young people aged between 15 and 19, which ranks Ireland 34th out of 37 nations surveyed.

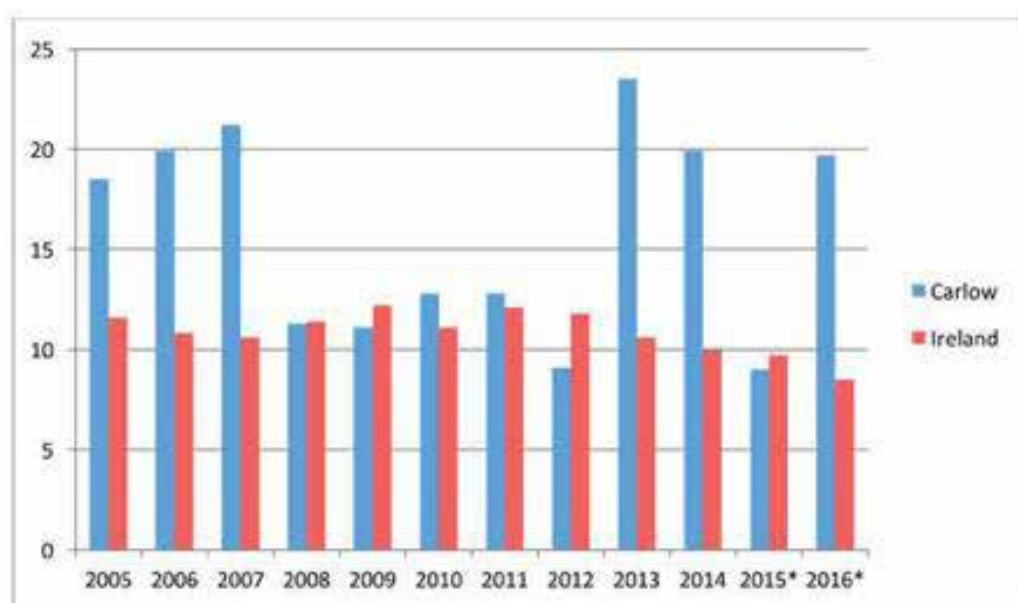
Eleven people died by suicide in Carlow in 2016, eight of whom were male and three who were female. This equates to a total suicide rate of 19.7 per deaths per year per 100,000 population and a male suicide rate of 28.6 per deaths per year per 100,000 population and a female suicide rate of 10.7 per deaths per year per 100,000 population. Carlow currently has the fourth highest rate of suicide per 100,000 population based on the three-year moving average from 2014-2016 at 16.3/100,000 after Limerick City, Roscommon and Cavan (CSO).

There were ten deaths by suicide in Kilkenny in 2016, six of whom were male and four who were female. This equates to a total suicide rate of 10.2 per deaths per year per 100,000 population and a male suicide rate of 12.3 per deaths per year per 100,000 population and a female suicide rate of 8.2 per deaths per year per 100,000 population.

	No of suicides	Male	Female	Suicide rate all persons	Suicide rate males	Suicide rate females
State	399	318	81	8.5	13.8	3.4
Carlow	11	8	3	19.7	28.6	10.7
Kilkenny	10	6	4	10.2	12.3	8.2
Suicide rate all persons	297 (57.3%)	221 (42.7%)	518 (100%)	297 (57.3%)	221 (42.7%)	518 (100%)

Table 28: Number and rate of suicides in Carlow, Kilkenny and State, 2016

As can be seen in figure 7 below, the suicide rate per 100,000 population has been higher in Carlow than the average rate for the State in eight of the eleven years recorded below with 2007, 2013, 2014 and 2016 showing significantly higher rates (HSE, 2017).



Source: Connecting for Life Carlow: Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2017 - 2020

Figure 7: Suicide rate per 100,000 population in Carlow 2005 – 2016

In a recent survey conducted by Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg (2017) with 160 young people aged 12 – 18 years, 6.3% of respondents stated they had made an attempt to commit suicide in the last six months. In terms of suicidal ideation, 23.8% of respondents said they had thought about committing suicide and 8.1% stated they had seriously considered committing suicide. Almost a quarter (24.4%) of respondents reported that one of their acquaintances or someone they were familiar had committed suicide and one third (33.8%) of respondents stated that one of their friends or someone else close to them had committed suicide.

LGBTI+ young people

Carlow

My Unique Individuality (MUI) is a LGBTI+ Teenage Youth Group in Carlow Regional Youth Services aimed at young people aged 12-18 years. MUI was set up in September 2011 and is supported by Belong To Ireland and The Community Foundation. Belong To is a national youth service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBTI+) young people, aged between 14 and 23 in Ireland. There are currently 16 young people aged 13 – 17 years attending My Unique Individuality (MUI) Teenage Youth Group with other young people on the fringes of the group. The numbers attending the youth group has doubled in recent months. Carlow IT also has a LGBTI+ Society.

Kilkenny

Ossory Youth in Kilkenny run the Open Door Youth Group, a gay-straight youth alliance. The group is open to all gay or straight young people between the age of 12 and 18. There are currently eight regular attendees with other young people on the fringes of the group. A survey conducted by Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg in 2017 of 160 young people aged 12 – 18 years in Kilkenny found that 2.5% were transgendered. The Foroige DRUM Youth Project and Café operate an LGBTI+ inclusive service with 9 self-identified LGBTI+ young people integrated into the projects programmes and activities.

Other statistics on young people in Carlow and Kilkenny

Living circumstances

With regard to living circumstances in Carlow, 10.7% of households were living in local authority rented housing in 2016 which is above the national average of 8.7%. The number of households living in local authority rented housing in Carlow has increased from 8.8% in 2011.

In Kilkenny, 8.3% of households were living in local authority rented accommodation in 2016 which is closer to the national average compared to Carlow. The number of households living in local authority rented housing has also increased in Kilkenny from 6.9% in 2011.

In Kilkenny, 8.3% of households were living in local authority rented accommodation in 2016 which is closer to the national average compared to Carlow. The number of households living in local authority rented housing has also increased in Kilkenny from 6.9% in 2011.

Local Authority Area	LA Rented 2011	LA Rented 2016
Carlow	8.8%	10.7%
Kilkenny	6.9%	8.3%
National average	7.9%	8.7%

Table 29: Percentage of households in local authority/private rented housing in Carlow, Kilkenny & nationally

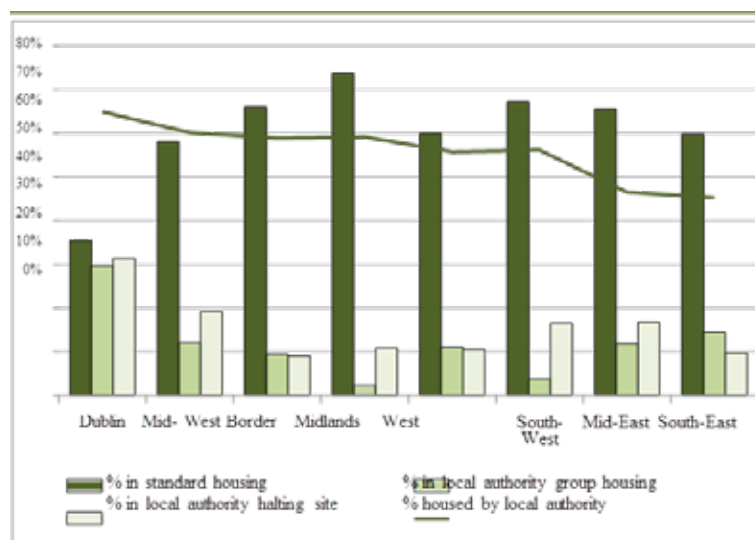


Figure 8: Regional Patterns in Local Authority Housing Provision for Travellers, 2012–2014
Source: DHPCLG annual counts, 2012–2014

Traveller housing

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPCLG) annual counts shows the proportion of Travellers who are provided with housing by the local authorities. As can be seen in figure 8 above, the highest figure is in the Dublin local authorities at 65% and the lowest figure is in the South-East local authorities (counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford and Waterford City) at 45%.

Young families

According to the CSO, there were seven births to mothers aged 10 to 17 in Kilkenny in 2016. Based on the population of females aged 10 to 17, the rate of births to mothers aged 10 to 17 in Kilkenny was 5.8 per 10,000. The national rate of births to mothers aged 10 to 17 was 3.8 per 10,000.

As can be seen in table 30 below, there were a total of 99 births to mothers aged under 25 years in Carlow in 2016. Of these, 23 (23.2%) were to mothers under 20 years and 76 (76.8%) were to mothers aged 20 – 24 years. In Kilkenny, there were 109 births to mothers aged under 25 years with 21 (19.3%) births to mothers under 20 years and 88 (80.7%) to mothers aged 20 – 24 years. Both Carlow and Kilkenny had more births to mothers aged under 20 years than the national average.

The CSO amalgamated a number of counties where less than three registrations were recorded.

Age group of mother	Carlow	Kilkenny	Nationally
Under 20 years	23 (23.2%)	21 (19.3%)	1,098 (17.4%)
20 – 24 years	76 (76.8%)	88 (80.7%)	5,216 (82.6%)
Total	99 (100%)	109 (100%)	6,314 (100%)

Table 30: Births in Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally by age group of mother (2016)

Young carers

According to the 2016 Census, there are over 195,263 carers in Ireland, an increase of 4.4% since 2011. Women accounted for just over six in ten carers. The 2016 census reported that 4% of the population in Carlow identified themselves as carers and 4.4% of the population in Kilkenny identified themselves as carers (see figure 9).

Young carers are children or young people under the age of 18, who care or help to care for somebody in their family with an illness, a disability, a mental health issue or who has an alcohol or other drug problem (www.youngcarers.ie). In terms of young carers nationally, there were 3,800 children under 15 years engaged in providing care to others, accounting for 1.9 % of all carers. In relation to hours caring, young carers provided an average of 16.1 hours of care each week.

The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) Study found that 11% of school-age children in Ireland reported providing care to a family member (Callaghan et al., 2016). However, organisations working with young carers estimate the number of children who care for family members in Ireland is much higher than this figure due to young people not self-identifying as carers due to reasons such as stigma attached to the role.

In relation to young carers in Carlow and Kilkenny, the 2016 census identified 154 carers aged 10 – 24 years in Carlow which represents 1.4% of the population in this age category and 286 young carers aged 10 – 24 years in Kilkenny which represents 1.6% of the population of young people in this age category. Kilkenny has a higher proportion of young carers aged 10 – 14 years (21%) compared with the national average of 18.8%. Similarly, Kilkenny has a higher number of young carers aged 15 – 19 years at 42.3% compared with the national average of 36.7%. Carlow has a higher number of young carers aged 20 – 24 years with almost half (48.1%) of young carers in this age bracket compared to the national average of 44.5%, while Kilkenny has a lower number of carers in this age group (36.7%).

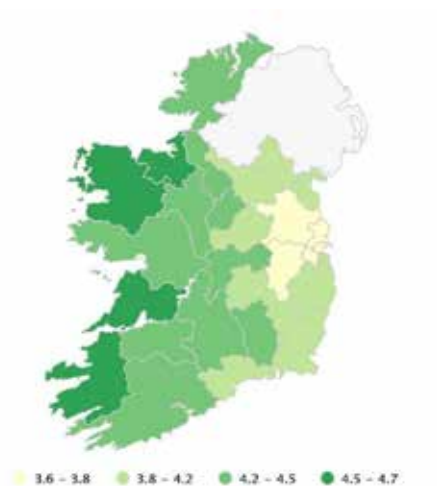


Figure 9: Percentage of carers by administrative county, 2016

Carers by age category	Carlow	Kilkenny	Nationally
Carers aged 10 – 14 years	29 (18.8%)	60 (21%)	2,165 (18.8%)
Carers aged 15 – 19 years	51 (33.1%)	121 (42.3%)	4,228 (36.7%)
Carers aged 20 – 24 years	74 (48.1%)	105 (36.7%)	5,119 (44.5%)
Total number of carers aged 10 – 24 years	154 (100%)	286 (100%)	11,512 (100%)

Table 31: Carers by age category in Carlow, Kilkenny and Nationally (2016)

Substance misuse and treatment

Hay et al. (2016) estimates there were 253 opiate users in Carlow per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years in 2014. An opiate is a drug containing opium or any of its derivatives that acts as a sedative and narcotic. Examples include heroin, methadone, morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, fentanyl and tramadol. In Kilkenny, it is estimated there were 96 opiate users in Kilkenny per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years in 2014. In relation to young people, it is estimated there were 161 opiate users aged 15 – 24 years in the CHO area of Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford in 2014. This equates to a prevalence of opiate use of 2.70 per 1,000 population of 15 – 24-year olds in Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. This is above the state average of opiate use of 1.88 per 1,000 population of 15 – 24-year olds. The percentage of opiate users in the 15 – 24 age group in Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford was 16% compared with the state average of 5.75%. The number of those seeking treatment for substance misuse is recorded by the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). There were 28 people aged under 18 years seeking treatment for substance misuse in Carlow and Kilkenny in 2014. This equates to a rate of 8.3 per 10,000 of the population under 18 years. This is above the state average of 7.7 per 10,000 of the population under 18 years seeking treatment for substance misuse.

Kilkenny Community Based Drug Initiative

The Kilkenny Community Based Drug Initiative in Ossory Youth worked with a total of 46 cases in 2017. Of the 46 cases referred, 32% of cases were young adults over 25 years, 25% of cases were with young people aged 20 – 25 years, 38% of cases were young people aged 15 – 20 years and 5% of cases were young people under 15 years. In terms of referral sources, the most common source of referral was the HSE Ardú Substance Misuse Service (19 referrals), followed by self-referrals (10), Garda Youth Diversion Programme (5), parents (5), CAMHS (4), Tusla (2) and Citizen's Information (1). 44% of those receiving a service received one-to-one support, with the average number of one-to-one support meetings for those under 25 years being three meetings and for those over 25 years being five meetings. A Family Service was provided to 29% of those aged 15 – 20 years. Brief Intervention was also provided to 27% of those aged 15 – 20 years. The older age group service provision tended to be one-to-one support and group support and tends to be about maintaining recovery.



Child welfare and protection

In 2017, there were 908 referrals to Túsla Child Protection and Welfare Services in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary Integrated Service Area (ISA) (Tusla, 2017). This figure equates to a rate of 14 per 1,000 children and young people aged under 18 years. Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary ISA was among eight areas that reported a rate higher than the national referral rate of 12 per 1,000 children and young people aged under 18 years.

With regard to the type of referrals in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary ISA, one third (33%) of referrals were referrals of abuse/neglect and two thirds (67%) were referrals of welfare. This breakdown is very similar to the national figure of a 35:65 split between referrals of abuse/neglect and welfare.

Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary had the highest increase in open social work cases¹ between quarters 2 and 3 of 2017. There was an increase of 347 open social work cases from 1,098 cases in Q2 to 1,445 in Q3 of 2017. There was also an increase in the number of open social work cases (n=6) awaiting allocation of a social worker in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary ISA between the two quarters.

Children and young people in care

In quarter 3 of 2017, there were 362 children and young people in care of Túsla in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary ISA. This figure compares to a rate of 5.7 per 1,000 children and young people aged under 18 years. This rate is higher than the State rate of 5.2 per 1,000 children and young people aged under 18 years. Comparatively, only five other Túsla Integrated Service Areas (ISA) (Dublin South Central, Cork, Dublin City North, Waterford/Wexford and Midwest) have a higher rate of children in the care of Túsla.

In terms of children and young people in care and education, 100% of the 216 children and young people in care aged 6 – 15 years in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary ISA were in full-time education in quarter 3 of 2017. This is above the national rate of 98% of children and young people in care aged 6 – 15 years in full time education.

In relation to aftercare, 60% of young adults aged 18 – 22 years in Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary (n=75) were in receipt of an aftercare service with an allocated aftercare worker in Q3 of 2017. This figure is significantly below the national average of 86% of young adults aged 18 – 22 years in receipt of an aftercare service with an allocated aftercare worker and the third lowest in the country.

Young people and criminal incidents

There were 294 criminal incidents detected by An Garda Síochána in the period Oct 2015–Oct 2016 involving 156 individuals under 18 years in Kilkenny. Of these, 80% occurred in Kilkenny City and environs. There has been a 117% rise in the number of young people detected for drug related offences. Alcohol related offences account for over 79% of youth offences detected.

Diversion programmes

Figures from the Garda Bureau of Community Engagement (2016) show there were 17,615 referrals to the Diversion Programme at a national level in 2016 which represents a 9.7% decrease in referrals to the Programme from 19,513 in 2015. There was a total of 268 referrals to the Diversion Programme in Kilkenny/Carlow in 2016 which represents a 5% decrease from 2015. Of those referred to the Diversion Programme in Kilkenny/Carlow, 169 (63%) received an informal caution, 52 (19.4%) received a formal caution, 24 (9%) were categorised as unsuitable, 8 (3%) no further action and 15 (5.6%) as others. There

were no restorative cautions in Kilkenny/Carlow in 2016 compared with 21 in 2015.

There is one Garda Youth Diversion Project in Carlow (The HUB Project) which is run by Carlow Regional Youth Service (YWI) and one in Kilkenny (COMPASS) run by Ossory Youth (YWI). There is a specific referral pathway and threshold for engagement by the projects. All young people who receive a caution maybe referred but not all who receive a caution may be accepted on to the project.

HUB Garda Youth Diversion Project:

Overall, 41 young people were referred and engaged by the HUB Garda Youth Diversion Project in Carlow in 2017. In terms of age and gender, 51.2% of the young people were males aged 15 – 17 years, 19.5% were females aged 15 – 17 years, 12.1% were males aged 13 – 14 years, 9.75% were females aged 13 – 14 years and 7.3% were males aged 18 – 21 years.

'Synergy' - Probation Project

Synergy is a pilot probation project for Carlow that aims to help and encourage disaffected young offenders aged 16-24 to build personal resilience, which will improve their capacity to re-integrate with mainstream society and reduce re-offending risk.

COMPASS Garda Youth Diversion Project:

In total, 33 young people were referred and engaged by the COMPASS Garda Youth Diversion Project in Ossory Youth in Kilkenny in 2017. Of the 33 young people in the Garda Youth Diversion Project, 87.9% were males and 12.1% were females. Of the males engaged in the project, 58.7% were aged 16 – 18 years, 27.5% were aged 14 – 15 years and 13.8% were aged 12 – 13 years. 100% of the girls were aged 17 – 18 years.

Youth homelessness

According to Focus Ireland (www.focusireland.ie), 806 young people aged between 18 and 24 were recorded as homeless in Ireland in September 2017. Almost three-quarters of these young people were living in Dublin. This represents an increase of 14% from September 2016. Youth homeless statistics count young people who are accessing homeless accommodation funded by local authorities and since this recording began in June 2014, youth homelessness has increased 93%.

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government Homelessness Report (November 2017) reported 335 adults as homeless in the South-East area which includes Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. Of these, 17% were aged 18 – 24 years. In terms of gender, 65% of adults experiencing homelessness in the South-East were male and 35% were female. A total of 13 adults were reported as homeless in Carlow and 53 in Kilkenny. A total of 44 families with 80 dependents were reported as homeless in the South-East in November 2017. Of these, 54.5% were single parent families.

The Good Shepherd Centre for homeless men in Kilkenny identified nine young males aged 19-24 years who used their services in 2017. The service previously did not have a demand for services from this age group. The Monastery Hostel in Carlow run by the St. Vincent de Paul had 12 young people under the age of 25 using their services between April and December 2017 and five young people under the age of 25 years using their services between January and March 2018.

.....

**“capacity to
re-integrate
with mainstream
society.”**



Conclusions

There are a number of issues, groups of young people and areas highlighted in the socio-demographic profile of Carlow and Kilkenny that require a specific focus in the Youth Work Plan.

DEPRIVATION

- In terms of deprivation, areas in Carlow classified as disadvantaged and marginally below average and where there are a high population of children and young people include Carlow Town, Bagenalstown and Tullow.
- Geographical areas in Kilkenny that are classified as disadvantaged or marginally below average and where there are a high population of children and young people include Graiguenamanagh and Urlingford.

EDUCATION

- Education was identified as a significant issue for young people in Carlow.
- Carlow has the third highest national rates of early school leaving in the country and high levels of absenteeism compared to the national average.
- The majority of young people attending Youthreach in Carlow are males with the largest numbers from Carlow Town

DISABILITY

- In relation to disability, the number of children in Carlow with a disability is above the national average.
- Physical disabilities were identified as the most common disability type among the population with disabilities in Carlow.

ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

- Examining ethnic or cultural background, Travellers account for a slightly higher percentage of the total population in Carlow in comparison with the State average.
- White Irish Traveller is the most common ethnic or cultural background in Carlow among young people aged 10 – 24 years after White Irish and any other white background.
- In Kilkenny, after White Irish and other White background, Black or Black Irish – African are the most common ethnic or cultural background.
- The number of members of the Traveller community in Kilkenny city has increased by over 12% in Kilkenny and by over 13% in Kilkenny city from 2011 to 2016 with 179 are aged 10 – 24 years.
- The 80 Syrian refugees which are due to be resettled in Carlow and the 25 to 30 Syrian families due to be resettled in Kilkenny 2018 under the EU relocation programme are groups whose needs should

UNEMPLOYMENT

be considered in the Youth Work Plan.

- The unemployment rate in Carlow is higher than the national average and the third highest in the country.
- The highest concentration of young people under 25 years on the Live Register attended the Social Welfare Office in Carlow town followed by Bagenalstown and Tullow.
- The 2016 census identified one unemployment blackspot in Kilkenny, which was Urlingford, where there is an unemployment rate of 27.5%.

MENTAL HEALTH

- The suicide rate per 100,000 population has been higher in Carlow than the average rate for the State in recent years, with 2013 and 2014 showing significantly higher rates.
- Carlow currently has the fourth highest rate of suicide per 100,000 population based on the three-year moving average.
- Male suicide rates are significantly higher than female suicide rates in both Carlow and Kilkenny.

LGBTI+ YOUNG PEOPLE

- In terms of LGBTI+ young people, those attending specific services for this group in youth services in Carlow have doubled in 2018.

YOUNG PARENTS

- Statistics on young families show that both Carlow and Kilkenny had more births to mothers aged under 20 years than the national average.

YOUNG CARERS

- In relation to young carers, Kilkenny has a higher proportion of carers aged 10 – 14 years and 15 – 19 years compared with the national average.
- Carlow has a higher number of young carers aged 20 – 24 years compared to the national average, while Kilkenny has a lower number of carers in this age group.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- As regards substance misuse, the prevalence of opiate use per 1,000 population of 15 – 24-year olds in Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford is above the state average.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE/AFTERCARE

- Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary Integrated Service Area (ISA) has a higher number of young people in care compared to the national average.
- The number of young adults aged 18 – 22 years in the Carlow and Kilkenny/South Tipperary area in receipt of an aftercare service with an allocated aftercare worker figure is significantly below the national average and the third lowest in the country.



Section 4

Existing Youth Work Provision

This section provides an overview of the main youth work and related activities that are currently in place in KCETB functional area. Activities are listed under two headings – staff-led provision and volunteer-led provision.

SECTION 4A: STAFF LED PROVISION

CARLOW REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICES

Overview:

Carlow Regional Youth Services (CRYS) is a voluntary, non-profit youth work organisation working with and for young people in Co. Carlow. CRYS is a company limited by Guarantee, a registered charity, an affiliated member of Youth Work Ireland and is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors.

CRYS are funded through Department of Children and Youth Affairs, TUSLA, HSE, The Department of Justice and Law Reform and South Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force. CRYS works with young people aged between 8-23 years. CRYS offer a comprehensive service to young people in the Carlow area, with a community based project in Graiguecullen and John Sweeney Park and a Youth Cafe in the Vault, Burrin Street. There is also a strong focus on surrounding area such as Tullow, Bagenalstown, Hacketstown and Borris. Interagency collaboration is key to the work and CRYS work with a range of other agencies including the HSE, Regional Drugs Task Force, Carlow County Council, Carlow County Childcare Committee, Carlow School Completion and Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board.

Mission Statement:

CRYS mission statement is “**we work to empower young people to achieve their potential through quality youth work**”.

Services:

CRYS operates an integrated youth service model where all projects work together to secure good outcomes for young people. **The service is comprised of the following projects:**

- The “Vault” Youth Project, Burrin Street, Carlow
- Graiguecullen Youth Project/Fruithill Manor
- New Oak/Tullow Road Youth Project
- The “Hub” Project - Garda Youth Diversion Project
- Synergy-Probation Project
- Carlow Youth Sports Development Project
- Carlow Traveller Youth Project
- D.S.P. Community Employment Programme
- Tullow Youth Project at the Bishops House
- Bagenalstown Youth Project
- County Carlow Drugs Initiative (C.C.D.I) Project
- Follaine, well- being and counselling support service
- The Y.A.R.C. Project
- Support for Volunteer Led Youth Groups, Clubs, and Local Youth Organisations
- C.R.Y.S. Afterschools Projects – 3 locations in Carlow and Graiguecullen

The work is primarily divided into three age groups:

- 8-12 year olds- Afterschool /Homework Support, Junior Youth Group programme, Summer Camp (approx. 15% of overall work)
- 12-18 year olds- Drop in facility, Planned Youth Work Programmes, Youth Participation Programmes, Youth Leadership Training, Specialist Support Services, etc (approx. 70% of overall work)
- 18-25 year olds – Volunteer Training, Youth Work Accredited Training, Some services for vulnerable young adults in their social time (approx.15% of overall work)

Strategic Aims:

- Directly providing youth work services and opportunities for young people within their communities,
- Continuing to develop evidence based specialised programmes for vulnerable young people,
- Working in partnership with young people & their families, volunteers and service providers to achieve good outcomes for young people.
- Promoting the health of young people through a variety of health promotion initiatives and targeted programmes.
- Building the capacity of communities to support and deliver youth work in their areas through the provision of quality youth work training opportunities
- Developing our organisational capacity to deliver an effective and quality service.

Our Core Values**The approach offered by CRYIS is such that it ensures that its work is:**

- Respectful of young people and founded on a belief that young people can respond to the issues facing them
- Founded on the needs of young people themselves and a commitment to ensure their safety and wellbeing
- About establishing and maintaining positive relationships with the young people we engage
- Informed by a commitment to provide skilled specialised services to young people at risk
- Underpinned by the principle of voluntary participation of young people
- Inclusive of all young people and strengthened by diversity
- Based on continually improving quality in order to develop best practice
- Underpinned by mutual respect between colleagues, clients, parents and external agencies
- Founded on team work and a professional approach to our work encompassing openness and support between colleagues
- Enhanced by a positive approach and pride to our work, a passion for making things better and a good sense of humour where needed!
- Based on a commitment to working in partnership with external agencies

OSSORY YOUTH KILKENNY

Overview

Established in 1985 Ossory Youth is a voluntary youth work organisation legally constituted as a company limited by guarantee working with and for young people within the Diocese of Ossory covering Kilkenny and parts of Laois & Offaly. The organisation is a registered charity and is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. The company is in compliance with to Code of Governance since January 2017, and has achieved the Investing in Children's award from Tusla in April 2018. Ossory Youth works with over 1,500 young people annually through its network of youth clubs, youth groups, and funded youth projects which include Special Projects for Youth, Youth Information Project, Garda Youth Diversion Project, Tusla Project, and a Community Based Drug Initiative. Ossory Youth's Headquarters is in Desart Hall Kilkenny city.

Mission Statement

Ossory Youth is a voluntary youth work organisation, which has young people at its heart.

We will provide the opportunities and environments where young people can grow, experience and learn through a shared commitment to and understanding of youth work.

Strategic Aims

- To journey with young people in a way that positively contributes to their lives and well-being.
- To attract and support volunteers and enhance their time, energy and commitment so that there are sustained for the benefit of young people.
- To ensure that the organisation is equipped to meet current and future challenges in the youth work sector.

Ossory Youth Approach

Ossory Youth places young people at the centre of its work, promoting empowerment, equity, equality, respect and unconditional positive regard for all those it works with. Work with young people is on their territory whether that is a geographical community or a community of interest and participation is voluntary. Whilst a great deal of the organisations work is funded with pre-determined outcomes Ossory Youth endeavours to work with young people as young people rather than their presenting issue.

Services:

- One to one support for young people and parents (Connections & Mentoring Programme)
- Post-Primary Schools & Community Outreach Programme (Mental Health, Sexual Health & Relationships, Alcohol & Drugs Awareness)
- Youth Information Service (Career pathways, mock Interviews, one to one support)
- Traveller Youth Work (Behaviour, social inclusion and equity, employability)
- Desart Hall Youth Café & Drop-in (Daytime, evenings and weekends)
- LGBTI+ Support & Advocacy Youth Group.
- Garda Youth Diversion Project (IYJS)
- Kilkenny City & Rural Drugs Initiative Project (HSE)
- Headhackers Anxiety Youth Group (HSE)
- Teen Conflict Intervention Service (Restorative & Mediation Service)
- Rural Youth Club Development and Support (12 youth clubs currently)
- Summer & Midterm programmes (Music, Art, Bootcamp)
- International Work

FORÓIGE

Overview of Service

Foróige is a national youth development organisation which engages 64,000 young people annually across the 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland. Established in 1952, Foróige currently has a team of 400 staff and 5,500 volunteers who deliver both targeted and universal youth work services, through 150 projects and almost 600 volunteer led clubs. The work carried out is needs led, evidence based and outcomes focused. Staff and volunteers use a combination of evidence based manualised programmes and bespoke programmes developed locally to meet emerging needs.

Foróige is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. As a voluntary youth organisation it is governed by its volunteers who are elected from all clubs, projects and services across the organisation. Foróige is committed to involving young people in the governance of the organisation and enabling them to influence decisions that affect them. Foróige is funded from a variety of sources, but primarily government departments and statutory agencies such as The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Tusla, the HSE, Education and Training Boards and the Irish Youth Justice Service, as well as philanthropic organisations.

Mission Statement

Foróige's purpose is to involve young people consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society

Core Values

Youth work in Foróige is underpinned by a strong philosophy which states that each young person:

- Is Unique
- Is Creative
- Can take responsibility
- Is interdependent with others
- Can make a difference in the world
- Can have an influence
- Can learn from every situation

Services in Kilkenny

Co-funded by Tusla and Kilkenny County Council, the DRUM Youth Project & Health Café provides a range of targeted youth work programmes on both a one-to-one and group basis to young people predominantly at level 2 and level 3 of the Hardiker Model. These programmes include Leadership, Citizenship, Employability, Tech Space, Meitheals, Substance Misuse Prevention, Health & Wellbeing, Relationships & Sexuality, Parents Programmes, Education support, Music & Arts and Drop-in. They also support Kilkenny Comhairle Na nÓg, as well as a range of other youth participation structures. They operate primarily out of The DRUM Youth Centre & Café at MacDonagh Junction and the Castlecomer Courthouse Youth Café.

There are also 10 volunteer led clubs and groups across the county supported by the Foróige Regional Youth Officer (RYO). Volunteers are supported to run these clubs through a range of training such as Starting Out and Child Protection training, as well as training in Foróige programmes such as Citizenship, Leadership, Be Healthy Be Happy and REAL U. The RYO provides support for grant applications, consultancy on issues and needs arising and opportunities to be involved in Foróige's large national awards and events such as the Foróige Leadership For Life Conference, the Aldi Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards, the Aldi Bake Off and the HYPE youth music festival, as well as local inter-club events.



Type	Services in ETB Area
Special Projects for Youth (SPY) Funding source: DCYA (Youth Affairs Unit), partially administered by KCETB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graiguecullen Youth Project Carlow (CRYS, YWI) • New Oak/Tullow Road Youth Project Carlow (CRYS, YWI) • Carlow Traveller Project (Involve, managed by CRYS, YWI) • Gateway Youth Project (Ossory Youth, YWI) • Callan/ Castlecomer (Ossory Youth, YWI) • Rural Outreach (Ossory Youth, YWI)
Young People's Facilities and Services 1 and 2 Funding source: DCYA (Youth Affairs Unit), administered by KCETB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vault Youth Project Carlow (CRYS, YWI) • Carlow Sports Development Project (CRYS, YWI)
Youth Information Centres Funding source: DCYA (Youth Affairs Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Information Centre Kilkenny (Ossory Youth)
Tusla Funded Youth Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drum Youth Project and Health Café (Foróige)
Comhairle na nÓg Funding source: DCYA (Citizen Participation Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow Comhairle na nÓg (CRYS) • Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg (Foróige)
Garda Youth Diversion Projects Funding source: DCYA (Irish Youth Justice Service)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow Garda Youth Diversion Project (CRYS) • Kilkenny Garda Youth Diversion Project (Ossory Youth)
Youth projects supported through Drugs and Alcohol Task Forces Funding source: Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Carlow Based Drugs Initiative (CRYS) • County Kilkenny Based Drugs Initiative (Ossory Youth)
Youth mental health projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follaine Health and Wellbeing Service Carlow (CRYS) • Youth at Risk Project Carlow (CRYS) • Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
Community based therapy services, services for children and young people with disabilities, youth mental health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services Centre, Bethany House Carlow • HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service • Self- Harm Intervention Programme • ArdÉ Substance Misuse Team- Carlow and Tullow • Lifeline Kilkenny
Addiction Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse, Counsellor, Psychiatrist – Carlow, Tullow, Bagenalstown, Borris • Home visits- by arrangements • Residential Treatment Centre (over 18's) Carlow • Carlow and Kilkenny Development Worker • Family Support Group Carlow • Aiseiri Addiction Treatment Centre • HSE Community Addiction Services Kilkenny

Type	Services in ETB Area
Targeted educational services that support young people within universal provision –NEWB, NEPS, School Completion, HSCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School completion programmes based in Carlow town, Tullow, Kilkenny and Ferrybank • Home School Liaison Co-ordinators in Carlow and Kilkenny • 2.5 NEPS psychologists for Carlow • Educational Welfare Officer • After schools Services
Other Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCETB Training Services • Youthreach Kilkenny and Carlow • Kilkenny Employment for Youth • Carlow Youth Training Centre • Moving On-Young Mothers Education Programme (St. Catherine’s Carlow) • Moving On Ferrybank • Teen Parent Support Programme (St. Catherine’s Carlow) • National Learning Network Carlow and Kilkenny
Family Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnardos Carlow • Focus Ireland Kilkenny • Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre • Forward Steps Family Resource Centre (Tullow) • Fr. McGrath Centre Kilkenny • Newpark Close Family Resource Centre (Kilkenny) • Mill FRC Urlingford Kilkenny • Callan FRC Kilkenny
Child Welfare and Protection Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Child Protection Services • Tusla Child and Family Networks • HSE Foster Care and Adoption Services • Carlow Women’s Aid Domestic Violence support and information service • Carlow and Kilkenny South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre • Amber Kilkenny Refuge Centre Kilkenny • The Good Shepherd Homeless Centre Kilkenny
Youth Justice Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer Carlow • Garda Diversion Programme Carlow • Garda Diversion Programme Kilkenny • Probation Officer (Carlow and Kilkenny)

Type	Services in ETB Area
County Sports Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co. Carlow Sports Partnership Ltd. • Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership Ltd.
County Area Based Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow Co. Development Partnership • Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Company	
Music Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Generation Carlow • Music Generation Kilkenny (established in 2018)

Table 33: Additional related activities in KCETB Area



SECTION 4B –VOLUNTARY LED PROVISION

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB have provided funding and training opportunities to the voluntary youth work clubs/ groups and youth activity groups as listed below in 2017-2018 through the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Criteria for funding:

- The club/group is volunteer-led and is based on the voluntary participation of young people.
- 75% of the club/group members are between the ages of 10 and 21.
- The club/group can clearly outline the benefits of membership for young people who participate in their programmes.
- The club/group is fully compliant with all the requirements set out in the Children First Act (2015).
- All adult volunteers have been Garda vetted.
- Appropriate insurance cover is in place.
- Volunteers have access to a first aid kit and are able to use it correctly.
- The club/group has a Health and Safety Statement, Policy or Procedures or operates to a building's Health and Safety Policy.



Youth work organisations	Number of groups in ETB Area
Organisations funded through DCYA Local Youth Club Grant Scheme	
Foróige	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballycallan Foróige Club • Callan Foróige Club • Cuffesgrange Foroige • Inistioge Foroige • Paulstown Foroige • Piltown Foroige • Stoneyford Foroige • The Courthouse Youth Café, Castlecomer Foroige <p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rathvilly Foroige • Rathvilly Foroige Juniors
Girls' Friendly Society	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls Friendly Society Castlecomer
Irish Girl Guides	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkenny Girl Guides <p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrowbridge Brownies • Dolmen Brownies and Guides • St. Killian's Guides and Senior Branch • Sleaty Guides
Macra na Feirme	<p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballymurphy Macra • St. Mullins Macra • Tullow Macra • Baltinglass/ Rathvilly Macra • Bagenalstown Macra
No Name Club	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkenny No Name Club • Thomastown No Name Club
Order of Malta Cadets	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkenny Cadet Unit <p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow Cadet Unit

Youth work organisations	Number of groups in ETB Area
Organisations funded through DCYA Local Youth Club Grant Scheme	
Scouting Ireland	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Kilkenny Scout Group • 3rd Kilkenny Graiguenamanagh Scout Group • 3rd Kilkenny Thomastown Scout Group • 4th Kilkenny Inistioge Scout Group • 6th Kilkenny Kells Scout Group • 8th Kilkenny Ballyragget Scout Group • 14th Kilkenny Bennettsbridge Scout Group • 15th Kilkenny Fortgrange Scout Group • <p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Carlow Bagenalstown Scout Group • 3rd Carlow Borris Scout Group • 4th Carlow Leighlinbridge Scout Group • 5th Carlow Town Scout Group • 5th Carlow Tullow Scout Group
Youth Work Ireland (Clubs affiliated and supported by Ossory Youth)	<p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windgap Youth Club • Johnswell Juvenile Youth Club • Johnswell Youth Club • Mill Youth Project • Kilkenny Arch Club • Mooncoin Youth Club • Kilmacow Youth Club • Graiguenamanagh Youth Café • Goresbridge Youth Club (2017) • Slieverue Youth Club (2017)
Independent groups	
Youth groups not affiliated to any of the above organisations	<p>Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Baden Powell Bagenalstown Troop Carlow • Down Syndrome Carlow • Rathanna Marching Band <p>Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down Syndrome Kilkenny



Section 5

Needs Analysis

Introduction

This section presents a summary of findings from research carried out in the preparation of the ETB Youth Work Plan. These findings are considered in light of the policy context, the statutory youth work role of the ETB, the socio-demographic profile of the ETB area and the range of existing service provision. Overall, 304 people were consulted as part of the needs analysis research. Of these, 207 were young people and 97 were key adult stakeholders from the youth, community and statutory sectors working with young people in Carlow and Kilkenny.

This section structures the findings of the needs analysis around the five National Outcomes of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures:

- **5.1** details the key issues identified in the needs analysis related to Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
- **5.2** details the key socio-demographic information, national and local policies/strategies and priority needs identified by service providers and young people related to Outcome 1
- **5.3** details the key issues identified in the needs analysis related to Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
- **5.4** details the key socio-demographic information, national and local policies/strategies and priority needs identified by service providers and young people related to Outcome 2
- **5.5** details the key issues identified in the needs analysis related to Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm
- **5.6** details the key socio-demographic information, national and local policies/strategies and priority needs identified by service providers and young people related to Outcome 3
- **5.7** details the key issues identified in the needs analysis related to Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity
- **5.8** details the key socio-demographic information, national and local policies/strategies and priority needs identified by service providers and young people related to Outcome 4
- **5.9** details the key issues identified in the needs analysis related to Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World
- **5.10** details the key socio-demographic information, national and local policies/strategies and priority needs identified by service providers and young people related to Outcome 5
- **5.11** details the results of a survey of volunteers from youth clubs/groups in Carlow and Kilkenny
- **5.12** details the results of a survey of young people in Carlow and Kilkenny



“207 young people and 97 adults were key stakeholders in the research”

5.1 Key issues identified in the needs analysis research related to Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being

Key issues identified related to physical health

- Obesity, lack of physical activity, sedentary lifestyles and too much 'screen time' are issues affecting some young people in Carlow and Kilkenny
- Girls are tending to drop out of sports activities at a young age, e.g. in 6th class/first year
- Young people with physical disabilities are an invisible group not involved in youth services due to parents being protective etc.
- Some LGBTI+ young people do not participate in sports due to issues related to gender stereotyping, bullying etc.
- Substance misuse is an issue affecting some young people
- Specific groups of young people are more likely to be affected by substance misuse, e.g. young homeless people, young people in conflict with the law, young male Travellers



Key issues identified related to mental health

- Mental health is a key issue affecting young people in Carlow and Kilkenny
- Lack of access to mental health supports and services is an issue, e.g. long waiting lists for CAMHS, lack of counsellors in schools
- Mental health issues affecting young people include low self-esteem, lack of resilience, stress, anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicide
- Stress and anxiety is an increasing issue among young people and is often related to school, exams and pressure from parents
- Other key factors impacting young people's mental health include social media, bullying/cyberbullying, alcohol/drug misuse, sexual identity issues
- Social anxiety is leading to some young people not leaving their homes, non-attendance of school/Youthreach and early school leaving
- Homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools is an issue, including among teachers
- There is a lack of training among teachers on mental health and LGBTI+ issues
- Mental health issues and suicide is more prevalent among some groups of young people, e.g. young male Travellers, LGBTI+ young people
- Funding is a key issue in terms of addressing gaps in mental health services
- One-to-one supports from youth workers, youth mental health support groups and support groups aimed at specific groups of young people, e.g. Headhackers mental health support group in Ossory Youth, MUI (My Unique Identity) in Carlow for LGBTI+ young people and Foróige's evidence based 'Be Healthy, Be Happy' programme are having a positive impact on young people's mental health
- There is a lack of information on mental health services/supports currently available to young people

Key issues identified related to sexual health and well-being

- There is a lack of appropriate/up to date programmes on relationships, sexual health and sexual violence for both males and females
- Key factors impacting young people's sexual health and well-being include peer pressure, social media, gender roles and pornography
- Sexual identity is an issue for some groups of young people, e.g. LGBTI+ young people

Key issues identified related to recreation and cultural opportunities

- There is a lack of access to recreation and cultural opportunities for specific groups of young people, e.g. young people aged 18- 24 years, young people in rural areas, young people with disabilities, young carers, LGBTI+ young people aged 18- 24 years
- Lack of access to youth work opportunities in rural areas is a significant issue in Carlow and Kilkenny
- The current model of youth work provision in rural areas is in needs of reform
- Isolation is an issue in rural areas, especially for young people not engaged in sports
- Lack of public transport is a barrier to accessing recreation and cultural opportunities in rural areas
- It can be difficult to engage young Traveller girls and women in youth services as they tend to drop-off around age 15
- Engaging young male Travellers in afterschool clubs/sports clubs can be difficult

5.2 Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being

Physical health and well-being			
Key socio-demographic information on physical health	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on physical health	Priority needs identified by service providers related to physical health	Priority needs identified by service providers related to physical health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 864 children in Carlow have a disability or 6.18% of the total population which is slightly above the state average • 1,392 children in Kilkenny have a disability or 5.56% of the total population which is slightly below the national average • Nationally, 6% of 13-year-olds are obese and a further 20% are overweight (GUI, 2012) • Nationally, 20% of 16-year-olds are weekly drinkers (ESPAD, 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1.1 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that all children are physically healthy and make positive health choices • Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Ireland • The National Physical Activity Plan (2016) Action area 2, Children and Young People, states that children and young people will learn the necessary skills for confident engagement with physical activity and will have opportunities to adopt an active way of life. The National Physical Activity Plan provides funding to Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs). The funding to CYPSCs supports implementation of actions in their Plans which align with Healthy Ireland and with Outcome Area 1 of BOBF, Active and Healthy • National Guidelines on Physical Activity for Ireland (2009) state all children and young people should be active, at a moderate to vigorous level, for at least 60 minutes every day • The guidelines for adults with disabilities are at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity 5 days a week • Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 aims to increase levels of local participation, improve access and promote the development of opportunities for all groups to become involved in sports and recreation, in conjunction with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership • The Plan recognises this is particularly relevant in the case of low participation groups, e.g. disadvantaged groups, girls and women, people with disabilities, unemployed people and those who live in disadvantaged communities or areas lacking amenity infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people with physical disabilities to be integrated into youth work services • Youth services should target parents of young people with physical disabilities to encourage participation • Youth leaders to be trained to work with young people with physical disabilities • Youth services to link in with health programmes, e.g. Food dudes programme, Healthy Streets programme, VHI Running Programme • Youth services to run cooking programmes • Youth services to access Safer food funding • Encourage participation in non-competitive activities, e.g. yoga, gyms, boot camps • Grants for more diverse sports/ recreation • Run groups where young people are at, e.g. youth clubs • Online education/awareness programmes • Youth services should work in partnership with Local Sports Partnerships, Sports Development Officers etc. • Youth services to run sports/ physical ability programmes for young people with Autism • Substance misuse prevention programmes in youth services • Shared policy approach to substance misuse among youth services, schools etc. • Alcohol addiction programmes/ rehabilitation • More sports-based activities and programmes for young male Travellers • Health promotion-based programmes for young female Travellers e.g. information on immunisation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide variety of sports programmes and activities, e.g. taster programmes • More exercise/fitness classes particularly in rural areas • More events promoting physical activity, e.g. colour runs • Reduced gym memberships for young people • Food to be provided in youth services • Youth work services should be accessible to young people with physical disabilities, e.g. wheelchair accessible • Youth work leaders to be trained to work with and support young people with physical disabilities • Sports programmes and activities for young people with physical disabilities, e.g. astro-turf football

5.2 Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being

Mental health and well-being			
Key socio-demographic information on mental health and well-being	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on mental health and well-being	Priority needs identified by service providers related to mental health and well-being	Priority needs identified by service providers related to mental health and well-being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5 per 1,000 population aged 13 to 24 years in Carlow had a diagnosis of mental or behavioural disorders • 4.4 per 1,000 population aged 13 to 24 years had a diagnosis of mental or behavioural disorders in Kilkenny • Ossory Youth has identified a significant rise in the numbers of young people with severe anxiety • 75% of mental health disorders emerge before the age of 25.9 (Headstrong, 2013) • Nationally, the suicide rate in the Traveller community is six times higher than in the general population, and seven times higher among young Traveller men • Poor health and well-being, particularly mental health and a culture of drug and alcohol misuse within the LGBTI+ community, was identified as an issue in consultations with young people as part of the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (DCYA, 2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1.2 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that all children and young people have good mental health • Connecting for Life Carlow: Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2017 – 2020 was developed in response to Connecting for Life: Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020 • Connecting for Life Carlow states that suicide is a significant public health concern in Carlow where the suicide rate has been higher than the national average for more than ten years • Strategic Goal 1 of the Connecting for Life Carlow is to improve understanding of, and attitudes to suicidal behaviour, mental health and well-being, e.g. through mental health awareness campaigns and initiatives • Strategic Goal 3 of the Connecting for Life Carlow is to target approaches to reduce suicidal behaviour and improve mental health among priority groups, particularly young Travellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More youth mental health supports and services • Timely access to mental health supports/ services • More early intervention mental health services • Counselling for ‘lower end’ mental health issues such as anxiety • Youth work programmes promoting positive mental health and resilience • After-care mental health services • Youth services working in collaboration with other agencies to provide mental health supports/services, e.g. counselling room in the Drum in Kilkenny could be used to provide mental health services with support from Tusla • Encourage more face-to-face positive interactions for young people in youth work settings • Youth work to provide safe spaces for young people to discuss feelings, e.g. young people with anxiety, LGBTI+ young people • Evidence based mental health programmes for specific groups, e.g. LGBTI+ young people, young people with Autism • Youth friendly mental health services • Counselling in youth friendly places, e.g. youth services • More transition programmes • Programmes on stress, anxiety etc. • Youth services to engage more with schools on mental health issues, e.g. with SCP • Develop a bereavement/loss group for young people • Counselling and support services for young LGBTI+ Travellers delivered through outreach work/other programmes to overcome cultural issues/stigma • More training for those working with young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely access to mental health supports and services, e.g. CAMHS • Access to independent counselling services in schools • More mental health and wellness workshops in schools • Free/cheap counselling services available locally, e.g. in youth work services • More mental health support groups for young people in youth work services • Support groups for young people affected by suicide • Positive mental health programmes for LGBTI+ young people, e.g. yoga • Provide more supports for LGBTI+ young people over 18 years • Better promotion of mental health supports and services available in youth services

Sexual health and well-being			
Key socio-demographic information on sexual health and well-being	Link to national and local policies/strategies on sexual health and well-being	Priority needs identified by service providers related to sexual health and well-being	Priority needs identified by service providers related to sexual health and well-being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow and Kilkenny had more births to mothers aged under 20 years than the national average Irish Travellers tend to marry younger and have larger families (CSO, 2012) • One third of Travellers aged 15 – 29 years are married compared to 8% of the general population of the same age • Youth Work Ireland (2018) Sexual Education Report found that over 90% of young people said the internet is their most trusted source of information on about healthy sexual relationships and over 20% of young people think internet pornography is a “useful” source of information about healthy sexual relationships • The Youth Work Ireland Report also found that 55% of young people are comfortable talking about sex to youth workers compared with 26% feeling comfortable talking to their parents • 60% of young people trust youth workers to provide helpful sources of information about healthy sexual relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1.3 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that all children and young people have a positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health • The National Sexual Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 is a strategic framework for the sexual health and wellbeing of the Irish population • The three goals key goals of the strategy are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that everyone has access to appropriate sexual health education and information; 2. To ensure that high quality sexual health services are available and affordable; 3. To ensure that good quality data is available to guide the service. • One of the key measures of the strategy is to ensure that everyone who works with young people including parents, teachers and youth workers has access to proper training and back-up resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education programmes on healthy relationships, sexual health, sexual/domestic violence etc. • Youth services linking in with schools to ensure common policies and approaches to sexual health and well-being • Programmes to combat domestic violence aimed at young male Travellers • Supports and programmes for young parents, e.g. parenting programmes, healthy relationships • Supports and programmes aimed at young fathers, young parents from the Traveller community, minority ethnic backgrounds • Create spaces for young people to access sexual health information/ services • Provide sexual health training for professionals, e.g. youth workers • Sexual health promotion, e.g. on social media, youth services, schools • Provide information on rights, access, entitlements of young parents/lone parents • Link young parents in with other services • Youth services to ensure young parents have access to childcare • Supports and programmes for young Traveller women, e.g. parenting supports, sexual health, domestic violence • Parenting supports for young Traveller mothers in Hebron Road, Kilkenny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex education in schools should include LGBTI+ sex education



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**“TO DEVELOP
RECREATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE”**

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Recreation and cultural opportunities

Key socio-demographic information on recreation and cultural opportunities	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on recreation and cultural opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to recreation and cultural opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to recreation and cultural opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1.4 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that all children and young people are enjoying play, recreation, sports, arts, culture and nature • Teenspace: National Recreation Policy for Young People (OMC, 2007) aims to provide strategic direction to other youth sectors to develop recreational opportunities for young people in an informed and appropriate manner • Carlow County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 recognises the recreational needs of teenagers and young adults and states that provision of youth facilities will be a priority in future planning for County Carlow • The Plan also endeavours to ensure that recreation facilities are inclusive and accessible to relevant age groups • Objective 5E of Kilkenny County Development Plan is to implement the Kilkenny Travellers Horse project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better co-ordination of youth work programmes and activities on a county level, e.g. one central coordinating body such as KCETB and youth organisations taking the lead on specific programmes and activities • Standardised professional approach to youth work programmes, training etc., e.g. centralised and standardised training for youth workers, volunteers • Youth services programmes and activities for young people aged 18 -24 years • Promotion youth services currently available • Develop more interest groups in youth services • Develop technology training hubs in youth services • Parental supports for young people with disabilities • New model of youth work provision needed in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny • Provide additional youth services and supports to voluntary youth services in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny, e.g. Tullow, Bagenalstown, Rathvilly, Borris, Castlecomer • Targeted supports and recognition for volunteer led youth work • Training for voluntary youth services in rural areas • Ensure there are spaces in rural areas for youth work, e.g. provide funding to bring facilities up to standard • Provide public transport for young people in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny to access youth services in towns etc. • Rotate youth services between rural areas and provide bus services for young people to access these services • Provide outreach youth work in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny, e.g. mobile units • Outreach services to Traveller sites to engage young Traveller girls/women (Kilkenny) • Programmes aimed at Traveller girls/women, e.g. arts and crafts, dress making, upcycling clothes, flower arranging, interior design, beauty therapy, make-up • Horse riding programmes for young Traveller girls • Animal welfare programmes/ education on horse care • Drop-in type youth services for young Travellers in Kilkenny • Provide one-to-one supports, information, linking with national organisations, advocacy for young carers etc. • Support groups for young carers and integration into mainstream services • More engagement in international youth work programmes • More arts-based programmes for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More non-sporting activities • More art-based programmes, e.g. music, animation, book clubs • Youth services to be available to young people aged 18 – 24, e.g. trips, life skills, drop-in, outdoor adventure activities • More youth services/centres in rural areas • Broader age range for youth services in rural areas • Transport for young people in rural areas to access youth services/events • Youth services to engage young people in schools • Programmes related to Traveller culture, e.g. horse riding, wagon making, horse shoe making, music, Traveller history and traditions • Programmes and activities for Traveller girls, e.g. beauty, hair, make up, nails • Trips abroad aimed at young Travellers, e.g. Lourdes • Youth clubs for married Traveller girls/ women with children • Create a supported social group for young adults aged 18 – 24 years with disabilities (Carlow), e.g. monthly social trips • Drop-in services for young people with disabilities aged 18- 24, e.g. life skills information and programmes • More youth services and resources for young people with mild disabilities, e.g. Autism • Create more awareness of disability groups currently available • Ensure youth workers/leaders are trained to work with young people with disabilities • Involve parents of young people with disabilities in groups to address need for additional resources and create buy in

5.3 Key issues identified in the needs analysis research related to Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Key issues identified related to learning and development:

- Literacy and numeracy issues and early school leaving are issues among specific groups of young people in Carlow and Kilkenny, e.g. young Travellers, young people from ethnic minorities, homeless young people, young people in conflict with the law
- Language can be a barrier for young people from ethnic minorities
- There is a lack of learning supports in schools, e.g. for young Travellers
- Lack of education alternatives for early school leavers
- Transitions from primary to secondary school are problematic for some groups of young people, e.g. young Travellers, young people from rural areas transitioning from small to larger schools
- Transitions from second to third level education can be problematic, e.g. young people are experiencing mental health issues, anxiety, financial difficulties etc.
- Young people with disabilities who had support of Special Needs Assistants can find transitions between primary and secondary school difficult
- Lack of transition programmes available in schools and youth services
- Young people on reduced timetables and expelled from school are a specific group in need of supports
- There can be difficulties engaging young Travellers in Youthreach
- Young people aged 18 – 24 years not in education employment or training (NEETS) are a group in need of continuously funded programmes



Learning and development			
Key socio-demographic information on learning and development	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on learning and development	Priority needs identified by service providers related to learning and development	Priority needs identified by service providers related to learning and development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1% of the population of Carlow has no formal education which is above the national average of 1.7% • 1.6% of the population in Kilkenny has no formal education which is below the national average • Kilkenny is above the national average for degree level education completed • Carlow is below the national average for degree level education completed • Nationally, only 1% of the Traveller community progress to third level education (ESRI, 2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key aims of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures related to learning and development are that all children and young people: • Are learning and developing from birth • Have social and emotional wellbeing • Are engaged in learning • Are achieving in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning supports for young Travellers in schools to complete the Leaving Certificate and access third level education • Develop educational programmes around young Traveller's interests, e.g. equine projects • Childcare for young mothers accessing education and training • More educational training centres • Examine more educational opportunities for young homeless people • Afterschool programmes aimed at homeless children aged 10-18 years living in hotel accommodation with their families • Educational and training programmes for young people with disabilities/Autism, e.g. social skills • Youth services to provide language supports to young people from ethnic minorities • Soft skills programmes for young homeless people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free supervised afterschool study centres • Life skills programmes for young people, e.g. first aid, cooking, personal finance skills • Life skills programmes for specific groups of young people, e.g. young people with disabilities, youth people in Youthreach, NEETS • Learning to drive programmes in youth services • Pre-Youthreach programmes to help young people out of school to transitions back to education • Schools/Youthreach linking up with local colleges for day courses, e.g. taster course

5.4 Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Early school leaving			
Key socio-demographic information on early school leaving	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on early school leaving	Priority needs identified by service providers related to early school leaving	Priority needs identified by service providers related to early school leaving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow has the third highest national rates of early school leaving in the country at 3.4% • Carlow also has high levels of absenteeism compared to the national average • Kilkenny has the lowest rates of early school leaving in the country at 1.5% • Nationally, 13% of Traveller children complete second level education compared to 92% in the settled community • Of those Travellers who drop out of second level education, 55% have left by the age of 15 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously funded education and training programmes aimed at specific groups of young people, e.g. NEETS aged 18 -24 years, young people in conflict with the law, young homeless people • Youth services to support more access to iScoil, e.g. locations in rural areas • A 'Junior Level Youthreach' for early school leavers focusing on practical subjects, life skills etc. • More outreach educational programmes for young NEETS, early school leavers, young people expelled from school • Youth workers to provide one-to-one support/ advocacy for young NEETS, early school leavers, young people expelled from school • Offer a menu of options for young people out of education, e.g. Youthreach, home tuition, literacy supports etc. • Provide basic life skills training for young NEETS • Provide educational programmes for young people in conflict with the law who are early school leavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More supports, information and follow-up of young people who are early school leavers
Transitions in education			
Key socio-demographic information on transitions in education	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on transitions in education	Priority needs identified by service providers related to transitions in education	Priority needs identified by service providers related to transitions in education
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run transition programmes in secondary schools, e.g. tours of schools, summer programmes, buddy programmes • Transition supports and programmes for young Travellers, young people with disabilities transitioning between primary and secondary school • Provide more supports for first year students in third level education 	

5.5 Key issues identified in the need analysis research related to Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Key issues identified related to secure home environment:

- Young people experiencing stress at home and family dysfunction are affected by behavioural issues, anxiety, mental health issues etc.
- Domestic violence and sexual violence are issues affecting some young people
- Carlow has the highest divorce rate in the country
- Children and young people aged 10- 18 living in hotel accommodation who are experiencing homelessness are a group in need of services, programmes and spaces
- Hidden homeless is an issue, e.g. young people 'couch surfing'
- Young people who are homeless experience difficulties accessing services once they turn 18
- Specific groups of young people are at risk of experiencing homelessness, e.g. young people leaving care and young LGBTI+ people
- There are a lack of aftercare workers and no aftercare housing in Kilkenny City

Key issues identified related to safety:

- Some young people do not feel safe in their communities, e.g. safety issues in Carlow Town Park
- Some groups of young people feel particularly vulnerable around personal safety, e.g. young people with disabilities, LGBTI+ young people
- There are a lack of youth friendly buildings and safe spaces
- Homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools is an issue due to lack of consistent policies and teacher training

Key issues identified related to online safety:

- There is a lack of online safety education
- Parents are disempowered due to lack of knowledge/education on social media and online safety

Key issues identified related to discrimination:

- Discrimination is a key issue affecting young Travellers, e.g. in schools, shops etc.
- Discrimination is an issue affecting young LGBTI+ young people, e.g. in schools, teachers
- Young people in Youthreach experience discrimination from employers, agencies etc.

5.6 Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Secure home environment			
Key socio-demographic information on secure home environment	Link to national and local policies/ strategies on secure home environment	Priority needs identified by service providers related to secure home environment	Priority needs identified by service providers related to secure home environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SVP Monastery Hostel in Carlow reported 12 young people under the age of 25 used their services between April and December 2017 and 5 young people used their services between January and March 2018 • Good Shepard Homeless services in Kilkenny reported 9 young males aged 19-24 years used their service in 2017 • A total of 44 families with 80 dependents were reported as homeless in the South-East in November 2017 • In 2017, there were 362 children and young people under 18 years (5.7 per 1,000), in care of TúsIa in the Carlow and Kilkenny/ South Tipperary ISA which is higher than the state average • 60% of young adults aged 18 – 22 years in Carlow and Kilkenny/ South Tipperary were in receipt of an aftercare service with an allocated aftercare worker in 2017 which is significantly below the national average of 86% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 3.1 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people have a secure, stable and caring home environment • Aim 3.2 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes, supports and a safe space for children and young people aged 10- 18 living in hotel accommodation experiencing homelessness • Provide outreach services to young people experiencing homelessness offering one-to-one supports • Educational programmes for young males and females on healthy relationships/ domestic violence with a consistent message • Youth services to create an 'Advocacy officer' role to provide advocacy services for young people in care, link in with schools, build relationships etc. • Youth services to work with other agencies in relation to young people in care, e.g. involvement in the Meitheal process • Support services for young people with families with separated/ divorced parents • Supports for young people in care integrating back into their community and their families particularly in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe space for young people to hang out
<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a total of 268 referrals to the Diversion Programme in Kilkenny/Carlow in 2016 which represents a 5% decrease from 2015 • 41 young people were referred and engaged by the HUB Garda Youth Diversion Project in Carlow in 2017 • 33 young people were referred and engaged by the COMPASS Garda Youth Diversion Project in Kilkenny in 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 3.3 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are protected from bullying and discrimination • Aim 3.4 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour • Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014 -2020 and Carlow County Development Plan state that new residential developments will be assessed in accordance with design criteria for sustainable residential developments including, how safe, secure and enjoyable are the public areas In accordance with the National Play Policy, Kilkenny and Carlow County Development Plans state it is their policy to create a child-friendly and safe environment where the importance of play is recognised for a child's development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more youth friendly buildings and spaces • Provide continuously resourced programmes aimed at young people in conflict with the law • Help young people in conflict with the law access mainstream youth services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better homophobic/ transphobic anti-bullying policies in schools • More training for teachers on homophobic/ transphobic bullying in schools • Safe places for young people to hang out, e.g. 'pop up' youth café in centre of Carlow town, e.g. pool table, Wi-Fi, food • Install CCTV cameras, e.g. in Carlow Town

Online safety			
Key socio-demographic information on online safety	Link to national and local policies/strategies on online safety	Priority needs identified by service providers related to online safety	Priority needs identified by service providers related to online safety
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online safety education programmes aimed at young people • Online safety education programmes aimed at parents • Education in youth services in relation to online safety etc. • Joined up approach between youth services and schools on online safety, e.g. common strategy and promotion • Education/information for parents, e.g. workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online safety programmes/workshops in schools • Online safety programmes for young people, parents, teachers
Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-discrimination and equality are key themes addressed in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 • The All Ireland Traveller Health Study (UCD, 2010) found a reluctance to continue in mainstream education as Travellers feel it is not associated with any positive outcomes due to the high level of discrimination faced by Travellers when seeking employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveller anti-discrimination and cultural awareness programmes in youth services and schools by young Travellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural awareness and education programmes delivered by young Travellers, in schools and youth services • Workshops in schools to combat discrimination against LGBTI+ young people • Start educating children in schools about being LGBTI+ from a young age



5.7 Key issues identified in the needs analysis research related to Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Key issues identified related to 'Economic Security and Opportunity'

- The current educational curriculum is outdated and does not address changing employment opportunities
- Young people transitioning from second to third level education experience difficulties such as accessing grants, services
- Public transport is a barrier to young people accessing training and employment opportunities in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny, e.g. Tullow, Bagenalstown, Rathvilly, Borris, Castlecomer
- Some groups of young people are more difficult to engage in training opportunities, e.g. young Travellers
- Young people with mild disabilities face difficulties in accessing training and permanent employment which has a negative impact in terms of social isolation, integration into society etc.
- Literacy/numeracy problems among young people leaving care/who experience homelessness means they have difficulties engaging with Youthreach, education and training which impacts on their social welfare entitlements and payments
- Young people in Carlow find it hard to get part-time jobs and work experience

5.8 Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Training Opportunities			
Key socio-demographic information on training opportunities	Link to national and local policies/strategies on training opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to training opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to training opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 4.1 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are protected from poverty and social exclusion • Aim 4.2 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are living in child/youth-friendly, sustainable communities • Aim 4.3 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people have opportunities for ongoing education and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth work programmes to improve motivation, soft skills, social skills among NEETS • Training and employment services/programmes to work directly with young people with mild disabilities to help them access training and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to drive programmes for young people • Young people with disabilities would like more access to training opportunities

Employment Opportunities			
Key socio-demographic information on employment opportunities	Link to national and local policies/strategies on employment opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to employment opportunities	Priority needs identified by service providers related to employment opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unemployment rate in Carlow is higher than the national average and the third highest in the country. There were 518 young people under 25 years on the Live Register in Carlow in February 2018. The highest concentration of young people under 25 years on the Live Register is in Carlow town followed by Bagenalstown and Tullow • There were 395 young people under 25 years on the Live Register in Kilkenny in February 2018 • There is one unemployment blackspot in Kilkenny, Urlingford, with an unemployment rate of 27.5% • The All Ireland Health Study (2010) found • that 84% of Travellers were unemployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 4.4 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people have pathways to economic participation and independent living • The National Anti-Poverty Strategy 2007-2016 (NAPS), provides a framework for anti-poverty initiatives within Local Authorities • NAPS supports working age people and people with disabilities, through activation measures and the provision of services to increase employment and participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More focus on life skills, people skills, soft skills development • Advocacy programmes for young Travellers, e.g. help opening a bank account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports for young people to access part-time employment/work experience • Jobs skills programmes for young people, e.g. interview skills, CV development • More opportunities for young people from Youthreach to access work experience/part-time work • Programmes and supports for young people with disabilities to access to employment opportunities

5.9 Key issues identified in the needs analysis research related to Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Key issues identified related to inclusion in society:

- Specific groups of young people do not feel included in society, e.g. ethnic minorities, young Travellers
- Some young people living in rural areas do not feel accepted, e.g. LGBTI+ young people
- LGBTI+ young people from the Traveller community are a group who may experience difficulties being accepted in their community
- Some young people living in rural areas are experiencing isolation
- Older teenagers and young adults with disabilities experience social isolation
- Groups such as MUI LGBTI+ group in CRYIS is working well to promote inclusion of young LGBTI+ people and young people with disabilities

Key issues identified related to equality, rights and diversity:

- There is a lack of understanding of different cultures and circumstances, e.g. young Travellers, young people from ethnic minorities
- Some groups of young people do not experience equality in settings such as schools, e.g. LGBTI+ young people, young Travellers

Key issues identified related to active citizenship:

- Young people with disabilities lack of a voice in participation structures such as Comhairle na nÓg due to accessibility issues
- Lack of engagement of young Travellers in youth participation structures, e.g. Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg
- There is a lack of education in school on politics and active citizenship

5.10 Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Inclusion in society			
Key socio-demographic information on inclusion in society	Link to national and local policies/strategies on inclusion in society	Priority needs identified by service providers related to inclusion in society	Priority needs identified by young people related to inclusion in society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 5.1 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people have a sense of their own identity, free from discrimination • Aim 5.2 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people have positive networks of friends, family and community. • Carlow County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 focuses on promoting and facilitating social inclusion and has identified target groups which include children and young people, carers, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups and the travelling community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Syrian refugees settling in Carlow and Kilkenny are integrated into youth services • Engage in outreach work with young people from ethnic minority backgrounds • Establish links with ethnic and religious minority communities, churches, parent’s groups etc. • Ensure young people from ethnic minorities aged 18- 24 years are integrated into youth services • Youth service to create an inclusive environment and promote inclusion, e.g. for LGBTI+ young people, young people from ethnic minorities • Integration of young people with disabilities in mainstream services • Standardise practice of working with LGBTI+ young people across all youth organisations/agencies • Create LGBTI+ friendly symbols, e.g. pin/ sticker • Ensure all agencies have training on how to work with LGBTI+ young people • Development of ‘Inclusion officers’ for young people with disabilities in youth services • Traveller friendly youth services e.g. display art work from Travellers, posters etc. to make young Travellers feel welcome and they belong • Integration of young Travellers in mainstream youth services • Supports for young Travellers to connect and integrate in their local community • Link young Travellers with community-based programmes, e.g. referral systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure young people feel included in youth services, e.g. young Travellers, young people with disabilities

Equality, rights and diversity			
Key socio-demographic information on equality, rights and diversity	Link to national and local policies/strategies on equality, rights and diversity	Priority needs identified by service providers related to equality, rights and diversity	Priority needs identified by young people related to Equality, rights and diversity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 5.4 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are aware of their rights, responsible and respectful of the law. • The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 states that culturally appropriate supports should be developed so that LGBTI Travellers and Roma are included, accepted and protected in their own communities and wider Irish society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based anti-racism and anti-discrimination programmes with a common shared approach • Programmes and activities that promote empathy of different groups/backgrounds • Young people should be educated on their rights • Youth services to work with schools on issues related to LGBTI+ young people, e.g. awareness training, supports, developing policies, checklists, transgender issues • Youth services to provide information and supports for parents of transgender young people • Parental supports for young people with disabilities • Youth services to work with LGBTI+ young people, e.g. advocacy work, information, link in with national organisations • Targeting areas where there are reports of racism/high concentrations of ethnic minorities living, e.g. Tullow • Link young Travellers to organisations at a local and national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services should be LGBTI+ friendly • Develop a leaflet on LGBTI+ issues, e.g. definitions, tips for coming out at home/friends • Equal rights for LGBTI+ young people in school policies, rules etc. • Traveller cultural awareness training in schools, youth services delivered by young Travellers • Empathy programmes, e.g. to improve understanding of young people in wheelchairs etc.

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“YOUTH SERVICE TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE INCLUSION”

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Active citizenship			
Key socio-demographic information on active citizenship	Link to national and local policies/strategies on active citizenship	Priority needs identified by service providers related to active citizenship	Priority needs identified by young people related to active citizenship
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 5.3 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is that children and young people are civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious • Carlow County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 recognises that young people should have an effective opportunity to influence policy and services that directly affect them and provide possible solutions to these needs, e.g. formal and informal recreational opportunities • The Development Plan aims to ensure that the voice of young people is included when services and policies that affect them are being developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people should have a say, be consulted and involved in decision-making • Young people should have opportunities to be involved in EU structures/inform policy making • Young people who are experts on issues to be consulted, e.g. those with mental health issues • Comhairle na nÓg to be consulted on local policies/plans and recommendations implemented • Local organisations and agencies to engage more with Comhairle na nÓg in a non-tokenistic way • Supports to help young Travellers engage with Comhairle na nÓg • Programmes in schools on active citizenship etc. • Examine how young people are consulted, e.g. engaging hard to reach young people • Develop programmes and opportunities about ‘creating not consuming’ • Empower young people with disabilities to have a voice through participation • Inclusion of young people with disabilities in planning of services • Ensure youth services are accessible to young people with disabilities, e.g. wheelchair accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New services/business to consult with young people on their needs

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**EMPOWER YOUNG
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES TO HAVE
A VOICE THROUGH
PARTICIPATION**

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5.11 Results of a survey of volunteers from youth clubs/groups in Carlow and Kilkenny

About the respondents

In total, 25 volunteers in 22 youth clubs/groups in Carlow and Kilkenny completed the survey which was available online and in hard copy. Six out of ten (60%) volunteers were based in youth clubs/groups in Carlow and 40% were based in youth clubs/groups in Kilkenny. Youth clubs/groups included:

- Scout groups,
- Foróige youth clubs,
- Macra na Feirme,
- Music groups,
- Arts based groups,
- Disability groups.

A full list of youth clubs/groups who responded to the survey can be seen in Appendix C.

Programmes and activities

Respondents were asked to outline the types of programmes and activities provided by youth clubs/projects. As can be seen, from figure 10 below, the most common type of programmes and activities provided by youth clubs/groups are personal development (68%), followed by arts and crafts (56%), sports (56%), cookery (48%), dance, drama and music (44%), mental health (40%), computers/IT (20%), sexual health (12%) and education/homework support (12%).

Almost (48%) half of clubs/groups provided other programmes and activities. These included:

- Scouting programmes and activities, e.g. ONE programme, camping
- Outdoor activities, e.g. hiking, orienteering, pioneering
- Training programmes, e.g. leadership programmes
- Supporting local charities
- Trips away

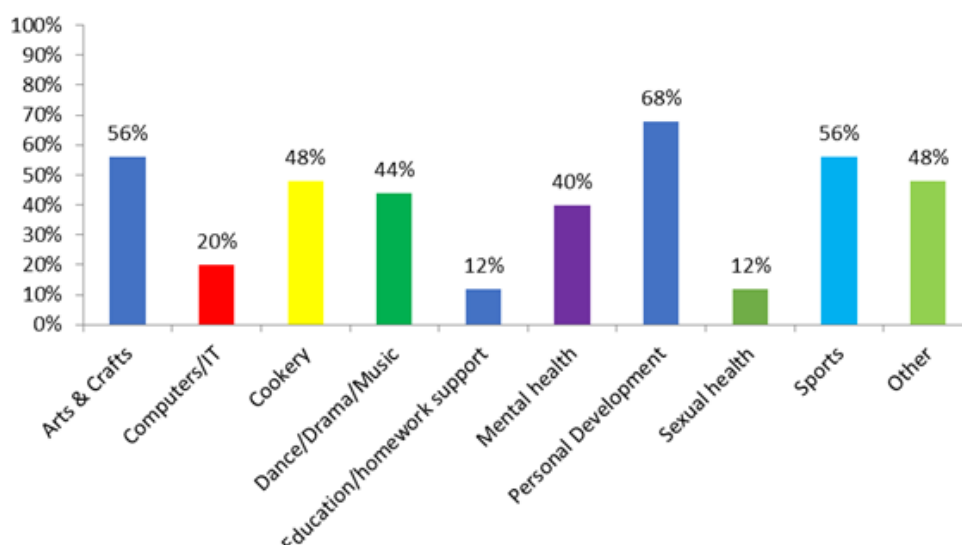


Figure 10: Types of programmes and activities provided by youth clubs/projects in Carlow and Kilkenny

Reasons for providing programmes and activities

Volunteers with youth clubs/groups were asked to provide the main reasons for providing these types of programmes and activities. The main reason for providing programmes and activities was based on the identified needs of young people. The needs of young people were either identified by young people themselves, volunteers or families.

Other reasons for providing programmes and activities included:

- To increase the personal, social, emotional, physical, intellectual, cultural, spiritual development of young people
- To increase young people's life skills
- To increase young people's coping skills
- To increase skills such as teamwork
- To help young people learn new skills such as music, acting etc.
- To encourage young people to be physically active and engage in outdoor activities
- To provide a space for young people to socialise, make friends and express themselves
- To engage with young people in a fun and safe way
- To create responsible citizens who are active in their community and improve society
- To encourage young people to mix together in their community
- To contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities by working with young people from rural areas

Priority needs of young people in Carlow and Kilkenny

Respondents were asked to identify the priority needs of young people aged 10-24 years in Carlow and Kilkenny. The most to the least commonly identified priority needs of young people were:

- A safe space for young people to hang out with friends
- Opportunities for young people to socialise and meet new people particularly in rural areas
- A wide range of planned fun activities
- Opportunities to learn new skills, e.g. life skills, music
- Access to non-formal education
- Personal development e.g. increase self-confidence
- Adults they can talk to about problems without judgement
- Opportunities to get involved in their local community
- Improved facilities
- Access to training
- Free Wi-Fi

“To have somewhere that they feel safe and secure to hang out with their friends.”

“In rural areas, there is the need for organised activities, a means of connecting with others in a safe and fun way.”

“It's a social group, a place to belong, and somewhere to learn life skills and a sense of responsibility.”

How are youth clubs/groups addressing these needs?

The survey asked how youth clubs/groups are currently addressing the needs of young people. The main ways youth clubs/groups are addressing these needs are by:

- Providing safe spaces to young people to meet regularly
- Running programmes and activities based on young people's needs and interests
- Organising trips and events
- Consulting and listening to young people in relation to their needs

Respondents were asked how else their youth club/group could address the needs of young people aged 10-24 years in Carlow and Kilkenny. The most to the least commonly identified ways youth clubs/groups could also address the needs of young people were:

- Increased funding to provide more programmes and activities and improved facilities and equipment for young people, e.g. fundraising, sponsorship, grants, discounts
- Linking in with other youth groups/clubs to pool resources and activities
- Up-to-date training for volunteers
- Recruitment of more volunteer youth leaders
- Assessing the local needs of young people
- Provide more workshops for young people on specific needs

The main supports youth clubs/groups need to address the needs of young people were more funding for facilities, equipment etc., training for volunteers, help with recruitment of more leaders, support from parents, support from youth organisations, support from local community, businesses etc.

“More funding could lead to more activities and programs and provide more opportunities for our young people.”

“More leaders required which in turn would provide programmes to more youth members.”

Issues for young people to be prioritised in the Youth Work Plan

According to respondents, the key issues for young people that should be prioritised in the Youth Work Plan, from the most to the least commonly identified included:

- Mental health, e.g. access to counselling, trained youth leaders to talk to
- Safe environments for young people, e.g. more youth facilities particularly in rural areas
- Educational and awareness programmes, e.g. health and wellbeing, sexual health, drugs awareness, child protection programmes
- Bullying, including cyberbullying
- Internet safety issues
- Access to a wide variety of activities including non-sporting activities
- Promotion of active lifestyles for young people
- Supports, training and education for volunteers, e.g. support with recruitment of volunteers, free training etc.
- Supports for youth clubs/groups in rural areas
- Funding
- Discrimination

“To keep kids active, mind and body. A lot of mental health issues are ongoing, even in our small village, and let them know that it’s OK not to be OK, and they will always have someone to listen to them.”

Education programmes on bullying or drugs awareness, health and wellbeing etc. would be of great benefit to them.”

Young people with additional needs

Respondents were asked if young people with additional needs attend their club/group. As can be seen from table 36 below, three quarters of respondents stated young people with disabilities and young people with mental health issues attend their clubs/groups. The next most common group of young people with additional needs attending clubs/groups was geographically disadvantaged young people (60%) followed by young people from ethnic and religious minority backgrounds (55%), LGBTI+ young people (35%), young people in care (35%), young parents/lone parents (30%), young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) (25%), young Travellers (15%), young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (15%), young carers (10%), young people in conflict with the law (5%), young people in direct provision (5%) and young people experiencing homelessness (5%).

Category of young people with additional needs	2006
Young people with disabilities	75%
Young people with mental health needs	75%
Young people that are geographically disadvantaged	60%
Young people from ethnic/religious minority groups	55%
LGBTI+ young people	35%
Young people in care	35%
Young parents/ lone parents	30%
Young people not in education, employment or training	25%
Young Travellers	15%
Young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers	15%
Young carers	10%
Young people in conflict with the law	5%
Young people in direct provision	5%
Homeless young people	5%

Table 36: Young people with additional needs attending youth clubs/groups in by percentage



Priority needs of young people with additional needs in Carlow and Kilkenny

The survey asked respondents to identify the priority and emerging needs of young people aged 10- 24 years with additional needs in Carlow and Kilkenny. The priority needs of young people with additional needs identified by volunteers in youth clubs/groups, from the most to the least commonly mentioned, were:

- Access to mental health supports and services, e.g. counselling
- A safe environment to access recreational programmes and activities
- Inclusion and acceptance in youth clubs/groups
- Personal development programmes
- Leaders/volunteers trained on specific needs of young people, e.g. young people with behavioural issues, learning difficulties, disabilities
- Supports for youth workers/volunteers from other agencies/professionals to work with young people with additional needs, e.g. social workers, special needs assistants
- Alcohol/drug policies
- Support in dealing with social media pressures
- Educational supports
- To be listened to and heard

“Acceptance, being treated the same, able to access groups the same as any other youth member.”

“Having a safe and secure place to do recreational activities.”

“Kids with behavioural issues and learning difficulties. Training for leaders in dealing with kids with specific learning needs.”

How are youth clubs/groups currently addressing these needs?

According to volunteers, the way youth clubs/groups are currently addressing the needs of young people with additional needs include the following:

- Addressing mental health issues through promoting mental health programmes, events and initiatives and listening to young people when they need someone to talk to/support
- Addressing inclusion through being open to all young people, open-minded, accepting of all young people, promoting inclusion and providing programmes catering for all abilities
- Addressing personal development through promoting self-confidence and personal development programmes and activities
- Providing a safe place for young people to meet
- Addressing social media pressures through limiting access to social media and mobile phones during youth clubs/groups activities and initiatives such as ‘no technology weekends’
- No alcohol policies at discos etc.
- Youth participation in decision-making, e.g. asking young people for their ideas, listening to them and including them in programme and activity planning etc.

“By being as inclusive as possible and providing a programme that everyone in the group can participate to their own ability in.”

“Asking for their ideas and letting them have the means to do their ideas with support along the way.”

How else could youth clubs/groups address these needs?

Youth clubs/groups could support these additional needs through additional training for leaders , e.g. on mental health, special needs. Additional funding needed to run programmes and activities, raising awareness of clubs/group more, linking in with other clubs/groups, inviting young people with additional needs, e.g. young people with disabilities, to attend youth clubs/groups and running ‘inclusive camps’ and bringing qualified guest speakers on specific topics, e.g. mental health, bullying, substance misuse.

“Run Inclusive Camps in the local area for children with disabilities and their siblings.”

“It would be great to have some mental health issues addressed also maybe someone qualified to speak to kids about ongoing issues with society today bullying drug use etc.”

Issues for young people with additional needs to be prioritised in the Youth Work Plan

Respondents were asked what issues for young people with additional needs should be prioritised in the Kilkenny Carlow ETB Youth Work Action Plan. The key issues identified by respondents included:

- Mental health, e.g. workshops, access to mental health supports/services
- Training and information for youth club/group leaders to work with young people with additional needs, e.g. young people with disabilities, ADHD etc.
- Inclusion of young people with additional needs in mainstream youth clubs/groups, e.g. accessibility, inclusive environments, suitable activities for young people with disabilities
- Workshops for young people on inclusion, tolerance, empathy etc.
- Inclusion
- Alcohol and drug misuse, e.g. workshops for young people
- Bullying
- Life skills development for young people
- Awareness raising of youth services
- Funding

“Workshops for all members around tolerance and integration.”

“Need to provide more workshops for drugs, self-harm etc.”

“ADHD is probably one of our biggest issues at present. And all kids want to feel accepted at any age but when groups clubs have to turn people away because they’re full or don’t have enough leaders. It is another blow to their self-esteem.”

5.12 young peoples engagement with youth services

About the young people

In total, 140 young people completed the survey which was available online and in hard copy. In terms of gender, 56.4% of respondents were female and 43.6% were male. As regards age, just over half (52.9%) were aged 10 – 14 years, 40% were aged 15 – 17 years, 5% were aged 18 – 20 years and 2.1% were aged 21 – 24 years (see figure 11 below).

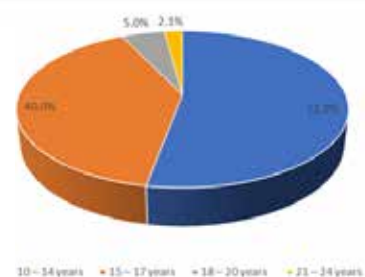


Figure 11: Age of respondents

Where young people were from

Just over half (52.5%) of respondents were from Carlow and 47.5% were from Kilkenny. Areas in Carlow young people were from included Bagenalstown, Ballinabranna, Ballon, Ballyhide, Borris, Carlow town, Hacketstown, Leighlinbridge, Nurney, Old Leighlin, Rathvilly and Tullow.

Areas in Kilkenny young people were from included Ballycallan, Callan, Castlecomer, Glenmore, Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny city, Paulstown, Piltown, Thomastown and Tullaroan.

Young people's engagement with youth services

Almost all (96.4%) young people who responded attend a youth service, club or group on a regular basis. According to just over six out of ten (63%) young people, the best thing about their youth club/group is having somewhere to hang out with friends. The next best thing about youth clubs and groups identified was programmes and activities (15.2%), followed by meeting new people (12.3%), youth workers/leaders (3.6%) and other (5.8%) (see figure 12 below).

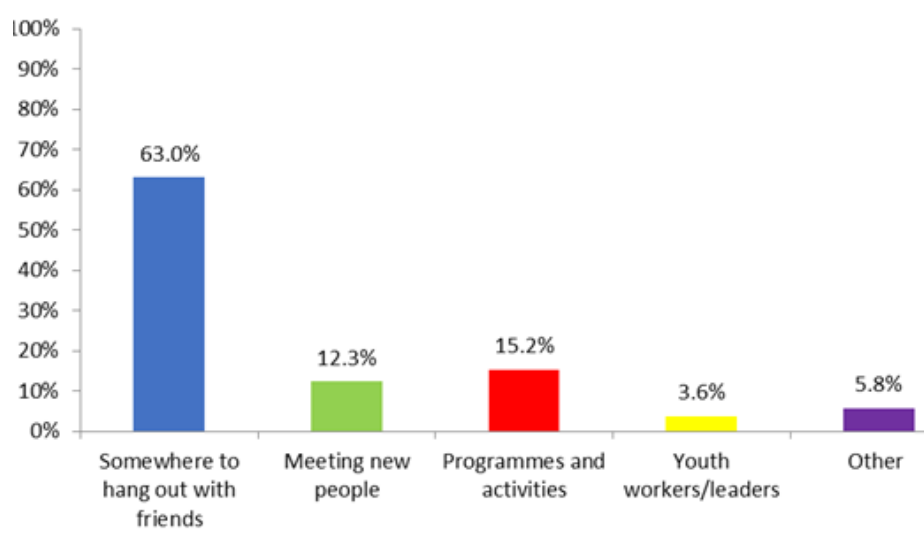


Figure 12: The best thing about youth clubs and groups



How youth clubs/groups could be improved

The survey asked young people what their youth club/group could do to make it better and more enjoyable for them. More planned activities were the most commonly mentioned way in which youth clubs/groups could be improved. Young people stated they would particularly like to participate in more outdoor activities such as camping and hiking. Other activities young people would like to do more of included:

- More hobby-based activities
- Movie nights
- Games/sporting activities
- Cooking/baking activities
- Activities for older teenagers
- Volunteering activities involving the local community

“Have stuff for us to do when we come up, e.g. make cupcakes.”

“Try to arrange more events and activities to interact and help out in the local community.”

Other ways in which youth clubs/groups could be improved highlighted by young people, from the most to the least commonly mentioned, included:

- More trips
- More equipment, e.g. sports equipment
- More programmes and workshops, e.g. on sexual health and relationships, personal development, CV preparation, jobs skills, self-defence, first aid
- More opening hours e.g. open more days and for longer hours
- Free food for young people
- Free Wi-Fi
- Better facilities, e.g. halls, sports facilities
- Better promotion of youth clubs/group to young people
- More events, e.g. discos, social events, outdoor cinema
- More interclub activities, e.g. competitions, events
- More fundraising to fund trips etc.
- Getting more young people involved in clubs/groups

“Good trips with other groups.”

“Interesting programmes like CV preparation, job hunting, sex education and relationships, doing projects to help the community.”

Gaps in activities and programmes

The survey asked young people what activities or programmes they would their club/group to run that are currently not available. The key activities young people would like that are not currently available in their clubs/groups, from the most to the least commonly cited were:

Sports based activities and competitions, e.g. soccer, Gaelic football, hurling/camogie, swimming, volleyball, archery, athletics, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

Outdoor activities, e.g. hiking, fishing, climbing, kayaking

Book clubs

The key programmes young people highlighted which are not currently available, from the most to the least commonly mentioned were:

- Music programmes
- Dance programmes
- Art programmes
- Beauty programmes, e.g. hair, skincare, nails, make-up
- Leaderships programmes
- Relationships programmes
- Health programmes

Key needs of young people

The survey asked respondents to identify the top needs of young people in their area. The top needs of young people, from the most to the least frequently identified, were:

- A safe, warm, relaxed place to hang out with friends where they feel a sense of belonging, are accepted and won't get in trouble
- Technology, e.g. Wi-Fi, phones, computers, computer games, TVs, laptops, iPads etc.
- Improved facilities, e.g. larger facilities, new Scout Halls, sports facilities, pitches, playgrounds
- Food to be available in youth clubs/groups
- Sports, e.g. a wider range of sports, facilities, pitches and equipment
- Friends, e.g. friendships, making new friends
- Having someone to talk to face to face, e.g. leaders, friends, other young people
- More leaders and good role models
- Educational supports, e.g. homework supports
- More activities
- To feel safe and protected
- Mental health supports, services and information, e.g., counselling, supports for anxiety
- Better equipment, e.g. music/cooking equipment
- More programmes and information on sexual health and relationships, LGBTI+ issues, alcohol, drugs and smoking
- Personal development, e.g. to gain confidence and grow as a person
- More information on what is currently available to young people in their area

“To have somewhere safe to hang out with friends.”

“People they (young people) can speak to about how they feel.”

“More info on mental health counselling.”

Young people were also asked how youth services, clubs and group could address these needs. The main ways identified in which they could address these needs was through more funding, grants, fundraising and sponsorship, e.g. by local businesses. Other suggestions included opening youth clubs/groups more often, consulting and listening to young people about their needs, running more sporting activities, bringing in guest speakers to speak about topics, having more leaders/staff and advertising youth services, clubs and groups more, e.g. in schools.



Section 6

Identified
Youth Work
Priority Areas

6.1 CORE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

A set of actions arises from the statutory youth work functions of ETBs, which are to:

Support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area and provide such information as may be requested by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to such support; and

Assess whether the manner in which it performs its functions is economical, efficient and effective. (Education and Training Boards Act, Section 10(1)(j,k)).

These actions form a core body of work in relation to the ETB's youth work functions and are set out in the table below.

Underpinning Actions	Principal Outcomes*
<p>Supporting The Provision Of Youth Work</p> <p>Support developmental work and training as identified through quality standards processes and the local youth work plan.</p> <p>In partnership with the DCYA, participate in relevant needs identification and service mapping exercises.</p> <p>Identify emerging youth work needs for the ETB area in consultation with the ETB Youth Work Committee and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Progress implementation of ETB Youth Work Plan.</p> <p>Implementation of National Quality Standards Framework and National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups.</p> <p>In partnership with the DCYA, reconfigure funding at local level to enhance service provision where necessary.</p>	<p>1. Young people are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing</p> <p>2. Young people are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development</p> <p>3. Young people are safe and protected from harm</p> <p>4. Young people have economic security and opportunity</p> <p>5. Young people are connected, respected and contributing to their world</p>
<p>Supporting The Coordination Of Youth Work</p> <p>Establish and support the operation of an ETB Youth Work Committee in accordance the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013 (Section 44).</p> <p>Support and participate in interagency collaboration.</p> <p>Support identified links between the non-formal and formal education sector.</p>	<p>* Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures:</p> <p>The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People (2014-2020)</p>
<p>Supporting The Administration Of Youth Work</p> <p>Administer and carry out appropriate oversight of funding on behalf of the DCYA.</p> <p>Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Value For Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes in relation to targeted programmes.</p>	
<p>Supporting The Assessment Of Youth Work</p> <p>Assess youth work programmes and services for which moneys are provided in line with DPER requirements.</p> <p>Assess relevant funding renewal applications and identify priority needs regarding finance, staffing, management structures and service provision (economy, efficiency and effectiveness).</p>	

The areas outlined below are identified key priority issues for young people in Kilkenny and Carlow in 2018. Examples of approach to address these issues are highlighted for consideration

6.2 IDENTIFIED YOUTH WORK PRIORITY AREAS 2018

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Physical health and well-being	<p>As a nation we have high levels of youth obesity partly due to an increase in sedentary lifestyles, an over reliance on technology, consumption of high sugar processed foods.</p> <p>The research has shown that certain groups of young people are less likely to engage in sporting activities including teenage girls, LGBTI+ young people.</p> <p>Substance misuse, particularly amongst young male travellers, young people in conflict with the law and young homeless people also impacts negatively on their physical and mental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide variety of physical activity/sports programmes, activities and facilities for all abilities • Sports-based activities and programmes aimed at involving specific groups, e.g. young male Travellers, young people with disabilities, young LGBTI+ females • Work in partnership with variety of organisations to deliver activity based programmes. • Innovative health-based programmes and activities. • Healthy food to be provided in youth services • Shared policy approach to substance misuse programmes among youth services, statutory agencies, schools etc.
Mental health and well-being	<p>Mental health is a key issue affecting young people nationally and locally and is linked to factors such as exam pressure, substance misuse, bullying/cyber bullying, social media and sexual identity issues.</p> <p>The suicide rate in Carlow is higher than the national average and is also a significant problem among young male Travellers.</p> <p>The research highlights the need for prompt access to mental health services for young people. It also identifies stress and anxiety as a growing mental health issue among young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health programmes for young people addressing resilience, stress and anxiety • Evidence-based positive mental health programmes for specific groups of young people, e.g. LGBTI+ young people, young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD • Interagency co-operation on mental health supports and services • Training for youth services on mental health, working with young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD etc. • Prompt access to free/affordable counselling services in youth services or referral to other counselling services • Provide Information to young people on mental health supports and services available, e.g. in youth services, CAMHS, counselling services, schools etc. • Development of support services for young LGBTI+ Travellers delivered through outreach work or other programmes to overcome cultural issues and stigma • Continuous funding of groups for young people supporting positive mental health, e.g. mental health/LGBTI+ support groups • Examine the need for bereavement/loss support groups for young people

Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Sexual health and well-being	<p>Sexual health and healthy relationships are important for all young people and are affected by factors such as peer pressure, social media, gender roles and pornography.</p> <p>The research shows particular groups of young people require additional supports in relation to sexual health and well-being, i.e. young Travellers, LGBTI+ young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes to combat domestic violence aimed at young male Travellers • Supports and programmes for young Traveller women, e.g. sexual health, parenting supports, domestic violence • Evidenced-based programmes on healthy relationships, sexual health, sexual violence etc. including LGBTI+ sex education • A shared policy approach to sexual health programmes among the youth services, statutory organisations, schools
Recreation and cultural opportunities	<p>The research highlights a lack of recreation opportunities for specific groups of young people, i.e. young people aged 18- 24 years, young people in rural areas, young people with disabilities, young carers, LGBTI+ young people aged 18- 24 years.</p> <p>Lack of recreation opportunities for young people in rural areas was identified as a key issue compounded by lack of public transport, rural isolation etc.</p> <p>Engaging young Travellers in recreation activities was also identified as a challenge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services to be available to young people aged 18 – 24, e.g. trips, life skills, drop-in, outdoor adventure activities • Examine the current model of youth work provision in rural areas of Carlow and Kilkenny • Social groups for young people aged 18 – 24 years with disabilities • Enhanced/alternative ways to engage young Travellers, e.g. programmes and activities that capture the interests of Travellers, outreach to Traveller sites, groups for married Traveller girls, drop-in for young males etc. • Training for youth services on key issues such as mental health, LGBTI+, disability, restorative justice, challenging behaviour etc. • Better accessibility to youth services for young people in rural areas, e.g. transport to access youth services in urban areas, rotation of youth services between rural areas etc. • Recognition, training and targeted supports for volunteer led youth work particularly in rural areas • Centralised approach to co-ordinating youth work programmes to ensure high quality standards, inter-agency co-operation, best use of resources, lack of duplication etc. • Centralised training for youth services and organisation to ensure a common approach, e.g. LGBTI+ training • More core funding for youth work in rural areas, e.g. to upgrade facilities, create youth friendly spaces, volunteer training, programmes, activities etc.

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Education	<p>Nationally, young Travellers have very high rates of early school leaving and poor progression rates to third level education.</p> <p>Carlow has a very high rate of early school leaving and absenteeism compared to the national average.</p> <p>The research found that young Travellers are a key group in need of additional education supports, e.g. learning supports, transition supports, supports in accessing Youthreach.</p> <p>Other groups in need of additional educational supports include NEETS, young people with disabilities, young people from ethnic minorities, homeless young people, young people in conflict with the law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous funding of education programmes for young people not in education, training or employment (NEETS) • Educational supports for young people with additional needs, e.g. afterschool programmes for young people under 18 living in homeless accommodation, young Travellers, young people from ethnic minorities • Education supports and advocacy for young Travellers experiencing learning difficulties in school • Traveller specific groups to work with young men and young women on Traveller specific issues, e.g. early school leaving, discrimination, cultural issues, mental health, sexual health, substance misuse issues etc. • Supports, information and advocacy for early school leavers • Transition programmes for young people with additional educational needs, e.g. young Travellers, young people with disabilities/learning difficulties • Free supervised afterschool study centres for young people

Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Secure home environment	<p>Homelessness is an issue affecting many families, children and young people nationally and locally.</p> <p>The research identified children/young people aged 10- 18 living in hotel accommodation experiencing homelessness as a vulnerable group in need of services, programmes and spaces.</p> <p>There are small numbers of homeless young people aged 18 – 24, that require access to services and certain groups are more at risk of homelessness, i.e. young people leaving care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services to provide safe spaces for young people to socialise, e.g. drop-in type services in Carlow Town and Kilkenny City • Youth services to provide spaces for specific groups in need of safe spaces, e.g. young people under 18 living in homeless accommodation, young people in care, young people experiencing domestic violence etc.
Safety	<p>There has been a decrease in referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programmes in Carlow and Kilkenny in recent years.</p> <p>The research indicated that some young people do not feel safe in their environment and particular groups feel especially vulnerable i.e. young people with disabilities, LGBTI+ young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared policy approach to anti-bullying, homophobic/transphobic bullying policies and programmes among youth work sector, statutory organisations, schools etc. • One-to-one supports and advocacy for young people in crisis/with additional needs, e.g. young people in care, young carers, young people experiencing homelessness, young people in conflict with the law
Online safety	<p>Online safety is an issue affecting all young people and can impact negatively on young people’s mental health.</p> <p>The research highlighted the need for online safety educational programmes for both young people, parents and teachers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online safety programmes for young people, parents and teachers



**“IT’S A SOCIAL GROUP, A PLACE
TO BELONG, AND SOMEWHERE
TO LEARN LIFE SKILLS AND A
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.”**



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Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Discrimination	<p>Discrimination can have a negative effect on young Travellers in terms of early school leaving and employment.</p> <p>The research identified discrimination as a key issue affecting young Travellers in Carlow and Kilkenny.</p> <p>The school environment was highlighted as a key site where young Travellers and other groups experience discrimination, i.e. LGBTI+ young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-discrimination awareness talks delivered in youth services to young people by young Travellers with the support of youth workers • Youth services displaying Traveller art, objects etc. to raise awareness of Traveller culture and make young Travellers feel welcome and a sense of belonging • Youth services working in collaboration with schools, statutory agencies, businesses etc. to combat discrimination, e.g. advocacy work, anti-discrimination policies and training

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“A LOT OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE ONGOING, EVEN IN OUR SMALL VILLAGE, AND LET THEM KNOW THAT IT’S OK NOT TO BE OK, AND THEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO THEM.”

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Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Training	<p>The research identified young people not in education, training or employment (NEETS) as the key group in need of training supports and services.</p> <p>Other groups of young people in need of training supports and services included young people with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous funding for training programmes for young people not in education, training or employment (NEETS), e.g. motivation, soft skills, social skills development • Supports, information and advocacy for young people with additional needs to access training programmes, e.g. young people with disabilities, young homeless people • Learn to drive programmes in youth services
Employment	<p>The unemployment rate in Carlow is the third highest nationally, with significant youth unemployment.</p> <p>Youth unemployment is very high among some groups, i.e. the Traveller community.</p> <p>The research found that some groups of young people, i.e. young Travellers and young people with disabilities, require additional supports to access employment opportunities and promote integration into society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes and activities related to employment opportunities, e.g. interview skills, CV preparation • Programmes on life skills, people skills, soft skills development • Supports for young people with additional needs such as young people with disabilities to access employment, e.g. information, advocacy, working with parents, linking in with employment agencies • Target young Travellers for Youth Employability Initiative Programmes/Pre-development courses

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World

Area	Key Priority Issues	Examples of Approach
Inclusion in society	<p>National policies state the importance of young people from all backgrounds feeling included, accepted and protected in society.</p> <p>The research identified certain groups of young people who do not feel included in society, i.e. young Travellers, LGBTI+ young people from the Traveller community young people from ethnic minorities, young adults with disabilities.</p> <p>Social isolation among young people living in rural areas was also highlighted in the research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure youth services are inclusive to all young people • Promote integration of young people from diverse backgrounds and with additional needs into mainstream youth services, e.g. young people with disabilities, young Travellers, young people from ethnic minorities etc. • Offer supports for young people with additional needs to enable integration into mainstream youth services where necessary • Outreach work with young people from ethnic minority backgrounds to engage them in youth services, e.g. with refugees, parent's groups • Support the inclusion of diverse young people in youth services through continued funding of support groups such as LGBTI+ support groups • Ensure youth services are accessible to young people with disabilities, e.g. wheelchair accessible, programmes and activities for all levels of ability
Equality, rights and diversity	<p>The research found there is a lack of cultural understanding of the Traveller community and other ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The research also identified school as a setting where some groups of young people do not experience equality and equal rights, i.e. LGBTI+ young people, young Travellers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote equality, rights and diversity among young people engaged in youth services, e.g. Traveller cultural awareness talks, LGBTI+ issue workshops, empathy programmes • Work with schools and other agencies to promote equality, rights and diversity, e.g. support with developing LGBTI+ policies in schools, training for teachers on LGBTI+/transgender issues and other diversity issues • A common approach to LGBTI+ policies and programmes among the youth work sector, statutory organisations, schools etc.
Active citizenship	<p>National and local policies recognise that young people should have an effective opportunity to influence policy and services that directly affect their lives.</p> <p>The research highlighted that some groups of young people are not represented in youth participation structures such as Comhairle na nÓg, i.e. young people with disabilities and young Travellers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support active citizenship among young people • Support the inclusion of seldom heard young people, e.g. young Travellers, young people with disabilities and young people from ethnic minorities, in participation with structures such as Comhairle na nÓg • Support youth participation in decision-making in youth services

A person is walking away from the camera through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants. The background shows a line of trees under a bright sky. The entire image is overlaid with a warm, orange-tinted filter.

Section 7

Priority Goals

Priority Youth Work Goals 2018-2021

Strategic Goal 1: High quality youth work provision and practice

To support Youth Work Organisations to deliver quality youth work that responds to the needs of young people especially those who have additional needs.

Objectives of Goal 1:

Support the delivery of high quality youth work:

KCETB will:

- Develop an Area Profile, Needs Assessment and Service Requirement Tool (Area Profile Tool) which is designed to support the roll-out of the Targeted Youth Funding Scheme (TYFS) in response to recommendations of the Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes (2014). KCETB will gather and use available demographic data and local knowledge to produce an area profile of Kilkenny and Carlow. This will inform the needs of young people which will result in a Service Requirement for each project currently funded by DCYA under the scheme.
- Administer agreed annual funding to Youth Projects in Kilkenny and Carlow from 2020.
- Facilitate and support all funded youth projects through DCYA and Youth Clubs to engage with the National Quality Standards Framework and the National Quality Standards for Volunteer- led Youth Groups.
- Provide capacity building and strengthen supports to funded organisations, to assist in the strategic planning processes, and in the delivery and evidencing of quality provision.
- Work collaboratively with other Youth Work and related Organisations to meet the needs of young people aged 10-24 years in Kilkenny and Carlow.
- Support the sustainability of Youth Work through advocating for appropriate resources to meet the needs of young people.

Strategic Goal 2: Value and visibility of youth work

Promote the value and importance of youth work

Objectives of Goal 2:

Recognising the value of youth work

KCETB will:

- Promote the positive impact of youth work in the lives of young people.
- Advocate and support the concept of Youth Work for all young people especially those who have additional needs.
- Promote the contribution of youth work to the lives of young people, to society and social inclusion.
- Support Youth Organisations to highlight best practices in youth work through recognition events, social media and engagement in NQSF.

Strategic Goal 3: Good Governance and Oversight

Develop a culture of good governance and oversight

Objectives of Goal 3:

Ensure Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board meets the highest standards of good governance

KCETB will:

- 1. Identify and evidence the needs of young people using the Area APT tool.
- 2. Make recommendations to DCYA on the priority needs and target groups of young people to be addressed through the Service Requirements.
- 3. Issue the Funding Applications to each TYFS project operating in Carlow and Kilkenny.
- 4. Review, consider and process grant applications from funded organisations, based on the Service Requirements and criteria provided.
- 5. Make recommendations to DCYA on the funding for each TYFS project.
- 6. Administer the grants to the approved TYFS organisations.
- 7. Implement and review Service Level Agreements with projects.
- 8. Promote a culture of self-reflection, continuous improvement and evaluation through engagement in the NQSF.
- 9. Support funded Youth Projects to meet all the new requirements.





Section 8

Implementation and Monitoring

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board Statement of Strategy Goals:

The priority areas identified in this document and any subsequent actions arising from them over the period to 2022 will be underpinned by the KCETB Statement of Strategy.

The KCETB Statement of Strategy has three goals which underpins all ETB work and activities:

- Goal 1: Improve the learning experience and outcomes for all learners
- Goal 2: Ensure that all our education and training services meet high quality standards
- Goal 3: Strengthen our links with the wider community.

In line with the terms of reference of Kilkenny and Carlow ETB Youth Work this committee will make recommendations to the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board on the performance of its statutory function, including the implementation of the Youth Work Plan.

Measures to monitor KCETB Youth Work Plan:

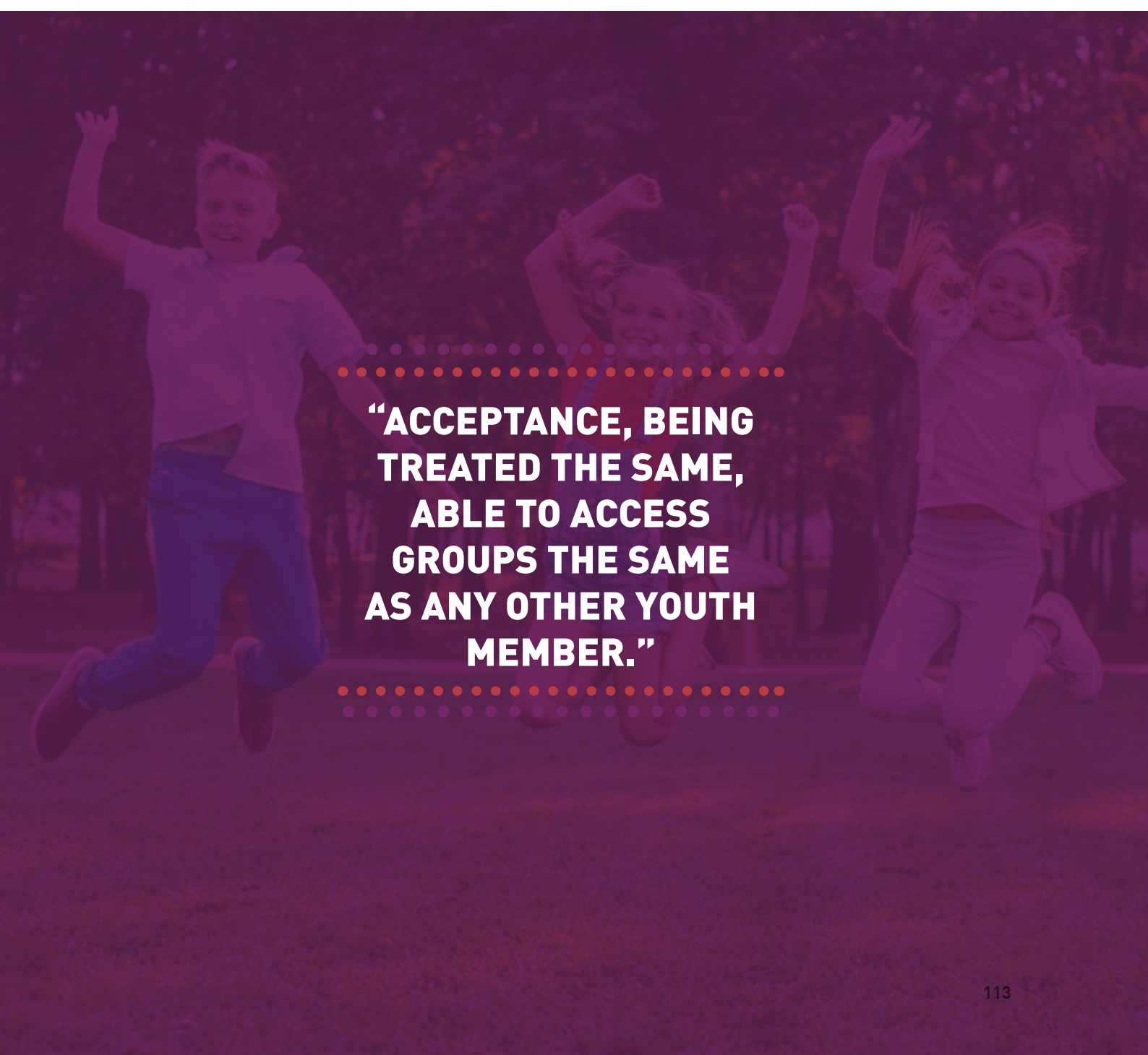
- The implementation of the plan will be considered by the Youth Work Committee.
- Identify Key priorities for the Youth Work Sector 2018-2021.
- Inform the development of the Area Profile, Needs Assessment and Service Requirement Tools to be completed by KCETB in 2019 for each DCYA funded Project within its administrative area.
- Aid future direction of funding
- Inform other local strategies and plans completed by the Youth Work Sector and related organisations
- An annual report will be prepared to outline the progress and to indicate KCETB's contribution to national objective policy objectives.

Expected Outcomes:

- The preparation and completion of the Youth Work Plan is a significant milestone for Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board in light of its statutory functions set out in the Education and Training Boards Act 2013: "To support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of Youth Work"
- Young people's voices were pivotal in the development of the KCETB Youth Work Plan, we hope for young people to have increased participation in the planning and evaluation of services and to be heard with empathy and to have their voices heard and their views taken seriously.
- Recognising the value of youth work including the tremendous work of Youth Work Organisations, Board of Management and Youth Workers.
- Implementation of the new Targeted Youth Funding Scheme to meet the needs of Young people aged 10 to 24 years of age who are described in the National Youth Strategy 2015 (NYS) as marginalised, disadvantaged or vulnerable are the primary target group for services available through the new scheme.
- Supporting innovative programmes that best support young people identified.

KCETB welcome this new scheme which has a clear vision and mission. “We are confident it will enhance the lives of young people who most need it and bring improvement for service providers. The Area Profile Tool under the TYFS will ensure services are better targeted through the areas and young people most in need. The development and introduction of new recording and measurement methodologies will ensure that the efforts of youth workers are better reflected in the reporting systems associated with the scheme. Challenges are evitable during any period of reform. What has never been in doubt is the pivotal importance of youth work in supporting youth people to develop fundamental personal and social skills”

Excerpts taken from Dr. Katherine Zappone (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)
speech in April 2019 -April 2019

A photograph of three children jumping joyfully in a park. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The children are in the middle of a jump, with their arms raised and faces lit up. The background shows trees and a grassy area.

**“ACCEPTANCE, BEING
TREATED THE SAME,
ABLE TO ACCESS
GROUPS THE SAME
AS ANY OTHER YOUTH
MEMBER.”**



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Appendices

Appendix A: Terms of Reference for ETB Youth Work Committee

A Youth Work Committee will be established by the Education & Training Board in accordance with Section 44 of the Education & Training Board Act 2013 to carry out its legislative functions therein.

Remit:

A. Make recommendations to the Education and Training Board on the performance of its functions under the ETB Act, Section 10:

- (i) Support the provision, co-ordination, administration and assessment of Youth Work services in its functional area and provide such information as may be requested by the Minister in relation to such support;
- and
- (j) Assess the manner in which it performs its functions is economical, efficient and effective.

B. Advise the Education and Training Board on any matter on which the Education and Training Board requests advice in relation to Youth Work.

C. Advise the Youth Officer on matters regarding Youth Work in the ETB area.

D. Provide a forum for Youth Work organisations operating in the ETB area together with key stakeholders to discuss the provision of Youth Work programmes and services in the area.

E. Receive updates on the Youth Work Audit on an annual basis.

F. Provide direction on the preparation of a Youth Work Plan.

G. Ensure that the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme or any other such schemes are administered according to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs guidelines and time frame.

H. Receive an annual update on the implementation of the National Quality Standards Framework (NQS).

I. Report as required to the Education and Training Board on the delivery of the annual work plan.

J. A Youth Work Committee shall, from among the representatives of the Education and Training Board -

- i. appoint to act as chairperson a person appointed to the Committee and
- ii. appoint any other member of the Committee to act as vice-chairperson to perform the functions of the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

K. A Youth Work Committee shall, by the Standing Orders of the Education and Training Board, regulate its procedure or business at its meetings.

L. A Youth Work Committee shall hold at least one meeting in each financial year but shall not hold more than 4 meetings in any financial year.

M. The members of a Youth Work Committee shall hold office for such period, not exceeding 5 years, as is determined by the Education and Training Board but are eligible for re-appointment.

Membership of Youth Work Committees

Membership of a Youth Work Committee must be a minimum of 8, but no more than 12 (Section 44 (2)).

Membership may consist partly of members of the Education and Training Board and partly of members who are not members of that board but appointed by the ETB.

The ETBI Youth Work Committee recommends the appointment of at least 1 and not more than 3 members of the ETB.

and

The remaining membership would include representation from the following 4 pillars:

- Voluntary Youth Sector Representation (a minimum of 1 and not more than 3)
- Statutory Sector (Children Services Committee / HSE / Garda / Local Authority Officials)
- (a minimum of 1 and not more than 3)1.
- Young persons from Comhairle na nÓg or similar Youth structure (2).
- Co-options (1)
- (persons representing organisations with an interest in Youth Work, e.g. third level colleges providing Youth Work courses in the ETB area etc.)

In making appointments, the ETB will ensure gender and geographic balance among the membership.

Removal of members

An Education and Training Board may remove a member of the Youth Work Committee from membership of the Youth Work Committee if, in the opinion of the Education and Training Board, the member has become incapable through ill-health of performing his or her functions or has committed stated misbehaviour, or such removal appears to the Education and Training Board to be necessary for the effective performance by the Youth Work Committee of its functions.

Appendix B:

Membership of the KCETB Youth Work Committee:

- Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh-KCETB Board Member
- Mary Mescal -Ossory Youth
- Kathryn Wall-Carlow Regional Youth Service
- Emma Murphy-Young person representative
- Rhys Scully-Young person representative
- Marie Kennedy-HSE
- Cllr. Ger Frisby-KCETB Board Member
- Denise Keogh-Scouting Ireland
- Margaret Moore-Carlow County Council,
- Kieran Scanlon-An Garda Siochana
- Majella Finnegan-IT Carlow

In attendance: Mairead Donohoe- KCETB Youth Officer
Saoirse Prendergast - KCETB Youth Officer
Martha Bolger-Director of Further Education and Training
Bernie Meally-Foróige

Appendix C:

List of services, organisations and agencies consulted as part of the needs analysis research:

Services, organisations and agencies consulted in Kilkenny:

- Foróige
- Ossory Youth
- Kilkenny County Council Community Section
- Youthreach Kilkenny
- HSE Substance Misuse Service Kilkenny and Carlow
- Tusla Education Welfare Officer Kilkenny
- School Completion Programme Kilkenny
- New Park Close Family Resource Centre
- Enable Ireland
- Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement Community Development Project
- Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement Afterschool Project
- Good Shepherd Centre for homeless men
- Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer Kilkenny
- Ossory Youth

Services, organisations and agencies consulted in Carlow:

- Carlow Regional Youth Service
- Scouting Ireland
- Carlow IT
- Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer Carlow
- St. Catherine's Community Services Centre
- Carlow County Council
- School Completion Programme Bagenalstown
- Family Resource Centre Tullow
- Education Welfare Officer Carlow
- Probation Services Carlow
- SVP Monastery Hostel Carlow
- Carlow Youth Training
- Schools Completion Programme (Carlow, Bagenalstown, Tullow)
- Forward Steps Family Resource Centre Tullow
- St. Laserian's Special School
- St. Francis Farm
- Irish Wheelchair Association, Carlow
- Tusla Social Work Department, Carlow
- Barnardos

Joint services, organisations and agencies consulted:

- Board members of KCETB
- Carlow and Kilkenny Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)

List of voluntary clubs/groups who completed the volunteer survey

Carlow:

- 1st Bagenalstown Baden Powell Scouts
- 2nd Carlow Bagenalstown Scout Group
- 3rd Carlow Borris Scout Group
- 5th Carlow Tullow Scout group
- Carlow Leighlinbridge Scouts
- Down Syndrome Carlow
- Rathvilly Junior Foroige
- Rathvilly Foroige Club
- Baltinglass/Rathvilly Macra
- Carlow Arts and Performance Society
- Rathanna Marching Band

Kilkenny:

- Windgap Youth club
- Kilmacow Youth club
- Ballyragget Scout Group
- Ballycallan Foroige Club
- Paulstown Foroige Club
- Thomastown Scout Group
- 6th Kilkenny, Kells, Scout Group
- 15th Kilkenny Fort Grange Scout Group
- Thomastown No Name Club



An Roinn Léanaí
agus Gnóthai Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
*Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board*