

Tipperary CYPSC Linkage Group in Action

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Linkage Group Context: Tipperary Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)

- The purpose of Tipperary Children and Young People's Services Committee is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective integration of existing services and interventions at local level.
- CYPSCs work toward the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland.



Five National Outcomes for Children

These are that children and young people:

1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing
2. Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Are safe and protected from harm
4. Have economic security and opportunity
5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world

(Better Outcomes Brighter Futures – Policy Context)

How CYPSC Works

- CYPSCs members come from agencies across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors working locally on behalf of children and young people.
- CYPSCs work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through integrated planning and improved service delivery.
- CYPSC sub groups themed around the 5 national outcomes for children.
- Tipperary CYPSC oversees the implementation of the local Children & Young People's Plan 2018-2020.
- In Tipperary there are 3 PPN reps on CYPSC – elected through the CYPSC linkage group.

Tipperary Children & Young People's Plan 2018 -2020

- Local Needs Analysis Carried Out - 2017
- Child & Family Services mapped / gaps & emerging issues identified
- Actions themed under the Five National Outcomes For Children
- Sub groups developed under each outcome –chaired by CYPSC member
- Sub groups – monitor implementation of actions across each Outcome & report back to CYPSC

CYPSC Linkage Group – Tipperary PPN

Linkage Group members self select – must have a remit around children and young people.

Terms of Reference agreed.

Meetings held centrally in the county.

3 PPN reps elected through the CYPSC Linkage Group :-

- 1 Family Support Rep from North Tipperary
- 1 Family Support Rep from South Tipperary
- 1 Community & Voluntary Rep (all county)

(Reps elected for a 3 year term)



Benefits of Linkage Group Membership

- Voice of the community at local & national level
- Access to information / updates on local and national policies
- Opportunity to inform local plan
- Networking with other service providers
- Opportunity to highlight services available locally

Linkage Group In Action

- Linkage Group meets approx. 6 times annually – prior to CYPSC meetings.
- Facilitation & minute taking rotate every meeting – agreed at previous meeting.
- Issues / gaps identified and brought to CYPSC meeting
- Standing order on CYPSC agenda for PPN reps
- Agreed reports also sent to PPN Co-ordinator to publish on website
- Agreed report from CYPSC and sub group meetings disseminated to linkage group members

Linkage Group Impacts At County Level

- A key impact is the coming together of community based services north & south of the county
- Highlighted lack of services in the North - lobbied for permanent funding
- Organisations in the South sharing services & expertise to benefit children & families in the North – prior to Family Resource Centre
- Highlighted the lack of investment in early years services & interventions across the county
- Disability issues kept on the agenda

Linkage Group Impacts At County Level

- Linkage plays a vital role in increasing awareness of child & family services in the County – community & statutory
- Responds to identified issues – informs CYPSC actions
- Identifies evidence based therapeutic interventions
- Promoted the uptake of facilitator training in the Incredible Years Parenting Programme – under Tony Ryan Fund
- Supported the development of the Infant Mental Health Project – under Community Foundation of Ireland
- Practical community development methodology used to influence change at local level – slow steady process

Challenges for Linkage Group

- Keeping members motivated – members' own workload has to be prioritised.
- Difficult to gauge reaction / receive input when emailing a lot of information or members don't attend meetings.
- Those in attendance are bringing their own observations of need if numbers attending/inputting are low.
- Perceived duplication with CYPSC sub groups i.e. linkage group members may also be sub group members.
- Other local structures re children & young people – same people at all the meetings.

Observations / Recommendations

- Review all local structures regarding children & young people
- Streamline structures to avoid/reduce duplication
- Attending many “similar” meetings impacts on the frontline work



Thank you

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