

Consultation with Children and Young People - Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel

In 2019 Fifteen services, active in youth participation in Fingal came together to understand, document and strengthen youth participation across Fingal. The initiative was led by the Outcome 5 sub group of Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (FCYPSC). Membership of this group includes: Crosscare Youth Services, Foróige, Fingal County Council, Barnardos, Cairde, Technological University Dublin, Jigsaw, Daughters of Charity, Gheel, Youth Advocate Programmes (YAP), Tusla and Aster Family Support. The sub group is chaired by the DDLETB.

A youth participation and engagement structure for the county was developed to overcome the gap in county level structures for youth participation. A poster representing this structure is available on the FCYPSC web page. Click [HERE](#) to access this document. FCYPSC together with all members of the participation sub group worked to develop a project to test the efficacy of this structure.

In November 2020 FCYPSC were given the opportunity to apply for Community Resilience Funding (CRF) from the department of Health. The fund outlined six approaches that FCYPSC could take in its application. To inform our submission we invited all agencies named on the Fingal Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel to put forward two young people to engage in an online consultation regarding each approach and to decide which approach they wanted us to take in the Fingal submission to the Department of Health for funding. The session was facilitated by the two youth members of FCYPSC, Daniel Whooley and Keara Caul. It was an excellent session with approximately 14 people participating in the event. The group were a very discerning group. They spoke about the size of the county, the high number of young people living in Fingal and the vast needs of specific groups. They were challenged by

the amount of the funding and how best to spend this across all the children and young people living in Fingal. They acknowledged the multiple needs of children and young people and families and focused particularly on the mental health needs of the youth of the county. They were very engaged in the discussions and Daniel and Keara did very well to keep the group focused and on track with the ultimate aim of the meeting which was to agree out of the six possible approaches available to Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee which one would best meet the needs of the youth population of Fingal. Discussions centred on the benefits of youth groups and many discussed the positive impact that attending a youth club had had on their mental health.

As referred to above there were six approaches available to FCYPSC (see table 1 on page three for further details). Those who participated in the Fingal Youth Participation and Engagement Wheel consultation discussions on the 30th of November 2020 advised FCYPSC they considered approach three would best fit the needs of the young people of the county. A funding application was made by FCYPSC to the Community Resilience Fund at the Department of Health to *'Augment programming capacity of existing local services to engage children and young people safely in positive, mood enhancing activities outside of school hours and during holiday periods'*. We were successful in our application and were awarded €18,519 to deliver actions under the Government of Ireland's 'Mind Your Mood' campaign. We have engaged the services of Crosscare and Foróige to deliver projects under this action in the Applewood area of Swords and Castlelands area of Balbriggan. It is hoped to start this work as soon as restrictions lift and schools, community centres and other services begin to reopen.

Table 1

Approach*	Description	Indicative Age range
Youth-friendly signposting to existing local services and activities that support youth mental health and wellbeing	Replication / extension of www.LetsTalkDLR.ie a web-based resource model co-designed with young people that is easily accessible, locally relevant and individually useful for young people seeking support with their mental health and wellbeing.	12 – 24 years
Strengthen capacity of existing local services to safely reach out to children and young people in their county.	Activate targeted youth street work to actively engage young people, deliver youth-designed harm reduction COVID-19 messaging and signpost / recruit young people into existing local provision.	10 – 24 years
Augment programming capacity of existing local services to engage children and young people safely in positive, mood enhancing activities outside of school hours and during holiday periods.	Increase range and variety of child and youth activities provided in the county in accordance with prevailing public health measures i.e. online activities or appropriately safe in-person outdoor activities.	8 – 15 years
Augment programming capacity of existing local services to engage families in positive mood enhancing activities particularly on weekends and during holiday periods.	Increase range and variety of family friendly and age-aligned activities provided in the county in accordance with prevailing public health measures i.e. online activities or appropriately safe in-person outdoor activities.	0-12 year olds
Strengthen the capacity of existing local community based counselling services to offer support to children and young people	Link existing community based counselling services to local schools / youth groups / sports clubs and increase availability of online counselling and delivery of resilience building programmes through outreach from existing providers.	12-24 years
Create localised online events in partnership with services to enhance resiliency	Work with health and mental health services to host webinars with a wide population reach on managing anxiety, promoting resiliency, with the facility for parents/professionals/young people to engage in online dialogue.	Whole population