



Minister Zappone at the CYPSC National Event 2018

1. CYPSC National Conference 2018

On 4th October, 2018, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone T.D. opened the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) National Conference "[CYPSC: Enhancing Child and Youth Well-Being](#)" at the City West Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

The Conference was co-hosted by DCYA and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, and demonstrated how CYPSC are successfully responding to the needs of children and young people in relation to their Health and Well Being. The Conference aimed to:

- demonstrate how CYPSC is successfully responding to the needs of children and young people in relation to their Health and Well Being;
- communicate how engagement with CYPSC can enhance service delivery across the broad spectrum of services: community, health, education, justice, etc.;
- facilitate knowledge exchange and learning across all CYPSC;
- promote multi-sectoral, collaborative working across services for children and young people and communicate the strengths of the CYPSC initiative;
- highlight the benefits of engagement in CYPSC to service providers and policy makers alike.

Table of contents

1. CYPSC National Conference 2018
2. Launch of First 5
3. NEIC Executive Leadership Programme
4. Advisory Council Appointments & Residential
5. Sustainable Development Goals workshop
6. Dates for 2019

For further information/full reports on the above, please see: www.dcy.gov.ie

CYPSC Conference 2018 (continued)

CYPSC bring together a diverse group of agencies in their local areas to engage in joint planning of services for children and young people. CYPSC are a key inter agency vehicle for the roll out of Child and Well-Being initiatives in collaboration with other partners.

A CYPSC exhibition was held which showcased individual CYPSC achievements under the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* National Outcome 1 'Active & Healthy', promoting knowledge exchange and learning. These projects are funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* funding stream and also via the Healthy Ireland Initiative, co funded by both the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Health.

Minster Zappone met with the CYPSC local Co Coordinators and was delighted to see the collaborative and really positive initiatives being undertaken in their local areas. These efforts are ensuring that services and supports are planned and coordinated in a way that is responsive and relevant to the need of our children and young people.

Some examples of projects showcased were:

- Children experiencing imaginative play, which enhances their cognitive skills
- Anti Bullying programme for primary schools
- Improving health and well being of children and young people in emergency accommodation
- Programmes for obesity prevention focusing on well being, diet and nutrition
- Highlighting of services and supports for youth mental health
- Provision of supports and safe physical and emotional space and support systems for LGBTI+ youth in their communities
- Provision of information on parenting supports and improving family life
- Outdoor and indoor play and recreation initiatives
- Healthy lifestyle programmes



Key Note speakers included Anne O'Connor, Deputy Director General, Chief Operations Officer, HSE. Anne presented on Collaborative Leadership in Public Services. Professor Ciaran O'Boyle, Director of the Institute of Leadership and the Royal College of Surgeons Professor of Psychology, presented on Leaders and leadership. Dr. Noelle Spring, Chairperson of the CYPSC National Steering Group, closed the Conference. A Conference Report will be available early in 2019.

2. Launch of *First 5* - 19th November



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Ministers at the launch of *First 5*

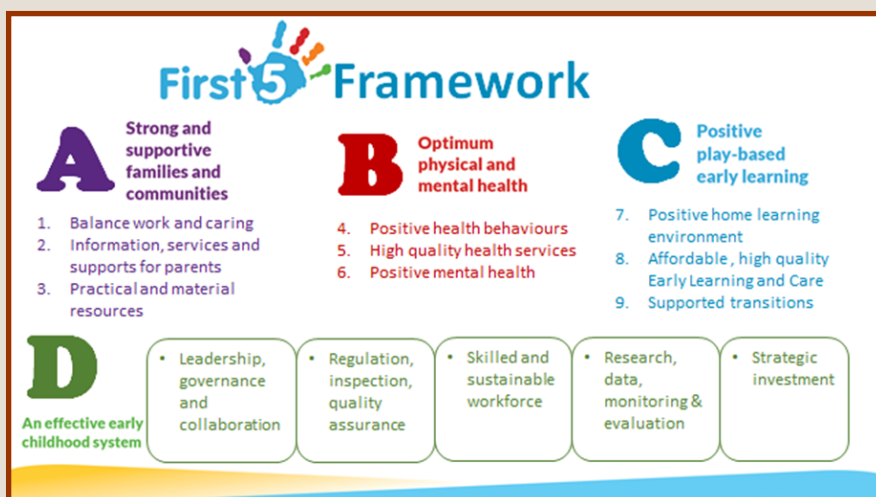
[*First 5: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families*](#) was launched on 19th November by the Taoiseach, Minister Zappone and other members of Government. The publication of *First 5* realises a key commitment in the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* framework and marks a major milestone in policy development for our youngest members of society.

First 5 is a ten-year plan to improve the lives of babies, young children and their families. *First 5* uses evidence to identify goals, objectives and the specific actions required from across Government to support children (and their families) in the early years of life. This significant policy commits to major initiatives on family leave, children's health services, parenting supports, child-friendly communities and Early Learning and Care services among a broad range of actions.

First 5 articulates a vision that "All babies' and young children's early years will be valued as a critical and distinct period which should be enjoyed. Families will be assisted and enabled to nurture babies and young children and support their development, with additional support for those who need it. Those providing services for babies, young children and their families will be equipped to contribute to their learning,

development, health and wellbeing. Community contexts will help babies and young children make the most of their early years and fulfil their potential."

A framework comprising four Goals, nine Objectives, five Building Blocks and 37 Strategic Actions outlines the route to make this vision a reality.



3. NEIC Executive Leadership programme



Participants at the Executive Leadership Programme pilot

As part of its leadership role in the North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative, DCYA organised and funded a pilot Executive Leadership Programme for leaders in human and social services in Dublin's North East Inner City on 19th November. This programme, which is delivered by the School of Law, University of Limerick, will link the latest research and thinking about how to improve social programmes, to the collective planning and implementation expertise of participants.

This programme will provide a supportive, deliberative and collaborative space in which to turn ideas into actions in Dublin's North East Inner City. It will examine what it means to be evidence-informed, what this can bring to improving outcomes, and what is required to bring about positive change.



"I welcome this pilot programme to demonstrate how developing leadership skills strengthen and enable capacity building within services and organisations. This allows for better communication and collaboration while developing an integrated service delivery framework to continue the work of the North East Inner City Initiative. This programme will also build on the work of the Quality and Capacity Building Initiative to support those working with children and young people in the area of prevention and early intervention."

Minister Katherine Zappone

NEIC Executive Leadership Programme (*continued*)

“I am pleased by the announcement of the pilot for an Executive Leadership Programme in Dublin’s North East Inner City. I was appointed Chairperson of the Programme Implementation Board by the Taoiseach in July 2017 and I am committed to the implementation of the actions as set out in the Mulvey Report – “Creating a Brighter Future”. A key part of the regeneration of the area is creating a platform for leaders to continue to grow and improve their skills with the idea of providing a knowledge exchange platform to build capacity and improve outcomes for children and young people in the North East Inner City.”

Michael Stone
Chair of the NEIC Initiative’s Programme Implementation Board

The Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI) has been developed by DCYA to maximise the impact of prevention and early intervention for children and young people. Four key areas have been identified to achieve this goal. QCBI aims to enhance the use and availability of data and evidence; support capacity development; and ensure quality at the levels of policy, service and provision.

DCYA also plays a role in the structures set up under the North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative on foot of the Mulvey Report. The pilot Executive Leadership Programme provides an opportunity to support work in the NEIC and the Minister fully supports collaboration with services and organisations to enhance skills in prevention and early intervention, communications and taking on an evidence informed approach to improving outcomes for children and young people.

4. Advisory Council Appointments and Residential 2018

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone has appointed five new members to the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* National Advisory Council and welcomed the appointment of two vice chairs to the Council in the area of early years and the youth sector.

The five new appointments are:

- Ms Aideen Howard, The Ark
- Ms Catherine Cosgrave, Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Ms Catherine Maher, (formerly of Focus Ireland)
- Mr John Church, Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Ms Olivia McEvoy, Ernest and Young

Additionally, two members of the Advisory Council, Ms Teresa Heeney, Early Childhood Ireland and Ms Mary Cunningham, National Youth Council of Ireland were appointed as Vice Chairs.



Advisory Council Appointments and Residential (*continued*)

“I very much welcome the appointments of Aideen Howard, Catherine Cosgrave, Catherine Maher, John Church and Olivia McEvoy to the National Advisory Council and I know that their enthusiasm and expert knowledge will lend a fresh perspective to the work of the Council going into phase two implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.

I am equally delighted to announce the nomination of Teresa Heeney and Mary Cunningham for undertaking the additional role of Vice Chairs representing the early years and youth sectors.

I look forward to working closely with the National Advisory Council in 2019 on matters such as child poverty, prevention and early intervention, child homelessness, learning and development and children’s rights and equality. The Council also has a very important role to play in supporting the implementation of the recently published ‘*First Five: Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families*’ and I welcome the Council’s focus on this important piece of work.”

Minister Katherine Zappone



Dr Fergal Lynch, Secretary General, and Éimear Fisher, Assistant Secretary, with members of the Advisory Council

At the Advisory Council’s annual residential meeting on 12th and 13th September, the Council reviewed the progress made on the actions in their 2018 workplan, and identified areas for progression in 2019. The Council’s priorities are underpinned by an overarching focus on and commitment to children’s rights and tackling childhood and youth inequalities in Irish society. The Council have identified links for each of their priority work areas with the Transformational Goals in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. These work areas for 2019 are:

1. Child Poverty
2. Prevention and Early Intervention
3. Housing and Community
4. Learning and Development
5. Rights and Equality

5. Sustainable Development Goals workshop



Minister Zappone and Prof Jeffrey Sachs with members of the RTE Cor Linn Youth Choir

On November 9th DCYA and the Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD jointly organised the ‘Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of the child’ Workshop which deliberated on how the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework could help to end child poverty and hunger in Ireland.

The workshop was convened by Minister Katherine Zappone. This idea was first introduced in an earlier meeting between Minister Zappone and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, special adviser to the UN secretary general on SDGs, on how to address the consistently high child poverty rates in Ireland. Professor Sachs spoke at the Dublin event which was attended by senior officials from all Government Departments represented at the BOBF Consortium, the BOBF Advisory Council, ESRI and other research centres, civil society and academia.

Both of the keynote speakers emphasised the importance of eradicating child poverty and hunger as childhood is a seminal time in a person’s life that sets out their life-course.

Minister Zappone spoke particularly of the Irish children’s reality; “One in every 10 children lives in consistent poverty – experiencing both income poverty and deprivation – and again the risk of consistent poverty is higher for children than any other age group - At least 1 in every 10 children in Ireland is measured as experiencing food poverty. The latest figures for September recorded 3,829 children as homeless. These figures are hard to ignore. Indeed, to do so is to fail in our moral and ethical duty to these children and to their futures”.

Minister Zappone called for a renewed cross-departmental focus on the issue. “There is a need for us as policy makers to begin to think about these Goals and Targets in societal terms rather than in narrow Departmental or Sectoral terms. Given the SDG context, we may also wish to incorporate a wider set of views and input from stakeholders throughout Irish society and leverage this as a means of further enhancing our focus on achieving all of the SDGs by 2030.”

Sustainable Development Goals workshop (*continued*)

Prof Sachs stated in his speech that achieving Sustainable Development goals is not impossible, or indeed even that expensive. Professor Sachs said we need the attention span of the world in order to achieve these goals.

Prof Sachs commented that while the market system produces wealth, it does not produce social justice and he pointed out high inequality is a significant contributor to this issue. He said “our cruelty and neglect “are the only reasons why children are living in poverty and deprivation.

During the workshop – participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific topics related to child poverty and hunger. Currently, the workshop deliberations are being worked into an outcome report which will be launched by the Minister in early 2019.



6. Dates for 2019

Advisory Council

Wednesday 6th February

Wednesday 3rd April

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 11th and Thursday
12th September

Wednesday 20th November

Consortium

Thursday 14th February

Thursday 27th June

Thursday 26th September

Sponsors Group

Monday 11th February

Wednesday 19th June

Wednesday 18th September

Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit



**An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige**
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs

Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Baggot Street Lower,
Dublin 2,
D02 XW14

policyinnovation@dcya.gov.ie ✉