



Listen UP!

Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Newsletter



Welcome to the 6th Edition of Tusla's Child and Youth Participation newsletter **Listen UP!**

This is our 2022 round-up of child and youth participation news from colleagues and partners working throughout the country

What a busy year it's been in the agency, we have been lucky enough to have worked with many of you on training days, supporting your participation projects, participation events and most importantly, gathering and utilising the feedback from our service users.



We would like to say a big thank you and goodbye to Michelle Sheehan who has moved from Child and Youth Participation Lead to General Manager for the DML region. We would like to thank Michelle for all her work over the years and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Also, a very warm welcome to Cathal Smyth who has taken up the Participation and Partnership Officer post in DML.

Participation and Partnership Officers-Who's Who?



Claire Redmond
South Region
087 751 5188
Claire.redmond1@tusla.ie



David O'Brien
Dublin North-East Region
087 941 4271
davidj.obrien@tusla.ie



Cathal Smyth
DML Region
087 941 4271
Cathal.smyth@tusla.ie



Estelle Duffy
DML Region
CIC/Aftercare
FORA
087 392 4989
Estelle.duffy@tusla.ie



Spring:

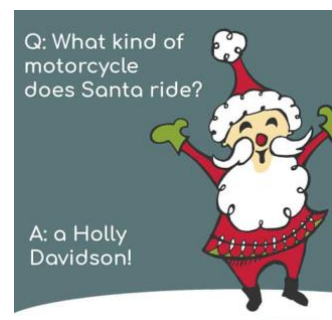
Springtime saw the return of Estelle, back from maternity leave. A busy few months with Seed-funding projects meant that there was an incredible 81 Child and Youth Participation Seed funding sites and 14 CIC fora groups.

Strengthening Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe Conference Cork



The Youth led and inspired Conference was organised by the Council of Europe and Irish stakeholders. The young people wanted to '*Promote participatory democracy and youth engagement in the 21st century*' the objectives of the conference were to celebrate '*the child's right to be heard and have their opinion taken seriously*'.

Young people attending the conference discussed many successes like training judges on how to talk to young people or legislating for National Children's Conferences. They also highlighted areas that needed improvement.





Summer

Summer saw Cathal Smyth joins the team, he comes from Ballydowd special care service and brings a wealth of knowledge of participation amongst young people.

August 11th was one of the hottest days this summer. It was also the day that five brave young souls tackled the zip wires and outdoor challenges on offer in the glen resource centre in Co. Cork. This was the first concept day held to encourage child and youth participation in the development of Barnahus South. Barnahus South will be one of three services provided nationally to work with young people and their families who have experienced sexual abuse. Input from the young people on the day was invaluable. Discussions were had on the environment, staff, and communication methods in the service. Many of the young people expressed a desire to stay connected to the project via a soon to be established youth advisory group for Barnahus.



Young people from Tulla school in County Clare attended Tusla's first ever People Strategy launch in the Mansion House. They show cased their resilience tool called 'I-Can - Mind My Mental Health,' which is a pocket- sized tin containing individual daily mindfulness/coping strategy activity cards for young people to help develop their own self resilience. The young people said that" we were left with **"the design being completely up to us"**. Eoin felt the project was **"youth led"**

The participation officers completed Gaisce's President award leader training. Gaisce are a supporting partner in the new child and youth participation awards and achievement of a CYPA award will now be a steppingstone in achieving a bronze Gaisce award for young people. The



participation officers wanted to learn all about Gaisce and the four challenge areas so that we could motivate encourage winners of the CYPA awards to continue and complete their Gaisce.





Autumn

Back to school and back at it!

Young people at the **Pioneer Ducks of the Midlands** gave their views on attending services during the pandemic and their experiences of this.

They also voiced how

they think these services should

meet them now given the learning

from the past two years. They

created a poster to display their views and voice. Well done to all involved!!

What we liked about how services operated during the pandemic:

- Zoom/Teams calls without the cameras on.
- Easier communication with teachers through Teams Messaging. This can be easier than trying to ask the teacher when in class.
- Technology being provided by some services to do online work and groups.
- We were happy to have more family and personal time when there was no school and appointments.

Cathal and Claire are part of the Barnahus Galway working group and support the input that young people have into creating the service. They have also



met with a group of secondary school students in The Holy Family School, Newbridge- who took part in focus groups and provided feedback regarding what they would like their



Barnahus to be like when it opens. Barnahus have and continue to do some excellent work and we look forward to working more with them into 2023 to develop Barnahus South, and Barnahus Dublin.



One of the Strategy commitments is an aftercare section on the website. The working group for this had completed a significant amount of work with young people regarding potential content for the pages.

Online information has now been added to the Tusla website which is aimed at providing young people and young adults with care experience information on our aftercare services in Tusla, please [click here](#).



Winter

Santa has busy visiting the children in care event in Cavan, one little elf mentioned that Santa looked a lot like the Freedom of Information officer Michael Dunne....



The Danish National Board of Social Services visited Brunel to meet with the national participation and partnership officers including staff from the work force learning and development team and National Policy Manager for Family Support and Social Inclusion.

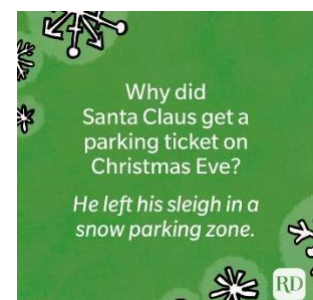


The Danish team had already taken part in the online Child



and Youth Participation training, facilitated by our WLD trainers. They were very impressed with how Tusla incorporate the Lundy model and embed culture of Child and Youth Participation across the agency into our work.

Prof. Laura Lundy recommended that the Danish contingent meet the above teams to assist them with ideas, strategies, and plans on how to implement and embed a culture of participation throughout the various social services municipalities in Denmark.



Congratulations to DML on receiving a gold excellence award for the backpack Initiative, in the category 'Improving Experience for Children & Families.



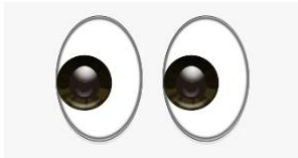
A huge **congratulations** to all the staff involved, especially the service users and their workers for providing the initial feedback and the messages of hope

(L to R) Trish Finlay, Kathrin Roche, Linda O'Rourke, Pat Rabbitte (presenting), Catriona Howard, Michelle Sheehan & Sharon Foley.



Congratulations to Tullow Community school and school completion project on the official opening of "The Den" on December 1st; which was set up as part of a campaign by young people in the school to increase awareness of the LGBTQ+ community in the school. The Den is a beautiful and now welcoming space open two afternoons a week at lunchtime

for all who wish to attend. Tea, coffee, snacks, and chats are had whilst connections are made. Much deserved recognition was given to the young people of Tullow community school having achieved an Investing in Children Award membership for their work. These young people have gone over and above to increase inclusion in their school not just during "stand up week" but all year long. This is demonstrated by the presence of the LGBTQ+ flag which takes pride of place in the main social area of the school.



Here's a sneak peak of what's coming up in 2023!

The Child and Youth Participation awards!



**Child & Youth
Participation
Award**

The Child and Youth Participation Awards pilot scheme will launch in 2023. The awards are developed in conjunction with the Children's Rights Alliance, the Ombudsman's for Children's Office, Hub na nÓg, the Department for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and Gaisce the Presidents Awards.

The awards replace the Investing in Children's Awards and are based on the four quadrants of the Lundy Model (space, voice, audience, and influence). They will celebrate meaningful participation in Tusla and our partner organisations.

Keep an eye out for the next round of Child and Youth, and Parental Participation seed funding, and Fora funding for Children in Care and Aftercare groups

Baby Bags



Following on from the success of the backpack initiative, the baby bags will launch in 2023, giving essentials to any under 2's, coming into care for the first time.

A pilot of baby items has been trialled in Kildare in conjunction with feedback from foster carers.

Tell Us leaflet

Due to the revision of the Tell Us policy it was necessary to update the leaflets and poster and in line with the agency's participation strategy. Feedback from children and young people has been sought and developed with The Service Experience and Feedback Team, through engagement with colleagues, the SEF Team have engaged with different groups ranging in age from 5 - 20 to obtain their thoughts on the design and wording of the leaflets and poster.

All feedback has been obtained and the wording has been forwarded to NALA in an attempt at obtaining the Plain English Accreditation.



Upcoming Child and Youth Participation Training dates for 2023



Child & Youth Participation Dublin Northeast

Virtual Classroom 1	9 th Feb	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	21 st March	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	2 nd Mar	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	20 th April	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	2 nd May	9:30 – 1Pm	Virtual Classroom 2	14 th June	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	7 th Sept	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	24 th Oct	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	3 rd Oct	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	16 th Nov	9:30 – 12:00

Child and Youth Participation Training Dates South

Virtual Classroom 1	1 st Feb	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	15 th March	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	28 th Mar	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	9 th May	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	28 th Nov	9:30 – 1Pm	Virtual Classroom 2	9 th Jan 2024	9:30 – 12:00

Child and Youth Participation Training Dates DML

Virtual Classroom 1	18 th Jan	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	28 th Feb	9:30 – 12:00
Virtual Classroom 1	7 th Feb	9:30 – 1pm	Virtual Classroom 2	21 st March	9:30 – 12:00