

Seed Funding for Participatory Practice

Under the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support programme, Tusla agreed to assist areas in exploring & developing Participatory practice initiatives. Tusla has made seed funding available to support new and developing initiatives that require initial or additional funding in order to progress the initiative. Projects will avail of funding for the period of 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017 initially, and will be offered again for the following year.

Services and areas had the opportunity to submit one or a number of proposals. Each application required endorsement by the relevant Area Manager. Tusla's guidance document, Toward the development of a Participation Strategy for Children and Young People and the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (DCYA, 2015) were recommended for reference when completing applications.

There will be a requirement that all initiatives will submit a short progress report and financial report on quarterly basis until completion of the initiative. A Final report will be required at completion of the initiative.

Participatory Practice Initiatives Seed Funding

Applications were accepted for initiatives from:

- Tusla services either individually or a coalition of Tusla services;
- Tusla Services in conjunction with funded agencies;
- Tusla service in conjunction with partner agencies;
- A Tusla Service Area either individually or a coalition of Tusla service Areas

List of Seed funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation WEST 2016 /2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Donegal	Donegal Participation of Children and Young People Initiative	Proposal to establish a Donegal Young People's Reference Group - with a key focus on Seldom Heard young people in Donegal - which will act as a reference and consultation group in relation to the services that Tusla Donegal provide across the continuum of services within the Tusla Service Delivery Framework (including young people on all levels of Hardiker). This proposal will be sustainable as it is linked into Foroige, Tusla funded services and other community based services in Donegal, as well as being closely aligned to the CFSN's.
Sligo/ Leitrim/ West Cavan	Sligo Leitrim Participation Lab for Young People	The creation of a participation lab to enable consultation with children and young people in Sligo and Leitrim to ensure their voices are heard in relation to: the quality of services they receive; their involvement in the planning of services; and decision making in relation to the development of services.
Mayo	Children and Young Persons Advocacy Group	The establishment of a Children's and Young Persons' Advocacy Group in County Mayo. The group will be established as part of Comhairle Na nÓg but have a specific purpose and function. It is proposed to engender and develop greater input and participation of young people in relation to Child and Family Agency delivery and evaluation. This will be achieved by giving the Children and Young Persons Advocacy Group the task of reviewing and critically evaluating specific areas relating to service delivery. An agreed structure will be established which will translate into tangible actions and change.
Galway	Adventure therapy in Galway	Following consultation with young people, a partnership between Tusla, Foróige and Sail Training Ireland allowed for two pilot voyages to take place throughout May 2016. Thirteen young people directly involved with Tusla services took part in intensive Youth Development Programmes aboard the ship 'Maybe' as part of this pilot. Part of Sail Training Ireland's core objectives is to allow access to Sail Training voyages for young people from all backgrounds and with all abilities across the island of Ireland. Central to the Charity is the belief that participation in a Sail Training voyage provides a very valuable personal development experience for young people. The programme design has participatory practice of 'trainees' at its core. This idea came about through consultation with young people. The aim was to build teamwork skills, personal development and leadership skills.

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Roscommon	Peer Social Group	<p>In conjunction with our colleagues in Statutory, Community and Voluntary agencies, it is proposed in Roscommon to develop a model of Peer Social Research.</p> <p>Focus groups of young people aged from 3yrs to 18yrs will be identified, with special attention to seldom heard young people. Members of these focus groups will be trained to carry out social action research which, in turn, will inform plans of the many agencies that have agreed to be partners in this initiative (as well as the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee plan). For example, young people in early years settings, schools (both national and secondary), disability services, children in care, those involved in child protection, family support, and youth services will be brought together using the Lundy model and asked their opinions, thoughts, needs and suggestions. These needs and suggestions will then form part of social research which the young people can carry out themselves following training</p>
Midwest	Mid-West Youth Participation Project	<p>A HIQA inspection was undertaken in the Midwest in January 2016. The report highlighted that while some parents and children reported that they were given good information, some felt that that they had not been informed of rights or decisions affecting them. It indicated that there is no forum to formally elicit children's view/opinions. As a result, it was proposed to develop learning sites within each of the 3 areas of the Midwest. Each team would plan and deliver a pilot for improving child and young people participation in their service. Develop an initiative to promote the participation of C&YP in the child protection and welfare service and local area pathway. This service has been selected as it is one of the actions identified in the recent HIQA Child Protection and Welfare inspection. The Local Area Pathway is selected as a new developing area of work which needs to establish effective methods of engagement of children and young people.</p>

List of Seed funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation DML (Dublin Mid Leinster) 2016 /2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
DSE/ Wicklow	Agenda Days Participation Project	Children and young people were engaged in the decision making process for this seed funding proposal with an Agenda Day TM. As part of this project further Agenda Days TM will take place to feedback to the young people, begin work on the project and also to gain new suggestions. The main recommendation was a child friendly website with information on services.
DSC	Coderdojo Academy	Develop the current Coderdojo after-school project into an Academy, which can maintain children in school and progress onto third level education. Coderdojo is a non- profit global movement where young people learn to code, develop websites, apps, programmes, games etc.
Midlands	Listen & Change, How to involve young people in improving the services we provide	To have on-going engagement with young people in care around key issues for them and the setting up of an Advisory Committee. The Committee will identify ways to enhance current systems for hearing views and increase young people involvement in service delivery. Young people have already identified several ideas.
Midlands	The Voice of Young People in the Midlands by means of Art	TUSLA and YAP Ireland aims to gather feedback through the medium of art from a group of ten young people (10-16 years) from the Midlands area in order to improve the TUSLA services they use. They will also create a visual representation of the 'voice of young people,' which will be displayed in the new social work building.
Midlands	Longford Westmeath Child and Youth Participation Project	Establish a Child and Young Person Consultative and Participatory Group with the inclusion of seldom heard young people in the Midlands. This group will act as a reference and consultation group for services that are provided in the Midlands and will inform the work of the Longford Westmeath CYPSC and the Children and Young People's Plan.

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
DSW/KWW	Child and Young Person Friendly Spaces	To ask the children, birth parents and foster carers we work with, how we can design our new family rooms and waiting rooms to make them more child centred. We aim to use this as our pilot project and then apply the principles to the other offices we use.
DSW/KWW	Creative Group Project for Birth Children of Fostering Families	Facilitation of a two day creative workshop with groups of birth children from foster families (7-17 years) in an appropriate supportive safe environment. Ensures their voice and opinion is valued and heard within our team and the wider agency.
DSW/KWW	Orientation and Support Programme for Young Refugees	Children and young people in the EROC centre for refugees in Monasterevin will be better equipped to make the transition from life in the centre to community life in Ireland with a 10-session programme designed in participation with the young people and through gaps already identified.

List of Seed funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation DNE (Dublin North East) 2016 /2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Cavan / Monaghan	Tusla Champs	'Tusla Champs' is a leadership and development programme for young people aged 16-18 who have experienced Tusla services either in the community or as a child in care
	Poster Competition	Picture/Poster/Image Competition raising awareness of issues affecting young people led by Tusla ISPCC & EWO
	Participation Day	Development of a 'Participation' day for young people who have been in contact with Tusla within both care and the wider community
	Internship	Summer holiday internship for a young person based in the Castleblayney Wellbeing Centre in Partnership with the ISPCC
Louth / Meath	Peer Mentoring Programme	Peer Mentoring Programme for young people who have availed of or are currently availing of an Aftercare Service in Louth Meath between 19-23 years
	Resilient Youth Leadership Skills (Mindful Warriors)	Leadership and development programme initially aimed for young people aged 12-13 who attend Kells/Trim FRC
	Mindful Warrior programme for Young People	Leadership and development programme for young people attending Kells/Trim FRC
	Domestic Violence Peer Education Programme	Domestic Violence Peer education Programme initiative that will facilitate a recruited group of young people to increase their understanding of the issue of Domestic Violence and support peer educators to develop a Domestic Violence awareness programme for young people
	Young People participation in 'experiences and transition from primary to post primary	Initiative involves Project workers meeting with young people , who have completed the MIND THE GAP workbook in Primary school to reflect on their experience in MIND THE GAP and to see how can services/parents working with young people assist in the challenges /strengthen what is helpful as well as develop leaflet to showcase this.

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Louth / Meath	Mosney Community for Young People	A programme of community involvement for the children of Mosney direct provision centre aged between 13 and 18 years.
	The Big Listen	Springboard lead Family Event that features Sports Zone with fun games and Participation Zone where we Springboard will seek the views of the children regarding the service
	Simple Complexities	Tusla PPFS team will focus on examining elements of 'Daily Life Events' in an exploratory form with a group of local young people, starting from self and going on to its impact on society
Dublin North City	Re-Imagining St. Helena's	Young people who are part of the Extern Projects learning about youth participation through the development and introduction of a proposal for St. Helena's Family Resource Centre on creating a more children and youth friendly environment
	Youth Leader Programme	Youth Leadership/ Programme developed by the Neighbourhood Youth Project in the North Inner City involving 5 to 8 young people who are current and past participants in the programme to develop their leadership and mentoring skills
	Aftercare Forum DNC	Development of an Aftercare Forum with a hard to reach group of young male care leavers
Dublin North	Cyber Safe Hub	Project will involve facilitating 2 group of young people to identify the core issues for young people in respect of cyber bullying and sexting, to identify a practical discussion around the impact of this issues, to support a practical support mechanism to assist their peers to reach resolution, to create practical support hubs in sites that are accessible for young people and where they feel safe and to train young people to facilitate these hubs with support
	Sensory Garden	Development of a safe sensory space for children and provide them with a calm environment where their senses can be gently stimulated and explored without feeling overwhelmed.

List of Seed funding Projects for Children and Young People's Participation South 2016 /2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
South Tipp Carlow/ Kilkenny	Young People and Anxiety-What Works	<p>The programme aims to facilitate a partnership between Tusla and Ossory Youth, the objective being to influence how services interact with young people who are coping with anxiety and stress. It will do this by bringing together a group of young people engaged in Ossory Youth's "Connections Programme" with a view to documenting their experience of anxiety, and their journey through a bespoke mindfulness and building resilience programme.</p> <p>The young people will record their experiences through a medium of their own choosing which will be presented to relevant services.</p> <p>The group has now come together with the first informal event having been held in October.</p>
South Tipp Carlow/ Kilkenny	Children in Care Focus Group	<p>Children in Care focus group to be set up through this programme. The aim is to empower children and young people to voice their opinions, worries etc., as well as developing a peer support group. This will be done through a number of suggested activities (young people to decide activities) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticulture Project • Learn to Earn Programme • Musical/Drama Activity • Cook It, a healthy eating course • End of year open day - opportunity to showcase their work to local TD'S and a Q&A session <p>Any and all issues raised by the young people will be brought to the attention of the appropriate management team, with feedback to the group forming an essential part of the process.</p> <p>The group are due to partake in a consultation on Tusla's 'Tell Us' documentation in November 2016.</p>

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Waterford/ Wexford	Children and Young People's Participation Project	This project will involve the development of a young person's forum to design, plan, organise & evaluate a Child & Youth Participation Conference. It is intended that the process involved in this project will build on & model best practice to embed young people's participation in decision making structures and to promote a culture across Service Provider Organisations of ensuring the voices of Children & Young People are listened to and heard. The project will be adopted and contributed to by Waterford CYPSC as a whole and by its various Sub-Groups, with the Community-Based Adolescents Sub-Group (on which Comhairle na nOg is represented) particularly well-placed to champion the project with young people through its extensive network of youth clubs, projects and services across Waterford City and County
Waterford/ Wexford	Young LGBT Participation Project	The initiative is designed to raise awareness and opportunities for young people within the LGBTI community to firstly gain access to supports available within County Wexford, but also to influence the method of delivery. The initial work will consist of a raising awareness programme amongst transition, 5 th & 6 th Year students in 6 Secondary schools based in New Ross, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Bridgetown and Ramsgrange. The aim of the workshops is to aid the school in setting up self-sustaining LGBTI groups where teachers and students may work together in creating a safe place for all students to openly and freely express themselves and their ideas. The initiative will allow the creation of a resource pack by the LGBTI worker, created by utilising information and ideas from the students in the workshops and it will be freely available in hard copy format and on the CYPSC and FDYS websites. The information sessions will be followed up with a workshop with students on attitudes and values towards LGBTI, focusing on what each group of students feel they can provide as support to young LGBTI people in their school and home communities. A critical objective is to develop a range of localised support networks with the input of children and young people.

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Kerry	Youth Participation through Youth Research in Kerry	To train young people as peer researchers to undertake research on topics which are important to them, so they may undertake research on behalf of Kerry CYPSC & its working groups. The youth research findings will be used by Kerry CYPSC to inform the development of its work plans, actions and the work of its working groups. It is proposed that youth researchers will be recruited from as many 'communities' of young people as possible and ensure 'harder to hear' young people are included e.g. Travellers, New Irish, LGBT, young people experiencing mental health difficulties, young people with disabilities and young people in care etc. Training will be provided by the Child & Family Research Centre, NUIG and will equip the young people with the skills and practical tasks required to support the research process. A Youth Participation Conference will be organised at the end of the project in order to enable the youth researchers to share the key messages from their research projects with all relevant stakeholders and organisations and, thereby, bring about positive change in Kerry.
Cork	iGirls	<p>This project is directed at 14-16 year old girls (as this age group are going through significant transitional changes). The programme aims to build their self-esteem, as well improving the mother- daughter relationship. The programme will be run in conjunction with local schools and UCC will report on the project.</p> <p>The overall aim of the intervention is to take on board the views and suggestions of these girls in the creation of an integrative Health and Social Care initiative looking to improve the disjointed service delivery that the girls experience at present. This process will be led and informed by the girls themselves.</p>
Cork	Cork Matters: Developing and Practicing Active Citizenship in Ireland	The ISPCC's Children Advisory Group ran a "Douglas Matters" event in 2015 following a consultation process that identifies a number of themes that were of concern to the community. This event was centred on the World Cafe model and a working group has been established to work on the solutions suggested on the day. Given the success of the "Douglas Matters" event, the ISPCC's Children's Advisory Committee plan to utilise this funding to facilitate further events in 2 communities in Cork.