

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Child & Youth Participation Seed Funding Initiatives 2025

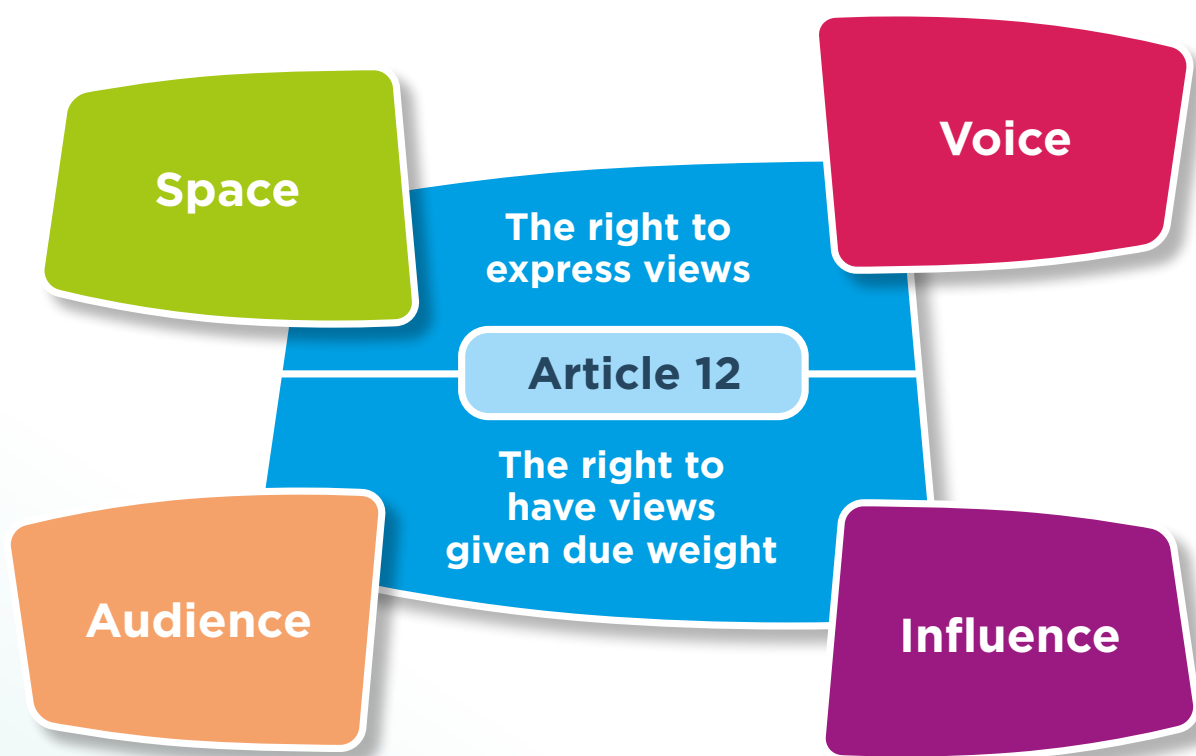




Under the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme, Tusla has been assisting areas in exploring and developing children and young people's participatory practice initiatives since 2016.

Tusla has made funding available to support new initiatives that require funding to progress. Services and areas had the opportunity to submit one or several proposals endorsed by the relevant area manager. Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019-2023 and the Lundy Model of Participation (2007) were recommended for reference when completing the applications. This document contains brief descriptions of all the Child &

Youth Participation Seed Funding projects that were granted funding in 2025. Many of the projects included here can be easily replicated in other areas, and some may have resources available as a result of their work that can be shared with other areas/services. If you would like more information on any of the projects included, please contact your regional participation officer.



Lundy Model of Participation (2007)



DUBLIN MID LEINSTER

DUBLIN SOUTHEAST / WICKLOW

Carlingford Challenge - My Project...Minding You

Aiming to diversify young people's experiences for growth and personal development outside their own communities & provide opportunity for experiences that would not be financially viable for young people in this group. This group of young people collaborated, researched, planned and budgeted for a group trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre. They stayed for two nights and attended activities run by the adventure centre. This event was followed up by further planning between original social group and a second, younger social group who came together to plan a 2nd activity where the older group supported the younger group in a day spent at Emerald Park before return to school in September.

Birth Group for children who foster - Tusla, Fostering

The group met throughout the year for social supports and activities to create positive social experiences. The group participated in the Tusla Bloom Fostering Garden in the summer giving voice to their feelings for the general public to experience and read. They also worked on developing a guide for children who are coming into care that other families could adapt in their home- the children thought a map to the house and area was helpful to include.

Therapeutic Safe Family Space - Tusla, Children in Care Team

This project involved the redecorating of the family/access room in Churchtown, in consultation with families and children who use the space. The children came together to discuss what they think the room should look like; they were given paper and pens and the use of the whiteboard to jot down their suggestions. The general theme suggested by the children and their parents was to develop a therapeutic space that is safe and nurturing, while offering opportunities to have fun, to relax with one another and for responsive relationships to develop. The room was transformed from being barely functional to a space where families can grow together in a safe and secure environment, building on relationships and attachments.



Child and Young Person Committee – Arklow Family Centre

Arklow family centre set up a young person's committee to help inform decisions that are being made in the service day to day, and for long term planning and projects. The committee had their first meeting in November 2025 and commenced their planning. The committee will begin by working to improve some of the everyday spaces in the service.

DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL

Improving Spaces – ACTS, DML

Consultations took place with young people who are residing Special Care and who use the ACTS service, to find out how they would like to improve some of the spaces in the ACTS building. The group worked collaboratively with ACTS to refurbish a previously a previously unused room, turning it into a comfortable, calm, and low stimulus environment. The young people were also supported to work with an artist to create a Muriel on the wall of the gym. Since the work has been undertaken, young people are using the spaces for their sessions more than ever.

Summer & Easter Camps – Daughters of Charity, Cherry Orchard

Young people worked with the staff in the service to plan and carry out summer and Easter camps for young people who use the service. The group planned various activities, with some young people opting to take on leadership roles during the camps to support younger members. Throughout the programme, young people demonstrated significant personal growth. Many overcame initial fears and increased their confidence in trying new activities, while acts of kindness and mutual support became evident across the group.

Creating Safe Spaces: Sensory Pack Project – Tusla, Children in Care Team

Staff worked with children to create sensory packs they could use while travelling to and from access visits, when stress and anxiety levels can be high. Children using the sensory packs have indicated that they have enjoyed using the items in the car when travelling to and from access. It created a predictable, calming environment that helps children manage emotional dysregulation and anxiety, especially around emotionally charged events like family access. Staff aimed to use this sensory engagement as a bridge for verbal interaction and emotional connection between children and their access workers.



Youth Advisory Group - Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland

A Youth Advisory Panel was established to gather and understand the voices of young people. A total of 69 young people aged 14 to 24 from Northeast Inner City and Docklands areas took part over 7 sessions. Consultation and trainings workshops were held with young people and staff to help ELI shape their work, with restorative practices and the Lundy model framing each workshop. The voices of young people were included at an ELI stakeholder event in November 2025, to highlight a young person's perspective. Through the work, ELI now have a better understanding of the needs of young people in the community and are using their views to influence the work plans going forward.

DUBLIN SOUTH WEST / KILDARE / WEST WICKLOW

Junior Board Integration programme- Insync

In August, the group met to do a two-day training on Cultural literacy and competencies. The training was to support young people to look at their own cultural literacy, the culture they come from and how that can cause misunderstandings or biases towards others. Following the training, the Junior Board are designing a programme to roll out with other young people around integration, acceptance and understanding others.

'I Believe' Group: Support Group for Birth Children of Fostering Families - Tusla, Fostering Team

The group met throughout 2025 to work on various projects including the production and launch of the 'TAKE CARE' Book for Teachers and Schools, in partnership with EPIC which now features on the EPIC website and has been circulated widely. The group's young people also took the lead on organising events and trips throughout the year. They worked on an art project for Care Day 2025, amongst many other projects throughout the year.



YMCA West Dublin, Youth Advisory Committee – YMCA, PAKT

A space was provided for committee members to come together monthly to discuss the third pillar of 'wellbeing' from the YMCA strategic plan. Participants discussed what well-being means to them, how they can enhance & how the YMCA can help to enhance the wellbeing of young people who use the service. A number of different ideas were suggested for when movement breaks are needed during each club. These are now used during club times. The group also developed a Wellbeing Pack that can be provided to young people who use the service. This also led to a cold-water swimming experience in the 40ft, Sandycove, which was suggested and unanimously voted for by the committee members.

The Next Generation - CDI

The initiative involved young people from the existing Nova Youth Advisory Group (YAG); newly recruited young people from youth organisations in Dublin 24; the Nova Coordinator; CDI's Business Development Manager; staff from participating schools; and representatives from local youth organisations such as Foróige and Jigsaw. CDI senior management also contributed through oversight, feedback, and supporting the integration of youth perspectives into programme decision-making.

Soulworks Music project – YMCA, Brookfield/Celbridge

The Soulworks Music was a collaboration between YMCA staff and young people who access the service. The project created a space that encouraged young people within the Brookfield and Celbridge community to come together to express themselves in a musical capacity. Many of the young people in the area now have a space where they can feel safe to be creative and to be their authentic selves, without judgement.

MIDLANDS

Youth Leadership and Team Building – Mountmellick FRC

Youth Group participants and teen leaders worked together to plan and carry out team building activities; healthy, sports-based activities; group trips; and the teen leadership programme.



CoFwF Participation Group – Tusla, Fostering Team

The group of children from families who foster came together to create e-resources titled ‘Carving the Way’. They created art and a video to share their experiences of the fostering journey from their own perspective. The group also designed Christmas cards which were printed and sent to foster families in the Midlands in December. The group also worked with staff to plan team building social activities such as visits to the reptile zoo, and an alpaca farm.

Speech and Language Therapy Book Project – Tusla, Area Based Therapy Team

The book project initiative worked with young people newly admitted to care. Young people were supported to identify and access a set of books appropriate to their age and stage of language development. The Area Based Therapy Team (ABTT) Speech and Language Therapist then provided appointments for their foster carers to develop their understanding of how to use the books provided to promote connection and language development.

Fun Friends – Clara FRC

Social Skills and Wellbeing sessions for six neurodivergent children (including those awaiting diagnosis) were provided at Clara Family Resource Centre. The programme helped boys develop social and communication skills through hands-on activities that the young people identified including cooking, gardening, and arts & crafts.

Happy Steps and Lego Legends – Tullamore FRC

Happy Steps is a small group developmental programme designed to nurture children's emotional growth and wellbeing. Through guided activities and supportive interaction, children build resilience, self-awareness, and positive social skills in a safe and encouraging environment.

Lego Legends is a therapeutic Lego club led by a play therapist. It provides a creative and structured space for children with low to medium additional needs to develop communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills while enjoying imaginative play.



DUBLIN NORTHEAST

DUBLIN NORTH

Therapy space in Oberstown Children's Detention campus – ACTS, Tusla

ACTS engaged with Oberstown's youth advocate officer via their youth council to discuss a project and obtain the views of the young people resident there. On foot of the consultation the young people decided to create a welcoming space for themselves and their families to use as they felt they needed a more homely supportive space. The young people with the art teacher, staff and acts team collectively developed their ideas over many sessions throughout the latter part of summer 2025. The space is due to be completed before Christmas 2025 and is one which the young people are most proud of.

Behind the Screens - Foroige

This initiative led by Foroige looked at the negative impact of social media on young people. The young people directed the work which included podcasts on sharing images and also included social and emotional topics, they also learned about the law and the wider psychological effects of social media. They designed and produced a communication campaign to inform young people and parents, and they worked in conjunction with a communications company which launched their social media campaign in autumn 2025.

DUBLIN NORTH CITY

Our lives, Our Dreams, Our Futures - Aosog

The staff team in Aosog wanted to support children's possibilities in DEIS schools. The team engaged children between the ages of 10 – 13years old to go on day trips to Trinity College, NCAD and to do creative art sessions to help them visualise their future possibilities. The service also invited previous service users who are now graduates to talk to the children. The children reported that they felt more confident given that they had a practical experience of college life and had had opportunities to talk about their dreams.



Youth Led Nicotine Prevention Campaign - Ballymun Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force

As part of the Ballymun Network for Assisting Children and Young People, numerous services worked collaboratively with children and young people in the area to conduct research on their behaviours, attitudes and beliefs around vaping and young people. The findings highlighted genuine concern and a lack of awareness around the related harm caused by vaping. The young people were supported to set up a steering group and led out on an awareness campaign for their peers.

Multi-cultural Child & Family Participatory Fun Day - Northwest Inner City statutory & CMV services

Numerous voluntary and statutory services worked together to cultivate a community event, celebrating and promoting cultural diversity in the Northwest Inner City of Dublin. The event focussed on children and young people fostering their many talents in creative ways e.g. drumming workshops, dancing from around the world, singing, poetry, tie-dye, face-painting, games & bingo. Young people volunteered in order to make the day a successful one, they had the event photographed as a memento.

National College of Ireland - Youth Advisory Group

NCI co-created a Youth Advisory Panel that helped the Early Learning Initiative better understand the voices of young people in their programmes, and how to shape and influence future directions. Sixty-nine young people offered advice, suggestions, and changes to the service.

The young people's voices were represented at an Early Learning Initiative event in November 2025.

CARA Programme - Stanhope Street Primary School

The CARA programme is a mentoring programme that was introduced into two schools in the Dublin 7 area. The dual purpose of the programme was to create an inter-student support system whereby class groups deepen social bonds with each other and to identify and introduce older students in the school as supportive individuals to first year groups. 'Restorative Circles' were used to facilitate open discussions with the young people which were facilitated by the Transition Year students and supported by staff.



LOUTH / MEATH

Birds nest – Tusla, PPFS

Social work teams in collaboration with children their families and other professionals worked together to create opportunities for supported connections, age appropriate activities to hear their views and prosocial family orientated environments. The teams cooperatively devised short term meaningful activities that had an important and positive effect on the children and families.

CAVAN / MONAGHAN

Play Clubs & Youth Play Champions - National Childhood Network

National Childhood Network (NCN) offered open-ended play, creative arts, physical games, and sensory exploration designed to encourage social interaction, imagination, and fun for children of all ages.

The voice of the child was actively gathered through informal discussions ensuring children's ideas and preferences shaped future play opportunities with over 150 children and families over three dates. NCN recruited and trained Youth Play Champions to support the delivery of local and national play events including National Play Day/Week, and the Cavan and Monaghan Science Festival.

Exploring positive LGBTQI representation through Multimedia – Tusla, PPFS

The LGBTQI group of young people had requested to do an initiative that involved creative play and they chose the theme of dragons and dungeons and RLP (Real Life Play) games.

The young people emphasised that they wished to engage with like-minded people in a safe environment. The sessions were facilitated by young people that were part of the group who created persona's (avatars) that they could relate to; all of which were LGBT characters. Many of the young people are interested and engaged in creative writing.



Re-creation of Youth Space - ISPCC

The young people in ISPCC approached the management to reinvent the space they use which according to them had become cluttered and dull. They wanted a fresher and warmer feel to the space to help make it more comfortable where they could enjoy spending time and could be used and enjoyed for individual and group sessions. The young people planned out the space they were brought to the local furniture store to pick furniture, choose the paint colour and colour scheme along with going shopping for soft furnishings. They reported that they are happier coming into the space and it is more user friendly.

Mental Health & Body positivity – CYPSC, Monaghan

This CYPSC group of young people initially wanted to create a series of podcasts and or free events that all young people could utilise. The young people came up with several different topics included Gender Equality, Racial Justice, Cyber Bullying, Sexting, Body Positivity, Phone Addictions, Mental Health, Toxic Masculinity and Safety in Monaghan. They focussed on positive mental health and created podcasts with equipment they purchased. They are in the process of linking in with a local GP in Monaghan to create further online podcasts.

Jersey Design for the On Yer Bike Mountain Bike Camp – Tusla, PPFS

The compass outdoor project lead wanted to enhance teamwork in the project with the young to increase their sense of belonging and overall ownership. To further enhance that sense of belonging the young people were invited to create a jersey for the project. The design, colours, logos and themes were fully influenced by the young people. Themes for the design aligned with the experiences and values of the young people in this initiative.

Bear Essentials – Tusla, PPFS

The young people from Cavan Participation Group developed this initiative. They wanted to make the social work building in Cavan more welcoming. They came up with Buddy Bear, an adult sized talking bear who shares a recorded story when his hand is pressed. The young people also purchased smaller bears for any children visiting the building. According to a parent their child brought his buddy bear to hospital for a procedure, which had a calming effect.



WEST NORTHWEST

DONEGAL

Donegal Youth Service and Foroige - Donegal Youth Voices - 'Your Voice Matters'

An association of networks across Donegal collaborated and set up a working group to hear young people's voices on service improvements having set up a youth ambassador panel. The young people organised a Q&A session with local representatives within the 'youth voices matter' initiative. This work built on previous work they did with the Ombudsman's office, senior management and staff, TD's, county councillors and other services in Donegal. Youth voices have been empowered by their own youth matters initiative in Donegal.

SLIGO / LEITRIM / WEST CAVAN

Play Therapy Provision - Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Leitrim

Children receiving play therapy identified the need for more play therapy provision for their peers who were other children and young people. The school principal and school management team coordinated and supported additional provision within the school. The families of children receiving the additional play therapy provision have reported that their children are happier and more content.

Bright Minds Afterschool Art Project - The Avalon Centre

Bright Minds Afterschool project wanted to bring children together to be able to contribute to and enhance their own environment. The children worked with staff and an artist to create a space they wanted to spend time in. Through various creative methods, utilising different colours and numerous check-ins with the children the facilitators confirmed with the children that the designs were what they wanted. They developed a creative inclusive space that all children had a say in; one which they felt they had ownership over.



Sharing Our Stories – Tusla PPFS, Diversity Sligo, Mohill Family Support Centre, Sligo Leader

Staff supporting children and young people in IPAS Sligo wanted to enhance children's voices in the IPAS system. A collaborative working group of staff from services who worked with them and a graphic designer created a reflective book that highlighted their journey through the system. The colourful book reflected on their own cultures and traditions and moving to a new country which looked at shared understandings.

Come dine with me - Tubbercurry FRC

Children came up with the idea to introduce better eating practices by providing cooking classes where they prepared nutritious snacks and meals. Family resource staff also supported connections at mealtimes around the dining table. The children responded to the initiative and now appear to be more confident in making various types of food.

Youth transition project - Home youth liaison service

The home youth liaison service in Sligo piloted their project based on recent research undertaken by Sligo Leitrim CYPSC. The research highlighted the need for a transition for young people with autism in Sligo and Leitrim. The service elicited the views of young people with autism in school transitions from junior to leaving cert to transitions into training, education and possible employment. The service worked with the young people who identified a range of supports or needs they required.

MAYO

Youth Advisory Group - Foroige & Tusla

The facilitators of the youth advisory group encouraged new young people to join the group in order to assist with decision making on a child friendly building design for a youth centre in Castlebar. They also advised on conference layout and facilitation for professionals who work with new communities on cultural differences and ways to integrate. It was felt that the contributions of the young people would support best practice for all professionals. The advisory group also continue to be a support for Barnahaus.



GALWAY / ROSCOMMON

Young Carers Escape: A Day for Me - Roscommon Vitahouse FRC:

This initiative placed decision making processes into the hands of young carers. Guided workshops on budgeting, planning, and logistics, enhanced their practical life skills that fostered independence, problem-solving, and teamwork whilst creating a fun event for which they were the beneficiaries of. The fun event built lasting relationships with other young carers and fostered supportive peer led and long-lasting experiences.

ROC legacy group - Ballaghaderreen

The ROC legacy group wanted to welcome new residents to their centre. The young people asked the service to create welcome packs designed to orientate new residents to the centre and to the local area. The young people in collaboration with staff facilitated discussion on what should be included in the welcome packs, they also created welcome leaflets, a welcome video and two art pieces.

At all stages the initiative was evaluated where the young people gave feedback on possible changes and alterations to the initiative.

The Ripple Effect: Youth summer programme - Foróige

To enhance cross community understanding, young people from across Ballaghaderreen were invited to do a project of their choosing. They decided to design a mural that represented all cultures in the area and to enhance positive messaging, understanding and collaboration amongst all young people. The young people were assisted to complete their mural by an artist who had to re-create the vision inspired by the young people.



Supporting traveller parents and children - Western Traveller & Intercultural Development Centre

This initiative was focussed on Traveller mothers and their children, initially a consultation phase was established after which the group set up their own steering group. Novel ways to capture the voices of participants were used, as well as transparent ways to feedback to the group. Group members were encouraged to take a leadership role in a culturally inclusive, safe space. Mid-term reviews took place in order to ensure that the process met the needs of all participants in the group.

The facilitators reviewed the groups functions with the group so as to develop a sustainability plan.

Youth Access Summer Programme - Youth Work Ireland Galway

This summer programme was designed for and by young people with disabilities. The youth work facilitator co-designed and co-facilitate a summer programme to ensure young people with physical disabilities had the opportunity to participate in summer programmes with their peers. The young people were given the opportunity to affect how the group ran and were considered in all decision making on the group activities; this was done by listening to what was said during the programme and by providing an online evaluation or a paper-based evaluation to participants.

MID WEST

CLARE

Seldom Heard Voices - Tusla, CFSN

6-week project during the summer to capture the voice of children living in IPAS. Activities included arts & crafts, fun games, imagination playground, a trip to a local gymnastics club, and a magician show. The children spoke about not having a proper playroom where they live. In the past, any toys that went into the playroom went missing and the children were often bored in the hostel. Staff consulted with the group to create an improved play space and agree guidelines that would be put in place.



Transforming Spaces – Tusla, CFSN

Children accessing the activity room in the Tusla building in Ennis Primary Care Centre were consulted. Their vision is to transform the empty space into a warm, welcoming environment where children feel comfortable, valued, and inspired. This project is not just about decoration; it's about empowerment. The children will decide what the room should look, what should go in it, and how it can feel truly inviting. By involving them in the design, staff ensure the space reflects their voices, their creativity, and their needs.

NORTH TIPPERARY

Through Our Eyes – Tusla, CFSN

Twelve children and young people who attend Foroige were involved in the planning, design, development and delivery of the project. The Youth Leaders, a professional artist and CFSN coordinator provided ongoing support throughout the project. Following six planning meetings which took place between May and October, the decision was made by the children that they would create artistic pieces on canvas. Each individual canvas would then be placed within a box frame measuring 10-foot X 3-foot in dimension, and the finished collective creation will be exhibited in the new building as planned by the young people.

SOUTHWEST

CORK

Children of Families that foster - Kidz Konnect

Kidz Konnect is a support group for children and young people whose families foster other children. It contributes to the stability of placements by supporting biological children with a shared experience to meet and support each other. An open family event was planned this year as many kids had aged out of the project. A relaunch was funded with individual invitations sent to all eligible young people. The family fun day was then used as space to discuss the group and promote new membership. Along with this calendar events such as the Christmas jumper party and care day were also planned by the young people.



Meeting Space – Tusla

The meeting room in Liberty Street, Cork was redesigned in consultation with young people to make it more youth friendly, welcoming and conducive to better engagement from the young people that use the meeting room. Changes such as more comfortable seating and some snacks were suggested and once in place feedback and evaluations were sought from the service users about the changes.

Cork Forum – Tusla

Cork forum for children in care was funded this year. The forum is a place where children in care can come together to support each other. They are involved in planning activities and discussing issues that are affecting them to work towards change. The forum plan the days that they will meet, and the funding is used to run these days and to put any plan for change into action.

Liberty Street - Body Right

The Body right programme was run twice this year in Cork. The programme is designed to get young people to be aware of attitudes that they hold and to stimulate discussion. Funding was used to advertise and promote the programme with young people. This year the funding allowed for a higher number of children to be able to avail of the programme. Funding was also used to make changes to the programme from last year that were suggested by the young people such as moving away from PowerPoint presentations to open discussion and holding the programme during school holidays.

KERRY

Aftercare Participation – Tusla, Aftercare Team

The objective of the aftercare group was to afford aftercare clients in Kerry with the opportunity to take part in an Aftercare forum where they would benefit from the social and educational aspects of the groups. In the group the young people were given the opportunity to share their views, experiences etc. The forum is a safe space where they can speak, be heard, their views listened to, and their views acted upon as appropriate. The funding made it possible for learning opportunities, such as cookery classes in the forum to promote independent living skills amongst the young people.



Youth Consultation of Needs – Foroige

Young people in Kerry contributed to a consultation of needs within the catchment area of Killarney and Rathmore to inform and direct existing and potential services in the area. The young people that took part were given training in research, facilitation and public speaking. The young people compiled a report on the findings and presented it to community and statutory stakeholders.

SOUTHEAST

CARLOW / KILKENNY / SOUTH TIPPERARY

Christmas event for families that foster – Tusla, Fostering Team

Young people and children in care highlighted their wish to have a Christmas experience with their parents or carers. The children in CKST Focus Group were consulted generated ideas for Christmas engagement using Newpark Jurassic experience.

Outdoor play initiative for school aged children – Stepping Stones

Staff held a whole group meeting with the children to discuss the seed funding and what it could be used for if their application was successful. They made a list of all their ideas. From this list the children decided that a voting system would be the fairest way to decide which idea would be the one we could develop further. From this vote it was extremely clear that the SAC children really wanted to have some age-appropriate play equipment and games as they felt that the existing equipment was mainly directed at the preschool aged children. The whole process to was child led, from the planning and devising to the purchasing and evaluating. The children had their voices heard and an opportunity to change the service in a beneficial way for them all.

Wildlife Detectives Summer Camp – Millenium FRC

This camp is aimed at young people in the area with autism and additional needs that may not be interested in sports camps etc. From the previous years evaluation forms the children and young people attending the camp shape the camp for the upcoming year. Every day has flexibility built in for each child to decide what they wish to partake in that day at camp.



Drum Young Voices – Foroige

This funding was split between two separate groups of young people:

Group 1: The project involved a girl's group in a rural community who wanted to work together to develop ideas for their community. Youth workers supported the group throughout the process, providing guidance and encouragement while ensuring that the young people's voices and ideas were at the centre of decision-making. The group created a fun, family-friendly bingo event that strengthened community connections and brought people together.

Group 2: This group was made of a diverse range of young people, including those on the autism spectrum, young people from the LGBTQ+ community as well as those from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. The Drum is a space where they can take ownership and feel involved and be part of their community. The initiative focused on actively listening to and empowering young people, ensuring their voices lead to meaningful action that brings their ideas to life. The implementation of these changes has enhanced the quality of the service we offer, making it more vibrant and welcoming.

Connections Birth Children Support Group – Tusla

Research highlights the important role birth children have in the foster care family and the need to support them to retain placements. Five professionals from the Fostering Team in CKST, birth children of foster families and foster carers organised several activities for birth children whose families provide foster care. The birth children's support group recognises the importance of the role they play in the caring family. Several activities throughout the year were carried out to recognise the important role birth children have in the caring family. This group supported birth children and their families to continue providing the high standard of care to the children in the care of the state.

School Council, Inclusion Activities - St Kieran's College

The student council at St. Kieran's listening to the voice of their fellow students requested outdoor activities and equipment in order to improve attendance at school. The lack of activities at break was causing a feeling of exclusion. The council put forward a cost proposal for outdoor table tennis fixtures. They surveyed the students after the installations arrived and were being used. The new additions were well received by the students.



Intro Gym Class - Droichead FRC

Droichead FRC Intro Gym class is a Physiotherapist led exercise class for teenagers with additional needs such as ASD & Dyspraxia. What started as a taster block of classes for 6 weeks turned into a weekly class. Each week the class provides relevant and interesting education relating to health and physical activity. A programme has been developed for this group of young people and at the end of each class participants provide feedback, discuss topics and physical activities they would like to carry out in the next class. The programme is heavily influenced and informed by the service users views.

The CHEW room - Castlecomer community school

The CHEW room was developed by students with English as a second language and those who have additional needs designing a space for themselves that is open and appealing to ALL students to avoid marginalisation and to allow for reflection and change. Focus groups were held using design apps to decide what was needed and what would be most effective in the room. Students partook in the transformation themselves with appropriate guidance. A map on the wall shows all visitors to the room where every individual is from with pins to highlight location and information on the country.

Welcome pack for children using ACTS service - Tusla, Area Based Therapeutic Team

The welcome pack for children using the therapeutic team had two aims. The first was to introduce the team to the child or young person and the second was to incorporate the opportunity for a child/ young person to indicate their preference for where and how they access our service. Focus groups to review the draft pack were set up with the young people. The pack was changed based on their feedback and then a final version was developed which receives ongoing feedback from the children and young people.

WATERFORD / WEXFORD

Access room makeover - Tusla, PPFS

A consultation with children who utilise the access rooms to meet family was held. These suggestions were used to renovate the access room. The result was a room that was fit for purpose and enjoyed by all.



TLC Kidz - Barnardos

Young people that experienced the TLC programme were invited to design a leaflet and contribute to describe what TLC Kidz for future participants. The group were given the opportunity to have input into the design and identify what they would feel would benefit other children who were thinking of taking part in TLC Kidz. Draft leaflets were shown to the young people who contributed to the project and ensured they have the final say before printing.

Youth Summer Programme - Southend FRC

Facilitation of a consultation session with the youth group was held to make the FRC a more child friendly environment. Each child created a vision board/piece of art showing what they visualised the project to be like. These were displayed within the FRC from the very beginning of the project. At the end of the project the youth group took photos of their new space and activities they completed, and an exhibition was displayed in Southend FRC. The use of art for the evaluation process had a significant impact on the young people showing that their voice was heard and listened to.

TúsLA

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