

Tusla Child And Youth Participation Initiatives 2020

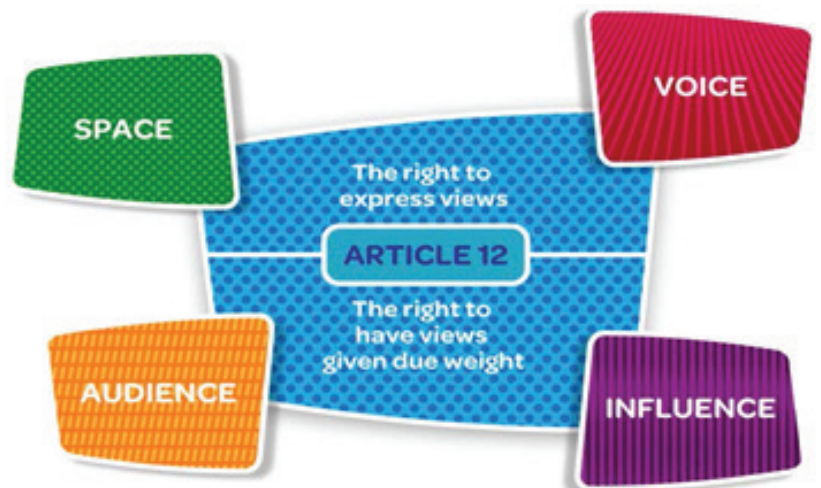
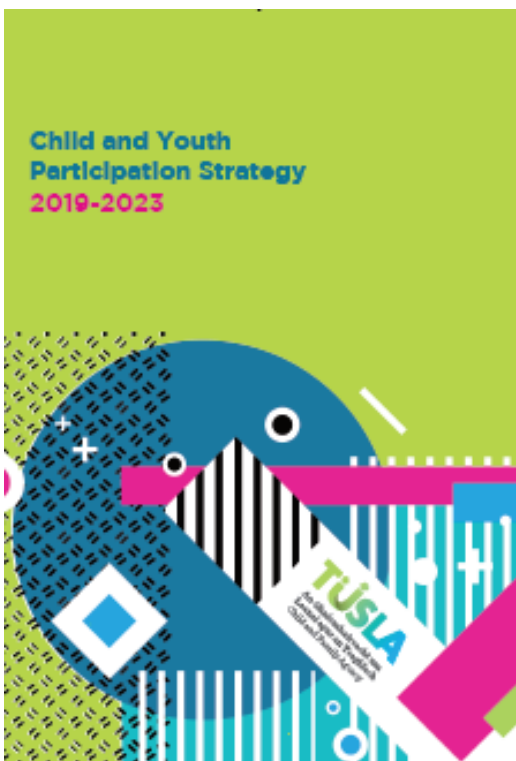


TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Tusla Child and Youth Participation Initiatives

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 in 2020 to support new initiatives that require funding in order to progress. Services and areas had the opportunity to submit one or a number of 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.



Lundy Model of Participation 2007

Dublin Mid Leinster

Dublin South East/Wicklow

Changing Futures

This project proposes to continue the process of building on existing supports for children and young people with ASD in the Dublin South East and Wicklow area. This will include building better links between Tusla and two voluntary organisations (one in each county) to develop child and youth led supports. Based on responses from a participatory consultation there will be a focus on social activities as the feedback from children and young people suggests this is a significant gap.

Dublin South Central

Voices from Care - What really Matters

Based on the success of an internal magazine called the Case Note which aimed to communicate practice tips to all staff, after consultation with young people, Dublin South Central aim to build on this initiative, expand its remit and involve more youth voices. The group hopes to publish a magazine in email and print format which is designed, edited and produced by children in care. The group also intend to run youth led seminars for both young people and staff on themes raised during development of the magazine, for example mental health, social media and living through a crisis.

Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow

'I believe' - Creative group for birth children of fostering families

The 'I Believe' group was formed in 2016 to provide support to birth children of foster carers in the area. 'I Believe' use art and other forms of communicative methods to build on the group members strengths and values to help them grow both socially, emotionally and to believe in themselves. The continuation of this group will ensure their unique and valuable story continues to positively influence both birth children and fostering families alike and contribute to placement stability.

Clay Project - Early Intervention Initiative - Targeted Under 12's

The Clay Project will deliver a programme that targets young people in a structured youth work process. They will engage with young people aged 9-11 who have been referred to the project for additional support -including but not limited to, young people who have early indicators of socialisation, behavioural and school difficulties and engaging in antisocial behaviour. The Clay Youth Project holds high the value of young people having their voices heard and will include young people in the planning, preparation and evaluation of this programme.

Greater Dublin YMCA PAKT Youth Advisory Committee Development

The Youth Advisory Committee established in 2019 had many achievements in its' first year, including the development of a National PAKT Charter of Rights. The Committee will be further developed in 2020 across the YMCA PAKT centres of Celbridge, Crumlin, Brookfield and McUillium by ensuring re-election of representatives and further supporting last year's participants to take on mentoring roles for the posts of chair, secretary and treasurer. They also intend to offer short, engaging workshops to support leadership and development.

Child Led Solutions to Child Poverty

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) continuously engages with children and parents and it is through this engagement that child poverty has been identified as an area that needs to be addressed. CDI proposes to implement an initiative which, through the creation of safe spaces, will ensure children and young people are meaningfully engaged in defining child poverty, describing their experience of it and designing and developing interventions to address it. This will be a collaborative piece of work with other partners who are engaged in child and youth work in Tallaght.

Greater Dublin YMCA Soulworks Choir

Parents and Kids Together (PAKT) is a community-based programme that supports the whole family and they have seen an increasing expression of interest in music and singing from the children referred to their service. Based on the success of their pilot choir offered to children and young people in 2019, they will develop this initiative and continue to allow the children to express their voice through music and song and perform at local concerts and events.

Keeping Safe Group

Based on the positive feedback from young people and foster carers who found the first Keeping Safe group very beneficial, the Dublin 12 Social Work Department aim to run another group for young people in care to support and educate them on keeping safe in all aspects of their lives. There will be a particular focus on relationships, sexual health and being in care. The group will be semi-structured to allow young people to express their views and use their voice and young people will also have involvement in deciding important issues to talk about.

Dublin South West Operation Transformation

This joint proposal between Tusla and the Youth Advocate Programmes (YAP) aims to facilitate a group of up to 10 young people from the DSW area to express their views on their experiences of Tusla services; to see what they find helpful and what they think could be improved. As part of this process the young people will create art pieces that are a visual representation of the 'voice of young people'. This art will be installed on the walls of a new Health Care Centre in Athy.

Midlands

Continuing to hear the Voices of Children and Young People whose Families foster

Based on the success of this project in 2019, including the publication of a youth designed poster and leaflet on fostering, the team in the Midlands aim to build on their momentum. In 2020, they intend to expand the group by reaching out to other young people whose families foster, publish a newsletter to highlight their activities and run another family fun day organised by the young people, this time with a greater focus on bringing children aged 9-12 years together so they can meet each other, gain a better understanding of fostering and receive support.

Building Better Aftercare through Peer Mentoring and Aftercare forums

The purpose of this project is to further develop the aftercare forums so that the young people are centrally involved in shaping the direction of the services provided. Specifically, the initiative hopes to develop a peer mentoring programme and conduct young people led research on participation, barriers and aids to attendance at forums. The findings of the research will be presented to the Midlands Area Senior Management and at the National Child and Youth Participation Conference.

The Buddy Bag

This initiative will involve young people engaged with the Laois and Offaly Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) teams. They will be consulted through a range of feedback mechanisms including focus groups and online questionnaires. The aim is to identify methods of interaction, key materials and resources which young people of varying ages deem most appropriate for Social Care Workers and Social Care Leaders working with their age group. This information will be shared with area management and then circulated to other professionals.

Mindful Media - How we can mind ourselves in this generation

This group is a partnership between Tusla and Youth Advocate Programmes and will focus on the healthy use of social media. They will explore; how social media platforms are used, the benefits and barriers of social media, how accessible social media is to young people and how others can access young people through it. They propose to look at online bullying and ways that Tusla, YAP and parents can support young people if faced with these issues.

Dublin North East

Cavan/Monaghan

Making Connections

The initiative will make connections with the young people originally part of this initiative through the media of; the arts, drama, dance music and games. The group is culturally diverse and it is hoped that more young people from the community would be welcomed to join the group. The young people discussed creating an art piece which encompassed an aspect of their culture. It was suggested that this could be in the form of a Jigsaw.

Art Project Cavan

The initiative will recruit young people who have already engaged in the 2019 mural on the child wellbeing campus in Castleblaney in Monaghan. This initiative will look at issues that the group highlight in a creative but unique way that appeals to them. The group can convey their art issues that affect young people and solutions to their difficulties.

YAP RAP Mindful Media

The initiative will support the young people to have more of an understanding of staying safe on social medias using 'rap' as a medium to facilitate this. The young people in conjunction with a professional rap artist will write a rap song, make a video and edit this in line with The Lundy Model

Monaghan Youth Activists [MYA] Diversity Project

Monaghan Youth activists are a relatively new group which have come together as the Monaghan CYPSC Outcome 5 Subgroup. This outcome looks at how people especially young people are connecting, respecting and contributing to their world. One gap identified by the young group was more supports for young people from diverse backgrounds in school.

An Inclusive Cavan Youth Participation Forum

The initiative will provide a forum in Cavan that provides the environments for children and young people to be involved in decision-making on issues that affect their lives. Through the youth network forums which professionals attend we have discussed opportunities to bring young people together to discuss their needs and priorities in their local services. It is envisaged that a forum would provide a vehicle for young people to express their views on what is working well and what needs to improve.

Mullagh Community Support

The initiative will have two aims;

'Building a Bridge' – This programme has been devised within the service and is now being produced as a manualised transition programme. Working with targeted 6th class students who are transitioning to second level education and may be referred by parents or professionals to take part in an 8 week programme, they will develop outcomes leading to reduced rates of early school leaving.

'Life Skills' – This programme will work with targeted 1st to 3rd year students building a variety of life skills and developmental outcomes to support families and enhance a variety of facets of life for the participants in line with the national youth strategy.

Tullacmongan Community Support

The initiative is an interagency approach and involves; Teach Oscail/Tusla-Tullacmongan Resource Centre, CYPSC, Foroige and the local community. They will provide a targeted summer programme in response to local recent suicides. The partners plan to run a 5 week 'Families First Summer Camp' with a holistic approach to ensure that targeted parents, younger children, older children and teenagers are all engaged and receiving the support they need. The 5 weeks will consist of: family support, parenting programmes, mothers group, fathers group, multi sports, memory garden, community wall mural, rock painting messages of hope, school transition/preparation programme, cycle against suicide and the be healthy be happy manualised programme.

Dublin North

Little Seeds Project 2

In October, colleagues and parents set up the Club Little Seeds for children with Autism as there was nothing else similar in the area for their children. Parents have children with Autism and developed this club in response to a clear need in the community under the umbrella of The National Arch Club. The club currently accommodates 25 children aged between 9 years and 16 years and works towards developing resilience and independence skills among children with Autism through cookery, art, music, self-defence, road safety and occupational therapy. It is envisaged that with the additional funding Little Seeds could expand to include children with Autism from 7 years to 20 years and double number of participants.

Dublin North City

Bricks for Autism- Lego based play workshops for Children with ASD

This initiative will provide children with ASD the opportunity to fully participate in a play based approach that is also evidence based. Children will be able to participate fully in play that is often challenging for children with autism such as creativity, imaginative play and socialization. It will also provide a series of ten workshops for children and their parents. Workshops will be kept to a small number to facilitate best practice environment children with Autism.

Youth Leadership Programme

The Youth Leadership/Programme was developed by the Neighbourhood Youth Project in the North Inner City. This initiative will involve 8 to 10 people who are current and past participants in the programme to develop their leadership and mentoring skills. The participants will have a role in being role models for younger children attending the programme while also developing their own skills which may support them in their everyday life, but also may support them if they choose youth work or social care as a career option.

Mindfulness Programme

The Mindfulness Programme is for children between the ages of 8- 12 years. This will be facilitated in after school clubs across the week, accommodating up to 60 children each week. Techniques will include arts and crafts items, stress balls or worry boxes, along with learning breathing techniques and relaxing meditations

“What does he Need?”

The initiative is to hold a series of facilitated workshops with children and young people [male & female] from the North West Inner City to look at how men and boys are shaped by and influence the world they live in. This will increase their understanding of the effects on individual choices, and how they impact on other individuals, family and community.

The 3 Ps [Participation, Partnership and Power]

The 3 P's aims to enhance the capacity of the 5 young people on the PYP (Poppintree Youth Project) Board of Directors through mentoring, training and pre-board meeting support programme. It will also host a Youth Consultation Forum with the members [10-24 years] of PYP to seek the views and opinions on the issues and concerns they face in the community and develop appropriate actions to respond to them.

Louth/Meath

The Impact on us- when Culture's Clash as Irish born children of Migrant Parents.

The objective is to support the work of Culture Migrant Network group in seeking to recognise, highlight and support the cultural clashes faced by migrant parents and their children via the medium of drama. It is to raise awareness amongst community and professional services and to support improved understanding of the implications of culture clashes on migrant families and how services can better support this.

Voice of child toolkit

The aim of the initiative is to create the voice of the child toolkits for the child protection and children in care teams. The views of the Youth Council will be sought in developing the toolkit. The toolkit will assist on a daily basis to assist in eliciting the view of children.

Being a child in Drogheda in 2020

The initiative is to give primary school children in Drogheda the opportunity to express their views on recent events they have been exposed to in their town in a non-threatening way. It is hoped to give primary school children the opportunity to express their views through the medium of the arts, hopefully, culminating in a Child Participation event on November 20th [Universal Children's Day]

Drop in Service for Teenagers in the Drogheda Area

Initially the drop in will be a 'no pressure/hanging out space' where once relationships are built, programmes for young people who attend the drop in will be devised. This will provide a safe space for teenagers in the Moneymore area, and also encourage positive relationships

Teenagers need practical supports in a lockdown Too

The aim of the initiative is for the supply of practical play, activity and information packs tailored to teenagers 12 years to 18 years during the Covid Lockdown. Parents have highlighted the difficulty in "keeping teenagers at home" during this period of lockdown and social distancing.

In providing these practical packs specifically tailored and only offered to 12 to 18 year olds, the teenagers will feel that they are heard and they matter. They may be isolated from friends, school, extra-curricular activities & sports and being in 'lockdown' can be very challenging for all, but perhaps especially for teenagers when all that matters is being with friends. It is important to focus on activities to alleviate stress, encourage exercise, creativity and self-care.

They hope to give information on supports that teens can link to and introduce them to things they may not have tried before.

'Our Community, Our Future, Our Voice'

This initiative will use a 'Mental Health and Wellbeing Day', inviting young people from different agencies, to explore positive wellbeing and factors contributing to positive mental health. In this safe space they will actively engage young people in an open space focus group to determine all issues, needs, services and "flash point" places for young people in Mid Louth. This is in line with the "Mid Louth Action Plan for Young People 2019-2024 which is to create a safe space, nurture growth, and foster resilience through active engagement with young people.

"Eisteacht Learning/Hearing

A gap has been highlighted through the Meath CFSN members and it is proposed to meet it by bringing together a group of young people and to hear their voice in relation to what is it like living at home when there is physical and emotional child to parent violence caused by a sibling. It is hoped to meet with the children, get their input and views, and listen to and ensure they feel heard around what their day to day lived in experience looks like. Through the initiative a sub group will meet and begin exploring and researching what the young people have requested to be delivered."

West

Donegal

Being pro-active - Engaging Young People in Meitheal

This initiative was designed to enhance the engagement of children and young people in Meitheal processes and to work with other stakeholders to ensure the environment is conducive to the participation of young people. EOI went out to funded partners to be taken on as a standalone project and involves the following components among others:

- a) Development of a panel of YP involved in Meitheal and hold a focus group to review YP's experience of Meitheal;
- b) Development of a set of guidelines with YP for participation in Meitheal based on:
What they might have needed to make Meitheal process more effective;

How Chairs need to adapt practice when chairing Meitheal processes;
 What's 'going on' for young people when they enter a Meitheal process.
 c) Include these Guidelines from YP within Meitheal Chair Guidelines document (under development by PPFS Donegal). It is envisaged that this will complement the existing 'Enter your Meitheal like a Pro' video

Donegal Youth Voices

The Donegal Youth Voices was established with previous seed funding. During the previous phase, it acted as a reference group to the Tusla Senior Management Team across an agreed number of service areas including the Intake Team, Children in Care and in the design and development of Scally Place, Tusla's main Donegal office. The SMT is in the process of identifying other areas of service development which require a YP input. These are likely to include Area Based Child Protection & Welfare Teams, CASP and further building development. Final areas subject to agreement of SMT.

Open call for Innovative Practice

A small proportion of the budget allocated as an 'open call' so funded partners and FRCs have an opportunity to develop innovative practice in child and youth participation. The issue of C&YP participation is discussed at each site visit but they are aware that there is often a cost implication to investing in this area. Allocation of a small amount of money through an 'open call' will enable a funded partner to invest in this area of work and develop good practice which can be shared with other funded partners. Criteria for assessment based on good practice in C&YP will be developed by the PPFS team in Donegal.

Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan

Children's Consultative Forum Project

This proposal is to create a consultative forum made up of 120 children aged 6-11 years in Sligo & Leitrim. The forum will be made up of a range of children from different backgrounds including new communities and members of the travelling community. There will be twelve, 2 hour consultative sessions across twelve geographical locations in Sligo & Leitrim.

Trained facilitators will use the CYPSC 'Child Participation Guidelines' to meaningfully and creatively consult with the children around different topics such as: their communities, how the Covid-19 measures have affected them, and what is missing from their local area.

At the end of this project, the findings from the consultation will be collated into practical resources that represent the views of children from this age cohort as part of influencing future policy, practice and services for children in Sligo & Leitrim.

Mayo

Children and Young Persons Advisory Committee (Tusla Youth Advisory Committee)

This proposal looks to build and expand on the Children and Young Peoples Advisory Committee that was established in 2016. The group will continue to work on reviewing and critically evaluating specific area relating to service deliver to young people – for example

- Review of buildings and spaces for C/YP in Tusla and Tusla Funded buildings
- A consultative body for the county and region
- Represent young people by sitting on committees and presenting their work to relevant people eg Tusla Conference, CYPSC groups.
- Consulting with children in National School settings

Increasing visibility and raising awareness of the challenges for LGBTI+ C/YP

Galway

Like Minds

'Like Minds' will create safe and empowering leisure and social spaces for neuro-diverse children and young people in Galway city. Many autistic and neuro-diverse people experience challenges engaging in typical social activities such as team sports and youth groups. This can often result in social isolation, depression, anxiety and a variety of mental health issues. 'Like Minds' will allow

autistic and neuro-diverse children and young people to gather together in a safe and supportive space and connect with peers with which they have something in common; not just their neuro-diversity, but hobbies and interests too. Young people aged 10 – 17 years will meet as a group and will enjoy a weekly respite. 'Like Minds' will empower young people to value their unique perspective of the world and to form strong social networks with peers.

Let's be Heard

Loughrea Youth Council - Let's Be Heard, is an initiative to strengthen and embed a local youth participation structure in Loughrea and environs. It will actively involve young people in decision making on issues that affect their lives. It will also act as a voice for young people in responding to calls from agencies for youth views.

The objective is to facilitate a youth leadership programme which will ensure sustainability and facilitate a team development activity day in Slieve Aughty.

Repair and recycle workshop

This initiative will run a programme with young people accessing the service under a theme of 'repair and recycle' workshop. Particularly, in light of Covid – 19, it will be aimed at young people who wish to identify items that they would like to repair or recycle in their own community/family environment. It can range from fixing punctures to recycling wood into planters, building flower-boxes, children's hideouts, stem projects etc. The project will be identified by each family and the young people involved will be able to access basic hand tools, paint, repair items etc. sourced from seed funding.

Roscommon

Growing up Roma in Roscommon Project

This project will work in partnership with young Roma people to design a youth consultation process that will hear the voices of Roma young people living in county Roscommon and their experience of growing up Roma in Roscommon. The initiative will form a youth advisory panel (YAP) that will direct the initiative and advice on all aspects from design, delivery and reflection. The YAP will work with Youth work staff and facilitators to carry out a research piece with their peers that gathers the experiences, aspirations and opinions of what growing up as a Roma young person in Roscommon is like from the young person point of view.

The Initiative will not only gather a picture of life in Roscommon for these young people but will also work in partnership to develop a set of key recommendations that can be presented to and used by decisions makers to improve the lives of this minority community in county Roscommon

Clare

Coping with change and adapting to new experiences – How young people see it!

To support a number of collaborative joint initiatives between partner organisations involved in Clare CFSN to explore Child and Youth experiences. partner organisations will be encouraged to work with children and young people to gather their views in relation to a number of current issues/ experiences:

- Impact of COV/019 restrictions and adapting to a new way of living
- Challenges of being away from the school/educational environment
- Consultation on supports/ guidance for returning to school/ reintegration of young people in their learning environments
- Community initiatives supporting young people

Clare CFSN members invited to apply for funding to support a theme above or to collaborate on a particular project. The projects will be youth led.

Limerick

Collaborative 'Buddy Reading'

A project between partner second level students in Autumn 2020

The project, based on evidence from Meitheal cases, will address issues around supporting

children and young people in education with a variety of needs and secondly, challenges posed by COVID19. Significant disruption has been caused to the education of children and young people since March. Core areas of literacy, mathematics and wellbeing have been moved to an online platform (seesaw) which requires a great deal of parental involvement and capacity along with the appropriate technology. The children attending the schools, are some of the most educationally disadvantaged in the state, this has been further marginalised and disadvantaged due to school closures and some parents don't have the capacity educationally, financially or emotionally to support them. This proposal is to twin a post primary school with a DEIS primary school and buddy transition year students with 3rd class students in the primary school as part of their timetable. The ten week reading programme will address the deficit in conjunction with experienced teachers, and include modelling of reading behaviours along with training for second level students in aspects of literacy and develop insight into their own styles of learning while providing goals during their transition year programme.

North Tipperary

The Base Abilities

The Base Youth Club aims to support young people with a variety of disabilities aged 10-21 years in terms of their social and personal development. The young people currently engaged are members of youth work Ireland, Tipperary. Through this initiative, members will learn leadership skills and opportunities will in turn engage more members and provide space for 'The Base Club' model to grow. It will incorporate health promotion, social justice, volunteerism and active citizenship, assisting participants in establishing a critical understanding of social issues in order to be empowered into taking action for people with disabilities. Participants will be provided with training and experience in order to establish clubs and events in other locations in Tipperary and act in a leadership and mentoring role with other young people. This will enhance their skills and confidence to participate in club structures, youth volunteer committees and other leadership structures, and to take on leadership roles in their communities. The aim is to roll it out through 4 pop up events in the second half of 2020 as well as supporting young people to review and update Youth Work Ireland Tipperary's Youth Participation and Vulnerable young people and adult's curriculum to reflect their current areas of work

South

Carlow

Nurture Groups-building a continuum of care

Young people referred to Tullow School Completion Programme will Identify and develop appropriate responses to support young people for when they return to school after the COVID-19 pandemic. To build and develop on current nurture practice rooms and spaces that is currently effective in some schools.

Kilkenny

Junior Shed

The project will aim to deliver after school supports to a number of children attending the FRC including minority groups and new communities. There will also be an opportunity to engage in activities which the young people identify to as important to them-from a culturally sensitive aspect. The Junior Shed will also provide an opportunity to showcase and promote their skills and culture with others.

Summer Project

As the young person's group is already established in the FRC, the objective is to renovate the outdoor space in order for the young people to meet again under new public health guidelines due to COVID-19. The outdoor space would benefit the young people but will also enhance the space for other users of the FRC.

Tipperary

The Wildlife Detectives

The project aims to engage children who do not wish to take part in 'traditional activities' such as team sports, swimming/dancing etc. the focus would be on insects, bird's animals and trees/plants. This will be run on a pilot basis with a group of 10-14 year olds, as this can be the most challenging in terms of mental and social inclusion.

Child Friendly Spaces

The FRC delivers both play and art therapy as well as after care support to young people living in their catchment area. Children and young people will help design the room that will be used by them for play and art therapy in the local FRC. The staff will engage with the children to agree what changes need to happen in the current rooms

Cork

Wellness and Participation Programme

A Wellness Programme, incorporating the Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP*) approach, for families who are homeless and staying in private emergency accommodation (B&Bs hotels etc.) promoting principles of participation and positive parenting. Many of the children and young people in B&Bs struggle with issues of anxiety and low self-esteem. We believe it is important to work on these issues to support children and young people to be resilient and to build confidence and self-esteem as a first step in participation.

Children in Direct Provision Summer Camp 2020,

Working with children age 6-12, within two Direct Provision Centres for Asylum Seekers. The project will plan 8 weeks of Summer Camp with 1 day a week in July and August 2020. Each group of children will have one session per week consisting of 2.5 hours, where they will choose their activities and create plans for the project. It is hoped that 20 children from each centre will be involved.

Kerry

Creating Welcoming Spaces

To support children and young people design and re-create the Social Work Access Rooms in Co. Kerry to become welcoming child and youth-friendly spaces.

It is hoped this process will be helpful to other groups in Kerry to demonstrate what the Tusla employees, as well as the Children and Young People have learnt through the process.

The goal is to not only improving the environment of the Access Areas etc. but also that the children and young people feel empowered, creative and feeling comfortable finding their voices and creative opinions

Waterford / Wexford

Anxiety Support Programme South Co. Wexford,

Through both; the Tusla funded Family Project and UBU funded Youth Project 'Youth New Ross' (YNR) it has been noticed, there is an increase in the number of children and young people presenting to the service describing mental health concerns and in particular high levels of anxiety over the last number of years. At present we engage with those reporting anxiety consistently through our all projects

YNR are involved in a scoping exercise regarding counselling with a view to establishing a counselling service if feasible in the near future.

YNR are proposing a programme of activities including; Mindfulness, peer support and mental health awareness.