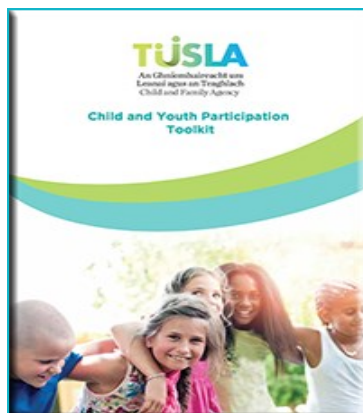


Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter. We are delighted to update you on all the exciting initiatives, projects and developments in the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS), Child and Youth Participation work stream supported by Atlantic Philanthropies. This edition is packed with the amazing participatory practice that is being carried out across the country by Tusla staff, partners and young people.



Child and Youth Participation Training Now Available

National Child and Youth Participation Training is informative, interactive and fun!

During this short one and a half days training you will learn about the “Lundy Model”, get tips on engaging with children and young people as well as ideas on how to overcome challenges to participation. The call-back half day is a great learning opportunity as each person shares the progress of the participation plans that were put into action after the first day. Training dates are available from your local Workforce Learning and Development Officer.

Child and Youth Participation Seed Funding Projects

Our Seed Funding Projects are now fully under way! We are now in our second year and these projects are creating a tangible change in participatory practice. All the projects are youth led and based on the “Lundy Model” of participation.

There are over 41 projects nationwide which involve numerous partners and hundreds of children and young people. These projects include a Youth Leadership Programme, Sensory Garden, Cyber Safety Initiative and a Child Friendly Website. You will find a full list of all our seed funding projects [here](#)

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Youth Leadership Programme , NYP, Dublin North Inner City

"On Our Way" National Child and Youth Participation Conference



Afro Eire with their drumming beats!



CEO Fred Mc Bride and one of the Young People involved in the Children's Charter



Ruairi Mc Kiernan



Thumbs up from the Mighty Midlander's



Conference Working Group

Tusla's second National Child and Youth Participation Conference "On Our Way" took place on the 6th April 2017 in Athlone. It brought together Tusla staff, partner agencies and young people to celebrate Child and Youth Participation. 360 people, including 120 young people, attended. A high energy drumming performance by Afro Eire started the day off with a mighty bang! Mr. Fred Mc Bride and Rob Johnson presented the Investing in Children Award™ to seven successful applicants. Well Done Guys!

"The participation of young people is essential in Tusla's service"

The National Children's Charter was launched by Dr. Carmel Corrigan and the young people who had an integral part in its development. The young people spoke passionately about the power of being valued and the importance of being heard. Our internationally renowned guest speakers Prof. Laura Lundy and Ruairi Mc Kiernan engaged and inspired everyone in the audience. Vanessa Quinn presented her video "I am...ME".

"It was Deadly"

The super talented Familibase Music Studio, performed a number of songs and were so good they received a standing ovation! One of the highlights of the conference was the workshops/presentations. A huge thanks to all the young people, the seed funding projects, Tusla funded agencies and partners for their enormous efforts in the months leading up to the conference and on the day. The presentations were phenomenal.

A special thanks must go to our fantastic MC's Oisin Keegan and Lucinda Haines, the day wouldn't have been possible without them. Check out the Participation section of the Tusla website for more on the "On Our Way" 2017 conference including the video presentations from Mr. Fred Mc Bride, Dr. Carmel Corrigan, Prof. Laura Lundy and Ruairi Mc Kiernan [here](#)

Psssst.... 26th April 2018 is the date for next years conference. Put it in the Diary!!

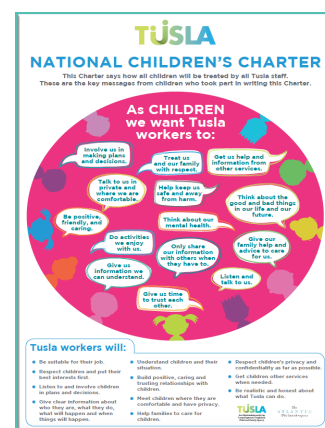
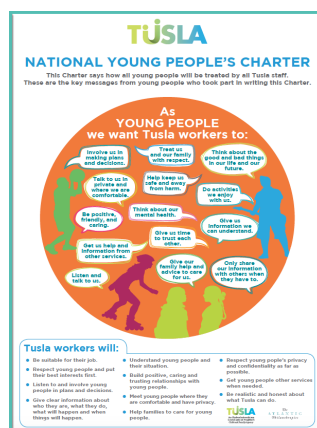
Official Launch of Tusla's National Children's Charter

Mr Jim Gibson, Dr. Carmel Corrigan and the young people involved officially launched the National Children and Young People's Charters on 17th June 2017.

The Charters were developed using the "Lundy Model" of Participation and over 50 young people aged between 9 and 17 years from the four regions took part. This incredible work was highlighted on the RTE news and welcomed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.



Dr. Fergal Lynch, Cormac Quinlan, Dr Carmel Corrigan, Jim Gibson and young people from Cork Life Centre



The Charters' aim:

- Give children / young people and their families' greater clarity about the quality of services they can expect from all Tusla staff members, how Tusla staff will interact with them to find solutions, and the principles that underpin this work.
- Provide all staff with a clear guide and reminder of what is important to children and young people with whom we work.

Charters are now available to download [here](#)

Investing in Children™

The Investing in Children Membership Award™ recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice. Investing in Children™ Membership gives national recognition for your good practice and active inclusion of children and young people in dialogue and change.

A **HUGE** congratulations to our successful applicants:

- Mountmellick Youth Development Centre (*The Midlands*)
- Carr's Child and Family Services (*DSE/Wicklow*)
- Longford/Westmeath Child and Young People's Services Committee (*The Midlands*)
- Longford/Westmeath PPFS Social Care Leaders (*The Midlands*)
- The First Steps Trust (*Dublin South Central*)
- Compass Outdoors Project (*Cavan/Monaghan*)
- Frenchpark District Community Childcare (Galway/Roscommon)
- The Connemara Club (*Galway/Roscommon*)
- The Mighty Midlander's (*The Midlands*)
- Midlands Aftercare Service (*The Midlands*)



Fred Mc Bride, Rob Johnson and Frenchpark District Community Childcare

Why not apply for an Investing in Children Award? You can find information on how to apply [here](#)

Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Strategy



We are currently developing Tusla's Participation Strategy for Children and Young People. *The strategy is built on the "Towards the Development of a Participation Strategy" (2014).* You can find "Towards the Development of a Participation Strategy" [here](#)

Tusla is committed to involving children in decision making on matters that affect their lives. We want to involve children and young people from the four regions of Ireland in the development of the strategy. If you are working with a young person or group of young people who would like to get involved and consult on the strategy please contact avril.dooley1@tusla.ie

"Our Say, Our Way"

"A Collaborative Approach to Influence Change"

On the **1st November 2017**, the Young People of the EPIC and Tusla Fora hosted their first National Fora Participation Conference, "Our Say, Our Way"!

This is a Tusla and EPIC initiative to share young people's experience of care and what they would like you, as a professional, to know about their journey.

The day included presentations by young people on their projects, perspectives and experiences with a view to influencing how we all work together.



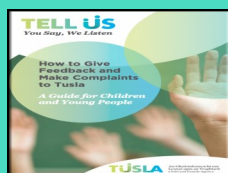
Did You Know?



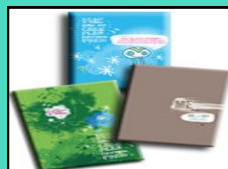
A wide range of information is available on the Tusla website such as documents, leaflets, posters which may be useful to children you work with.

Contact information can also be found for wide range of child and youth centred agencies such as EPIC, Belong To and the Youth Advocacy Service [here](#)

TELL US at Tusla can be found [here](#)



TACTIC materials can be found [here](#)



Universal Children's Day 2017 Celebrate With Us!



Universal Children's Day is on the **20th of November 2017**. We are encouraging our teams, partners and friends to celebrate Children's Day with us from the 13th to the 20th of November.

Children's Day is a celebration of children's and young people's participation in decisions that affect their lives. You can organise a party, plan an event or involve children in your work. There are lots of ideas for children, young people and families to get involved in www.childrensday.ie Tell us about your event so we can promote and share.

If you are interested in celebrating Universal Children's Day, register your event on www.childrensday.ie You can also get active online using #ChildsDayIRL

If you have an event that is for staff and clients only, please still register it and choose the "private option".

National Tusla Website

Dublin South East/Wicklow Youth Participation Project; National Tusla Website is being developed by Young People for Young People.

The young adults facilitated a number of Agenda Days™ that brought 20-30 young people aged 9-18 years old from Tusla and its funded services together in an adult free space to develop the idea for the website.

This is a multi-agency initiative, led by the Young People and supported by the Communications Team and Manager for Web Development and New Content in Tusla.

The National Tusla Website is currently looking for content, so if you have any youth led or created content please contact lindsay.markey@tusla.ie



Dublin South East/Wicklow Youth Participation Project



Name our Newsletter!

Are you a young person or are you working with young person who has a suggestion? There's a prize for the winning entry. Entries submitted to emma.hanway@tusla.ie by 10th December 2017.

Good Luck x

Calling all budding journalists, artists and poets!

Send us in your masterpieces!



If you are a young person and would like to submit a piece for inclusion in the newsletter, please let us know!

Send in your pieces to emma.hanway@tusla.ie

Get Involved!

If you would like to get involved, like to submit content for inclusion in our newsletter or have any questions there is a Partnership and Participation Officer in every region.

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Michelle Sheehan

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All of the initiatives in this Newsletter are part of the Participation Stream of Tusla's Prevention, Partnership and Family Support programme, funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies.

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies