LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE DATA REVIEW

PREPARED FOR LYS STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

Lower Glentworth Street

Limerick

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CONTENTS

SECTION 1

A DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY (2016 CENSUS, CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO) & TRUTZ HAASE DEPRIVATION INDEX, 2017):

1. **Limerick Districts**
- Metropolitan District of Limerick comprises: Limerick City North; Limerick City West and Limerick City East
- Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
- Municipal District of Newcastle West
- Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

2. **Demographics:**

2.1 Population, Distribution & Movements

The population of Limerick City and County is 195,175, a rise of 2.1% from 2011 and making it the third largest city in the republic of Ireland after Dublin and Cork (CSO, 2016).

Metropolitan District of Limerick - Population:

Metropolitan District	Population
Limerick City North [1]	34,714
Limerick City West [2]	34,896
Limerick City East [3]	35,342
Total	**104,952**

Metropolitan Electoral Districts (EDs) with Highest Population Figures:

Electoral Districts (EDs)	Population 2016
Abbey A	4,636
Ballycummin	18,388
Ballysimon	13,590
Limerick North Rural	6,801

Metropolitan Electoral Districts (EDs) with the highest rates of population increases between 20011 and 2016:

Electoral Districts (EDs)	Population 2016	Population Increase (20011 and 2016)
Abbey C	602	+18.3%
Custom House	736	+29.1%
Dock A	2,339	+30%
John C	456	+23.9%

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[1] Limerick North Rural, Abbey A, Abbey B, Abbey C, Abbey D, Ballynanty, Castle A, Castle B, Castle C, Castle D, Coolraine, Farranshone, Johns A, Johns B, Johns C, Killeely A, Killeely B, Market, and Singland A

[2] Ballycummin, Carrig, Clarina, Patrickswell; and the electoral divisions of Ballinacurra A, Ballinacurra B, Custom House, Dock A, Dock B, Dock C, Dock D, Prospect A, Prospect B, Shannon A and Shannon B

[3] Ballysimon, Ballyvarra, Castleconnell, Limerick South Rural, Roxborough;and the electoral divisions of Galvone A, Galvone B, Glentworth A, Glentworth B, Glentworth C, Rathbane, Singland B and St. Laurence

Shannon A	994	+41.2%
Shannon B	925	+39.7%

Metropolitan EDs with the highest rate of population decreases between 2011 and 2016 include:

Electoral Districts (EDs)	Population 2016	Population Decrease (20011 and 2016)
Galvone B	664	-24.4%
Dock D	773	-11.4%
John A	759	-12.1%
Prospect A	826	-20.5%
St. Laurence	965	-13.5%

County Municipal District EDs Population and Changes

Municipal District	Population/EDS with Highest Population Rates
Cappamore-Kilmallock[4]	34,821 (Bruff – 1,415; Bruree – 1,199; Kilmallock – 2,394)
NewCastle West[5]	27,416 (Abbeyfeale - 2,542, Newcastle Urban – 2,264, Newcastle Rural – 5,104)
Adare – Rathkeale[6]	27,710 (Adare South – 2,031, Askeaton West – 1,186, Croom – 1,692)
Total	**89,947**

Municipal District EDs Population Changes 2011 -2016

ED	Population	Change
Dunmoylan West	66	-16.5%
Kilflyn	199	-12.3%
Caherconlish East	507	-1.45% (-63.1% 2006 -2011)
Rathkeale Urban	1,371	-7.3%
Caherconlish West	2,236	+9.1%
Aughinish	238	+11.5

[4] Abington, Anglesborough, Ardpatrick, Athlacca, Ballylanders, Ballymacshaneboy, Bilboa, Bruff, Bruree, Bulgaden, Caherconlish East, Caherconlish West, Cahercorney, Caherelly, Cappamore, Clonkeen, Colmanswell, Crean, Cullane, Darragh, Doon South, Doon West, Dromin, Duntryleague, Emlygrennan, Galbally, Glenbrohane, Glenstal, Grange, Green, Griston, Hospital, Kilbeheny, Kilfinnane, Kilflyn, Kilglass, Kilmallock, Kilmurry, Kilteely, Knockainy, Knocklong, Knocknascrow, Oola, Particles, Riversdale, Rockhill, Templebredon, Tobernea and Uregare)

[5] Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Ballintober, Ballyagran, Ballynoe, Ballynoe West, Boola, Broadford, Caher, Castletown (in the former Rural District of Croom), Cleanglass, Cloncagh, Danganbeg, Dromcolliher, Dromtrasna, Feenagh, Garryduff, Glenagower, Glengort, Glensharrold, Glin, Kilfergus, Kilmeedy, Kilmoylan, Knockaderry, Mahoonagh, Monagay, Mountcollins, Mountplummer, Newcastle Rural, Newcastle Urban, Port, Rathronan, Rooskagh and Templeglentan

[6] Abbeyville, Adare North, Adare South, Askeaton East, Askeaton West, Aughinish, Ballingarry, Ballyallinan, Ballybricken, Ballygrennan, Ballynabanoge, Ballynacarriga, Castletown (in the former Rural District of Rathkeale), Coolrus, Craggs, Crecora, Croagh, Croom, Dromard, Dunmoylan East, Dunmoylan West, Dunnaman, Fedamore, Fleanmore, Garrane, Iveruss, Kilcornan, Kildimo, Kilfinny, Kilpeacon, Kilscannell, Lismakeery, Loghill, Mohernagh, Nantinan, Pallaskenry, Rathkeale Rural, Rathkeale Urban, Rathmore, Riddlestown, Shanagolden and Shanid

| Particles | 240 | +8.1% |
| Templeglantan | 974 | +6.4 |

- Population increases in Metropolitan inner-city district EDs, including Shannon A & B, John C (Athlunkard St./George's Quay), Dock A (Upper Henry St./ Steamboat Quay), Custom House and Market (Upper Mulgrave St./Cathedral Place)
- Increased urbanisation of the city. Limerick City and Suburbs have seen continuous growth over the period since 1951, with a current population of almost 95,000.
- Large populations in outer suburban Metropolitan EDs including Ballycumin, Ballysimon, Corbally, Annacotty, Coonagh/Caherdavin
- The county, outside the city environs, has lagged behind the city in terms of growth. Limerick's next largest town after the city is only 7% of the city's population
- Limerick Municipal EDs including Caherconlish West and Aughinish have seen population increases with large populations in EDs such as Adare South, Askeaton West, Croom, Abbeyfeale, Newcastle Urban, Newcastle Rural, Bruff , Bruree and Kilmallock
- Communities falling under the remit of the regeneration programme have experienced significant falls in population since 2011 including Galvone B (Southill), John's A (St. Mary's Park) and Ballinacurra Weston
- In metropolitan districts, rural out-migration is high in Municipal Districts with population falls in Dromcollagher , Broadford Patrickswell, Dunmoylan West, Kilflynn, Caherconlish East and Rathkeale
- However very strong population increases in Adare, Castleconnell, Clarina and Ballyneety

2.2 Age Cohorts

38,275 young people aged between 10 and 24 are living in Limerick, a decline of over 1000 since the 2011 census (CSO, 2016).

Limerick Metropolitan Areas	Population Aged 10-24
Limerick City North	7,159
Limerick City East	8,806
Limerick City West	6,008
Total	**21,973**

Limerick Municipal Districts	Population Aged 10-24
Newcastle West	4,609
Adare - Rathkeale	5,263
Cappamore- Kilmallock	6,430
Total	**16,302**

- The regeneration areas of Moyross, Southill and St Mary's Park have high young age dependency ratios. Some of the newer suburbs in the outer periphery of the city in the south-west also have high levels of dependency [7]
- Metropolitan EDs with large young populations Galvone B, Limerick South Rural, Abbey B, Prospect B, Ballycummin, John's A, Kileely A and Ballynanty

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[7] Youth age dependency is the proportion of those under 15 years to the population of working age; old age dependency is the proportion of those aged 65 years and over to the population of working age.

- County municipal districts have higher rates of Children (under 18 years) than urban Metropolitan areas. However, there are higher rates of young people (0-24 years) close to, and in, the city
  - Limerick City tends to have lower young age dependency rates than Limerick County. The population aged 10-18 years in rural county limerick is 12.5% of the total rural population. in 2016, the number of 7-year-olds (becoming 10 years old in 2019) in rural county limerick was 1,401 (749 male and 625 female). this suggests that, as of 2019, the current population aged 10-18 years in rural county limerick will be 11,652, approximately 3% higher than 2016 census figures

2.3 Ethnicity, Nationality
- The 2016 census shows that 1,659 people who identify as White Irish Travellers resided in Limerick an increase of 9.6% since 2011 of which 501 live in the city and suburbs.
- Nationally, the Traveller population is increasing and Limerick has the 4th highest traveller population
- In the Metropolitan district, EDs with the highest percentages of population identifying as White Irish Traveller are: Galvone B, Galvone A, Kileely A, St. Laurence and Ballinacurra A.
- Rathkeale (Rathkeale Urban ED) has an exceptionally high percentage of Traveller population, where 326 individuals or 24% of the population identify as White Irish Traveller, followed by Askeaton East, Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Newcastle Urban.
- 438 members of the Travellers in Limerick City and County are between the ages of 10 & 24.
- In a relatively short space of time, Limerick has experienced a noticeable inflow of international migrants, at a scale and diversity that is unprecedented.
- Non Irish National children and young people account for 7% of the population of Limerick.
- Metropolitan Districts Shannon A, Dock A , the city centre and neighbouring EDs of Shannon B, Custom House, Market, and Dock B have large immigrant communities

3. Socio-Economic Profile
3.1 Unemployment
- The number of people unemployed in Limerick City and County, having lost or given up a previous job or looking for their first regular job, stood at approximately 14.4% in 2016, down from 21% in 2011. This compares to a national rate of 12.9%, down from 19% in 2011.
- 17 of the 38 EDs in Limerick City are identified as unemployment blackspots including John's A (highest rate) Galvone B, Ballynanty, Abbey C and Prospect B
- Rathkeale, Co. Limerick is also identified as an unemployment blackspot
- Though falling, levels of youth unemployment in Limerick remain above national averages. The youth unemployment rate, measuring jobseekers aged 15-24, decreased to 10.6 percent from a downwardly revised 10.7 percent in the previous month, 2021

3.2 Education
Though the percentage of the population with primary education only in Limerick City fell from 19.7% in 2011 to 17.5% in 2016, it remains higher than state and county averages.
- Though junior and leaving certificate retention rates are increasing, Limerick City rates remain lower than county and state level
- Higher education attainment, though increasing, also remains lower than county and state averages
- Poor educational attainment is apparent in regeneration and surrounding EDs.

3.3 Affluence & Deprivation

- The Relative Index Score for Limerick City is -6.3, considerably lower than the national average score of .6, which is closer to the county score of .8
- Social inequality more obvious in the city – this inequality has remained unchanged with regeneration EDS amongst the most disadvantaged in the country.
- In rural County Limerick, EDs that are 'marginally below average' are in general to the west and east of the County. There are four EDs that are 'marginally below average' in the central region of rural County, Limerick, these are: Rathkeale Rural, Croom, Patrickswell and Fedamore. At Small Area (SA) level, there are seven SAs that are 'very disadvantaged' located in the following EDs: Abbeyfeale; Bruff; Cappamore; Newcastle Urban x 2 and Rathkeale Urban x 2. There are two SAs that are 'extremely disadvantaged in rural County Limerick in Abbeyfeale and Rathkeale Urban

SECTION 2   RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

This section refers to the outcome areas and indicators adopted by Better Outcomes Brighter Futures - The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 in presenting research and evidence concerning key trends for children and young people:

1. **Physical & Mental Health**

   1.1   Physical Health:

- The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey[8] indicates trends in Health Behaviours and Outcomes between 1998-2018 including a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight, a large increase for boys and smaller for girls

- 2019 Irish Health Survey[9] findings include: The age group 15-24 years report the highest levels for drinking of 6 or more units of alcohol in one sitting at least once a month, with almost half (48%) of this age group reporting so. My World Survey 2 (MWS -2) highlights that though fewer adolescents and young adults reported drinking alcohol in MWS-2 than MWS-1, adolescents in MWS-2 who reported more drinking engaged in more problematic drinking than adolescents in MWS-1

- In 1975, childhood obesity affected just 1% of children in Ireland According to the latest Growing Up in Ireland survey[10] 20% of 17-to-18-year-olds are overweight and a further 8% are obese. 30% of young women likely to be overweight or obese compared to 25% of young men. The finding highlights a need for improved resources and facilities to encourage people to take part in health, active past-times

   1.2   Mental Health and Well-Being:

- Report of a national consultation with young people on mental health and wellbeing (DCEDIY, 2020) highlights that the COVID-19 crisis had negative effects on young people's health and wellbeing, especially amongst some marginalised groups. The most common negative effects related to the mental health of respondents, including overthinking, concern, worry, anxiety, depression and a sense of utter hopelessness[11]

- My World Survey 2 (MWS-2) is the second wave of a national study of youth mental health in Ireland conducted in 2019. Building on My World Survey 1 (MWS-1) published in 2012, MWS-2 identifies the positive and negative factors related to the wellbeing of young people aged 12-25 years in Ireland[12]

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[8] Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018: findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study
http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/nationalreports/HBSC-Trends-Report-2021.pdf

[9] https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/health/irishhealthsurvey/

[10] GROWING UP IN IRELAND KEY FINDINGS: COHORT '98 AT 20 YEARS OLD IN 2018/19
https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/KF2-Web.pdf

[11] HOW'S YOUR HEAD? Report of a national consultation with young people on mental health and wellbeing
https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/33132/1/Hows_your_head.pdf

[12] My World Survey 2 The National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland http://myworldsurvey.ie/

Key findings include:

- o Levels of depression and anxiety in adolescents and young adults increased from MWS-1 to MWS-Adolescents and young adults in MWS-2 were much less likely to be in the normal range for depression and anxiety and much more likely to be in the moderate, severe, or very severe ranges for depression and anxiety than adolescents and young adults in MWS-1
- o Levels of protective factors related to mental health such as self-esteem, optimism and resilience have decreased
- o Females, in particular, indicated increased levels of anxiety and decreased levels of self-esteem, body esteem, resilience and other protective factors than males of the same age
- o Young people from seldom heard groups showed a particular vulnerability with heightened anxiety and suicide attempts than their age-matched peers
- o Factors such as sleep, physical activity, social media use and pornography use were strongly associated with depression and anxiety

- As of October 2021, there were 3,065 children on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting lists, including 863 waiting greater than six months and 202 waiting greater than 12 months[13]

1.3   Relationships/Sexual Health:

- Research conducted by NUI Galway's Active* Consent Programme in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) in 2020 highlighted the level of sexual violence and harassment experienced by students in higher education institutions. This research has also indicated that here are very few programmes in Ireland aimed at younger people that specially address consent. Furthermore, their recent report has highlighted the impact achieved by the Active* Consent workshop for schools.
- It showed that the consent workshop was evaluated positively as an acceptable and effective strategy for engaging young people aged 15-17 on consent, with a particular focus on knowledge and skills for consent communication.[14]
- Similarly, LYS' Baseline study & needs analysis of young people aged 10-18 in rural County Limerick[15] indicates that Four out of ten survey respondents believes that, to some extent, they do not get enough information on sexual relationships, consent, contraception and sexually transmitted infections. This report outlines how young people in rural areas are concerned about maintaining anonymity when accessing services relating to mental health, substance use, sexual health and sexual identity.

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[13]Dáil Éireann debate -Tuesday, 1 Feb 2022 Vol. 1017 No. 2
https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2022-02-01/16/
[14] ACTIVE* CONSENT FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES: OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME AND RESEARCH FINDINGS https://www.nuigalway.ie/media/smartconsent/Schools_mk1_single.pdf
[15] Baseline study & needs analysis of young people aged 10-18 in rural County Limerick
https://limerickyouthservice.com/resources-publications/#baseline-study-needs-analysis-of-young-people-in-rural-county-limerick-10-18yrs

- Between 2010 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of 15–17-year-old girls and boys who reported that they used a condom at last intercourse[16]

1.4   Play, Recreation, Sports, Art, Culture & Nature:
- More than 1,600 children are growing up in the direct provision system with limited access to play or recreation[17].
- According to the 2021 update 'An Indicator Set for The national policy framework for children & young people 2014–2020', Young people aged 15 are demonstrating High level of Screen Time increasing from 13.6% in 2015 to 20.1% in 2018.
- In rural County Limerick, LYS' report has highlighted how engaging with young people at their place of education may be the only method of reaching young people in rural areas. working with young people outside their place of education requires access to transport, and rural transport is not adequate for this.

2. Learning & Development

2.1   Engaged in learning & Achieving in Education:
- An ESRI REPORT, 2020 'The implications of the covid-19 pandemic for policy in relation to children and young people a research review' indicates that because of school closures due to the pandemic, existing educational inequalities in society are likely to be exacerbated. In addition to the challenges associated with teaching and learning, education in the home is affected by other factors, including having a safe home environment, sensitive or responsive parenting
- Furthermore, school closures and the move to online learning will have the greatest impact on disadvantaged families and their children. While rates of school completion have improved markedly in recent years, there is a risk that, without support, some young people may not re-engage in education when schools resume
This ERSI report has also highlighted how COVID-19 has revealed a digital divide – access to devices and broadband, digital skills- between learners globally [18]
- An OECD report, 2021 'Implications of the COVID - 19 pandemic for Vocational Education and Training[19] highlights how technical and vocational education and training has faced challenges because of COVID-19 including the closure of institutions and the limitations of distance learning. It emphasises how Vocational education and training can play a key role in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, by equipping students with the skills the labour market needs

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[16] Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018: findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study
http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/nationalreports/HBSC-Trends-Report-2021.pdf
[17] Annual Report of the Special Rapporteur on Child Protection2021 https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2d30f-annual-report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-child-protection-2021/
[18] THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR POLICY IN RELATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A RESEARCH REVIEW https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/SUSTAT94_3.pdf
[19] Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Vocational Education and Training https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/55afea00-en.pdf?expires=1644500660&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=FB1DFC5F764BFD5B2F9D23479A223001

- LYS' rural research report highlights that stress increases as young people get older. The increase in stress levels as young people move into exam cycles and young adulthood was palpable and expressed almost universally. And, while some stress is inevitable and necessary, the findings confirm that that young people are finding the stresses they are encountering very difficult to navigate
- School completion rates have increased significantly in the last few years in Ireland . However, those who have left school early have become more marginalised and experience a high complexity of challenges and needs[20]

3. Safe and Protected from Harm

3.1 *Secure, stable, caring home environment:*

- Emerging evidence indicates that family violence in the home may be increasing during the COVID-19 restrictions. This trend is associated with several interlinked factors, including economic stress, difficult relationships and reduced or non-existent support structures[21]
- Though few in number, LYS' rural research report survey findings suggests that young people identifying as other than male or female, along with young people participating in Youthreach/Community Training Centres, have proportionally greater experiences of mistreatment at home than their peers. Feelings of being treated badly at home increase as young people age

3.2 *Safe from crime and antisocial behaviour:*

- Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live, the trend was stable for boys. The decrease is most evident among older girls and girls in lower social class groups[22]

4. Economic Security & Opportunity

4.1 *Protected from poverty and social exclusion:*

- Some insights into the experiences of young people living in direct provision is provided by a recent report by the Ombudsman for Children's Office, 2021, showing that the demand for places in these centres has increased over time, with greater demand for such accommodation than places available, resulting in many individuals living in unsuitable and overcrowded settings[23]
- In November 2019, the Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) reported that 882 young people aged 18-24 were 'officially' homeless (i.e. living in emergency accommodation funded through Section 10 of the Housing Act). This compares to a figure of 456 five years earlier, with a high percentage of the increase in the Dublin region[24]

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[20] EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTHREACH PROGRAMME, ERSI, 2019
https://www.esri.ie/publications/evaluation-of-the-national-youthreach-programme
[21] THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR POLICY IN RELATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A RESEARCH REVIEW https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/SUSTAT94_3.pdf
[22] Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018: findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study
http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/nationalreports/HBSC-Trends-Report-2021.pdf
[23] Safety & Welfare of Children in Direct Provision An investigation by the Ombudsman for Children's Office April 2021 https://www.oco.ie/app/uploads/2021/04/Safety-and-Welfare-of-children-in-Direct-Provision.pdf
[24] Youth Homelessness in Ireland https://www.endyouthhomelessness.ie/youth-homelessness/ireland/

4.2   Pathways to economic participation and independent living:
- The proportion of 15–29-year-olds in the EU neither in employment nor in education and training in 2021 ranged from 5.5 % in the Netherlands to 23.1 % in Italy, with Ireland at 9.85%. Young men account for 10% and women 9.7%, which challenges the trend across Europe whereby young women, at 14.5% are more likely to neither be in employment nor in education or training than young men at 11.8%[25]

5.   Connected and respected

5.1   Sense of own identity, free from discrimination:
- Many LGBTI young people are at risk of leaving school early due to identity-based bullying and harassment[26]

5.2   Part of positive networks of friends, family and community:
- There are also some positive elements of COVID, as some (albeit more advantaged) families find that the current situation is bringing families closer together and, at least for some, there is more time to spend as a family unit. [27]

5.3   *Civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious*
- The European Commission found that the share of people aged 16-74 who verified information found on online news sites or social media in 2021 was largest in the Netherlands at 45%, followed by Luxembourg at 41%, and Ireland at 39% Irish young people are performing well in terms of verifying misinformation.

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[25] Statistics on young people neither in employment nor in education or training https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php?title=Statistics_on_young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training
[26] Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (2016) 'Being LGBT in School: A Resource for Post-Primary schools to Prevent Homophobic and Transphobic Bullying, and Support LGBT Students https://assets.gov.ie/24762/729f5d8906184a6a8c4be0c5e2a349dd.pdf
[27] THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR POLICY IN RELATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A RESEARCH REVIEW **https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/SUSTAT94_3.pdf**

SECTION 3 POLICY REVIEW

1. **Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Young People**

Policy	Summary
Better Outcomes Brighter Futures The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 Better Outcomes	- Outlines the government's commitments to children and young people up to the age of 24 (DCEIDY, 2014). - Emphasises the importance of early intervention, ensuring quality services, interagency collaboration, effective transitions, supporting parents and giving voice to children and young people. - Identifies 5 National Outcomes concerning Health, Learning & Development, Safety & Security, Economic Opportunity, and Civic Engagement
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	- A key principle of the UNCRC is that the child's views must be considered and taken into account in all matters affecting him or her (Article 12)
National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making (2015-2020) National Strategy	- Sets out to ensure that children and young people will have a voice in their individual and collective everyday lives across the 5 national outcome areas of Better Outcomes Brighter Futures
EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 &European Youth Goals 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 &European Youth Goals 2019-2027	- The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 sets out a Framework for European cooperation in the youth field, based on 'Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people' - The Strategy fosters youth participation in democratic life, supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society - The EU Youth Strategy also includes a Youth dialogue process, and, in that context, 11 European Youth Goals were developed in 2018. These goals include Quality Learning, Inclusive Societies, Mental Health & Wellbeing and Quality Employment - -Under the core area 'Connect', the EU Youth Strategy promotes and facilitates connections, relations and exchange of experience between young people as a pivotal asset for the future development of the EU. These

	connections are being fostered through different forms of mobility, one of which is Youth Exchanges under the Erasmus + programme
The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 **The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018**	- The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 ('the Acts') prohibit - discrimination in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and education. They cover the nine grounds of gender, marital status, family status, age disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community
National Traveller and Roma Social Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 **National Traveller and Roma Social Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021**	- This strategy aims to improve the lives of the Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland - Strategic Themes include 'Education', which endorses training and education that supports the development of literacy, numeracy, and "soft" skills, in line with the Further Education & Training (FET) strategy. Greater Traveller and Roma participation in apprenticeship and traineeships is further promoted. - Under the theme of 'Employment', the strategy argues for increased employment, training and apprenticeships opportunities for Travellers and Roma - - The theme of 'Children and Youth', Traveller and Roma children should have opportunities to participate in culturally appropriate youth programmes that meet their needs
National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 **National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021**	- This Strategy supports the active inclusion of all people including students with physical, sensory, and multiple disabilities in further education and training - People with disabilities are encouraged and motivated to develop to the maximum of their potential, with a view to participating in further education and employment - People with disabilities are supported to achieve and maintain the best possible physical, mental, and emotional well-being
National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021 **LGBTI+**	- This strategy's thematic pillars are that LGBTI+ communities are: Visible and Included; Treated Equally; Healthy and Safe and Supported. In this context, the development of research concerning needs and priorities for young people is emphasised

2. Education

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	- Under Target 4.1, by 2030, all girls and boys must complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes - -Under Target 4.4, the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship must be substantially increased by 2030. This requires expanded and equitable access, and an emphasis on developing high-level cognitive and non-cognitive/transferable skills
Action Plan for Education 2019 Action Plan for Education 2019	- Vision is to provide a quality learning system which empowers learners to make better choices and achieve their potential - Guiding values place learner at the centre of strategy and policy development, and learning is valued as a public good 'in light of its core role in the development, cohesion and wellbeing of an inclusive society' (ibid.: 4) - Five key Goals emphasise learners at risk of educational disadvantage and learners with special educational needs and intensifying the relationships between education and the wider community, society and the economy

3. Further and Higher Education (FET)

Future FET: Transforming Learning The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy (2020-2024) FET Strategy	Outlines the following strategic priorities and related goals for FET: 1. **Inclusion** (Embed Inclusive Practice; Prioritise Target Cohorts; Consistent Learner Support (informed by a Universal Design for Learning Framework); Literacy and Numeracy) 2. **Skills (**New Vocational Proposition; Up-skilling the Workforce; Delivering on Apprenticeship; Meeting Critical Skills Needs) 3. **Pathways** (Pathways from School to FET; Pathways within FET; Pathways between FET to HE; Facilitating Lifelong Pathways)
Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021–2025 Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021–2025	- This plan argues that 'apprenticeships need to be a much larger part of the education landscape in Ireland and play a role in taking us out of the COVID-19 crisis and in tackling climate action' (p4) - An objective of this plan is that the profile of the apprenticeship population will more closely reflect the profile of the general population, which requires increased participation by young people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage, Travellers and Roma and young people at risk of offending - Access and pathway programmes including pre-apprenticeship programmes will be used to support the transition of young people (16-24 years old) from disadvantaged backgrounds into apprenticeship schemes

4. **Environment, Climate & Communications**

Digital Education Action Plan 2021 -2027, EU, 2020 Digital Education Action Plan	- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of digital education for the digital transformation that Europe needs. In particular, it emphasised the increased need to harness the potential of digital technologies for teaching and learning and to develop digital skills for all. The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027), the Programme aims to to engage learners, educators, youth workers, young people and organisations in the path to digital transformation
Doing More with Digital National Digital Strategy for Ireland Phase 1 – Digital Engagement July 2013 Doing More with Digital	- Strand 2 of this strategy prioritises the development of digital literacy and digital engagement - Strand C proritises the use of ICT to its full potential across the education system including the use of the internet in learning. In this context, the nature and extent of children's internet and social network use including issues of internet risks and safety for young people
Media Literacy Policy, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) Media Literacy Policy, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)	- The overarching policy objective for the BAI's Media Literacy Policy and associated work plan is: To empower Irish people with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices about the media content and services that they consume, create and disseminate
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	- The SDGs were adopted as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs attempt to integrate the needs of the economy, society and the environment to achieve the overall aim of sustainable development - Improved education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity concerning all goals, to include a focus on young people, is emphasised with respect to all goals. For example Goal 13: Climate Action supports Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
European Green Deal, 2021 European Green Deal, 2021	- Environment and climate action are key priorities for the EU now and in the future. The European Green Deal Communication is the European new growth strategy and recognises the key role of schools, training institutions and universities to engage with pupils, parents, and the wider community on the changes needed for a successful transition to become climate neutral by 2050 - Learners, staff and youth workers are recognised as true actors of change and the importance of education, training, youth and sport activities that enable behavioural changes for individual preferences, cultural values, awareness, and more generally support active engagement for sustainable development are prioritised

5. **Sustainable Development**

Programme for Government Our Shared Future [Programme for Government Our Shared Future](#)	- This programme prioritises areas including Quality of Life, the Economy, Housing, Balanced Regional Development, Stronger and Safer Communities, Better Opportunities through Education and Research and European and Global Citizenship - Emphasises the wellbeing of the Irish people and society and to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Emergency - Educational goals are to Improve the learning experience and success of learners and to increase progress of learners at risk of educational disadvantage and learners with special educational needs - Young People and Rural Ireland are highlighted in terms of their influencing policy issues that impact on them and their future; their participation in community development initiatives and supporting social innovation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath in Ireland
Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 - 2025 Ambition, Goals, Commitments [Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 - 2025 Ambition, Goals, Commitments](#)	- This Roadmap's ambition is to reduce consistent poverty and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU - Its goals include to: 'Give everyone who can work the opportunity of employment to improve their well-being'. This requires that education and skills training should strengthen an individual's employment opportunities and the 'transversal' skills necessary to adapt to employment changes, and to develop careers and earnings potential, including via life-long training/in-work education. In this context, the roadmap prioritises young people who have never worked, people with disabilities and marginalised groups who may be subject to unconscious and often conscious bias, including women, migrants, members of the Travelling and Roma communities and members of the LGBTI+ community - In terms of supporting families and children, this roadmap recognises 'Progressive universalism', the idea that all children and families should have some level of support but that some children and families will need additional support. - This roadmap priorities people with disabilities, and supporting communities through Encouraging Volunteerism and Social Participation
Pathways to Work 2021-2025 [Pathways to Work 2021-2025](#)	- The purpose of this strategy is to support those who have experienced job loss because of COVID-19 to prepare for and secure employment - High level ambitions include a reduction of the youth unemployment rate, and this strategy recognises that the effects of the pandemic on the employment of young people has been more acute than for other groups - The strategy outlines that the FET Sector, including the Community Training Centres, will continue to deliver, and expand (as required), programmes designed to: Help young, disadvantaged people to develop the general work and 'transversal' skills necessary to sustain employment; Equip young people with specific skills required by employers and Help young people access the expanded range of apprenticeships and traineeships

DRAFT LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 DRAFT	- Relating to its objective of economic development, this plan supports the work undertaken by the Education and Training Boards, in relation to courses provided under SOLAS and the establishment of Community Training Centres, Local Training Initiatives and Specialist Training Provision in Limerick - With respect to sustainable communities and sustainable infrastructure, this plan prioritises Social inclusiveness and community empowerment through supporting communities to become resilient, cohesive, vibrant and inclusive
LIMERICK LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) 2016-2021 LIMERICK LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) 2016-2021	- Under the goal of economic development, this plan aims to ensure the supply in the local labour market of the qualifications and skills in the workforce to match current and future skills needs and the role of FET in this regard - Under community planning, this plan aims to Increase participation in education and training amongst adults with low education, young people who have left school early, migrants, individuals with poor literacy or numeracy and other groups at risk of social exclusion. Contribute to reduction in Early School Leaving and under-achievement in education amongst children and young people at risk of poor outcomes. It also prioritises Increased links across city and county in planning provision for children and families, especially addressed to children and young people at risk
National Volunteering Strategy 2021 – 2025 https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/93402-minister-obrien-launches-first-national-volunteering-strategy-2021-2025/	- The purpose of the National Volunteering Strategy is to recognise, support and promote the unique value and contribution of volunteers to Irish society - The strategy builds upon and strengthens the renewed relationship and partnership between government and the voluntary sectors which has developed during the course of its preparation

6. **Health**

Healthy Ireland - A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING 2013 – 2025 Healthy Ireland Framework	- This framework outlines the social determinants and predictors of health and wellbeing including Socio-Economic Factors, with the following resulting in detrimental impacts on health and wellbeing: Long-term unemployment; Jobless Households; Poor Education Retention and Attainment; Poor Literacy and Numeracy; Consistent Poverty Rate and Inequality of Income.

Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2e46f-sharing-the-vision-a-mental-health-policy-for-everyone/	- Under Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention, a focus on mental health, priority groups and stigma is emphasised. The necessary role of The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in mental health promotion and in providing mental health support services for the communities with which it works is endorsed - Under a Social Inclusion Domain, this policy supports that in developing and enhancing access to education or training, for those experiencing mental health difficulties, social inclusion and respect for diversity.
Connecting for Life strategy (2015– 2014) https://assets.gov.ie/15758/e6c74742547a48428e4640e3596a3d72.pdf	- The aim of this strategy is the reduction of suicide and self-harm , and to empower communities and individuals to improve their mental health and wellbeing through