South Dublin County
Childcare Committee

Strategy 2007–2010

SUMMARY

South Dublin County Childcare Committee,
Bawnogue Enterprise Centre, Clondalkin.

The South Dublin County Childcare Committee (SDCCC) was established with the specific objective of co-ordinating the delivery of better childcare (childbirth–14 years) to the citizens of South Dublin County, and it draws its membership from statutory agencies, NCVOs, providers and social partners. The Committee developed and implemented a childcare strategy for South Dublin County for the 2002–2006 period. South Dublin County Childcare Committee is a sub-committee of the County Development Board (CDB) and is represented on CDB by its Chairperson.

The Mission Statement of the SDCCC is:

"To strategically co-ordinate the sustainable development of an accessible and holistic, quality childcare infrastructure in South Dublin County."

In achieving this mission, SDCCC will be guided by the following principals:

Child-centredness
Involving a focus on the needs of children for quality, age-appropriate childcare.

Co-ordination and Co-operation
Developing an effective partnership with stakeholders, agencies, and service providers, focussing on the development need-led service provision, avoiding duplication and displacement.

Equality and Diversity
Creating a fairer society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and recognising and valuing difference in its broadest sense.

Social Inclusion
Reducing inequalities between the least advantaged groups and communities and the rest of society by closing the opportunity gap and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

Listening and Responding
Pro-actively engaging with communities to ensure that service planning and delivery is needs-led and that ownership is developed within communities.

In January 2006, the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) 2006–2010 was announced as a successor to the EOCP. This 5-year exchequer funded programme has been achieved a year ahead of the next National Development Plan.

The key objectives of the new programme are:

- To increase the supply and improve the quality of early childcare care and education services, part-time and full-day care, school-age childcare and childminding;
- To support families in breaking the cycle of disadvantage; and
- To support a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of childcare which is centred on the needs of the child.

In this context, South Dublin County Childcare Committee has produced this second Strategic Plan for the period 2007–2010.

The Strategic Plan 2007–2010 represented the culmination of an extensive research and consultation exercise undertaken by South Dublin County Childcare Committee in 2006/2007, involving a review of the profile of South Dublin County, a strategic mapping exercise and needs analysis, as well as consultation with members (past and present), staff, local community stakeholders, providers, and parents regarding the achievements of the SDCCC for the 2002–2006 period and future priorities according to key thematic areas, including childcare supply; training; quality development; networking; public awareness; and co-ordination.

The experience to date of the SDCCC has been summarised according to the SWOT analysis, shown overleaf.

Key features of South Dublin County

- By 2006 the total population of South Dublin County stood at 246,919 persons, representing a 3.27% increase in population since 2002.
- South Dublin has a comparatively youthful population, with 41% aged less than 25 years, compared with 36.9% for the Dublin area. There were 53,671 aged 0–14 years in 2002.
- In 2000 the South Dublin birth rate was 16.9 births per 1,000 people, the highest of the Dublin counties and the second highest rate in the country.
- CSO figures for 2002 showed that the number of children born to mothers aged under 20 years in Ireland was 19.6 per 1,000 females, but in South Dublin County it was significantly higher, at 24.7 per 1,000 females.
- The main communities experiencing social exclusion in South Dublin County are in North Clondalkin and South-West Clondalkin, including the District Electoral Divisions (EDs) of Moorfield, Rowlagh, Cappaghmore and Dunawley; West Tallaght, including the areas of Killinarden, Jobstown, Brookfield and Fettercairn; and Avonbeg in central Tallaght. In general, these communities are characterised by a large young population, a high proportion of lone parents, severe educational disadvantage, high levels of unemployment and poverty, and a large unskilled/manual labour force.

Childcare Provision in South County Dublin

A total of 204 childcare providers participated in the South Dublin County childcare audit in 2006, representing a 92% response rate. The principal findings of the audit were:

- There are a total of 154 services offering a pre-school sessional service for children age 3–5 years.
- 95 are exclusively playgroup or Montessori facilities.
- 10 offer a pre-school service in the morning and a school-aged childcare service in the afternoon.
- 74 facilities offer full-day care. Of these, 8 also offer pre-school and 13 combine full daycare with school-age childcare. A further 27 provides all three services.
- There are an additional 7 services which primarily provide school-age childcare, which brings the total offering School Age Childcare to 57.
- 18 provide a breakfast club. Four services are purely drop-in facilities and 8 offer drop-in as an additional amenity to other services. Summer camps are run by 19 services.
- Comparing these results with those of the 2004 audit of childcare services, the research found that there has been an overall increase of 938 places county-wide since 2004. School-age childcare has also seen an increase in numbers from 612 in 2004 to 790 in 2006, a 29% increase in the County overall.

In this context, South Dublin County Childcare Committee has developed its Strategic Plan for the period 2007–2010 and involving the following objectives and action areas:

Objective 1:

Develop the Role & Profile of SDCCC in Co-ordinating Childcare in South Dublin County

Actions

1.1 Develop Communication and Linkages with Local Childcare Stakeholders external to the Committee.
1.2 Promote the work of the SDCCC, developing its mandate as the Childcare Co-ordinating body.
1.3 Further Develop Networks for all Childcare Providers.
1.4 Further enhance Communication with Parents through Networking.
1.5 Develop and Support County-wide Thematic Groups.
1.6 Advocate and Contribute to Local and National Policy Development.

Objective 2:

Support the Development of Affordable and Sustainable Childcare in South Dublin County

Actions

2.1 Regular Updating of Mapping Exercise.
2.2 Conduct Ongoing Research and Needs Analysis.
2.3 Link with County Planners with regard to new Childcare Developments.
2.4 Support the Development of Community Provision, particularly in relation to meeting the needs of Disadvantaged Communities.
2.5 Support the Development of Private Childcare Provision.
2.6 Promote Expansion of School-Aged Provision.

Objective 3:
Target Resources for the Development of Childminding

Actions
3.1 Seek to secure a Childminding Advisory Officer.
3.2 Provide Dedicated Staff Role for the Support of Childminding.

Objective 4:
Ensure a Strategic Approach to Training Provision in South Dublin

Actions
4.1 Undertake a Training Audit and Prepare a Training Directory.
4.2 Match Needs with Provision and Address Gaps in Training Provision.
4.3 Promote a Basic Level of Training for All Childcare Workers.
4.4 Develop and Promote a Continuum of Training.
4.5 Adapt and Develop Training according to National Developments.

Objective 5:
Promote and Support the Quality Development of Childcare

Actions
5.1 Promote Social Inclusion in Childcare Provision.
5.2 Promote awareness of Quality Indicators amongst Providers.
5.3 Through the provision of Direct Support, Promote Quality Development.
5.4 Promote Models of Good Practice to Childcare Providers.

Objective 6:
Enhance Management and HR Practices

Actions
6.1 Ensure Full and Active Participation of the Relevant Stakeholders on the Committee.
6.2 Engage the Services of Management/HR Consultant to review and develop policies and procedures.
6.3 Develop Internal Committee Expertise in the areas of Management/HR.
6.4 Provide Induction, Team Building and Training for Committee and Staff.
6.5 Review the Use of Technology as a Tool for SDCCC.

This Strategic Plan will be implemented through the development of Annual Action Plans that will detail specific actions and associated timeframes and responsibilities. These Action Plans will be subject to Annual Review involving consultation with Committee members and relevant stakeholders.

South Dublin County Childcare Committee is a sub-committee of the County Development Board (CDB) and is represented on CDB by its Chairperson. Furthermore, South Dublin County Childcare Committee participates in the Social Inclusion Measures Group of the CDB, represented by the Co-ordinator. Involvement in the CDB, as well as the composition of the SDCCC, facilitates linkages and interaction between the County Childcare Committee and other relevant local agencies, organisations and groups. Under this plan, further outreach and engagement with local stakeholders is to be developed. The SDCCC also seeks to develop county-wide thematic working groups to bring together stakeholders with common objectives.

south dublin county
CHILDCARE
committee

Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

Straitéis 2007 – 2010

ACHOIMRE

Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas,
Ionad Fiontraíochta na Bánóige, Cluain Dolcáin.

Bunaíodh Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas (SDCCC) leis an gcuspóir sainiúil de chomhordú a dhéanamh ar fheabhas sa soláthar cúram leanaí (breith – 14 bliain) do shaoránaigh Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas, agus is lucht gníomhaireachtaí reachtúla, NCVOanna, soláthraithe agus comhpháirtithe sóisialta atá sa bhallraíocht. D'fhorbair an Coiste straitéis cúram leanaí le haghaidh Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas don tréimhse 2002-2006 agus chuir i bhfeidhm í. Fochoiste de chuid an Bhoird Forbartha Contae (CDB) is ea Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas agus is é Cathaoirleach an Choiste an t-ionadaí ar an mBord Forbartha Contae.

Is é seo a leanas Ráiteas Bunchuspóra an SDCCC:

"Comhordú straitéiseach a dhéanamh ar fhorbairt bonneagair cúram leanaí a bheas insroichte, iomlánaíoch agus ar ardchaighdeán i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas."

Agus an bunchuspóir seo á bhaint amach aige, is iad seo a leanas na prionsabail a threoróidh an SDCCC:

Páiste-lárnachas
Ag díriú ar an ngá atá ag páistí le cúram leanaí atá ar ardchaighdeán agus aois-oiriúnach.

Comhordú agus Comhar
Comhpháirtíocht éifeachtach a fhorbairt le páirtithe leasmhara, gníomhaireachtaí, agus soláthraithe seirbhíse, ag díriú ar fhorbairt soláthar seirbhíse bunaithe ar riachtanais, a sheachnaíonn dúbailt agus dí-áitiú.

Cothromaíocht agus Éagsúlacht
Sochaí níos cothroime a chruthú ina mbíonnl deis ag cách a n-acmhainn iomlán a shaothrú agus ina n-aithnítear agus léirítear meas ar dhifríochí sa chiall is leithne.

Cuimsiú Sóisialta
Laghdú a dhéanamh ar éagothromaíochtaí idir na grúpaí agus pobail is mó atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste agus an chuid eile den tsochaí tríd an mbearna deiseanna a dhúnadh agus a chinntiú go mbíonn tacaíocht le fáil acu siúd is mó a bhíonn ina gátar.

Ag Éisteacht agus ag Freagairt
Ag dul i ngleic go réamhghníomhach le pobail chun a chinntiú go mbíonn pleanáil agus soláthar seirbhísí bunaithe ar riachtanais agus go gcothaítear úinéireacht sna pobail sin.

I mí Eanáir 2006, fógraíodh an Clár Náisiúnta Infheistíochta i gCúram Leanaí (NCIP) 2006-2010 mar an chéad chlár eile i ndiaidh an EOCP. Baineadh amach an clár stát-mhaoinithe cúig bliana seo bliain amháin chun tosaigh ar an gcéad Phlean Náisiúnta Forbartha eile.

Is iad príomhchuspóirí an Chláir Nua ná:

- Méadú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar agus feabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí cúraim agus oideachais luathóige, idir pháirtaimseartha agus lánaimseartha, ar chúram leanaí do leanaí scoile agus ar fheighlíocht leanaí;
- Tacú le teaghlaigh chun timthriall an mhíbhuntáiste a bhriseadh; agus
- Tacú le cur chuige comhordaithe i leith seachadadh cúram leanaí atá bunaithe ar riachtanais an linbh.

Ina fhianaise sin, cheap Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas an dara Plean Straitéiseach seo don tréimhse 2007-2010.

Léiríonn an Plean Straitéiseach 2007-2010 buaicphointe an taighde agus an dul i gcomhairle forleithne a rinne Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas i 2006/2007 a chuimsigh athbhreithniú ar phróifíl Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas, cleachtadh straitéiseach mapála agus anailís ar riachtanais, chomh maith le dul i gcomhairle le baill (baill reatha agus iarbhaill), baill foirne, páirtithe leasmhara sa phobal áitiúil, soláthraithe, agus tuismitheoirí maidir le héachtaí an SDCCCC sa tréimhse 2002-2006 agus tosaíochtaí le haghaidh an todhchaí bunaithe ar phríomhréimsí téamacha lena n-áirítear soláthar cúram leanaí; oiliúint; forbairt cáilíochta; líonraíocht; feasacht phoiblí; agus comhordú.

Príomhghnéithe Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

- Faoin mbliain 2006 bhí daonra de 246,919 san iomlán ag Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas, arbh ionann é agus méadú de 3.27 sa daonra ón mbliain 2002.
- Daonra óg atá ag Baile Átha Cliath Theas, tríd is tríd; tá 41% faoi bhun 25 bliain i gcomparáid le 36.9% i gceantar Bhaile Átha Cliath. Bhí 53,671 idir na haoiseanna 0-14 bliain in 2002.
- In 2000 ba é ráta breithe Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas 16.9 breith in aghaidh gach míle den daonra, an ráta ab airde i gcontaetha Bhaile Átha Cliath agus an dara ráta ab airde sa tír.
- Thaispeáin figiúir an Lároifig Staidrimh le haghaidh 2002 gur saolaíodh 19.6 leanbh in aghaidh gach míle bean do mháithreacha a bhí faoi bhun 20 bliain d'aois sa tír trí chéile, agus go raibh an ráta sin i bhfad níb airde i gContae Bhaile Átha Theas mar ar saolaíodh 24.7 páiste do mháithreacha a bhí faoi bhun 20 bliain d'aois in aghaidh gach míle bean.
- Is iad na príomhphobail atá imeallaithe go sóisialta i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas ná Cluain Dolcáin Thuaidh agus Cluain Dolcáin Thiar Theas lena n-áirítear Toghcheantair Rualach, Ghort na Móna, Chaisleán na Páirce agus Dhún Álainn; Tamhlacht Thiar lena n-áirítear ceantair Chill an Ardáin, Ráth Miontáin, Ghort na Glaise agus Fothair Chardain; agus Abhainn Bheag i lár Thamhlachta. Go ginearálta, is éard a bhíonn i bpáirt ag na pobail seo ná daonra ard de dhaoine óga mar aon le céatadán ard de thuismitheoirí aonair, míbhuntáiste mór ó thaobh oideachais de, leibhéil arda dífhostaíochta agus bochtaineachta agus lucht saothair neamhoilte nó atá oilte ar obair láimhe amháin.

Soláthar Cúram Leanaí i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

Ghlac 204 soláthraí cúram leanaí páirt in iniúchadh cúram leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas sa bhliain 2006, arb ionann sin agus ráta freagartha de 92%. Ba iad príomhthátail an iniúchta ná:

- Bhí 154 seirbhís san iomlán ag tairiscint seirbhís seisiúnach réamhscoile do pháiste idir 3-5 bliain.
- Saoráidí grúpa súgartha nó Montessori amháin a bhí i 95 díobh.
- I gcás deich gcinn díobh tá seirbhís réamhscoile ar fáil ar maidin agus seirbhís cúram leanaí do leanaí scoile san iarnóin.
- Cúram lánlae atá ar fáil i 74 díobh. Díobh seo, tá seirbhís réamhscoile ar fáil in ocht gcinn chomh maith agus cumascann 13 saoráid seirbhís lánlae le cúram leanaí do leanaí scoile. Cuireann 27 soláthraí eile na trí sheirbhís ar fáil.
- Tá 7 seirbhís eile ann a fhreastalaíonn ar pháistí scoile go príomha, rud a thugann go 57 líon na soláthraithe a chuireann cúram leanaí ar fáil do pháistí scoile.
- Cuireann 18 soláthraí club bricfeasta ar fáil. Saoráidí buail isteach amháin atá i gceithre cinn de na seirbhísí agus cuireann ocht seirbhís eile ionad buail isteach ar fáil in éineacht le seirbhísí eile. Reáchtálann 19 seirbhís campa samhraidh.
- Nuair a chuirtear na torthaí seo i gcomparáid le torthaí iniúchadh 2004 ar sheirbhísí cúram leanaí, fuarthas ón taighde go bhfacthas méadú de 938 áit ar fud an chontae ó 2004. Bhí méadú i líon na n-áiteanna do pháistí scoile ó 612 i 2004 go 790 i 2006, arb ionann é agus méadú 29% sa chontae trí chéile.

Ina fhianaise sin, tá Plean Straitéiseach ceaptha ag Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas don tréimhse 2007-2010 a bhfuil na cuspóirí agus réimsí bearta seo a leanas mar chuid de:

Cuspóir 1:

Ról & Próifíl SDCCC a fhorbairt maidir le Cúram Leanaí a chomhordú i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

Bearta

1.1 Cumarsáid agus nascaíochtaí a fhorbairt le páirtithe leasmhara cúram leanaí áitiúla lasmuigh den Choiste

1.2 Obair an SDCCC a chur chun cinn agus a shainordú a fhorbairt mar fhoras comhordaithe cúram leanaí.

1.3 Líonraí a fhorbairt tuilleadh le haghaidh gach soláthraí cúram leanaí.

1.4 Feabhas a chur ar chumarsáid le tuismitheoirí trí líonraíocht.

1.5 Grúpaí téamacha a fhorbairt agus a thacú ar fud an chontae.

1.6 Forbairt beartais áitiúil agus náisiunta a chur chun cinn agus cuidiú leis.

Cuspóir 2:
Tacú le Forbairt Cúram Leanaí Inacmhainne agus Inbhuanaithe i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

Bearta

2.1 Nuashonrú rialta ar chleachadh mapála
2.2 Taighde leanúnach agus anailís ar riachtanais a dhéanamh
2.3 Nasc le pleanálaithe an chontae maidir le forbairtí nua i gcúram leanaí
2.4 Tacú le forbairt soláthar pobail, go háirithe i dtaca le freastal ar riachtanais na bpobal faoi mhíbhuntáiste.
2.5 Tacú le forbairt soláthar cúram leanaí príobháidigh.
2.6 Leathnú an tsoláthair do pháistí scoile a chur chun cinn.

Cuspóir 3:
Acmhainní a Spriocaimsiú d'Fhorbairt Cúram Leanaí

Bearta

3.1 Féach le hoifigeach comhairleach um chúram leanaí a fhostú.
3.2 Ról foirne tiomnaithe a sholáthar le haghaidh tacú cúram leanaí

Cuspóir 4:
Cur Chuige Straitéiseach a Chinntiú i Leith Soláthar Oiliúna i mBaile Átha Cliath Theas

Bearta

4.1 Tabhairt faoi iniúchadh oiliúna agus eolaire oiliúna a chur i dtoll a chéile
4.2 Riachtanais a mheaitseáil le soláthar & bearnaí san oiliúint a leigheas
4.3 Soláthar bunleibhéal oiliúna a chur chun cinn i gcás gach oibrí cúram leanaí.
4.4 Contanam oiliúna a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn
4.5 Oiliúint a oiriúnú agus a fhorbairt ar aon dul le forbairtí náisiúnta.

Cuspóir 5:
Forbairt Cúram Leanaí ar Ardchaighdeán a Chur Chun Cinn agus a Thacú

Bearta

5.1 Cuimsiú sóisialta a chur chun cinn i soláthar cúram leanaí
5.2 Feasacht ar tháscairí cáilíochta a chur chun cinn i measc soláthraithe
5.3 Cáilíocht a chur chun cinn trí thacaíocht dhíreach a sholáthar
5.4 Forbairt samhlacha dea-chleachtais a chur chun cinn le soláthraithe cúram leanaí

Cuspóir 6:
Cleachtais Bhainistíochta agus Daonacmhainní a Fheabhsú

Bearta

6.1 Rannpháirtíocht iomlán agus gníomhach a chinntiú i gcás na bpáirtithe leasmhara ábhartha ar an gcoiste.
6.2 Seirbhís comhairleach bainistíochta/daonacmhainní a fhostú chun beartais agus nósanna imeachta a athbhreithniú agus a fhorbairt.
6.3 Saineolas i measc bhaill an choiste inmheánaigh a fhorbairt i réimsí na bainistíochta/daonacmhainní
6.4 Ionduchtú, foirniú agus oiliúint a sholáthar le haghaidh an choiste agus na foirne
6.5 Úsáid na teicneolaíochta mar uirlis le haghaidh sdccc a athbhreithniú.

Cuirfear an Plean Straitéiseach seo chun feidhme trí bhíthin Pleananna Bliantúla Gníomhaíochta a mhionsonróidh bearta sonracha agus na frámaí ama agus freagrachtaí a ghabhann leo. Beidh na Pleananna Gníomhaíochta seo faoi réir Athbhreithniú Bliantúil ina rachfar i gcomhairle le baill an choiste agus leis na páirtithe leasmhara.

Fochoiste de chuid an Bhoird Forbartha Contae (CDB) is ea Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas agus is é Cathaoirleach an Choiste an t-ionadaí ar an mBord Forbartha Contae. Ina theannta sin, glacann Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas páirt i nGrúpa Bearta um

Chuimsiú Sóisialta an Bhoird Forbartha Contae, agus is é an Comhordaitheoir an t-ionadaí.

Éascaíonn bainteacht leis an mBord Forbartha Contae, chomh maith le comhdhéanamh an SDCCC, nascaíochtaí agus idirghníomhartha idir Coiste Cúram Leanaí an Chontae agus gníomhaireachtaí, eagraíochtaí agus grúpaí áitiúla ábhartha eile.

Faoin bplean seo, tá for-rochtain agus bainteacht le páirtithe leasmhara le forbairt, agus féachfaidh an SDCCC le grúpaí oibre téamacha a fhorbairt ar fud an chontae chun páirtithe leasmhara a bhfuil cuspóirí acu i bpáirt a thabhairt le chéile.