



Annual Report

2025

Our service in action



Limerick
Social Service
Council CLG

Comhairle Sheirbhís Sóisialta Luimnigh CLG



**Values in
Practice**

Limerick Social Service Council CLG

1-3	1	2025 Highlights	1
	2	Foreword - Chairperson	3
	3	Message from the General Manager	4
4	4	About Us	5
	-	Our Vision, Mission, Values, Purpose and Objectives	6
	-	Strategic Direction – Capacity Building 2025-2029	6
	-	Safe safeguarding 2025	7
5	5	Our Services in Action	8
	5.1	Child and Family Service	9
		Community Social Work & Family Support	
		Community Families Programme	
		Young Parents Support Programme	
		Family Advocacy Service	
	5.2	Counselling and Psychotherapy Service	17
	5.3	Community Care older Persons Service	19
	5.3	Early Years Services	24
6-9		Henry Street Early Years and Family Support Service	24
		Southside Child & Family Center and Family Support Service	26
	5.5	The Limerick City Traveller Health Programme	28
	5.6	Practice Development and Business Support	30
	6	Emerging Trends and Challenges	31
	7	Funders and Partner Agencies	32
	8	Note of Appreciation	32
	9	Meet the Board of Directors	32

Annual Report 2025

Contents

Our service in action

In the first year of the Capacity Building 2025–2029 strategy, LSSC services worked to expand access, enhance service quality, and strengthen engagement with individuals and families, supporting improved and sustainable outcomes.

2,335

Counselling and Psychotherapy sessions delivered across the year

1,584

hot meals provided by Older Persons Community Care programme

1,283

individual contacts through Traveller Health Programme initiatives

649

home visits delivered by Community Care Older Persons programme

600

one-to-one Family Support sessions delivered

380

home visits provided through Community Families Programme

364

individuals accessed the Counselling and Psychotherapy service

288

attended Thursday Tea gatherings, Community Care Older Persons programme

210

families engaged with Community Families Programme groups

140

children supported across 2 Early Years services

110

families engaged in intensive Family Support

68

young parents (18–25) supported through YPSP programme

25

families supported through the Advocacy service

19

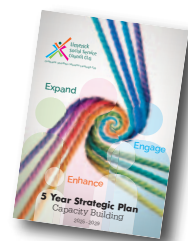
families attended Community Families Programme buggy walks

12

Meitheals processed across Child & Family Service

10

individuals are currently accommodated in Altamira Apartments



1

2025 Highlights Reach and Activity

Quality and Impact of Services

- Delivered counselling and psychotherapy supports to adults and adolescents in response to increasing mental health need
- Strengthened Child and Family Services through intensive, coordinated wraparound interventions, supporting better outcomes for families
- Enhanced early years provision by integrating creative therapies, supporting children with additional needs to participate and thrive
- Supported parents to engage effectively with child protection and care processes through the Family Advocacy Service
- Facilitated community-based supports for older people, reducing isolation and strengthening social connection
- Advanced the Traveller Health Programme, promoting improved access to services and better health outcomes for Traveller families

Governance, Quality, Strategy

Launched the organisation's new Strategic Plan (2025–2029), with implementation of key actions underway

Developed the LSSC Child & Family Service Model of Family Support Guidance Manual, providing an evidence based practice model and a commitment to parental participation guided by the Lundy Model

Maintained service delivery within a strong safeguarding and governance framework, ensuring safe, accountable, and high-quality supports

Achieved the Clinical Governance Badge of Excellence for the Counselling and Psychotherapy Service

Expanded Practice Development and Business Support to a full-time role, strengthening organisational compliance, quality assurance, operational efficiency, and a culture of continuous learning

Embedded the Values in Practice culture model, strengthening a shared commitment to Empathy, Inclusion, Quality, and Trust across the organisation

Foreword



The Board of Directors remains committed to Limerick Social Service Council's vision of providing high-quality, accessible, and inclusive supports that respond to the evolving needs of children and families. The launch and implementation of the LSSC Strategic Plan – Capacity Building 2025–2029 marks an important step in strengthening and shaping this work ahead for the coming years.

Throughout the year, LSSC has continued to make a positive impact through early year's education, family support, counselling and therapeutic services, community-based interventions, and wraparound supports that provide a coordinated response to family needs. In a time of increasing poverty, housing insecurity, and growing pressure on statutory services, this work remains more important than ever.

The Board is encouraged by the continued focus on quality, staff development, strong governance, and collaborative working, all of which strengthen the ability to respond effectively, compassionately, and professionally to emerging needs and challenges.

I would like to sincerely thank the management team and staff for their professionalism, dedication, and care in supporting children and families each day. I also wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our funders, partners, and stakeholders for their ongoing support and collaboration.

To my fellow Board members I would like to extend my appreciation for their continued leadership, commitment, and guidance throughout the year.

As we look ahead, the Board remains focused on sustainability, strategic growth, and the continued delivery of our strategic priorities. We are confident that LSSC will continue to build on its strong foundations and make a meaningful and lasting difference within the community.

Kevin O'Farrell / Chair, LSSC Board of Directors
Limerick Social Service Council CLG

Message from the General Manager

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to present this Annual Report, which captures the depth, diversity, and impact of the work delivered across Limerick Social Service Centre and the Southside Child and Family Centre.

Our vision of a compassionate and inclusive Limerick continues to guide all that we do. Across our services - Early Years (Henry Street and Southside Child and Family Centre), Child and Family Service, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Community Care Older Persons' and the Traveller Health Programme - we remain focused on ensuring that timely, effective support is available at key moments in people's lives. At the heart of this work is our purpose: to bridge gaps in access, reduce isolation, strengthen wellbeing, build capacity, and support better outcomes for individuals and families experiencing disadvantage.

A significant milestone in 2025 was the launch and initial implementation of our Strategic Plan, Capacity Building 2025–2029. This strategy is grounded in three key pillars - Expand, Enhance and Engage - which guide our work to increase access to services, strengthen quality and impact, and deepen engagement with communities and partners.

Alongside this, the development of the LSSC Child & Family Service Model of Family Support has strengthened our commitment to

evidence-informed, consistent, and high-quality practice. The model places a strong emphasis on participation and the voice of children and families, ensuring that services are shaped by those who use them and grounded in meaningful engagement.

Our values of Empathy, Inclusion, Quality, and Trust guide our work across all services. Empathy shapes how we listen and respond. Inclusion ensures we reach those who may otherwise be excluded from support. Quality underpins our commitment to professional practice and continuous learning, while trust is built through consistency, accountability, and respectful relationships.

This year has been shaped by increasing social and economic pressures. Poverty, housing insecurity, the cost-of-living crisis, and limited access to early intervention services continue to affect many of the people we support. Every day, our teams work alongside individuals and families who are facing complex and often overwhelming challenges.

In response, our wraparound model of support - bringing together early year's provision, family support, counselling and therapeutic interventions, home visiting, advocacy, and community programmes - has been essential in providing coordinated, respectful, and responsive care that meets people where they are.

A defining strength of our organisation is the relationships at the heart of our work. The trust built with children, parents, older people, and communities enables us to deliver supports that are grounded in best practice, while empowering people in a meaningful and connected way.

Our partnerships with statutory agencies, funders, and community organisations further strengthen this work, enabling us to deliver more effective supports while ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of service users continue to shape how we develop and deliver our services.

Throughout the year, staff across all services have shown exceptional commitment, professionalism, and care in what is often challenging work. Their willingness to reflect, learn, collaborate, and support one another ensures that quality remains at the centre of everything we do. Our staff are the heartbeat of the organisation, and the impact outlined in this report is a direct result of their dedication and integrity.

I would like to sincerely thank our Board of Directors for their leadership and governance, our funders for their continued trust and support, and our partners for their collaboration. Most importantly, I want to thank the individuals, families, and communities who placed their trust in our services over the last year.



Brian Ryan
General Manager

Limerick Social Service Council CLG

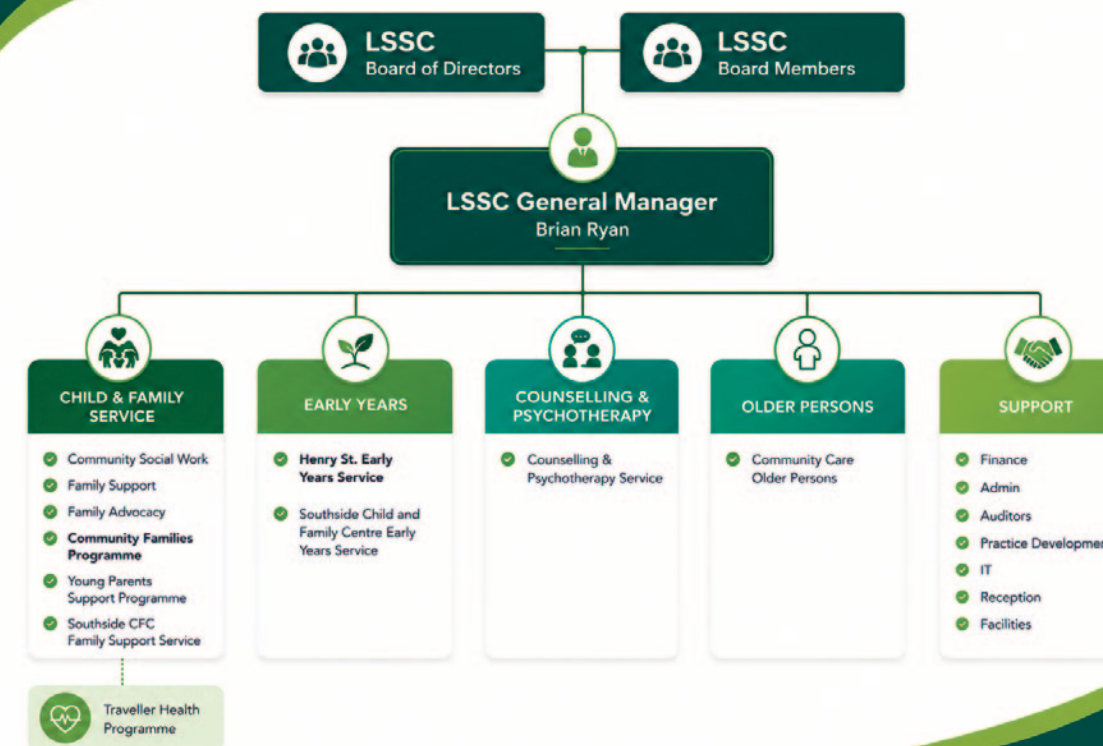
EXPAND, ENHANCE AND ENGAGE

About Us

Limerick Social Service Council CLG (LSSC) is a community-based organisation with over six decades of experience working alongside people and communities across Limerick. Services are delivered from our centre in Henry Street, the Southside Child and Family Centre, and through outreach across the city and county.

Our work focuses on providing accessible supports that respond to people's needs, helping individuals and families to navigate challenges, strengthen resilience, and improve wellbeing.

We deliver a coordinated range of services across the life cycle, including Child and Family Services, Early Years Services, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Older Persons Community Care, and the Traveller Health Programme - bringing together supports in a practical and connected way.



Our Vision, Mission, Values, Purpose and Objectives

Our Vision

Our vision is a compassionate and inclusive Limerick, where every person has the opportunity and support to overcome life challenges.

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that support is available for people at every stage of the life cycle, and at the moments when it is needed most. We do this by providing a range of timely and effective community based services across Limerick which respond to the diverse needs of our community.

Our Values



Empathy

Empathy: The Foundation of our Approach

We listen actively and approach every interaction with sensitivity to individual experiences. Our support begins with an empathetic understanding of each person's unique challenges and feelings. Our strategic plan is anchored in four core values that define our organisation and guide our actions.



Inclusion

Inclusion: Equality and Belonging

We foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and respected, ensuring people from all backgrounds can access our services and feel a sense of belonging and support.



Quality

Quality: Collaboration and Improvement

We work with individuals, families, partner organisations, and funders to achieve the best possible outcomes. Through continuous improvement of our practices, we provide effective and professional support that meets their evolving needs.



Trust

Trust: Dependable and Reliable

Dependable and Reliable: We uphold high standards of accountability, ensuring that our funders and service users feel secure in knowing that we are a trustworthy organisation



Empathy



Inclusion



Quality



Trust

LSSC Values in Practice

Empathise by putting myself in others' shoes

Offer help and encouragement to your colleagues

Use each other's names to build connection

Consider how my words and actions may impact others

Acknowledge and celebrate the work of your colleagues

Keep others informed – explain the now and the next

Become aware of my stress and how I manage it

Challenge behaviour that does not reflect our values

Make a difference with an act of kindness

Our Purpose

We exist to support people to overcome challenges that life brings their way. Our services aim to:

- Bridge gaps in access to support
- Improve mental and physical health and well-being
- Reduce loneliness and isolation
- Enhance social inclusion
- Build individual and community capacity
- Improve life outcomes.

Our Objectives

Strengthen our profile profile through increased brand awareness and clear communication of our work and its impact.

Expand our reach by engaging underserved populations and ensuring equitable access to services.

Develop services to position LSSC and CFC as **hubs of best practice** within the community sector.

Elevate service user voices by promoting participatory approaches and incorporating storytelling to highlight the real impact of our work.

Measure and demonstrate impact using both quantitative and qualitative data to inform practice and decision-making.

Enhance partnerships by working closely with funders, statutory agencies, and other community services to maximize outcomes.

Invest in our people and culture by aligning staff development and organisational practices with LSSC's vision, mission, and values.

Adapt and improve service delivery to respond effectively to evolving community needs.

Child Safeguarding 2025



Child safeguarding remains a core priority across the organisation. In 2025, this work was led by the Community Social Worker who acts as the organisation's Designated Liaison Person (DLP), supported by the Child and Family Service Manager in the role of Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Together, they strengthened safeguarding practice across all services by delivering enhanced training to staff, ensuring a clear understanding of responsibilities under Children First and how to access internal supports when needed.

In addition, the DLP organised Foundation and Advanced Always Children First training for line managers and coordinators, strengthening leadership capacity in safeguarding and child protection.

Safeguarding practice was further reinforced through the establishment of a Safeguarding Committee. This group oversees the implementation of safeguarding policies and supports staff in fulfilling their responsibilities under Children First.

During 2025, an increased number of Child Protection and Welfare Reports (CPWRFs) were submitted. This reflects both the complex needs of families and a growing confidence among staff in identifying and reporting concerns appropriately.

Our Service in Action



Child and Family Service

The Child and Family Service continued to develop as a high quality service that prioritises building relationships with families in order to support them to recognise their strengths and to make the positive changes they would like to see for themselves and their families.

The service works with families from the ante natal period and with children up to the age of 18.

The team provides a service that is flexible and responsive to the needs of families but also works in line with a structured evidence-based approach.

This work is further strengthened through the recent development of the LSSC Child and Family Service Model of Family Support Guidance Manual, which provides framework for practice and reflects the service’s ongoing commitment to parental participation.

The service consists of five programmes that work together to provide parents and family support:

- Community Social Work and Family Support
- Community Families Programme
- Family Advocacy Service
- Young Parent Support Programme
- Southside CFC Family Support Service

Community Social Work and Family Support Service

During 2025, the team provided support to 110 families over the course of the year. They delivered 600 one to one sessions. This ranged from short term support to manage a specific issue to longer term support where there are more complex needs. The Meitheal Approach, which is a parent-led process that brings together multiple agencies and other supports around the family, is an important part of the work. In 2025, the team led on 12 Meitheals.

Feedback from parents on the support they receive through Meitheal is very positive as they feel supported and have access to supports they may not otherwise have had. One parent noted that,

“I’m so appreciative of the support and care given to my son during his time linked in with LSSC. I found out about supports for my son that I wouldn’t have known about. I got a lot of support around routines and accessing education. I was getting overwhelmed with the pressure, but I am now so grateful that my son is accessing supports that are really helping him. My son wasn’t really able to speak up for himself before, but he is now able to talk with different professionals as he knows they are trying to support him and that they care.”

110

The Child and Family Service team supported 110 families

600

one-to-one sessions were delivered by the Community Social Work and Family Support team

12

the team led 12 Meitheal processes, supporting families to access coordinated and timely interventions

3-18

The service works with families with children from the age of approximately 3 up to the age of 18





Service Developments and Updates

The Community Social Work and Family Support Service has expanded over the past couple of years, growing from two team members to four. This has allowed them to work more intensively with more families, and to respond more creatively to the needs to families. In 2025, the team delivered two Parents Plus Programmes: one for parents of adolescents and one for parents of children with additional needs. It was the first time that the organisation ever delivered the Parents Plus Special Needs Programme. We work with many parents who have children who have been diagnosed with additional needs or who are waiting for a diagnosis so we were delighted to add this to the suite of programmes we offer. There are plans to continue to deliver this programme as the needs arise.

The Community Social Work and Family Support Service also took over facilitating the International Women's Group in 2025. The group provided a safe and supportive space for women to discuss parenting, health, family issues and provide support to one another in settling in to a new place. The Group went on walks around Limerick City, attended a number of health related events; participated in a dance class along with regular meetings to just talk and share experiences. Highlights were visits to Fota Wildlife Park in the July and Bunratty Castle in December, where the group members and their children attended. The group continues to grow and develop, with between 10-15 women attending each week.

The team also supported the running of the Family Fun Day, held in August. This was an opportunity to welcome families from across the services for a fun, relaxing day, featuring exotic animals, a magic show, GAA skills, ice-cream and lots of play.

Networks and Collaboration

Working in collaboration with other agencies is core to the work of the Community Social Work and Family Support Team. In addition to leading on the Meitheal process, which involves engagement with a range of professionals, the team also attends one of Tusla's Community and Family Support Networks. One member of the team is one of Tusla's Parenting Support Champions. This is a national initiative where representatives in each local area work together both to enhance their own skills and knowledge base and to develop joint parenting initiatives.

The work of the International Women's Group involves liaising with and collaborating with a number of parents agencies including Limerick Sports Partnership, Doras Luimni, Limerick City and County Council, the HSE, the Women's Collective. This supports both the facilitators and the participants in the group to expand their knowledge and understanding of the supports and services available across Limerick.

Feedback from Parents

The Community Social Work and Family Support Service works to ensure that all parents, young people and children that access our service feel valued and listened to during our work with them. We continue to ask parents for their feedback on the service and shape our responses in line with the feedback.

"I felt seen and understood, and more able to make decisions for myself and my family without second guessing myself."

"I felt listened to...things improved because I feel very welcome to ask for help and to know who I can trust. It's a place to go if I am feeling vulnerable."

"Thank you for your support—you took the time to listen to me and to listen to my child. It hasn't been an easy journey for us, but you helped us to find our way."





380

Home Visits

210

Families engaged in
parents and toddler groups

19

Families –
Baby Incredible Years

19

Families –
Buggy walks

15

Families –
PEEP (antenatal/
post natal)

15

Families –
Baby massage

Community Families Programme

Support is primarily delivered through home visiting, complemented by group and community-based programmes that help families connect, reduce isolation, and build natural support networks. Evidence-informed initiatives such as Baby Incredible Years, PEEP (antenatal and postnatal), Baby Massage, and Child-Directed Play ensure families receive practical guidance during the first 1,000 days, a period recognised as critical to long-term wellbeing. The Community Families programme aligns with the Partnership, Prevention and Family Support (PPFS) framework, the Healthy Childhood Programme, and the National Home Visiting Programme

Programme Re- launch

2025 was a landmark year for the Community Families Programme in Limerick, marking the official transition from the long-standing Community Mothers Programme to the re-launched Community Families programme. An oversight group, co-chaired by Tusla and the HSE, was established to oversee and support this transition.

The programme supports families during the critical early years of a child's life, from the antenatal period to age three, providing relationship-based, strengths-focused support that builds parental confidence, strengthens attachment, and promotes positive outcomes for children.

The programme's re-launch celebrated its evolution, bringing together staff, partner agencies, and families to share experiences, showcase collaborative work, and highlight the central role of play, creativity, and connection in early childhood.

Programme Reach and Expansion

In 2025, the Community Families Programme expanded across Limerick City and County. The service now operates from LSSC in Henry Street, the Southside Child and Family Centre in Galvone, and Rathkeale in County Limerick. Funding from the Children's Fund and Tusla supported the expansion of the Community Families Programme in to Rathkeale and there is now a dedicated Community Families Programme in this area.

Additionally the Community Families programme worked closely with families from a wide range of European, African, and Asian communities, including the Irish Traveller community. Together, they delivered a range of initiatives such as 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me, parent and toddler groups, summer programmes, outdoor buggy walks, and seasonal events.





Young Parent Support Programme (YPSP)

The Young Parent Support Programme provides practical and emotional support to young parents up to the age of 25 across Limerick City and County. The programme focuses on building parental confidence, supporting positive parent–child relationships, and enabling young parents to progress in education, training, and employment.

Support is delivered through a combination of one-to-one home-based work, antenatal and postnatal guidance, parenting education, and advocacy.

The programme also provides group-based supports focused on wellbeing, parenting skills, peer connection, and confidence building.

Family Support Service

The Family Support Service provides wraparound support, early intervention and targeted support to families experiencing social, emotional, or practical challenges. Working in partnership with social work, public health nursing, schools, housing services, and community organisations, the service aims to strengthen family relationships, improve home environments, and promote child wellbeing.

Supports include emotional guidance, practical assistance with routines and behaviour management, crisis intervention, group work, parenting programmes, and support in accessing services, legal aid, and entitlements.

Key Developments in 2025

In 2025, this service strengthened referral pathways with midwifery, Public Health Nurses, schools, social work, and community partners, improving access to timely and appropriate supports.

A key development was the successful securing of European Social Fund (ESF) funding. This enabled the expansion of the programme to include young parents up to the age of 25 and supported the recruitment of an additional team member.

There was also an increased focus on participation, with young parents more actively involved in service planning and programme co-design, ensuring that supports remain relevant and responsive to their needs. The service showcased its work at the national Literacy Changing Lives event in Croke Park raising awareness of the programmes positive impact.

Education, Training and Community Engagement

Throughout 2025, young parents were supported to engage in education, training, and community-based activities that promoted confidence, skills development, and social connection. Several young parents returned to education, with six supported at second level and seven progressing to third level.

Six parents completed a Barista course, with one father securing employment. The City Slickers Programme delivered two 10-week programmes covering personal development, parenting, healthy relationships, contraception, rights and entitlements, career guidance, mental health, and parent–child bonding.

Families also participated in a wide range of community activities and events, including visits to local libraries, the Pumpkin Patch, Dublin Zoo, Bunratty Castle Christmas Trip, and Elf Town as part of the City Slickers Programme. Additional activities such as a Summer Pizza Party Evening, Movie Night at the Milk Market, and a Walking Group supported social connection, mental wellbeing, and parent–child interaction. Collaboration with the Men’s Shed in Dooradoyle/Raheen provided intergenerational music and activities at the Southside Child and Family Centre. A visit from Bishop Leahy offered families an opportunity to engage with community leaders and learn about available supports. Healthy Food Made Easy programmes were also delivered, with strong participation and very positive feedback.

Networking, Outreach and Publicity

Interagency work:

- Child Protection Conferences
- Community of Practice Meitheal Meetings
- Community and Family Support Network (CFSN) events
- National Literacy Changing Lives event in Croke Park

Outreach with key services:

- Secondary schools and colleges
- GP surgeries
- Family Planning Clinics
- Probation services
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL)

Community events:

- Family Fun Day
- Southside Wellbeing Festival
- Visits to local libraries
- Pumpkin Patch
- Dublin Zoo
- Bunratty Castle Christmas Trip
- Elf Town (as part of the City Slickers Programme)
- Summer Pizza Party Evening
- Movie Night at the Milk Market
- Walking Group
- Men’s Shed (Dooradoyle/Raheen)
- Healthy Food Made Easy programme

For families requiring more intensive support, targeted interventions were provided, including coordinated support through the Meitheal process, strengthening interagency collaboration and ensuring that families received the right support at the right time.

Service
Activity and
Impact

47

Referrals

68

Active cases

7

Meitheals open

Family Advocacy Service

The Family Advocacy service provides independent advocacy and support to families whose children are in care or who may be entering care. Funded by Tusla and operating independently, the service supports parents to engage effectively with the child care system and to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their children.

The service advocates on behalf of families whose children are in care or at risk of entering care and promotes positive working relationships between parents and professionals involved in their child's care. It empowers parents to participate fully in Child Care Reviews and Case Conferences and supports them to understand and engage with care planning processes. The service also assists parents in addressing difficulties in order to achieve positive outcomes for their children and provides feedback to Tusla on issues raised by parents in relation to policy and practice, with a view to informing service improvement.

Principles and Practice

Participation in the service is voluntary and advocacy is provided only at the request of the parent or family member. The work is parent-centred and focused on empowering families to develop their own realistic solutions. Privacy and confidentiality are respected at all times, except where information indicates a substantial risk to a family member or another person, in which case relevant information is shared with the appropriate authority. No records or background information are sought prior to the initial meeting with a parent.

Activity and Service Delivery in 2025

During 2025, the Family Advocacy Service worked with 25 parents and families with children in care across Limerick City and County. Levels of engagement varied according to individual need and ranged from high-intensity support during periods of court proceedings, Child Protection Case Conferences or family crises, to medium-intensity support involving regular contact and attendance at meetings and reviews, and low-intensity support where contact was maintained during periods when no immediate issues were arising.

Information and Resource Development

The Family Advocacy Service has collaborated with Tusla and Family Advocacy Groups across Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary to develop a widely used Information Guide for Families with Children in Care.

The guide provides clear, accessible information in a simple and easy-to-read format and covers topics including voluntary care, court orders, parental rights, staying in contact with your child, decision-making about a child's care and how to seek changes to decisions. This resource is valued by advocacy, social care and family support workers regionally as it helps families to better understand the care system and to engage more confidently in care planning processes.

Staff Training and Professional Development across the Child and Family Service

- Children First
- Paediatric First Aid
- Safeguarding Training
- Baby Incredible Years
- Parents Plus Special Needs
- Parenting Under Pressure (PUP)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- Attachment
- Meitheal
- Introduction to Solihull
- Circle of Security
- PEEP Talk
- Non-Violent Resistance (NVR)
- Home Visiting Alliance Training
- Community Families Programme Training
- My Place to Play
- ADAPT Domestic Abuse
- PEEP
- Micro-credentials in Home Visiting
- New born Behavioural Observation
- Parent Support Champion Training, including:
 - Cultural Awareness
 - Supporting Children's Needs When Parents Separate
 - Anti-Racism
 - Tackling Child Poverty
 - Attachment and Trauma
 - Introduction to NVR



**LSSC
Child & Family
Service**







Counselling and Psychotherapy Service: A Person-Centred, Rights-Based Therapeutic Service



The Counselling and Psychotherapy Service delivers a professional, person-centred, and rights-based therapeutic service to adolescents, and adults, ensuring access to counselling and psychotherapy when it is needed most. The service remains committed to high standards of clinical governance, accessibility, and responsive care for individuals and families experiencing complex and often overlapping challenges.

Service Updates and Key Developments

Therapy Ireland Clinical Governance Badge of Excellence is a nationally recognised Quality Mark awarded annually to member services that demonstrate excellence in clinical governance, client care, and service accountability. It confirms the service's adherence to the highest professional standards and its membership within a national network of accredited community therapy providers. Following this achievement in 2025, the service was invited to Leinster House in January 2026 to participate in the official launch of the Community Therapy Ireland Clinical Governance Badge of Excellence.

Throughout 2025, all therapists engaged in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to meet the requirements of their respective professional governing bodies, including IACP, IAHIP, ICP, and BACP, and to ensure the service remained responsive to the evolving and complex needs of clients. Targeted training was undertaken in key practice areas, including the Irish Hospice Foundation in relation to grief and bereavement, and training delivered by the Rape Crisis Centre on responding appropriately to disclosure.

Supporting clients with neurodiversity was identified as a key area for further development. In response, the service has prioritised neurodiversity-informed practice training, which is planned for the coming year. This will further enhance therapists' capacity to provide inclusive, informed, and effective therapeutic support, while maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards of service delivery.

Clinical Governance and Professional Practice

Strong clinical governance remained central to service delivery. The internal Clinical Supervisor continued to provide high-quality supervision to staff members, with additional support available through external supervision. All referrals were screened and triaged by the service manager to ensure appropriate allocation and timely access to the service.

During the year the Counselling and Psychotherapy Service clinical manager qualified as an IACP-Accredited Supervisor, enhancing the service's internal supervisory capacity and strengthening support structures for the counselling team.

Service Delivery

The service continued to provide counselling and psychotherapy to both adult and adolescent clients. Counselling was delivered in Limerick Social Service Centre, Henry St. and the Child and Family Centre (CFC), Galvone, accommodating both adult and adolescent clients.

In addition, the service provided outreach counselling at Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre, Roxborough, responding to local demand.

Clients presented with a range of concerns, including complex trauma, grief, domestic violence, family feuding, addiction-related difficulties, and experiences of intimidation within their communities. This outreach provision enabled the service to offer accessible, community-based therapeutic support where it is most needed.



Service Activity

Between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.
The Counselling and Psychotherapy Service accepted

364 clients.

Delivering a total of

2,335

counselling and psychotherapy sessions.
This reflects both the scale and intensity of therapeutic support required to meet client needs.



Emerging Trends and Client Needs

The service has responded to changing patterns of referral and client need. There was a significant increase in referrals involving domestic violence and coercive control, alongside a rise in young adults presenting with disordered eating and eating disorders.

Ongoing presenting concerns also included:

- financial
- emotional
- sexual
- physical abuse
- foster care experiences
- blended family challenges
- neurodiversity
- depression
- anxiety.

Supporting clients who experience difficulty attending sessions consistently due to complex personal circumstances continued to present challenges.

Interagency Collaboration

Interagency work remained a key element of service delivery. The service participated in a multi-agency young person’s mental health liaison group involving the

- HSE – Office for Suicide Prevention (Mid West)
- HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- West Limerick CAMHS
- CAMHS Hub
- University of Limerick Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service
- Jigsaw Limerick
- Tusla Child and Family Agency
- Pieta
- Limerick Youth Service
- Cork Sexual Violence Centre.

This collaboration supported coordinated, integrated responses to the mental health needs of young people across the region.

Client Feedback provided valuable insight into client experience and the impact of the service. Clients consistently reported feeling safe, supported, and empowered, with many describing significant improvements in wellbeing and personal progress:

“My counsellor was the most helpful and I have come on leaps and bounds thanks to him”.

“I found it really good and the counsellor was great with every aspect of my wellbeing”.

“She was wonderful and gave me back a bit of normality in my life, I thank her so much for giving me so much of her time, and understanding my grief”.

“My sessions were very helpful and felt very safe to open up and talk, and there was time and space for my own opinions and decisions to be heard”.

Community Care Older Persons

“We are people who gather together to share the life of the parish. We are open to the needs of our parish and our world.”

The Southill Dining Club continued to play an important role in supporting older people and vulnerable members of the community, including those living with disabilities, chronic illness, and dementia. At its heart, the service provides a warm, safe, and welcoming space where people can come together, share a meal, and feel part of a community.

Each week, members gathered to enjoy a hot, home-cooked meal on Wednesdays and a social tea afternoon on Thursdays. These regular opportunities for connection were complemented by a range of activities including entertainment, bingo, light exercise, tea dances, and trips to the seaside, all of which supported social engagement, enjoyment, and overall wellbeing.

Beyond its social function, the Dining Club served as an important point of contact for those who needed additional support. Staff provided practical assistance with applications for medical cards, social welfare, housing supports, and grant aid, as well as referrals to community law services and primary care supports.

The service also played a key role in connecting individuals with wider supports, including Sláintecare social prescribing initiatives, family resource centres, and local health services.

Through strong collaboration with statutory and voluntary agencies, the Southill Dining Club ensured that members could access timely, appropriate, and coordinated supports. This integrated approach allowed the service to respond effectively to individual needs while promoting independence and dignity.

The Southill Dining Club provided much more than meals — it offered connection, support, and a sense of belonging. By reducing isolation, addressing food poverty, and creating opportunities for engagement, the service contributed significantly to the wellbeing and quality of life of its members.



Community Need

Many service users experience significant barriers to participation in community life due to disability, chronic illness or reduced mobility. To address this, Southill Dining Club provided a door-to-door community bus service, ensuring members could access the club and remain socially connected. This transport service was a vital link in reducing isolation and loneliness for those who would otherwise be confined to their homes.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis was particularly evident among older people, especially council tenants and those living on fixed incomes. Rising costs of fuel, rent and food have reduced standards of living and increased dependence on community services. Clients living with conditions such as COPD and other chronic illnesses faced additional pressures due to the increased cost of fuel and electricity.

Digital exclusion and literacy challenges remained significant issues for many older people. A large number of service user's left formal education at an early age, which can limit their ability to engage with increasingly digital public services.

This has resulted in greater reliance on in-person support, advocacy and guidance, all of which are central to the role of Southill Dining Club.

Service Usage and Performance

The service recorded high levels of engagement across all areas of delivery in 2025. Weekly home visits and church drop-in supports were provided on a consistent basis, alongside the delivery of over one thousand hot meals and hundreds of Thursday teas. Hospital visits, bag drop-offs and advocacy supports were also provided, reflecting the breadth of needs addressed by the service throughout the year.

Intergenerational Programmes

Intergenerational engagement continued to be a strong feature of the service through participation in the Gaisce programme. Seven students from the College of Further Education and Training in Limerick took part during the academic year, attending the club weekly to interact with older members, call bingo and participate in story exchange. As part of the programme, the students hosted a dinner for the elderly at their college, contributing to meaningful connections across generations and fostering mutual understanding.

Events and Activities 2025

A wide range of social, cultural and recreational events took place throughout the year. February marked the first event of the year, held at Kilmallock Campus, combining a meal, music and bingo as part of the Gaisce programme celebrations. In March, the club participated in the International Women's Day event at Southill Hub, working collaboratively with community partners and schools to deliver a vibrant and inclusive celebration.

In April, members attended a guided visit to Sarsfield Barracks, followed by the annual Battle of the Bonnet, a much-loved event filled with creativity, music and shared enjoyment. June saw participation in a community health day hosted by Southill Family Resource Centre, providing access to health information and screenings.

Two seaside trips took place during the year, with visits to Galway in July and Lahinch in September. Both outings were highly valued by members, offering opportunities for relaxation, socialisation and connection with nature. Additional outings included a day trip to Ennis in November, featuring a shared meal and social activities.

December was particularly busy, with multiple Christmas celebrations including school-hosted afternoon tea and carol services, hospitality-led Christmas dinners, church-based festive meals and attendance at the Northside Annual Christmas Dinner in Thomond Park. A "Dine With Me" initiative was also organised to ensure that no service user was alone on Christmas Day.

Interagency Collaboration

Interagency collaboration remains central to the success of Southill Dining Club. The project operates under the guidance of a voluntary advisory committee made up of service users, volunteers and representatives from partner organisations. This collaborative approach ensures that services remain responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community.

The service works closely with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory partners including health services, community organisations, local authorities, educational institutions and faith-based groups. These partnerships enhance service delivery and strengthen supports available to older people across the Southill area.

- HSE, Primary Health Care Team, PHN's, Southill Health Centre
- St. Vincent De Paul
- Limerick City and County Council
- Southill Family Resource Centre
- Southill Area Centre
- Southill Holy Family Parish Pastoral Council
- Redemptorists Church
- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre – Dementia Group
- Tait House
- Gardai
- Southill Afterschool's for Intergenerational work.
- Limerick Sports Partnership

198

weekly Home Visits

1584

weekly Dinners

288

Thursday Teas

14

hospital visits

52

Social Welfare forms/
Medical cards/Referral to
Community Law

Community Care Older Persons – St. Mary’s and Corbally

This service in the St. Mary’s and Corbally areas of Limerick City provides outreach support to older people in their own homes, nursing homes, and hospital settings.

A significant proportion of service users experience social isolation, with some having no family supports locally and others living with chronic illness that limits mobility and community engagement. Regular weekly visits provide companionship, reassurance, and continuity of support. This consistent contact contributes to increased confidence among service users, ensuring they feel supported in managing issues as they arise.

The service plays a key role in linking older people with relevant local and national services, agencies, and community supports. Practical assistance is provided in accessing services, completing application forms, and navigating complex systems.

In 2025, the service delivered:



A wide range of practical supports is provided, including assistance with shopping, bill payments, posting correspondence, organising transport, collecting prescriptions, and returning surplus medications to pharmacies. Support is also provided with completing applications such as bin waiver forms, fuel allowance, HSE Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme forms, Phonewatch, the Seniors Alert Scheme (including replacement wristband alarms), and home insurance.

Additional support includes assistance in relation to entitlements including the Contributory Pension, Living Alone Allowance, and Fuel Allowance.

Day-to-day supports also extend to sourcing essential household items (e.g. heaters, kettles, groceries) and coordinating access to services such as electricians, plumbers, gardeners, cleaners, and painters to ensure safe and comfortable living conditions.

The service operates in close collaboration with other providers. Referrals are received from HSE Social Work, Public Health Nursing, Community Nursing, and local health centres, in addition to community-based referrals. Service users are also supported through onward referrals to services including Community Law and Mediation, chiropody, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and local community resources such as Pennywell Day Care Centre, St. Munchin’s Community Centre, and the Northside Family Resource Centre.

Concerns regarding heating and energy affordability remain a key issue for many older people, particularly during winter months. The availability of ongoing support from Limerick Social Service Council provides reassurance and contributes to improved wellbeing and security among service users.

Overall, the service plays a vital role in reducing isolation, supporting independent living, and enhancing quality of life for older people within the community.



Service User Feedback

- “This group is the highlight of my week. We could not have a nicer host than our group facilitator”.
- “Love the company, food, fun but I never win at Bingo but love our facilitator”.
- “Very enjoyable my link to the community, the bus comes for me and would never get out of the house. Our leader brings joy to our lives”.
- “Love everything about this club our dinners and trips away, our events; our facilitator makes sure no one is left alone. Always a full event schedule even at Christmas”.
- “The only visitor I have in the week...to go through my post and remind me of appointments, puts them on the fridge in big writing and rings me on the morning. Often picks up my script and bit of shopping. I would be lost without this service”.

Older Persons Classes – Autumn Term

The Older Persons Classes provide a vibrant and inclusive programme designed to support the wellbeing, creativity, and social connection of older people in the community. Delivered in a welcoming environment in LSSC, these classes encourage participants to learn new skills, engage with others, and celebrate their achievements.

A wide range of classes was delivered during the autumn term, running from September to December. Classes were held once a week, with each session lasting between one and a half to two hours, depending on the course. Tutors were sourced through the LCETB, utilising the hours allocated to our service.

Courses included Conversational Irish, Art, Mindfulness, Beauty and Skincare, Knitting and Crocheting. These classes provided a welcoming and supportive environment, offering participants opportunities for social connection, creativity, and personal wellbeing.

Approximately 65–70 learners attended the Older Adult Classes over the term, demonstrating strong engagement from older people in the community. Many participants proudly showcased their finished pieces at the Christmas Fair, celebrating their achievements and highlighting the positive impact of the classes on confidence and skill development.



Altamira Apartments

Limerick Social Service Council (LSSC) previously provided short-term accommodation at Altamira Apartments in Thomondgate for young and first-time mothers. Following a comprehensive review of services, LSSC identified the need to optimise resources to better address issues of marginalisation within Limerick.

Through a collaborative initiative with the Associated Charities Trust (Thomond House), Altamira Court was reopened in 2013 to provide supported accommodation for women experiencing homelessness and those with housing needs.

The service currently accommodates 10 women and is recognised as an effective model within Limerick for supporting older women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The programme provides a stable and supportive environment, contributing to improved wellbeing, independence, and long-term housing outcomes.

Henry St. Early Years' and Family Support Service



Service Overview

The LSSC Early Years' Service provides high-quality early childhood care and education to families living in Limerick City Centre. Our priority is always to maintain a warm, inclusive, and child-centred environment where all children feel safe, valued, and supported to achieve their full potential. The service operates from 9:00am to 5:00pm, with a limited number of approved early drop-off places available from 8:30am, in line with staffing ratios and capacity requirements. We provide care and education to 79 children across the Baby, Toddler, and Preschool age groups. Our curriculum is firmly grounded in the Aistear and Síolta frameworks, with an ongoing focus on holistic development, emotional wellbeing, and the delivery of high-quality learning experiences.

Wraparound Support Services

The Early Years' Service is committed to sustaining and strengthening a wraparound model of support for children and families. The service worked closely with LSSC's Community Social Worker, Community Families and Family Support to offer guidance and practical assistance to families experiencing challenges. Play Therapy remained an additional integral support, promoting children's emotional regulation, confidence, and self-expression.

Where required, children and families were supported through access to additional internal and external services, ensuring that individual needs were identified early and responded to appropriately.

Equal Start Funding – Tier 2

Following approval for Equal Start Tier 2 funding in 2025, the service continued to maximise the benefits of this funding. The additional Support Workers in each Toddler Room were maintained, allowing for enhanced adult-child interactions and more responsive care. This funding further supported children with additional or emerging needs and played a vital role in improving the quality of daily routines such as mealtimes, transitions, and small-group activities.

Service Developments in 2025

The opening of the new Toddler Room increased overall capacity by 20 little ones. The expanded team was supported through ongoing supervision, training, and professional development. Staff qualifications achieved in 2025 have strengthened the overall quality of provision, and continued up skilling is supported and encouraged. The new outdoor play area in the preschool section is fully embedded into daily practice to enhance outdoor learning and physical development opportunities.



79

Provide care and education to 79 children across the Baby, Toddler, and Preschool age groups

20

The opening of the new Toddler Room increased overall capacity by 20 little ones

3

Full-time staff members successfully completed their Early Years degrees during the year

1

Staff member achieved a Level 5 qualification

1

Another completed a Level 6 in Childcare

123

Children on the waiting list managing enrolment

Service Model and Impact

The service delivers a predictable and well-planned daily routine that supports children's sense of security and wellbeing. Individualised supports for children with additional needs, including those accessing AIMS, will remain a priority. A play-based curriculum continues to underpin learning across all age groups, supporting children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

Strong partnerships with parents and families is nurtured through regular communication and engagement with feedback from families continuing to inform practice and service improvement. Interagency collaboration with community, health, and educational partners is further maintained to ensure holistic support for children and families.

Continuous Professional Development

Three full-time staff members successfully completed their Early Years degrees during the year. In addition, one staff member achieved a Level 5 qualification, while another completed a Level 6 in Childcare, further strengthening the team's ability to deliver high-quality, evidence-based early year's education.

These achievements reflect the service's strong commitment to professional development, ensuring that staff knowledge and skills continue to evolve in response to the needs of children and families. The service actively promotes continuous professional development (CPD) across all roles, recognising its importance in supporting reflective practice, professional growth, and improved outcomes for children.

Enrolment Demand and Waiting List

With 123 children on the waiting list managing enrolment demand remains a significant focus for the Early Years' Service. The waiting list continues to reflect exceptionally high demand in the city centre, with particular pressure on Baby Room places, which are fully booked until 2027.

The service will continue to manage admissions transparently and fairly with demand levels monitored throughout the year to inform future planning and funding applications.



The Southside Child and Family Centre and Family Support Service



Service Overview

The Early Years' Service at the Southside Child and Family Centre is committed to delivering inclusive, high-quality early childhood care and education for children from vulnerable and marginalised families in the local community. Our focus is on creating a nurturing and engaging environment where children feel secure, respected, and supported to thrive across all areas of development. Operating from 9:00am to 5:00pm, with a small number of early drop-off places from 8:30am, the service is designed to meet families' practical needs while maintaining safe staffing ratios and high-quality care.

The curriculum is informed by the Aistear and Siolta frameworks and emphasises holistic learning, emotional wellbeing, and the development of key social, cognitive, and physical skills. Children progress through a structured pathway starting in the baby room at six months, continuing through the wobbler and toddler rooms, and culminating in the first- and second-year preschool classrooms.

Children and Enrolment

In 2025, the service provided care for 65 children, including six babies, eight wobblers, twelve toddlers, and thirty-nine preschool children. Of these, 47 children were supported through Tusla or PHN funding, ten were referred to Better Start for AIM support, and eleven children were from the Southside Traveller community. The service is committed to meeting the individual needs of each child and providing equitable access to high-quality early education for families facing additional challenges.

Wraparound Support Services

A key strength of the Southside Child and Family Early Years' Service is its integrated wraparound approach which ensured children and families benefited from a comprehensive network of supports, including Family Support Workers, Counselling Service, Music Therapy, Community families home visitor, and the Young Parents Support Programme (YPSP). Working closely with families in this way, the service responded to both developmental and emotional needs, helping children and their caregivers build confidence, resilience, and a strong foundation for learning and life.

Curriculum and Learning Supports

The service implemented targeted programs to support early language and communication development, including ABC Start-Rite early intervention and prevention programme, Dina in the Classroom, and Early Talk Boost. Dina in the Classroom is a social-emotional curriculum that promotes self-regulation, social skills, and positive behaviours through structured activities, stories, and circle time. It helped children develop the skills and confidence needed to be better prepared for school. While Early Talk Boost is an evidence-based intervention designed for children with delayed language skills.

Delivered in small group sessions, it focused on improving listening, understanding, and speaking abilities, aiming to narrow the developmental gap with peers. These programmes were further complemented by interventions tailored to meet the specific developmental needs of each child, ensuring that they were supported to reach their full potential.





Music Therapy

Music therapy and speech and language therapy are a central part of the children's experience at the Southside CFC. The music therapist worked with children in the service three days a week, providing both group sessions and one-to-one therapy. These sessions combined with speech and language supports enhanced children's emotional expression, confidence, social skills, and creativity.

Outdoor and Sensory Play

Outdoor learning is a core element of the curriculum. Children engaged in exploration, messy play, and safe risky play, promoting physical development, problem-solving skills, and creativity. Additionally, the sensory room offered a calm, stimulating environment where children could relax and engage with sensory activities that support emotional regulation and wellbeing.



Community Engagement and Family Events

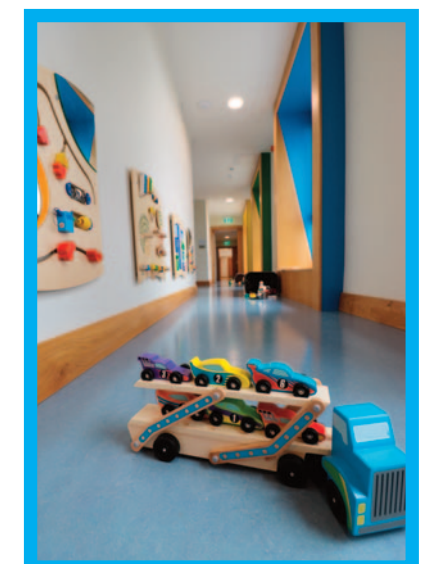
The service hosted a range of activities throughout the year to strengthen family and community connections. Highlights in 2025 included a mobile farm visit as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival, a Family Fun Day at Sean Choill Sports Complex, preschool graduation ceremonies, Christmas and Easter celebrations, and a musical visit from "The Sheddies" of the Doradolye/Raheen Men's Shed. These events encouraged social interaction, community engagement, and joyful learning experiences for children and families.

Staff Training and Development

Professional development continued to be a key focus for the service. Staff have completed training in Occupational Therapy and Circle of Security, while one team member is working towards a Master of Education and another is undertaking the LINC program to achieve a qualification in Leadership for Inclusion in Early Years. This ongoing investment in staff expertise enabled the service to deliver high-quality, responsive care tailored to the changing needs of children and families.

Future Priorities

Looking ahead, the service will focus on further embedding its wraparound supports, expanding outdoor and sensory learning opportunities, and continuing to integrate music and speech & language therapy into everyday practice. Staff professional development will remain a key priority to ensure high-quality, child-centred care. The service will also focus on increasing capacity to address high demand and ensure vulnerable families have equitable access to early education.



Limerick City Traveller Health Programme



Overview

Throughout the year, the Traveller Community Health Workers delivered a wide range of culturally appropriate health and wellbeing initiatives in collaboration with the HSE and key partner organisations. The programme remained focused on promoting health equity, increasing access to services, and strengthening trust and engagement within the Traveller community.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

Key mental health resources were co-created with the Limerick City Traveller Health Programme and HSE Traveller Mental Health. This resource supports positive mental health messaging and encourages open conversations within the Traveller community.

The programme strengthened links with the Samaritans and progressed plans for a pilot mental health initiative. Crisis support information, including key contact details for organisations such as Samaritans, Pieta House, and ISPCC, were distributed to Traveller families. This resource was particularly well received, recognising the challenges many experience particularly during the holiday period.

Three Community Health Workers (CHWs) completed Mid-West ARIES Facilitator Training, building capacity for peer-led mental health education, and progressed towards delivering a perinatal self-care programme.

Health Promotion and Education

A wide-ranging programme of health education was delivered throughout the year, reaching 1,283 individual contacts.

- Menopause and Mental Health
- Social Prescribing awareness initiative
- Diabetes Awareness
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Healthy Heart and Stroke Awareness
- Asthma Awareness
- SunSmart and Water Safety Initiative
- Cervical Screening Campaign
- Men's Health Initiative
- Distribution of the HSE resource "Making the Big Talk – Many Small Talks"

Resource Development and Distribution

Significant developments of culturally appropriate health resources:

- Diabetes educational materials co-created with HSE Self-Management Support
- Sexual health resources developed in partnership with GOSHH
- Family Support Leaflet developed in collaboration with LSSC Community Social Work

These resources support improved health literacy and access to services.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

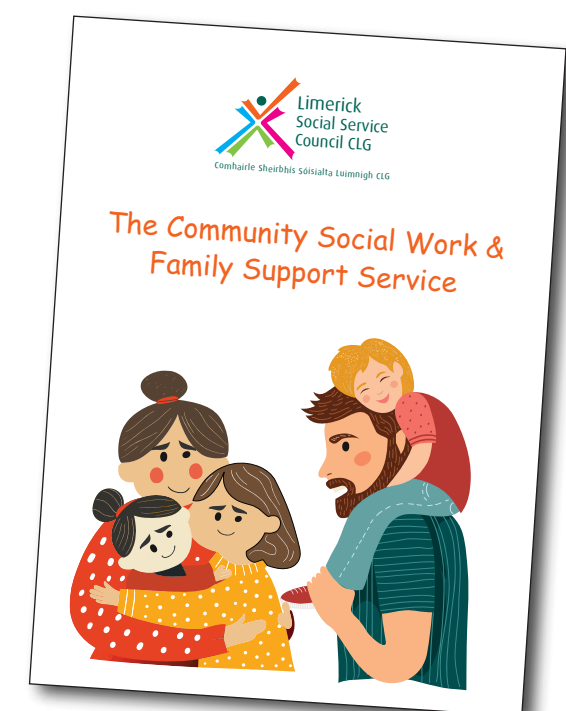
Strong partnerships continued to underpin programme delivery. Collaboration with HSE services, local organisations, and community groups supported integrated service provision.

Key engagements included:

- Participation in the Milford Hospice Walk
- Showcasing the programme at a health event in Southill Hub, with high attendance and strong engagement
- Invited as guest speakers to the University Of Limerick School Of Medicine to deliver cultural awareness training to second-year medical students.

Organisational Developments

In October, the programme experienced the departure of two highly valued staff members due to their funding stream ending, which impacted team capacity. Despite this, service delivery remained consistent and continued to play a vital role in promoting health equity and improving access to services for the Traveller community.



Values in Practice Initiatives

Throughout 2025, the Values in Practice (ViP) initiative continued to strengthen organisational culture and staff engagement across LSSC, promoting wellbeing, connection, and a shared commitment to Empathy, Inclusion, Quality, and Trust.

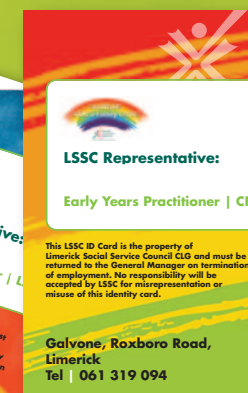
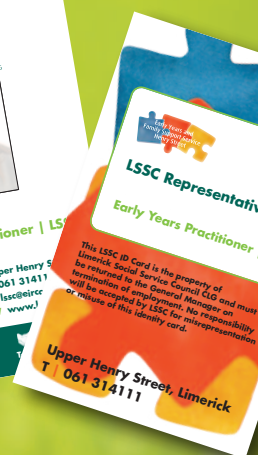
Key initiatives included:

- St. Patrick's Day "Decorate Your Door" competition
- Easter egg initiative for all staff
- Three Bridges lunchtime walk
- Pumpkin decorating competition
- "Guess the Baby" staff engagement activity
- Shared lunches and team gatherings across services
- Nutrition talk promoting staff wellbeing
- Sound bath session with Lucia supporting relaxation and self-care

Organisational developments included:

- Launch of LSSC LINC, the organisation's internal newsletter, enhancing communication and staff engagement
- Introduction of new staff ID badges, supporting visibility, identity, and organisational cohesion

These initiatives, supported by ViP Champions, contributed to strong staff participation and helped foster a positive, inclusive, and connected workplace culture across the organisation.



Poland Pakistan
Mexico Jordan
Afghanistan Ireland
Chile Peru
Congo Egypt
India Ukraine
Irish Traveller
Romania Malaysia
Nigeria Lithuania



Celebrating
the range of
nationalities
among
LSSC
staff and
those who
use our
services.

Emerging Trends and Challenges

1

The Child and Family Service continues to work with families experiencing complex and interconnected challenges. Poverty remains a significant concern, with many families struggling to meet basic needs such as food, heating, and household essentials. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, coupled with housing instability and prolonged stays in temporary accommodation, continues to impact family wellbeing and engagement with services.

2

Demand for support has increased, with more families presenting with multiple and often complex needs. These include parental mental health concerns, domestic violence, relationship difficulties, and challenges relating to children's behaviour, anxiety, and school attendance. At the same time, access to early intervention services remains limited, particularly for children with additional needs or developmental delays. Delays in assessments, unclear referral pathways, and multiple waiting lists can add further stress for families at critical points of need.

3

Interagency working remains central to service delivery; however, delays within systems such as Meitheal processes and Duty and Intake can impact the continuity and timeliness of support. Access to alternative education pathways for children experiencing school refusal or exclusion also continues to present challenges.

4

The service works with families from diverse cultural backgrounds, including Irish Traveller and migrant communities, where social isolation and barriers to accessing supports can be more pronounced.

5

Addressing the health needs of the Traveller community remains a priority, with a continued focus on improving health outcomes through the delivery of evidence-based health information and supports through the Traveller Health Programme.

6

Supporting older people to remain connected within their communities is also an ongoing focus, recognising the impact of isolation on health and wellbeing.

7

Across the Early Years services, high levels of demand and long waiting lists continue to place pressure on capacity. Ensuring that vulnerable children and families have equitable and timely access to early year's education and supports remains a key priority.

8

Staffing capacity continues to be an important consideration. Recruitment and retention remain ongoing challenges in maintaining consistent, high-quality service delivery, although recent developments, including WRC-related improvements, have provided some support in this area.



LSSC Funders and Partner Agencies

- Accord
- Adapt Services
- Age & Opportunity (Dublin)
- Barnardos
- Children's Books Ireland
- Community Law & Mediation
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
- Department of Education & Skills
- Department of Social Protection
- Diocese of Limerick
- Doras Luimní
- Family Resource Centres
- Focus Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- LCETB
- LEDP
- Limerick Childcare Committee
- Limerick City Area Partnership
- Limerick City & County Council
- Limerick City Partnership: ABC Start Right
- Limerick College of Further Education
- Limerick Food Partnership
- Limerick Youth Service
- Local Creative Youth Partnership
- Local libraries and community centre
- MIC
- Mid-West Simon Community
- Novas
- Pobal
- Treoir
- TUS
- Tusla, Child & Family Agency
- University of Limerick
- University Hospital Limerick
- University Maternity Hospital Limerick
- West Limerick Primary Health Care Project for Travellers
- West Limerick Resources



Note of appreciation

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all those who support and contribute to the work of Limerick Social Service Council.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your continued leadership, governance, and oversight in upholding the organisation's vision, mission and values.

To our management team and staff, we are deeply grateful for your dedication, professionalism, and ongoing commitment. The care, consistency, and quality you bring to your work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of children, families, and communities every day.

We also wish to acknowledge our funders for their ongoing trust and investment in our work, which enables us to respond to need and continue to develop and strengthen our services.

Finally, we thank our interagency partners and community organisations for their collaboration and shared commitment. Through working together, we are better able to support individuals and families in a coordinated and effective way.



Meet the Board of Directors:

Chair: Kevin O'Farrell

Patricia Sheehan

Brian O'Gorman

Keith Morrow

Fr. Derek Leonard

Jim Lynch