

PARTNER Cavan & Monaghan

PLANET YOUTH

STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

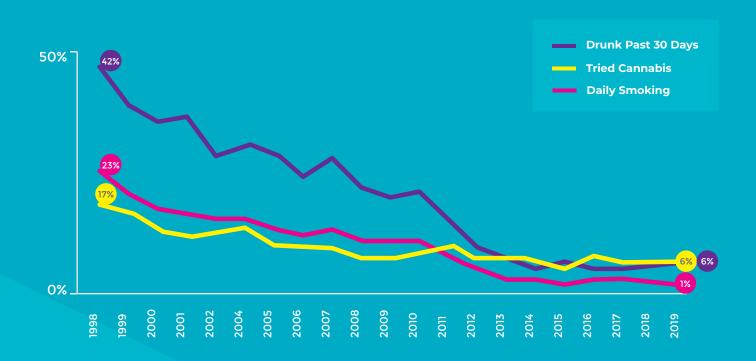
Cavan & Monaghan

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." - Albert Einstein



CHANGE THROUGH PRIMARY PREVENTION

SUBSTANCE USE IN ICELANDIC 15-16 YEAR OLDS (1998 - 2019)



Planet Youth has produced amazing results through an investment in systemic change, evidence-based prevention activities, collaboration between stakeholders and local community involvement.

CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS FRAMEWORK	4	PLANET YOUTH IN CAVAN & MONAGHAN	8
PLANET YOUTH SURVEY SAMPLE FINDINGS	6	KEY TERMS AND PHRASES	8

(

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

Planet Youth and Primary Prevention	10
Risk & Protective Factors	11
Who is Planet Youth for?	12
3 Stages of Planet Youth	13
Why is the Data important?	14
Planet Youth Stakeholders	15
Key Early Milestones	16



SECTION 2 - STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Vision & Mission	18
Policy Context	19
Guiding Principles	19
Objectives of Planet Youth	20
Rethinking How We Manage Resources	20



SECTION 3 - IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Implementing Planet Youth	22	Planet Youth Checklist	28
Local Partners & Implementation Group	23	Get Involved in Planet Youth	29
Steps for Implementing Prevention Activities	24	Acknowledgements	30
Stakeholder Planning Template	25		~
Examples of Prevention Activities	26		(50)

(







If you are interested in Planet Youth, use this booklet as a starting point to help you understand your role in prioritising primary prevention approaches to enhancing young people's health and wellbeing. We are all Planet Youth stakeholders; whether a parent, teacher, coach, community worker, youth worker, Garda, health professional, funder, public servant or politician.

This booklet offers brief, easy-to-read information on Planet Youth and gives guidance on implementing it locally. It contains three sections:

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

SECTION 2: STRATEGY FRAMEWORK
SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Section 1: Introduction

Section 1 lays out the background to Planet Youth. It explains the concept of primary prevention, describes how the Planet Youth model works and highlights why the data is important. It also describes Planet Youth's stakeholders and key milestones since its introduction to Cavan and Monaghan.

Section 2:
Strategy
Framework

Section 2 outlines the programme's strategic parameters by setting out its vision, mission, principles and objectives. By providing a clear vision and strategy for the programme, the aim is to support stakeholders in adhering to the Planet Youth model and become part of embracing a prevention approach to young people's alcohol and drug use.

Section 3: Implementation Guide

Section 3 provides guidance to stakeholders on implementing Planet Youth. It supports stakeholders to embed primary prevention approaches into their day-to-day activities. Although there can be some variation in how stakeholders implement Planet Youth, maintaining fidelity to the model is central to ensuring the best outcomes for young people.







•

We ALL have a role in enhancing young people's health and wellbeing

Alcohol and drug use rates amongst young people in Ireland remain high. The first Western Region Planet Youth survey, which was published in 2019, shows that young people continue to engage in high risk behaviour, despite national policy efforts to improve youth outcomes. They also show that there are significant challenges relating to young people's lifestyles, environment and wellbeing.

Prevention of alcohol and drug use in young people is not just about alcohol and drugs. It requires integrated and holistic approaches that support young people's overall development. Effective prevention does not need to explicitly address or refer to alcohol or drugs. Success occurs when factors which contribute to a young person's alcohol or drug use are reduced and when factors which prevent use are strengthened. We all have a role to play in addressing these risk and protective factors - from those developing national policy and legislation through to those interacting daily with young people.

- ✓ PREVENTION IS investing in young people's wellbeing
- ✓ PREVENTION IS building community and social capital
- ✓ **PREVENTION IS** increasing young people's engagement in structured leisure activities
- ✓ **PREVENTION IS** supporting young people to have healthy lifestyles and social environment
- ✓ **PREVENTION IS** cultivating healthy relationships between young people and the adults in their lives

PLANET YOUTH IS LEADING A PROCESS OF CHANGE IN HOW WE ALL:

- Prioritise and resource primary prevention
- Base primary prevention approaches on evidence
- Use bottom-up approaches to primary prevention
- Enable ongoing dialogue between researchers, policymakers and practitioners



PLANET YOUTH SURVEY

Sample Findings

22%
my mental
health is bad or
very bad

50%7 hours or less

sleep every night

(

45%

3 hours a day or more on social media



15%

felt lonely



13%



skipped school in the last month **7**%



the future seems hopeless

18% tried cannabis



26%

drunk in the last month



48%

have been asked to send a nude picture



11%



17%

outside after midnight

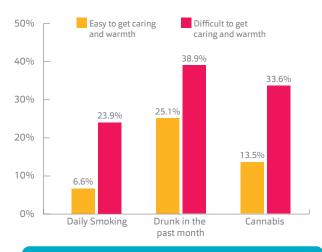


46%

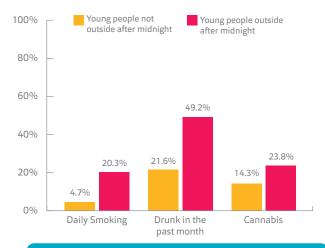
lifetime drunkenness



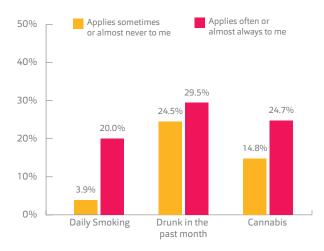
4,480 15-16 year olds surveyed in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon



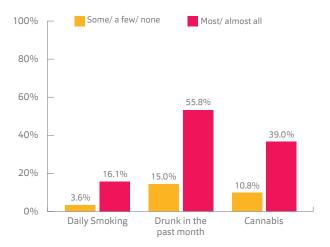
Correlation between substance use and how easy/ difficult it is to receive caring and warmth from parents (Mayo)



Correlation between substance use and being outside after midnight in the past week (Roscommon)



Correlation between substance use and finding schoolwork pointless (Roscommon)



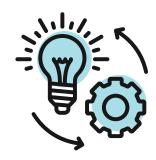
Correlation between substance use and young people's perception of their friends' monthly drunkenness (Galway)

NOTE: First data from Cavan & Monaghan is scheduled for publishing in Quarter 1 2022



PLANET YOUTH IN CAVAN & MONAGHAN

Building on the work of colleagues in the Western Region (Galway, Mayo & Roscommon) who introduced Planet Youth to Ireland in 2018, the Cavan & Monaghan local implementation group aim to work in partnership with schools, communities and partner organisations on the roll-out of our Planet Youth programme for the period 2021 to 2026.



KEY TERMS & PHRASES

These terms and phrases appear regularly in this framework. For the sake of clarity, this is what we mean when we refer to them.

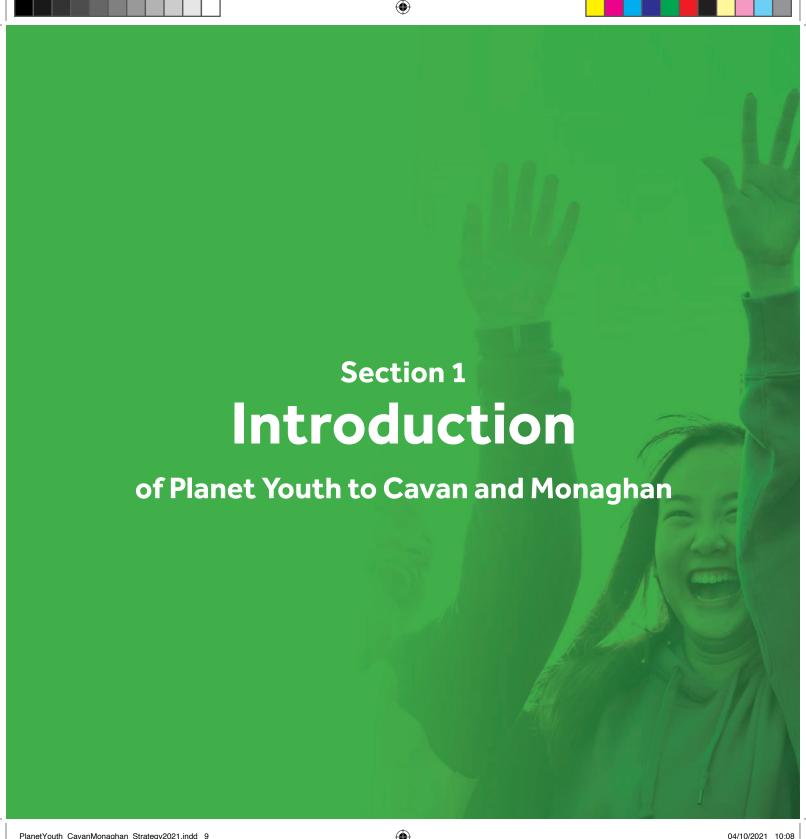
- Prevention Activity: A policy, strategy, action, initiative, programme or service delivered by a person, group or organisation that helps to prevent a problem before it arises
- Dataset: All data collected from the Planet Youth surveys on the relationships, lifestyle, environment and wellbeing of young people
- Domain: A field of interest that can be controlled or influenced
- ICSRA: Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis

- Protective Factors: Conditions or attributes of individuals, their families, communities, peer groups or wider society that reduce risk and promote healthy development
- Risk Factors: These are conditions or attributes that increase risk and negatively impact healthy development
- Stakeholder: Any person, group, organisation or community that has an interest, concern or role in an issue
- Whole-population Approach: Where an activity is directed at the health of an entire population rather than at individuals or target groups









PLANET YOUTH & PRIMARY PREVENTION

Planet Youth is an international evidence-based primary prevention programme developed by the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA) at Reykjavik University. Its goal is to prevent alcohol and drug use in young people and to improve their health and life outcomes.

Planet Youth takes a whole population approach and focuses on all young people, rather than targeting specific vulnerable groups. It requires a transformative change in policies, practice and resources and promotes evidence-based approaches using robust local data.

Primary prevention is about preventing problems before they arise. This means diverting young people away from alcohol and drug use by enhancing their relationships, lifestyles, environment and wellbeing. Planet Youth is based on the principle that, in order to change young people's alcohol and drug behaviour, we need to understand and focus on the factors that contribute to it. This is achieved by identifying and reducing risk factors, and strengthening protective factors, in young people's lives.

Risk factors are characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes. Protective factors are associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or reduce a risk factor's impact. Protective factors may be seen as positive countering events.







We are all exposed to both risk and protective factors. While they can be complex, they represent conditions found in everyday life. From the earliest stages, the more risk factors in a young person's life, the more likely they are to engage in problematic behaviours. On the other hand, the more protective factors a young person has, the less likely they are to do so. Risk and protective factors interact continually; while some factors cannot be changed, their impact can be lessened or strengthened.

Planet Youth risk and protective factors are assigned to the following four domains:

- Parents and Family
- Leisure Time and Local Community
- School
- Peer Group



Parent's own alcohol and drug use

- Parental support
- Parental monitoring
- Time spent with parents
- Parental social capital knowing your child's friends and the parents of those friends
- Perceived parental reactions to alcohol and drug use



- Unorganised, unsupervised leisure time
- Access to, and participation in, hobbies, recreation and sport
- Staying out late
- Location where alcohol and drug use takes place
- Unsupervised parties
- Access and availability of alcohol and drugs
- Community attachment and cohesion
- Young people's sense of safety in their community







 \bigoplus



RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS cont.



School

- Supportive adults at school
- Motivation to learn and grow
- Attitude to school and studies
- Absenteeism
- Young people's sense of safety and attachment to school
- School's role in organised extracurricular activities



- Peer alcohol and drug use
- Perceived peer respect for alcohol and drug use
- Pro-social and supportive peers





WHO IS PLANET YOUTH FOR?

Planet Youth focuses on teenagers and pre-teens. By investing our energy and resources in this age cohort, we will optimise the impact of Planet Youth across Cavan and Monaghan.

A core principle of Planet Youth is that prevention activities should engage the whole population of young people, rather than targeting particular individuals or groups.

THE 3 STAGES OF PLANET YOUTH

STAGE 1: Data collection and analysis

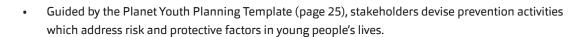
- Every two years, data is collected from young people using a comprehensive school-based survey.
 This survey explores background factors such as family, school, community, substance use, social circumstances, mental health, physical activity, peer group.
- Analysis of the surveys is undertaken by ICSRA who report the main risk and protective factors
 experienced by young people, and return the full dataset to Cavan & Monaghan Planet Youth
 implementation group.



STAGE 2: Implementing prevention activities

County reports are produced from the data for each of the two counties. School reports are produced
for all schools that participate. The county reports are widely disseminated, while the school reports
are confidential to each individual school.





Prevention activities are agreed and supported by local partners (see page 23).



STAGE 3: Reflection and learning

- The impact of Planet Youth activities are measured through biennial data collection. In addition, stakeholders review activities to assess their effectiveness and identify improvements.
- New prevention activities are devised based on this reflection and learning.

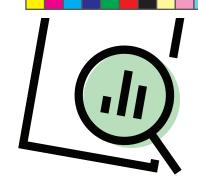




(

WHY IS THE DATA IMPORTANT?

Planet Youth is underpinned by a rigorous system of data collection, processing, dissemination and planned action



DATA COLLECTION from young people through school surveys



DATA PROCESSING to provide useful information on how young people are living their lives

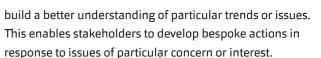


DATA DISSEMINATION of key findings to all stakeholders



PLANNED ACTION to respond to the data findings





The data is important because it tells us about our young people in our communities and how they are living their lives right now. It is current, local and relevant. It tells us about the risk and protective factors experienced by our young people and allows us to devise local evidence-informed activities in response to these factors.

The data sometimes confirms what we already know or suspect about young people's lifestyle and environment. It nevertheless provides essential information on the mental and physical wellbeing of our young people and provides us with evidence to make informed decisions. It moves the conversation from anecdotal to factual.

Planet Youth data can be localised to a school, town or cluster of towns. It can also be interrogated on a thematic basis to

The survey asks about important issues in young people's lives, including:

mental health, physical health, lifestyle and leisure time activities, local community networks, negative life events and strain, parents and family, peer group, economic and psychological issues, internet usage, studies and school, substance use, values and attitudes, violence and anti-social behaviour, and much more...







We are all stakeholders in Planet Youth. Everyone has a role to play in creating an environment where young people in our communities are active, healthy, happy and achieving their potential.

Planet Youth is founded on partnership, collaboration and community involvement. Key groups and agencies that have a role to play include:

- Parents
- Young People
- Youth Services
- Schools
- Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Local community

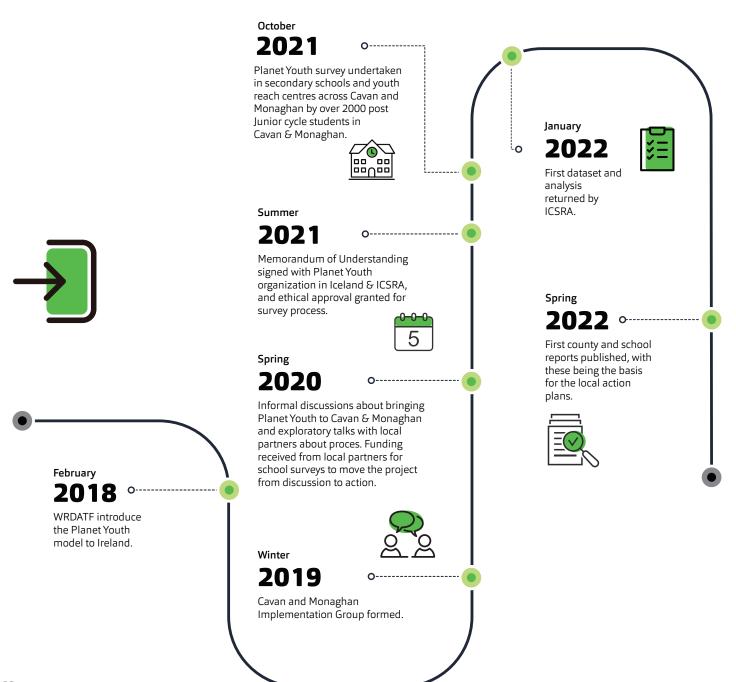
- An Garda Síochána
- Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB)
- Children and Young People's Services
 Committees (CYPSC)
- Government Departments and Agencies
- Health Service Executive
- Local Development Companies
- Local Authorities and Local Government
- North Eastern Regional Drug Task Force (NE-RDATF)
- Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS)
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Research Partners)
- Sports Partnerships
- Sport and Recreation Groups
- Third Level Institutions
- Tusla Child and Family Agency

Each stakeholder contributes to Planet Youth in their own unique way. Whether it is through day-to-day interactions with young people, or providing leadership, resourcing or policy changes, we all work together to achieve Planet Youth's mission.

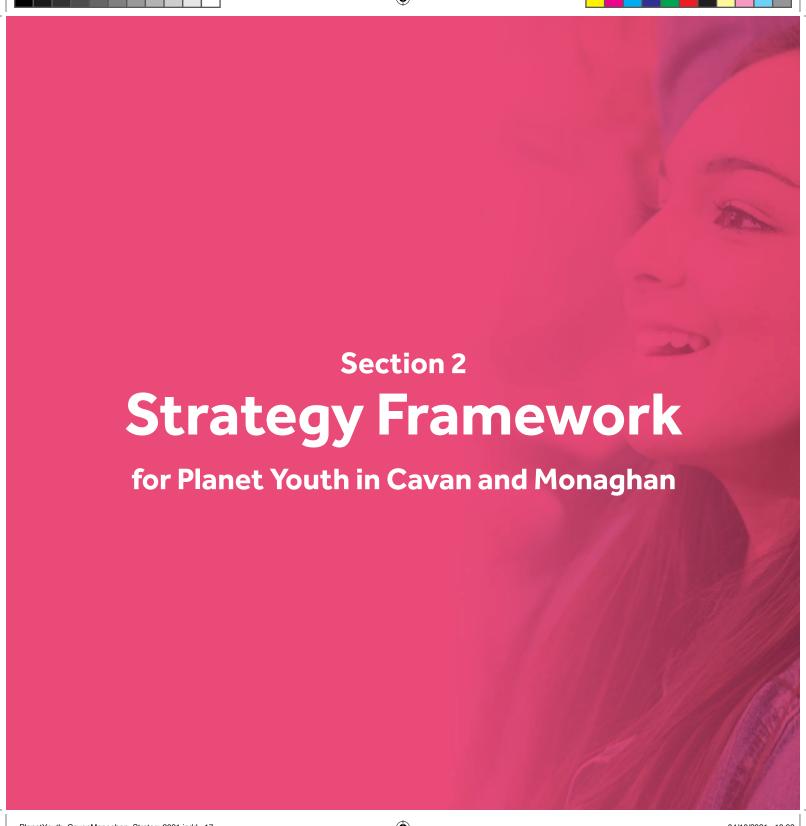


15

KEY EARLY MILESTONES











All young people are active, healthy and happy, connected to their families and communities, and achieving their full potential.

MISSION



Our mission is to lead a process of transformative change by embedding primary prevention approaches which enhance young people's health, relationships, environment and wellbeing.

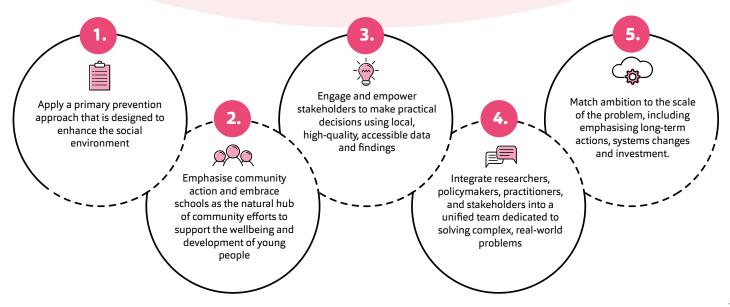


Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, the national policy framework for children and young people, 2014-2020 commits to a whole-of-Government approach to supporting young people to achieve good physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing. It aims to enable young people to make positive choices, to be safe and protected from harm and to realise their potential. The national drugs strategy, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 - 2025, states that the aim of prevention is to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug and alcohol use and to promote healthier lifestyles and a healthy society.

While public bodies and non-profit organisations are already working together to improve outcomes for young people, evidenced-based prevention needs greater priority. Planet Youth provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to change the way they think about prevention and their role in it. Agencies and organisations – big and small – must consider what they can do within their remit, either directly or indirectly. This includes reassessing their activities with a view to minimising risk factors and maximising protective factors. While stakeholders will approach Planet Youth in different ways, ultimately the shared objective is to achieve better outcomes for young people.

Prevention activities are more likely to succeed when they are systematic, evidence-based and collaborative. While the need for prevention is increasingly recognised, it often occurs in an ad hoc manner. Planet Youth urges all stakeholders - from national and local government to public bodies, schools and community-based organisations – to play their part in prioritising prevention in an integrated and holistic way.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES





 \bigoplus



- 1. Improve outcomes and opportunities for young people across the programme's four domains (see page 11)
- 2. Identify a wide range of evidenced-informed prevention activities which address risk and protective factors
- At county, regional and national level, build and maintain a strong, collaborative, well-informed partnership of community, agency and political stakeholders
- Build strong brand recognition and stakeholder involvement throughout Cavan and Monaghan

- Secure sustainable investment and resources for the progression of Planet Youth and the implementation of evidence informed prevention activities across Cavan and Monaghan
- Capture learning and track activities in order to inform the future development of Planet Youth
- Develop a strategy for sustaining Planet Youth linked to relevant national policies, including Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, the national policy framework for children and young people, and Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 - 2025



RETHINKING HOW WE MANAGE RESOURCES

 \bigoplus

Short-Term Actions

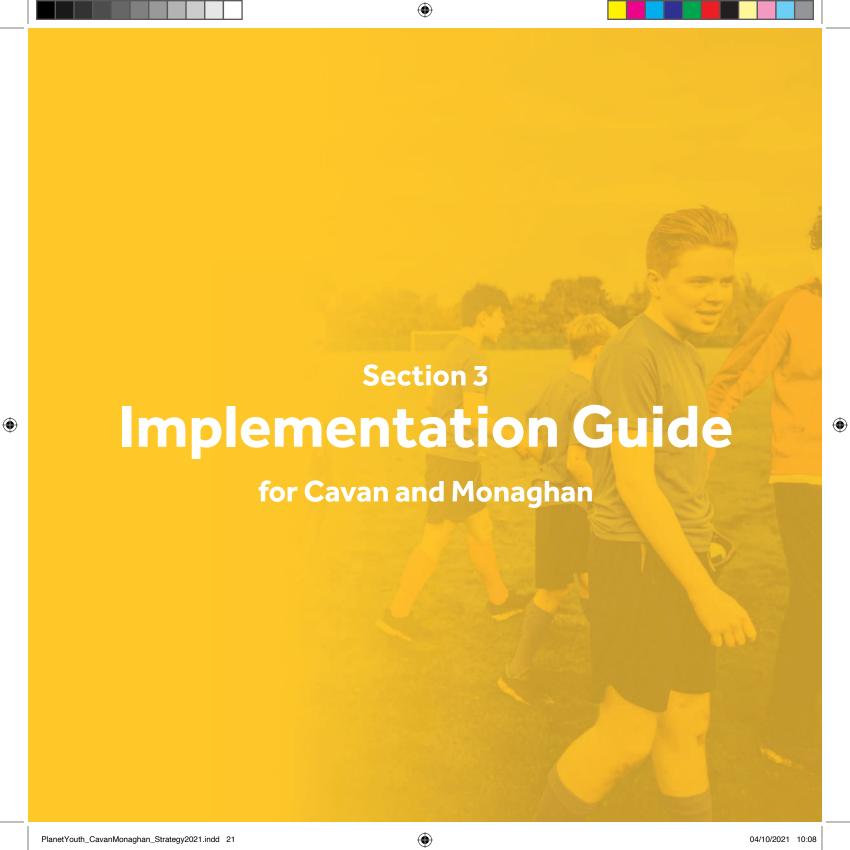
Short-term grants and funding are suitable for smaller, one-off prevention activities which divert young people away from drug and alcohol use. These may be low-cost / no-cost activities which are delivered using existing resources or, alternatively, local stakeholders may source additional funding. However, short-term grants and funding are insufficient to initiate and sustain the long-term change necessary to achieve Planet Youth's mission.

Sustainable Resourcing

The long-term positive outcomes envisaged by Planet Youth will only be created through systemic change,



significant investment and realignment of financial resources. This transformative change requires a rethinking of how agencies and organisations invest in prevention and allocate their resources. A sustainable focus on prevention will be only be achieved through prioritising integrated and holistic approaches designed to prevent problems before they arise.

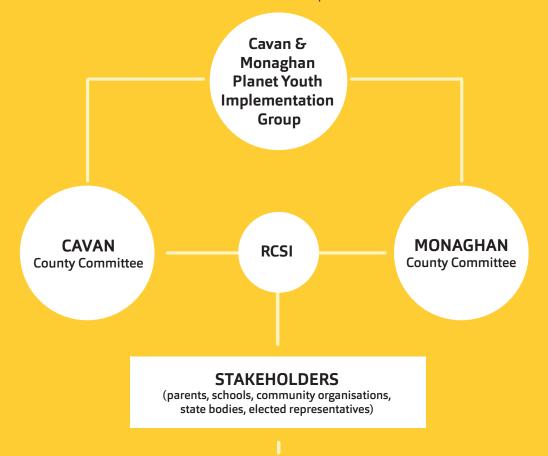




Planet Youth will be implemented in Cavan and Monaghan through the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, as described on page 15, who create an environment where young people become progressively less likely to engage in alcohol and drug use. This process is supported locally by the implementation group and partner agencies.

The aim of the implementation stage is to:

- · enhance all stakeholders' understanding of prevention
- build a coalition of stakeholders to implement Planet Youth's mission
- · deliver of a wide range of prevention activities
- monitor and assess the progress and impact of prevention activities



PREVENTION ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS







Effective implementation requires a wide range of stakeholders devising prevention activities; from parents in the home to elected representatives and Government departments. All stakeholders play a different role; some activities will require leadership and resourcing from national or local organisations and agencies, while others will be based on the day-to-day actions of the adults in young people's lives, such as parents, teachers and sports/recreation leaders.

Stakeholders decide themselves how to become involved in Planet Youth by choosing to develop prevention activities which respond to risk and preventive factors that are within their sphere of influence.

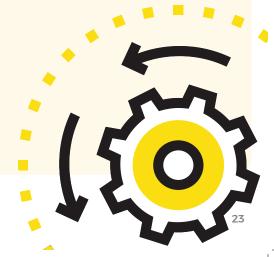
However you choose to get involved, the diagram on page 24 provides a step-by-step guide to help you to follow the Planet Youth model.

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP AND LOCAL PARTNERS

The overall aim of the implementation group is to promote Planet Youth across the two counties and to support the local partners to devise prevention activities that adhere to the Planet youth model, such as:

- Championing Planet Youth in the community
- Influencing policy & driving change at county level
- Supporting local partners to devise, deliver and monitor prevention activities
- Facilitating access to the Planet Youth dataset
- Developing county action plans for local prevention activities
- Where appropriate, sourcing funds to support the delivery of prevention activities
- Sharing the learning and ideas across the region

The Cavan & Monaghan Planet Youth implementation group is comprised of representatives from across the region. Its role is to steer the programme's strategic direction and monitor progress towards achieving the goals. It also has an oversight role to ensure that county action plans are delivered consistently and adhere to the Planet Youth model. Along with the local partners they also lead the process of promoting Planet Youth at political, government department and agency level.



•

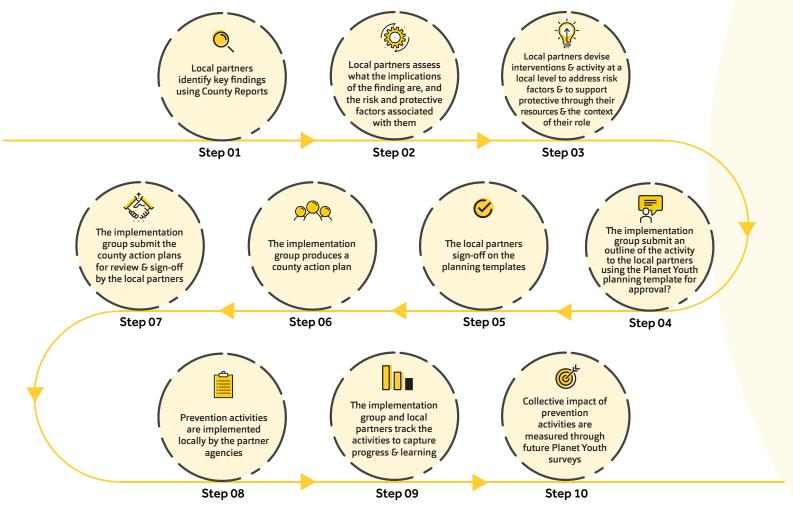
STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Planet Youth is a unique programme that not only promotes the importance of primary prevention but also establishes an evidence-based approach to its implementation.

Planet Youth has devised a step-by step implementation process for stakeholders. These steps guide you from identifying risk and protective factors within your remit or

scope to making changes to your policy, practice or resources that positively impact young people's lives.

The first step is to read the county report and consider how you can address findings within your sphere of influence. Stakeholders can request access to the dataset to conduct more detailed analysis on specific geographic or thematic issues.



 \bigoplus

STAKEHOLDER PLANNING TEMPLATE (Sample)

Key Finding: (Describe the key finding your prevention activity will address)

Describe risk and /or protective factors associated with the key finding:

- · Risk Factors:
- Protective Factors:

Describe your overall goal relating to the key finding:

Describe the prevention activity or activities to achieve this goal	Domain*	Lead Agent	Partners	Resource (Existing/New)	Measurement	Outcome
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						

*Parents and Family

*Leisure Time and Local Community

*School

*Peer Group







- Communicate Planet Youth survey results to parents of all schoolchildren.
- Provide parental education programs and material at a variety of developmental stages.
- Increase the amount of quality time parents spend with young people each week.
- Improve young people's understanding of the value of time spent with family members.

- Increase parental monitoring of young people.
- Use parental contracts to agree on common goals and behavioural limits for young people.
- Develop collaborative parent groups and networks.
- Increase social cohesion amongst families through shared activities and communications.
- Communicate the significance of parental alcohol and drug use as a risk factor.
- · Reduce access to alcohol and drugs in the home.



Leisure Time and Local Community

- Increase opportunities for structured leisure time activities and make accessible to all young people.
- Increase the number and variety of structured leisure time activities available to reflect a wide range of young people's interests.
- Increase funding for structured leisure time activities.
- Provide safe and healthy places for young people to spend time with each other.
- Increase availability of area-based youth clubs for all ages.

- Adults involved in the delivery of leisure time activities to be supported and suitably accredited.
- Reduce the number of unstructured and unmonitored leisure time hours available to young people.
- Reduce late outside hours.

- Engage with appropriate Garda service to enhance and support community policing efforts.
- Increase parental co-monitoring of their young peoples' activities and whereabouts.
- Reduce young people's access to alcohol or drugs during leisure time. This may include increased monitoring of outlets and enforcement of laws related to the sale or supply of alcohol to minors.



PlanetYouth_CavanMonaghan_Strategy2021.indd 26



 \bigoplus



School

- Conduct parent meetings in schools that communicate the local Planet Youth survey results.
- Introduce school-parent agreements based on the risk and protective factors.
- Increase the number of communications between parents and school personnel.
- Strengthen parent-teacher organisations and increase participation of parents as volunteers both in school and at school events.
- Improve and support access to extracurricular activities in and out of school.

- Consistently reward positive behaviour and role models.
- Ensure all young people can identify at least one adult they can ask for help with issues.
- Set and communicate clear expectations and consequences regarding using and distributing alcohol and drugs at school.
- Upskill designated teachers and prioritise the delivery of SPHE curriculum in both junior and senior cycles.
- Create a culture that supports delaying the use of alcohol and drugs.



Peer Group

- Use Planet Youth survey results to challenge social norms related to alcohol and drug use amongst peers.
- Provide educational programmes focused on building prosocial peer relationships and peer support.
- Increase associations with prosocial peers and decrease associations with peers using alcohol or drugs.

- Use Planet Youth survey results to address social media misuse.
- Promote a culture where social media misuse is challenged.
- Develop workshops that enhance and promote resilience in young people.









Use this checklist to help you to proof your decision-making processes and ensure that your prevention activities adhere to the Planet Youth model

Is the activity focused on prevention?
Is the activity evidenced-based, using the Planet Youth data?
Does the activity address identified risk and/or protective factors?
Does the activity have a beneficial outcome for teenagers and/ or pre-teens?
Does the activity take a whole population approach, rather than targeting particular groups of young people?
Is the lead agency identified and committed to implementing the activity?
Have partner stakeholders been involved in developing the activity?

Have young people been involved in developing the activity, where relevant?
 Is the activity no cost or low cost, or has funding been sourced for its implementation?
 Is there a process in place to monitor the progress and impact of the activity?
 Have you completed the Planet Youth Planning Template?





GET INVOLVED IN PLANET YOUTH!



We want to hear from you. Get in contact with us if you, your group, organisation or agency wants to become involved in Planet Youth.

We want to help you devise prevention activities that enhance young people's relationships, lifestyles, environment and wellbeing.

Contact the Planet Youth Cavan and Monaghan

Website: www.planetyouthpartner.ie Email: planetyouthcm@cmetb.ie



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Planet Youth model was developed by the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA) at Reykjavik University.

The strategy & implementation guide is based on the Planet Youth model and the work of the WRDATF and their regional and county committees in Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.

Planet Youth is a collaborative programme and involves a broad range of stakeholders, all of whom have contributed to the development of this framework.

- ICRSA
- Planet Youth ehf
- Prof. Mary Cannon MB BCh BAO, FRCPsych, MSc, PhD and Dr. Emmet Power MB BCh BAO, FRCPsych, MSc, PhD from RCSI
- Emmet Major and the work of the Western Regional Drug Task Force
- Brid Walsh and David Creed in the North Dublin Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Planet Youth Cavan and Monaghan Implementation Group Members
- CMETB IMoU signatory on behalf of all Interagency partners
- Our education centres schools and youth reach centres - who are supporting the survey implementation through their centres

- Youth and Community Planet Youth Implementation volunteers who are supporting the survey implementation
- Our young people who have participated in the survey
- Our funders
 - Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
 - North Eastern Regional Drug Task Force
 - Cavan County Council
 - Monaghan County Council
 - Cavan County Local Development
 - Monaghan Integrated Development
 - Cavan CYPSC
 - Monaghan CYPSC
 - Tusla PPFS
 - Youth Work Ireland Cavan and Monaghan

Planet Youth is being introduced to Cavan & Monaghan with the aim of embedding it in a systematic and strategic manner. It requires a significant change in how we prioritise and invest in prevention. In order to support stakeholders to embrace this change, a series of resource documents will be produced over time to supplement this framework.









(



Planet Youth Implementation Group

Maureen McIntyre, Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board

Caolan Faux, Youth Work Ireland

Collette Deeney, Monaghan Children and Young People's Services Committee

Stephanie Kane & Andy Ogle, North Eastern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Ste Corrigan, Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee

www.planetyouthpartner.ie



























