



Help Shape a Better Future for Children and Young People

Becoming a CYPSP Partner



Working Together to Improve Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming a CYPSP partner. This pack explains what CYPSP is, how it contributes to Children's Services Planning and what membership involves.

Why the CYPSP Matters

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is Northern Ireland's multi-agency partnership for improving outcomes for children, young people and families. It brings together organisations from statutory, community, voluntary and faith sectors to provide shared leadership, strategic direction and collaborative action. By bringing partners together around shared priorities and outcomes, CYPSP helps ensure that children, young people and families receive the right support at the right time.

The Children's Services Planning Context

Children's Services Planning has been a statutory requirement since 1998 and was strengthened through the Children and Young People's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.

CYPSP is the primary partnership through which organisations work together to develop and deliver the Children's Services Plan. Through regional and local structures, CYPSP supports collaboration, promotes early intervention and prevention, and helps align effort around shared priorities and outcomes for children, young people and families.

How CYPSP is Evolving

CYPSP is moving towards a model based on shared ownership, collective leadership and accountability for outcomes. We want a partnership where organisations actively contribute rather than simply attend, where partners champion agreed priorities within their own organisations, collaborate between meetings, influence beyond organisational boundaries and work together to deliver meaningful improvements in the lives of children, young people and families.



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What can you expect from CYPSP?

CYPSP provides a unique opportunity to help shape the future of services and support for children, young people and families across Northern Ireland. As a partner, you will be able to influence priorities and decision-making, contribute your expertise and lived experience, collaborate with leaders from across sectors, strengthen professional networks and learn from the experiences of others.

Partners benefit from access to shared intelligence, evidence and learning, support from the Children's Services Planning Team, regular communication on priorities and progress, and opportunities to contribute to meaningful system-wide improvement. Most importantly, partnership provides the opportunity to work collectively with others to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families.

What does CYPSP expect from partners?

CYPSP is seeking partners who recognise that improving outcomes for children, young people and families is a shared responsibility. Effective partners think beyond organisational boundaries, contribute their expertise and influence, embrace collective leadership, and champion collaboration, accountability and continuous improvement.

Partners are expected to participate actively in the work of the Partnership, contribute insight, evidence and professional expertise, champion agreed priorities, support collaboration across organisations and sectors, and communicate effectively with their organisation, network or community. Partners should use their influence to support shared priorities and contribute to the delivery of meaningful improvements for children, young people and families.

Above all, CYPSP expects partners to work collaboratively, support collective decision-making, and help create a culture of shared ownership and accountability for improving outcomes.



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Recruitment & Selection

Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) manages recruitment to CYPSP on behalf of the Partnership. CiNI coordinates recruitment processes, promotes opportunities, manages applications and supports fair, transparent and inclusive selection arrangements. Applicants will be asked to complete an Expression of Interest outlining their experience, expertise and ability to contribute to the work of the Partnership. Further information on terms of appointment, time commitment and expectations will be provided during recruitment rounds. Partners are normally appointed for a three-year term.

Time Commitment

CYPSP recognises the significant demands already placed on organisations and individuals. Participation is intended to add value by providing opportunities to influence decision-making, strengthen collaboration and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

Partners are expected to:

- Attend scheduled meetings or nominate an agreed substitute where appropriate.
- Read papers and information circulated in advance of meetings.
- Contribute to discussions, planning and decision-making.
- Share relevant information and learning within their organisation, sector or network.
- Support agreed actions and priorities between meetings where appropriate.

The level of commitment will vary depending on the role and area of work involved. Further information on meeting frequency and expectations will be provided as part of the recruitment process.

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Support for Partners

CYPSP is committed to ensuring that partners are supported to contribute effectively to the work of the Partnership.

Partners can expect:

- ✓ Access to relevant information, evidence and intelligence to support planning and decision-making.
- ✓ Regular communication on CYPSP priorities, activity and progress.
- ✓ Opportunities to connect and collaborate with colleagues from across sectors.
- ✓ Information and resources to support participation in CYPSP structures.
- ✓ Support from the Children's Services Planning Team in relation to the operation of CYPSP structures and processes.

Our Collective Challenge

Children, young people and families face increasingly complex challenges that no single organisation can address alone.

The purpose of CYPSP is to bring organisations together to better understand need, align effort, share expertise and work collectively to improve outcomes. Achieving this requires strong partnerships, shared leadership and a commitment to collaboration.

Children, young people and families benefit most when organisations work together, share expertise and align their efforts around common priorities. By becoming a CYPSP Partner, you can play an important role in shaping the future of Children's Services Planning and helping to improve outcomes across Northern Ireland.

If you are committed to improving outcomes and believe in the value of partnership working, we hope you will consider joining us.

