**Tender to carry out an analysis of contributing and impacting factors regarding three cohorts:**

1. **Early school leavers (those at risk of or who have experienced early school leaving).**
2. **Those not in education, training or employment (NEETS).**
3. **Young people engaged with the Tusla Aftercare service. Aimed at young people 10 -24 years of age in Tipperary.**

Issued by: Tipperary Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC)

**1. Introduction**

Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC) are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. They are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people, and their families receive improved and accessible services. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and improve outcomes for children and young people across Ireland.

One of the ongoing priorities on Tipperary CYPSC’s Children and Young People’s Plan is the issue of children and young people disengaging from education and at risk of leaving school early and those who have experienced leaving school early. Tipperary CYPSC wish to undertake an analysis to better understand what way to address this priority locally and how the national policy context seeks to address issues of early school leaving and national supports in place where early school leaving occurs. Furthermore we want the analysis to quantify the number of children and young people in Tipperary that are at risk of and who are early school leavers. The analysis should map and identify ‘alternative’ education support programmes in operation in Tipperary and provide a report on the nature of these programmes, who they serve, where they operate and their metrics of success. It should also use a case study approach to demonstrate established programmes in other areas, along with pathways for funding which may be suitable for implementation in Tipperary based on qualitatively and quantitatively identified factors for this cohort in Tipperary.

There is a relationship between early school leavers and young people not engaged with education, employment and training support services (NEETS). We expect this analysis to weave into this cohort from the initial early school leavers analysis and incorporate similarly a map of education, employment and support services available in Tipperary and analyse these against the policy context and national supports in place where disengagement with education, employment and training support options has occurred. To the extent possible we want the analysis to quantify the number of young people in Tipperary that are NEETS. The analysis should report on the nature of supports available, who they serve, and where they operate and their metric of success. It should use a case study approach to demonstrate established programmes in other areas along with pathways for funding which may be suitable for implementation in Tipperary based on the qualitative and quantitatively identified factors for this cohort in Tipperary.

Using the analysis of early school leavers and NEETS the analysis should funnel down to the cohort of young people engaged with the Tusla Aftercare service. There should be an analysis of the aftercare supports for these young people across the county which should identify any significant gaps that exists in service provision.

A clear action plan will be developed in line with the structure of current CYPSC Children and Young People’s Plans for these cohorts.

This analysis will inform both the **Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)** and relevant priorities under the **Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**, particularly actions relating to youth engagement, education, and aftercare supports.

This initiative aims to gain a deep understanding of the factors contributing to disengagement from education locally. And needs that arise regarding further education, training and employment opportunities for young people, who have disengaged at a younger age in their education pathways. Young People engaged with Tusla Aftercare service can have particular factors impacting on their access to pathways of support. Through this initiative it is expected these impacting factors will be identified for each of these cohorts, so that a clear action plan to address needs and gaps in service provision of supports can be responded to.

**2. Objectives of the Tender**

The successful applicant will be expected to:

Include desktop exploration of existing data and information sources such as policy, plans and strategies to identify national and local trends and provide context for the analysis. This should inform the analysis and not form the analysis.

Using the national and local policy context, along with qualitative information the research should identify the cohorts of young people aged 10-24 years that are out of school, at risk of or have experienced early school leaving (e.g. school refusal, expulsion can’t access another school, disability - lack of special units). Those not engaged in education, employment or training support services (NEETS). Those who are engaged with Tusla Aftercare service provision. Outline what provisions are currently available to address identified needs of the cohorts of the analysis.

Identify impacting factors on the cohorts of the analysis in the age range of 10-24 years by demographic, geographic by the five MD areas of the county, and systemic factors.

Quantify as far as is possible the numbers of children and young people at risk of early school leaving, who have experienced early school leaving, those not in education, employment or training supports and those engaged with Tusla Aftercare services across Tipperary.

Identify support programmes/services in operation in Tipperary and provide a report on the nature of these programmes, who they serve, where they operate and their metrics of success.

Case Study examples on demographic and geographic factors which would refer to systemic factors to contextualise the data.

Case study examples of models and innovative solutions to the topics of the analysis, including any challenges to service delivery.

Engaging with the various cohorts, their families and professionals working with them to form the analysis will be a key component of this work. The working group supporting the analysis will co-identify the relevant stakeholders with the successful applicant. It will be the applicant’s responsibility to engage with those identified.

Identify current provision of supports available across the county for the cohorts of the analysis and needs in support provision correlating to the qualitative data gathered from the cohorts of the analysis and relevant stakeholders.

Identify gaps in data sources, and systems to manage and track status of the cohorts of the analysis.

Create an action plan for each of the cohorts of this analysis, based on the template of the Children and young People’s Plan’s, to respond to the findings of the analysis. This action plan should be developed with relevant stakeholders, with key convenors for actions identified through agreement with stakeholders. It is expected this would involve in-person sessions to co-develop actions through an interagency approach.

It is expected there will be a need for in-person meetings, focus groups and other engagement processes which are best suited to in-person meetings. The working group will support identification of venues; it will be the applicant’s responsibility to arrange any booking of venues.

**3. Target Groups**

The needs analysis should respond to:

Young people aged 10 – 24 in Tipperary who are at risk of or have experienced early school leaving, are not engaged with education, training or employment supports (NEETS), and also those engaged with Tusla Aftercare service.

Relevant stakeholders working with these cohorts and their families. The working group supporting the analysis will co-identify the relevant stakeholders, however initial analysis of existing service provision from desktop research may further identify relevant stakeholders.

**4. Scope of Work**

The successful applicant must:

Carry out a comprehensive analysis which will identify the national policy context for early school leavers/NEETs young people and young people supported through Tusla Aftercare service - using desk research, quantitative research (CSO, Tusla, Dept. of Education) and qualitative research to include one-to one interviews/focus groups or other appropriate methodology with parents/young people and relevant agencies, education bodies that support children and young people who are at risk of or have left school early.

Address key risk areas associated with the cohorts of the analysis, including:

* Personal Factors: Mental health, self-esteem, motivation, learning disengagement.
* Environmental Factors: Poverty, ACEs, family disruption, marginalisation.
* School-Based Factors: Negative experiences, inflexible curricula, weak engagement.
* Behavioural Reactions: Absenteeism, withdrawal due to trauma or stress, emotional based avoidance and any other identifiable factors.
* Geographical Factors: Rural and urban considerations.

**5. Key Deliverables**

Proposals must detail how the following will be achieved:

Outline the methodology to deliver a robust needs analysis report with clear findings, action plan and recommendations where appropriate. The methodology should consider a phased approach with interim deliverables.

Design of actions and any recommendations should be child and youth-centred, trauma-informed, and inclusive. This should occur through co-development will relevant stakeholders on the findings of the analysis.

Implement gathering of qualitative data through engagement with relevant stakeholders, and identification of who relevant stakeholders are. The working group for this analysis will support identification with applicant.

**6. Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must demonstrate:

Experience in conducting research and needs analyses, with understanding of children and young people and the cohorts of this analysis.

Multi-disciplinary capabilities and interagency collaboration experience.

Compliance with safeguarding, child protection, and governance standards.

**7. Evaluation Criteria**

 **Weighting**

Approach to methodology of the needs analysis, to consider feasibility and

innovation. Consultations for qualitative engagements should be strongly

considered. Outlining phased approach with interim deliverables and costings

of each phase. 25%

Overview of understanding of the cohorts of the analysis 10%

Organisational experience and team capacity (experience drafting

strategic documents, needs analysis reports, researching geographical

area/thematic area of interest) 25%

Value for money and resource use 15%

Clear outline of timeframe for delivery of the analysis and proposed work

schedule for delivery. Detailing how you will monitor your work and provide

project management throughout the analysis. Including how you will liaise

with the working group for the analysis 25%

**8. Submission Requirements**

Applicants must submit:

* A project proposal (max 15 pages) outlining methodology for the needs analysis and proposed action plan. How you intend to carry out qualitative engagements with relevant stakeholders. How you propose to phase the analysis with interim deliverables.
* Organisational profile and CVs of key personnel.
* References from at least two comparable projects.
* Evidence of tax clearance, insurance, and child safeguarding compliance.
* A demonstrable track record in strategic planning, data gathering and analysis, facilitation and consultation.
* A thorough understanding of the purpose of the project.
* A proposed work plan/Gantt chart and schedule, including a timeline for tasks and related costs. Showing interim deliverable stages.
* Detailed costings of projected budget, which must be inclusive of travel, subsistence and vat. The budget should correspond to the phased delivery approach and interim deliverables. Payment scheduling will be aligned to interim deliverables.
* Name of person responsible for fulfilment of contract.
* Examples of previous similar work completed.

**9. Contract Duration**

Initial contract duration is 8 months to the end of April 2026, beginning September 2025.

**10. Budget**

Applicants must include a detailed costed budget. Total available funding is €17,000 fully inclusive of vat and any other costs.

**11. Submission and Queries**

Deadline for Submission: Friday 22nd August 2025

Submission Email: stephanie.ocallaghan1@tusla.ie

Clarification Deadline: Wednesday 6th August 2025, Queries to: stephanie.ocallaghan1@tusla.ie

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.