



Developing & Implementing our Family Assessment & Intervention Model

Kildare Youth Services in partnership with TUSLA, the Child & Family Agency



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Youth Services
Youth Work Ireland

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Introduction to Kildare Youth Services

Developing the model

Implementation



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Kildare Youth Services

are responsible for a range of community-based projects that work with young people, children & families across County Kildare and West Wicklow. KYS manages 17 individual projects through an integrated service model including:

- **Six SPY projects in Kildare Town, Athy, The Curragh, Newbridge, Leixlip and Naas(incorporating Clane);**
- **Two Garda Youth Diversion Projects in Celbridge and The Curragh/Newbridge;**
- **A Youth Information Service based in Naas, but serving the whole of County Kildare**
- **A weekly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender drop-in space (KLGBT+)**
- **Co. Kildare Comhairle na nÓg**
- **Five therapeutic projects:**
 - **Naas Child & Family Project working with children & families in need in the Naas area;**
 - **Youth Counselling Service, in Naas; Leixlip; Celbridge; Newbridge; Kildare Town, Rathangan & Athy;**
 - **The HALO Project, an adolescent substance misuse project covering Kildare & West Wicklow.**
 - **The FAIM (Family assessment & Intervention Model) Project in Kildare & West Wicklow;**
 - **EOLAS, a mental health information and support programme for people with and in recovery from schizophrenia spectrum and bipolar disorders, their families and close friends,**
 - **A Community Employment Scheme whereby KYS supports up to 30 people to re-engage in the workplace in a variety of roles, predominantly youth work assistants but also administration, finance, caretaking, maintenance etc., and**
 - **21 volunteer-led youth clubs across Kildare (and recently including West Wicklow)**



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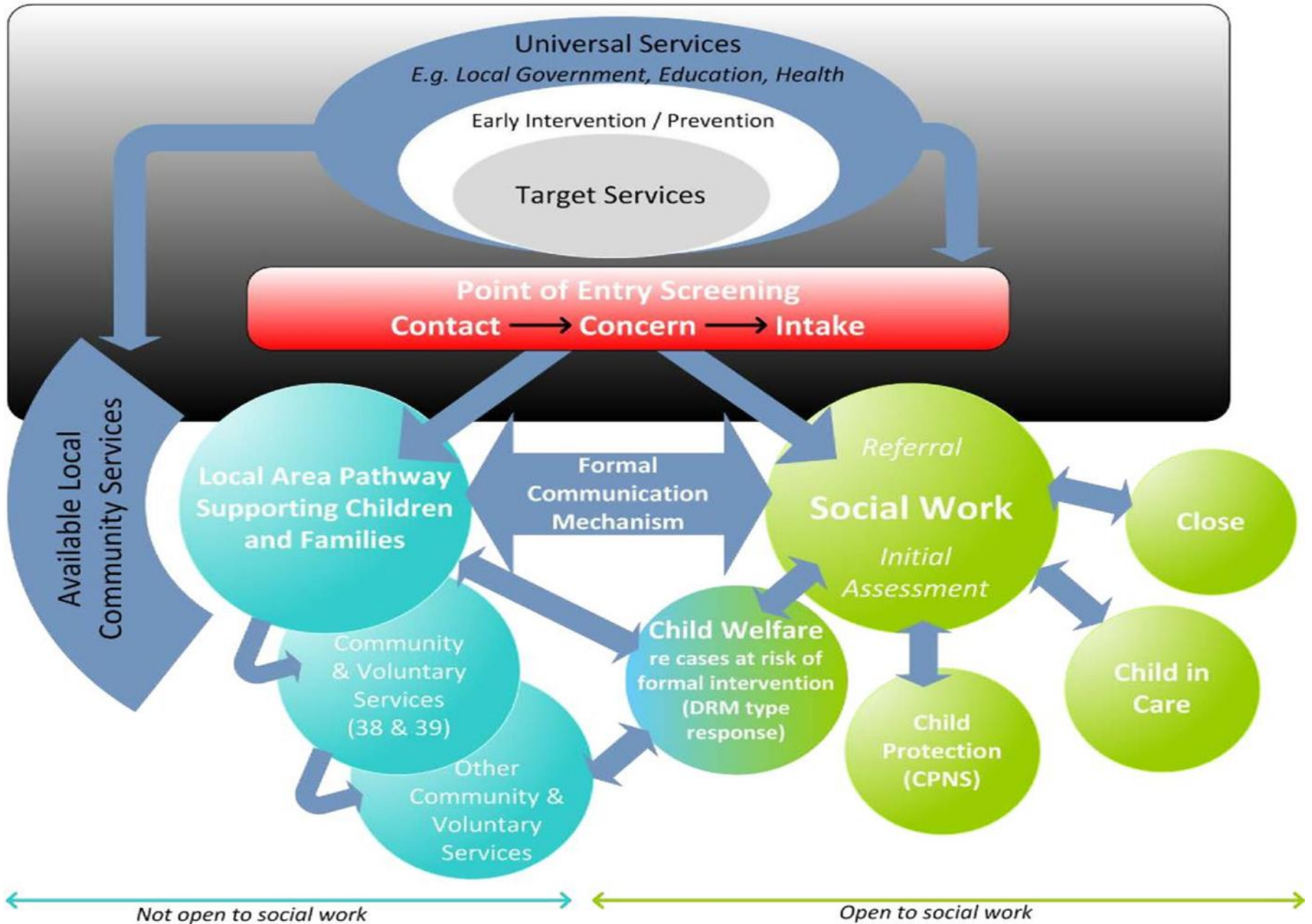
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Developing the model

Principles Underpinning our approach

A number of important principles underpinned our approach to creating an assessment & intervention model for child welfare concerns as a partnership between Kildare Youth Services and TUSLA Children & Family Services. We required that the model must:

- Be child-centred
- Be rooted in a shared vision
- Work with children within families
- Build on the strengths of children and families as well as identifying difficulties
- Have an inter-agency approach to assessment and the provision of services
- Provide action and services in parallel with the assessment process
- Be outcome-focused and grounded in evidence-based practice.





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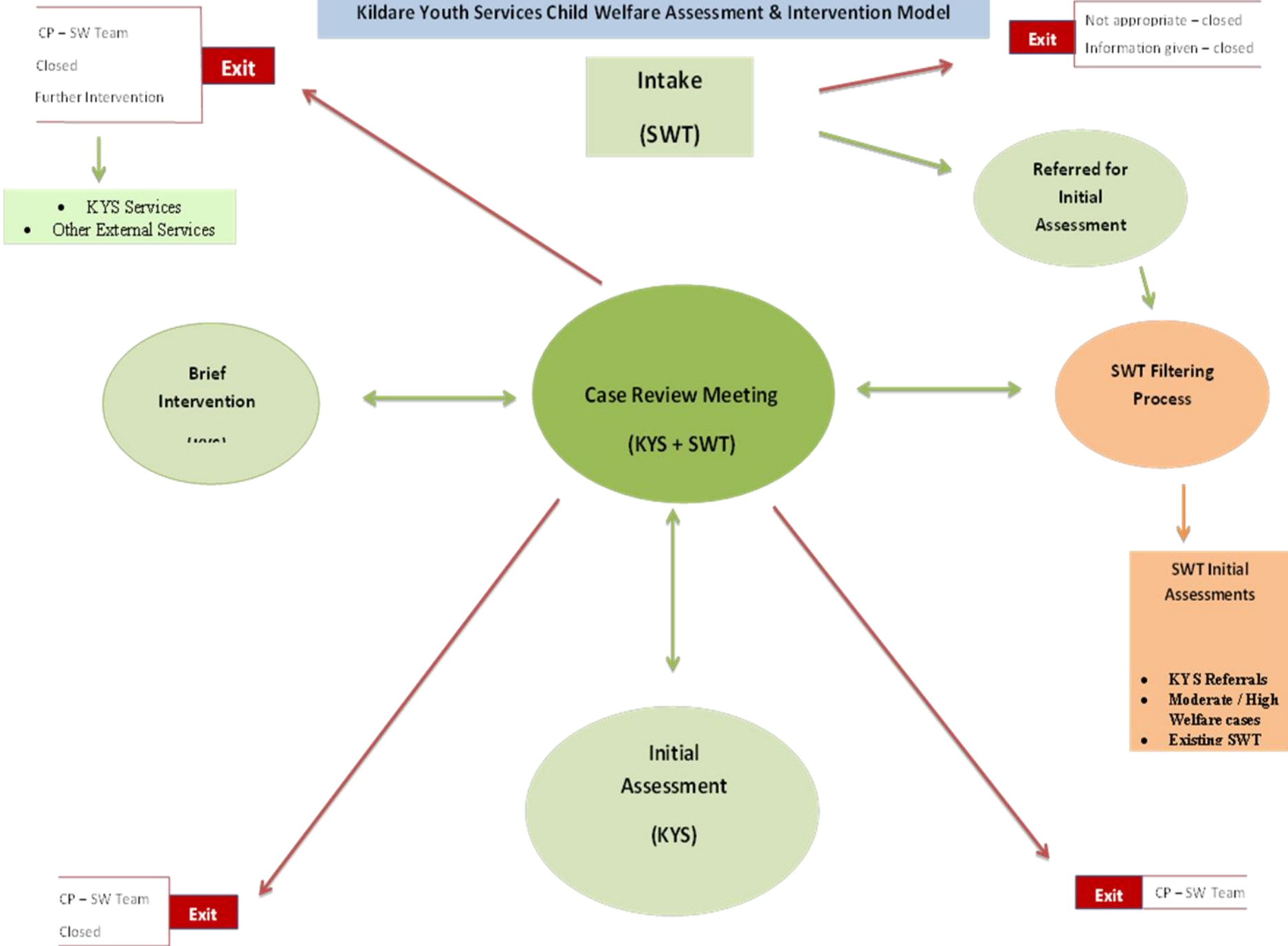
Challenges

- Managing Change
 - Flexibility
 - Listening
 - Pace
- Inter-agency relationships
- Thresholds
- Case loads
- Professional respect

Timetable

- Development phase January 2013 to May 2014
- Pilot phase May 2014 to October 2014
- Phased growth November 2014 to Present

Kildare Youth Services Child Welfare Assessment & Intervention Model



CP - SW Team

Closed

Further Intervention

Exit

- KYS Services
- Other External Services

Brief Intervention (KYS)

Intake (SWT)

Exit

Not appropriate - closed
Information given - closed

Referred for Initial Assessment

Case Review Meeting (KYS + SWT)

SWT Filtering Process

SWT Initial Assessments

- KYS Referrals
- Moderate / High Welfare cases
- Existing SWT

Initial Assessment (KYS)

CP - SW Team

Closed

Exit

Exit

CP - SW Team



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Developing the model

Clear Protocols

- Case Review meeting (**R**eview **E**valuate **D**irect)
- Assessment process
- Brief Intervention
- Communication, consent, & Data Protection
- Consistent with the Standard Business Process



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Implementing the model

- Better than expected or feared!!!
- Affirming – professionally.
- Challenging
- Impact

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Conclusions

- Conditions for success
 - Mutual respect
 - Positive relationships
 - Professional Confidence

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Questions



What are you afraid of?

- Is this right for your organisation?
- Do you have a choice? A real choice?
- Impact on youth work / youth services?