Teacher Resource Sheet

Whose job is it?

What this lesson is for

Children learn that everyday services near school are looked after by different bodies, and practise choosing who to tell about a local problem. The map and card sort come first so reasons stick before the sheet asks them to choose contacts.

In the curriculum (NCCA Primary SEE, 2025)

Stage 4, My locality: People and places. Geography: identify and develop an understanding of the services in the community for which the local government and community groups are responsible.

Before the lesson

- Print one activity sheet for each child; it comes with the lesson.

How the lesson runs

1. Where are we?	5 min	4. Write it in your copy	3 min
2. Read and learn	8 min	5. What did we find?	10 min
3. Sort the services	15 min	6. What we learned	5 min
Then the activity sheet, at the children's desks			about 14 min

Teaching tips

- Step through the slides on the board and keep the four box labels visible during the sort activity, each with one plain example already under it.
- Pre-place two obvious cards yourself as models, then call children up one at a time to drag the remaining cards while the class watches and agrees or disagrees.
- During the copybook moment, walk the room and read a few answers over shoulders.
- After the sort, collect answers on which box held the most services near school.

What to watch for

- Children sometimes sort a service without giving a reason. Ask the child to explain why it fits that box before moving on.
- Children may confuse the council with services for the whole country. Refer back to the definitions shown on the board in step two.
- Children may choose the same body for every problem on the sheet. Discuss that different issues may need different contacts.
- **A common wrong idea:** “Everything on our street is one body's job.” Point to two sorted cards from different boxes, such as street lights and a supermarket. Same area, different jobs. Ask whose job each one is and why.

Lesson 1

Help and stretch

- For support, give the first card with a short reason yourself, then pass an easy card to a child who needs a clear start.
- For extension, after placing a card, ask which service from the map in step one would go in the same box.
- For support, point children who are stuck back at a service named in step one or a card from the sort.

If you are short of time

Use fewer sort cards after the two models, about six child turns. Keep the copybook lines and the closing finding.

Background for you

In Ireland, the local council runs many services people meet outdoors or nearby: roads and potholes, street lights, public libraries, parks and playgrounds. The fire brigade is usually organised at local level too. Other services are run for the whole country, including the Gardaí, primary schools, and drinking water to homes.

Community groups run things people join or volunteer for, such as a sports club pitch or a litter pick. Businesses run shops and many private services, such as a private bin lorry. Who looks after a service is not the same question as who pays the bill or how well it is working this week. Some services sit in two boxes when the reason is clear: the council still sets waste rules even when a firm collects the bins.

Key words

service	something people use that someone must run and pay for
council	the group that runs many services for a county or city
community group	people who join or volunteer to run something local
business	a shop or company that sells goods or a paid service

Children will ask

Who pays for the street lights? The council usually pays from local funds. This lesson names who looks after a service. It does not show the bill or the exact money.

Can one service go in two boxes? Yes, if the reason is clear. A private bin lorry is a business, and the council still sets rules about waste. Say both jobs, not both at random.

Activity sheet answers

1. Who would you tell? For each Millbrook problem, circle who you would tell first.
1 the council. 2 the council. 3 the sports club. 4 the council. 5 the shop. 6 the post office.

2. Explain Pick one Millbrook problem. Who would you tell, and why?
A good answer names one Millbrook problem, circles or states who to tell, and gives a reason tied to whose job it is. Example: I would tell the council about the pothole because the council looks after the roads.