The use of the term “Commissioning” into the lexicon of Irish policy for children and families is new and relatively untested. Defined by Tusla, the new Child and Family Agency as “the process of deciding how to use the total resources available for children and families in order to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective, equitable, proportionate and sustainable way” it reflects an ambition to standardize systems for procuring services for children and young people to reflect evidence-based/informed, outcome-oriented, cost-efficient considerations. This trend toward a “whole systems” approach to commissioning has been part of a public sector reform agenda in other jurisdictions most notably the UK since the mid-2000s (Williams et al, 2012) with questions asked about whether outcomes-based service commissioning makes a difference (Boviard and Davies, 2011). In advance of the implementation of a commissioning strategy by Tusla, this workshop explores some technical aspects of what commissioning involves, what international research tells us about the experience of the value of commissioning, and considers the potential implications for community and voluntary sector providers of services for children and young people in the Irish context.