



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Social Inclusion Report Incorporating Annual Reports for 2015 & 2016

November 2018



Published by
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1

ISBN: 978-1-908109-50-7

Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection
Dublin, Ireland
November 2018

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Minister's Foreword



I welcome the publication of this report which details the implementation of the updated 'National Action Plan for Social Inclusion' for the years 2015 and 2016. The report outlines progress on the 14 high level goals across the five lifecycle categories of children, working age, older people, people with disabilities and communities, while additional related developments are also reviewed.

This report highlights the combined effort across all government departments to work towards our goal of reducing poverty in Ireland.

The national social target for poverty reduction agreed by Government in 2012 is to reduce consistent poverty from 6.3% in 2010 to 4% by 2016 and to 2% or less by 2020. This was an ambitious target, particularly during a time of economic recession, but one to which the Government has remained committed.

Data from the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) indicate that consistent poverty rose sharply after 2010, to a peak of 9.1% in 2013. The latest SILC 2016 data, released by the CSO in December 2017, indicate that this had reduced to 8.3%. A reduction of 6 percentage points would now be required to meet the 2020 poverty target.

The impact of the recovery is not yet fully reflected in the latest data, which reflect income conditions in 2015-2016. Since then unemployment has fallen from 9.4% in mid-2015 to 5.9% in early 2018. The number of people in receipt of working-age income and employment supports has also continued to fall.

The most recent Labour Force Survey figures are clear evidence that the Government's Strategy on Jobs is working. Since 2012 the number of jobs in the economy has risen by over 350,000 with over 2.2 million people now at work in Ireland. Reforms such as the new Pathways to Work strategy; Pathways to Work 2016 – 2020, the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024 and the new National Skills Strategy 2025 - Ireland's Future, have all made a significant contribution to the recovery in employment in an inclusive manner while enabling employers to continue to grow their businesses.

Targeted developments such as those outlined in this report, including; the introduction of Free GP care for children under 6, the publishing of the Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty 2016-2019 and the Government's commitment to publish a Migrant Integration Strategy are all contributing to a multi-dimensional approach to tackle poverty and inequality in Ireland.

Combatting poverty remains a fundamental aspiration of Irish society and the Programme for a Partnership Government includes a firm commitment to develop a new Integrated Framework for Social Inclusion, to tackle inequality and poverty. This will be a successor to the 'National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016' (NAPinclusion) and its 2015-2017 update.

My Department has started preparations for a new four year plan for the period 2018-2021. Like its predecessor, the plan will have a 'whole of Government' approach that aims to improve outcomes for the vulnerable and marginalised in our society, while recognizing a shared responsibility across Government to implement actions to achieve the overall objectives. The theme of the new plan is one of active inclusion, which will enable every citizen, notably the most disadvantaged, to fully participate in society, including having a job.

Stakeholder engagement continues to be a core theme of government policy to tackle poverty. In addition to the annual Social Inclusion Forum the department has undertaken a wider public consultation on the new plan.

Although 2015 saw the first reduction in the number of children in consistent poverty since 2008, child poverty rates in Ireland are still too high. I believe we must support the most financially vulnerable but with a particular focus on improving the incomes of families, including lone parent families, with children. We will continue to face this challenge through targeted improvements similar to those introduced in the 2018 Budget and we will continue to strive to take all children out of poverty. It is my intention that Government policies will continue to improve living standards in a manner that is felt in the daily lives of individuals, families and communities across the country.



Regina Doherty TD

Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Ráiteas ón Aire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí



Cuirim fáilte roimh fhoilsiú na tuarascála seo ina mionsonraítear cur chun feidhme an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta nuashonraithe do na blianta 2015 agus 2016. Leagtar amach sa tuarascáil an dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis na 14 sprioc ardleibhéil a bhaineann leis na cúig chatagóir seo a leanas de thimthriall na beatha: leanaí; aois oibre; daoine scothaosta; daoine faoi mhíchumas; agus pobail. Déantar athbhreithniú inti freisin ar fhorbairtí gaolmhara breise.

Leagtar béim sa tuarascáil seo ar an gcomhiarracht atá déanta i ngach roinn de chuid an rialtais maidir le hoibriú i dtreo ár sprice chun an bhochtaineacht a laghdú in Éirinn.

Is é an sprioc náisiúnta shóisialta arna chomhaontú ag an Rialtas in 2012 maidir leis an mbochtaineacht a laghdú ná an bhochtaineacht sheasta a laghdú ó 6.3% in 2010 go 4% faoi 2016 agus go 2% nó níos ísle faoi 2020. Ba sprioc uaimhianach é sin, go mór mór le linn cúlaithe eacnamaíochta, ach is sprioc í dá bhfuil an Rialtas tiomanta i gcónaí.

Léirítear i Suirbhé na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh maidir le Dálaí Ioncaim agus Maireachtála (SILC) gur tháinig ardú gear ar an mbochtaineacht sheasta i ndiaidh 2010, go buaic 9.1% in 2013. De réir na sonraí is déanaí ó SILC 2016, arna eisiúint ag an bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh i mí na Nollag 2017, bhí laghdú go 8.3% tar

éis teacht air sin. Bheadh laghdú 6% ag teastáil anois chun sprioc 2020 maidir leis an mbochtaineacht a bhaint amach.

Níl tionchar an téarnaimh le feiceáil go hiomlán fós sna sonraí is déanaí, ina léirítear dálaí ioncaim in 2015-2016. Ó shin i leith, tá an ráta dífhostaíochta tar éis titim ó 9.4% i lár 2015 go 5.9% go luath in 2018. Tá laghdú tar éis teacht ar bhonn leanúnach ar an líon daoine ag aois ioncam a bhfuil tacaíochtaí oibre agus fostaíochta á bhfáil acu.

Is fianaise shoiléir iad na figiúirí ón Suirbhé ar Lucht Saothair is deanaí go bhfuil éifeacht ag baint le Straitéis an Rialtais i leith Fostaíochta. Ó bhí 2012 ann, tá méadú níos mó ná 350,000 tar éis teacht ar líon na bpost atá sa gheilleagar agus tá breis agus 2.2 milliún daoine ag obair in Éirinn anois. Tá athchóirithe amhail an straitéis Bealaí chun na hOibre; Bealaí chun na hOibre 2016-2020; an Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas, 2015-2024; agus an Straitéis Náisiúnta Scileanna 2015 - Todhchaí na hÉireann tar éis cur go mór leis an téarnamh ó thaobh fostaíochta de ar bhealach ionchuimsitheach, agus tá siad tar éis fostóirí a chumasú chun leanúint dá ngnóthais a fhorbairt ag an am céanna.

Tá na forbairtí spriocdhírthe go léir amhail na cinn a leagtar amach sa tuarascáil seo lena n-áirítear cúram Dochtúirí Ginearálta in aisce do leanaí faoi bhun 6 bliana a thabhairt isteach; Straitéis chun Tearcrochtain Fuinnimh a Chomhrac, 2016-2019 a fhoilsiú; agus tiomantas an Rialtais chun Straitéis maidir le hlmeascadh Imirceach a fhoilsiú, ag cur le cur chuige iltoiseach chun dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht agus leis an éagothroime in Éirinn.

Tá sé mar bhunspríoc fós ag sochaí na hÉireann an bhochtaineacht a chomhrac agus áirítear sa Chlár um Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta an tiomantas docht atá ann chun Creat Comhtháite um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta nua a fhorbairt chun dul i ngleic leis an éagothroime agus leis an mbochtaineacht. Tiocfaidh sé sin ina chomharba ar an bPlean Gníomhaíochtaí Náisiúnta um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta 2007-2016 agus ar an nuashonrú 2015-2017 a rinneadh air.

Tá ullmhúcháin tosaithe cheana féin ag mo Roinn chun plean nua ceithre bliana a fhorbairt maidir leis an tréimhse 2018-2021. Amhail a réamhtheachtaí, beidh cur chuige idirghníomhaireachta i gceist leis an bplean sin agus é mar aidhm ag an gcur chuige sin feabhas a chur ar thorthaí do dhaoine leochaileacha agus imeallaithe inár sochaí, agus é a aithint ag an am céanna go bhfuil freagracht chomhroinnte ar fud an Rialtais maidir le gníomhaíochtaí a chur i bhfeidhm chun na cuspóirí foriomlána a bhaint amach. Is téama an phlean nua é an chuimsiú gníomhach, rud a chuireann ar chumas saoránach uile, go háirithe iad siúd is mó atá faoi mhíchumas, páirt iomlán a ghlacadh sa tsochaí, lena n-áirítear post a bheith acu.

Tá rannpháirtíocht páirtithe leasmhara fós ina croíthéama de bheartas an Rialtais maidir le dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht. Chomh maith leis an bhFóram um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta bliantúil, tá an roinn tar éis tabhairt faoi chomhairliúchán poiblí níos forleithne a dhéanamh maidir leis an bplean nua.

Cé gurbh é in 2015 a tháinig an chéad laghdú ó 2008 ar líon na leanaí atá ag maireachtáil faoin mbochtaineacht sheasta, tá rátaí na bochtaineachta do leanaí fós ró-ard. Is é mo thuairim go gcaithfidimid tacaíocht a thabhairt do na daoine is leochailí ó thaobh airgeadais de agus béim ar leith a chur ar ioncam na dteaghlach sin, lena n-áirítear teaghlaigh aon-tuismitheora, a bhfuil leanaí acu a fheabhsú. Leanaimid orainn ag tabhairt aghaidhe ar an dúshlán seo trí fheabhsúcháin spriocdhírthe a bhaint amach amhail na cinn a tugadh isteach le Cáinainnéis 2018 agus déanfaimid ár ndícheall i gcónaí chun leanaí a shábháil ar an mbochtaineacht. Is é mo rún go leanfaidh beartais an Rialtais d'fheabhas a chur ar chaighdeán mhaireachtála ar bhealach ar bhraitear i saol laethúil na ndaoine, na dteaghlach agus na bpobal ar fud na tíre.



Regina Doherty TD

An tAire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí



Chapter 1

Introduction & Context



1.1 National Context

1.1.1 National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2017 (NAPinclusion)

This Social Inclusion Report is part of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms provided for in the 'NAPinclusion'. The report covers implementation of Napinclusion measures during the period from January 2015 to December 2016. Preparation and compilation of the report was coordinated by the Social Inclusion Division (SID) of the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection, with support from relevant Government Departments that provided report material. This is the sixth report, the previous five covering the periods 2007, 2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 respectively.

Since 1997 Ireland has developed national anti-poverty strategies to provide a strategic framework in which to tackle poverty and social exclusion. The current strategy, the 'National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016' (NAPinclusion), identifies a wide range of targeted actions and interventions to support the overall objective of achieving the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction (NSTPR). The Plan adopts a life-cycle approach with goals set for each group: children; people of working age; older people and communities.

The Plan was updated for the period 2015 - 2017 to reflect the current issues and interventions to tackle poverty. This included a greater focus on modernising the social protection system, improving effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers and strengthening active inclusion policies. The Updated Plan contains 14 reformulated goals across Departments and Agencies with a remit in social policy, as part of a strategic approach to make a decisive impact on poverty over the period to 2017. The goals include a focus on early childhood development, youth exclusion, access to the labour market including measures for people with disabilities, migrant integration, social housing and affordable energy.

1.1.2 National Social Target for Poverty Reduction

Ireland has a long history of setting national targets to reduce poverty through policy frameworks such as the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the 'National Action Plan for Social Inclusion'. In 2012 the Government revised and enhanced the national poverty target as originally set out in 2007 under NAPinclusion. It was renamed the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction (NSTPR).

- The revised headline target is to reduce consistent poverty to 4 per cent by 2016 (interim target) and to 2 per cent or less by 2020, from the 2010 baseline rate of 6.3 per cent.
- The child-specific poverty target is to lift at least 70,000 children out of consistent poverty, based on the 2011 baseline rate of 107,000 by 2020.
- Ireland's contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target is to lift a minimum of 200,000 people out combined poverty (consistent poverty + at-risk-of-poverty + basic deprivation) between 2010 and 2020.

Progress towards the NSTPR is reported annually in the Social Inclusion Monitor, which includes data from the most recent CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions.¹

The latest results from the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions for 2016 shows improvements in living conditions and some progress towards the national social targets. Consistent poverty was effectively unchanged at 8.3% in 2016. Consistent poverty among children fell by 7,000 in 2016. The Irish contribution to the EU poverty target also improved, with 'combined poverty' falling by 198,000 people in 2016. Given the continuing economic recovery throughout 2017 and measures introduced in Budgets 2017 and 2018, it is reasonable to expect future figures to show further improvement.

However, there is a long way to go to achieve the national social targets.

Consistent poverty was at a low of 4.2% in 2008 during the height of the boom. It

¹ https://pdf.cso.ie/www/pdf/20190104105319_Survey_on_Income_and_Living_Conditions_2016_full.pdf

subsequently increased with the economic crisis. With the years lost between 2009 and 2012 reducing it now by over 75% is very ambitious and unlikely to be achieved. There is a commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government to review the NSTPR in 2017 in the context of the finalising of the new national anti-poverty strategy.

1.1.3 Child Poverty

In line with the child-specific poverty target, to lift over 70,000 children out of consistent poverty by 2020, the Government has committed to implementing a whole-of-government approach to tackling child poverty, building on the lifecycle approach in NAPinclusion.

The Government's child-specific poverty target is also re-affirmed in The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020 (Better Outcomes Brighter Futures).

In conjunction with its partner departments and stakeholders in the voluntary/community sector the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), as the department designated with lead responsibility for Outcome 4 under Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: Economic security and opportunity, continued to work towards the adoption of the whole-of-government approach.

In support of this process an ad hoc group, comprising partner Departments and stakeholders from the community and voluntary sector was convened to work on producing a plan on how best to tackle child poverty. The group was co-chaired by the DEASP and the Children's Rights Alliance. NGOs members include Barnardos, National Youth Council of Ireland, One Family and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Consistent poverty among children fell from 11.5% in 2015 to 11.1% in 2016. This equates to 132,000 children in 2016 (down from a peak of 152,000 in 2014). However, despite this decrease, 95,000 children still have to be lifted out of consistent poverty to meet the target by 2020.

1.1.4 NAPinclusion Reporting Mechanisms

There are a range of regular reporting mechanisms in NAPinclusion including the Social Inclusion Monitor, the Social Inclusion Forum and Social Impact Assessment amongst others.

The **Social Inclusion Monitor**² (SIM) is an annual report which monitors progress towards the national social target for poverty reduction, including the sub-target on child poverty and Ireland's contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target. It is prepared by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection based on the annual CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC). The 2016 monitor is the sixth edition and relates to 2016 SILC data³.

The **Social Inclusion Forum**⁴ (SIF) was established by the Government as part of the structures to monitor and evaluate NAPinclusion. A Social Inclusion Forum was held in both 2015 and 2016. This annual event is part of the institutional structures put in place to underpin the implementation, monitoring and on-going development of the Government's social inclusion agenda. It provides a forum for wider public consultation and discussion on social inclusion issues, in particular for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and the groups that work with them. The Forum also provides an opportunity for engagement between officials from Government Departments, community and voluntary organisations and people experiencing poverty in relation to the NAPinclusion. A conference report is prepared each year and is laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

Social Impact Assessment⁵ (SIA) is an evidence-based approach which estimates the likely distributive impact of policies on income and social inequality. Assessing the social consequences of budgetary policy is of particular importance

² <http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/SocialInclusionMonitor2015.pdf>

³ <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2016/>

⁴ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Social-Inclusion-Forum-Publications.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/SocialImpact2017.pdf>

in order to protect the most vulnerable in society and to monitor the crucial role of social transfers in preventing welfare and other recipients from falling into poverty.

The Government has developed an integrated social impact assessment to strengthen implementation of the national social target for poverty reduction and the sub-target on child poverty and to facilitate greater policy co-ordination in the social sphere. It applies social impact assessment to a range of policy issues, in conjunction with government departments and other stakeholders.

The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection has published a social impact assessment of Budgets 2015, 2016 & 2017. The social impact assessment of Budget 2017 found that welfare and income tax policies would result in an increase in average household incomes by 1 per cent (equivalent of almost €9.20 per week. Furthermore, it found that non-earning lone parents and couples with children gained most from Budget 2017 with non-earning lone parents and couples with children gaining most (up to 4.5% more). The assessment showed that social transfers continued to perform strongly in reducing poverty with an estimated 0.8 percentage point reduction in the population at-risk-of-poverty.

A review of NAPinclusion goals was conducted in 2015 as part of the 2013 & 2014 annual report to establish their continued relevance. This review indicated that some were completed or had been overtaken by circumstance or changes in policy and required updating. In such cases, appropriate text was drafted to describe new or similar activities, which was circulated to stakeholder departments for consideration /approval.

This current Social Inclusion Report 2015 & 2016 is also part of the reporting mechanisms, and concentrates on recording the actual implementation of measures envisaged in Napinclusion and the Update. In preparing this report, the Department consulted widely with the other relevant Government Departments that have responsibility for delivering the programme of actions set out in the NAPinclusion. Co-ordinators/liaison persons, in place in each department, liaised with division staff and assisted in collating material. Departments submitted updates on progress, key developments and other material.

1.2 EU & International Reporting

1.2.1 Ireland's National Reform Programme⁶

In June 2010, the European Council adopted *Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* which sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century. The Strategy reinforces interaction between economic, employment and social policies which is deemed essential to foster sustainable growth job creation and social and territorial cohesion.

As part of the Strategy, the European Council agreed five headline targets on employment; research and development; climate change; education; and poverty. The targets are seen as being interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The poverty target is to lift 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2020. As their contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target, Member States are required to set out national poverty targets based on appropriate national indicators, taking into account national circumstances and priorities.

Ireland's contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target is to lift a minimum of 200,000 people out combined poverty (consistent poverty + at-risk-of-poverty + basic deprivation) between 2010 and 2020. Member states have to report on the target and related actions in an annual National Reform Programme (NRP). There was an improvement in 'combined poverty', the Irish contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target, with the rate falling from 33.7% in 2015 to 29.2% in 2016. This equates to 1.4 million people, and represents a decrease of 21,512 on the 2010 baseline. Thus, just under 200,000 people will have to be lifted out of combined poverty to meet the Europe 2020 target.

1.2.2 Country Specific Recommendation

The National Reform Programme is also the reporting mechanism for the Country Specific Recommendations (CSR), which are agreed each year between the EU Commission and EU Member States. The two most recent Country Specific

⁶https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_of_The_Department/Economic_Division/Economic/NRP/20170419_National_Reform_Programme_2017.pdf

Recommendations issued to Ireland by the Council as part of the European Semester have referred to addressing the poverty risk of children (Council of the European Union, 2015; European Commission 2016b). Ireland's Country Specific Recommendations for 2016 in relation to social policy were to:

- Expand and accelerate the implementation of activation policies to increase the work intensity of households and address the poverty risk of children.
- Pursue measures to incentivise employment by tapering the withdrawal of benefits and supplementary payments.
- Improve the provision of quality, affordable full-time childcare.

In 2016⁷ the number of children in jobless households fell by 7.1% since 2012. There was also a fall in the proportion of children (aged 0 to 17) at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) in 2015. Long-term unemployment rose sharply in the recession, from 31,000 in 2007 to a peak of over 200,000 in early 2012. However, during the recovery, the number of long-term unemployed fell to 92,000 in 2016, down by over 112,000. Improvements have continued through 2015, both in absolute terms and in converging towards the EU average.

Based on the Eurostat Labour Force Survey there were 253,000 jobless households in 2016. Although the figure for Ireland has fallen from a high of 23% in 2012 to 17.6%, as a result of the economic recovery, the Government has set out a number of reforms including the 'Action Plan for Jobless Households', which was published in September 2017.

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has pursued a range of active labour market reforms over recent years including the roll out of two support programmes for jobseekers (Intreo and JobPath). Reforms of further education and training, aimed at promoting re-skilling and up-skilling, have also made steady and continuous progress. The Government has also achieved some success in addressing child poverty by, for example, enhancing inclusion programmes. The Housing Assistance Programme and Family Income

⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

Supplement (now known as Working Family Payment) have reduced disincentives to return to work, while access to childcare has gradually improved.

1.2.3 UN Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals was agreed at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York. These goals, which are universally applicable, represent an ambitious plan to eradicate poverty, address environmental degradation and climate change and build a more peaceful, fair and sustainable world by 2030.

The agreement of these goals sets the course for the entire world to deliver a more sustainable, prosperous and peaceful future for all. A number of these goals specifically relate to poverty and as such are relevant to the 'National Action Plan for Social Inclusion'. These include eradicating extreme poverty, reducing by half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty, and implementing appropriate social protection systems and measures. Ireland will be reporting on progress on the SDGs at regular intervals.

The following chapters will provide detail of the progress made across the range of goals set in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2015-2017, for each of the life-cycle groups. Each chapter starts with a short table outlining key points followed by more detailed updates provided by each Department⁸.

⁸ [Appendix 1 Government Department Names](#)



Chapter 2

Children

Goal 1: Early Childhood Care and Education

Continue to invest in high-quality early years care and education for all children through free pre-school provision, by supporting families with childcare costs, in particular families on low incomes, and by improving the quality of provision.

Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA)

There has been significant investment in high-quality early years and education including;

2015

- €7 million for childcare services under the Early Years Capital Programme.
- Work on the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)
- The instigation of the LINC (Leadership for Inclusion) programme
- €85 million childcare package

2016

- €6.5 million was provided for Early Years Capital Programme.
- Most of the Child Care Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 came into effect.
- The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school scheme was extended.
- The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) was introduced.
- The LINC programme commenced.
- The Affordable Childcare Scheme (ACS) introduced.

Goal 2: Literacy and Numeracy

Increase the percentages of primary children performing at the highest levels in the National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading by at least 5 percentage points at both second class and sixth class by 2020. Reduce the percentage of children performing at or below the minimum level in the National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading by at least 5 percentage points at both second class and sixth class by 2020.

Department of Education & Skills (DES)

2015

An Interim Review of the National Strategy: Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020 commenced in 2015, in order to take stock of the successes and challenges encountered with its implementation to date. This interim review involved consideration of research findings, both national and international, and a consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders.

2016

The interim review of the National Strategy: Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020 concluded in late 2016 with the publication of PISA (2015) and TIMSS (2015)

Goal 3: Participation in Education

Promote a well-educated workforce supporting Ireland's recovery and deliver high standards of living for our citizens by reducing the percentage of 18-24 year olds with at most lower secondary education and not in further education and training to 8%; and increasing the share of 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 60%.

Department of Education & Skills (DES)

Ireland has positive progress for both targets in 2015 and 2016

Early school leavers

EU2020 headline target for early school leaving is 10%.

National target set by Ireland is 8%

2015 – 6.9%

2016 – 6.3%

Target for 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education

EU2020 Target is over 40%

Ireland's target is at least 60%

2015 – 52.3%

2016 – 52.9%

Goal 4: Child Income Support

Maintain the combined value of child income supports at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate and maximize their effectiveness in reducing child poverty, while continuing to support all parents with the costs of rearing children.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)

The target to maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33% to 35% of the minimum adult social welfare rate was achieved in 2015 and 2016.

2.1 Department of Children & Youth Affairs

Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme

There have been a number of developments with the ABC Programme throughout 2015 and 2016;

- A national evaluation framework for the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme has been designed. The evaluation is in progress, and is being overseen by an International Expert Advisory Group. An interim report was expected in 2017, with the final report in 2018.
- In 2015 a task-focused group was established to examine how best to mainstream the learning from the ABC Programme in the domains of policy and provision to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- An ABC Learning Community Planning group was also established to provide areas to share learning, knowledge and practice, and support to one another to deliver effective and integrated services.
- In 2016, the Department held an EU Peer Review event, at Dublin Castle, on the theme of Prevention and Early Intervention services and their role in improving outcomes for children at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- The Department further developed and refined its plan through the Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI). The QCBI aims to take a coordinated approach to enhance the capacity, knowledge and quality in prevention and early intervention for children, young people and their families, with a focus on those who are at risk of developing poor outcomes. Four key components have been identified that aim to align data; harness evidence; enhance implementation through coaching and development; and embed prevention and early intervention approaches through a quality framework.
- Owing to their earlier transition into the ABC Programme, the three former Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) sites were due to come to the end of their contracts in mid-2016. Funding was secured to extend contracts to August 2017 in line with the rest of the sites.

Affordable Childcare Scheme (ACS)

It was announced in October 2016 that a new Affordable Childcare Scheme⁹ (ACS) would be introduced. The ACS will replace the existing targeted childcare programmes with a single, streamlined and more user-friendly scheme includes “wraparound” care for pre-school and school-age children. The new scheme will provide a system from which both universal and targeted subsidies can be provided towards the cost of childcare. It will also create a flexible platform for future investment in childcare funding supports, allowing net income thresholds to be adjusted and subsidies to be expanded to more children and families over time.

Developments in Childcare Programmes;

- The Child Care Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016: The majority of regulations came into effect in June 2016. The Regulations provide that each employee working directly with children attending the service must hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
- Early Years Capital Programme: In 2015 this programme provided €5 million in funding to community and not for profit childcare services and €2 million for both private and community childcare facilities. In 2016 funding €6.5 million was provided for Early Years Capital funding. This funding was specifically for pre-school providers who wanted to expand their services to cater for more children from September 2016. 1,006 services nationwide benefited from this measure.
- The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme: This scheme was extended so that every child would be able to access free pre-school from the age of three until they start school (entering pre-school in the September, January or April after they turn three). Children now benefit from an average of 61 weeks of the scheme, up from 38 weeks.
- The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM): AIM was introduced in September 2016. The key objective of AIM is to support pre-school providers to deliver an

⁹ affordablechildcare.ie

inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that children with a disability can fully participate in the ECCE programme, thereby reaping the benefits of quality pre-school education. AIM is a child-centered model involving seven levels of progressive support depending on the needs of the child and the pre-school.

- The LINC programme: This programme commenced in September 2016 as part of a broader package of education and training supports to upskill the early year's workforce in relation to inclusion and disability

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) - The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014-2020¹⁰

BOBF is the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people aged from birth to 24 years. It was launched by the Department of Children and Young Affairs in 2014. It establishes a shared set of outcomes for children and young people to which all government departments, agencies, statutory services and the voluntary and community sectors work, to ensure a coherent response for children and young people. The National Strategy for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making, 2015-2020 and The National Youth Strategy 2015–2020 are constituent strategies of BOBF.

The National Strategy for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making, 2015-2020 was published in June 2015. It is the first strategy on the participation of children and young people in decision-making in Europe. The goal of the strategy is to ensure that children and young people have a voice in their individual and collective everyday lives across the five national outcome areas of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. The first Annual Report on the implementation of this Strategy was published in July 2016. A practical guide to including seldom-heard children and young people in decision-making toolkit was published in 2015.

The National Youth Strategy 2015–2020, was launched in October 2015. The Strategy identifies some 50 priority actions to be delivered by Government

¹⁰ https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf

Departments, State agencies and others, including voluntary youth services. These actions were designed to address matters that are a high priority for young people themselves. They include issues such as access to online youth mental health services, a national Obesity Policy and Action Plan, opportunities for those young people furthest from the labour market, and youth entrepreneurship initiatives in schools and youth work settings.

Development of Youth Facilities and Services in Disadvantaged Areas

There was significant provision in the development of youth facilities and services in disadvantaged areas over 2015/16 including the following;

- The Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund supports in the region of 230 mainstreamed projects. Funding of €18.4m was made available in 2015 and €18.9m in 2016. This fund was established to assist in the development of preventative strategies in a targeted manner, through the development of youth facilities, including sports and recreational facilities and services in disadvantaged areas where a significant drugs problem exists or has the potential to develop.
- €1m in capital funding was made available to targeted youth services over 2015/2016. Projects and services in receipt of funding under the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund were eligible to apply.
- The implementation of the recommendations in the Value for Money and Policy Review¹¹ of youth programmes commenced in 2015 in particular, in the context of the roll out of the National Youth Strategy (NYS) 2015-2020¹², published on 8th October, 2015.
- In 2016, five VFM Sample Projects, with a total allocation of €200,000, were initiated in four areas of need: West Wicklow, South Tipperary, East Cavan and Drogheda.
- The Youth Employability Initiative, announced in October 2015, is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund to provide €600,000 for voluntary youth services

¹¹ <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/20141223ValueforMoneyYouthProjects.pdf>

¹² <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/20151008NatYouthStrat2015to2020.pdf>

for programmes for young people who are not in education, training or employment (NEET).

- The Department has embarked on an exercise, in conjunction with Pobal and each Education and Training Board (ETB) Youth Officer, which will map youth service provision across the State. This mapping exercise will assist the Department and the relevant ETB in developing a detailed socio-demographic profile in terms of both population numbers and deprivation levels.

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs)

The blueprint for the development of CYPSC was published in June 2015. In 2015 and 2016 seed funding was made available from the Department of Children & Youth Affairs to support projects chosen from the 3 year plans of each CYPSC. National roll out of the CYPSC was completed in 2016. Twenty seven CYPSC's were established with a total of 26 co-ordinators. This included 5 CYPSC's in the Dublin region and some counties sharing a CYPSC co-ordinator. All co-ordinators are employed by Tusla with joint funding from the Department and Tusla.

Pilot Bail Supervision Scheme

A pilot Bail Supervision Scheme was launched in the Dublin region in November 2016. The Bail Supervision Scheme aims to provide a wraparound service and therapeutic supports in the community for children and their families, which assists children on remand to comply with bail conditions, thus reducing the need for children to be remanded in detention. A contract was awarded to Extern to provide the Bail Supervision Scheme on a pilot basis in the Dublin area, for two years, with continuous evaluation and review.

2.2 Department of Education & Skills

National Strategy: Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020¹³

An Interim Review¹⁴ of the National Strategy: Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020 commenced in 2015, in order to take stock of the successes and challenges encountered with its implementation to date. This interim review involved consideration of research findings, both national and international, and a consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders. It concluded in late 2016 with the publication of PISA (2015)¹⁵ and TIMSS (2015)¹⁶.

The Interim Review published in 2017, has shown the considerable progress made at the mid-way point in the Strategy. Ireland's progress in promoting a high level of literacy for all has been especially impressive. Irish students ranked 3rd out of 35 OECD countries in reading in PISA 2015. It has also identified areas where additional focus is needed if Ireland wants to achieve its ambition, as set out in the 'Action Plan for Education 2016-2019', to have the best education and training system in Europe in the next nine years.

The most recent National Assessment in English and Mathematics was in 2014. The table below shows the original targets, progress recorded and the new targets set following the interim review.

¹³ https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/pub_ed_interim_review_literacy_numeracy_2011_2020.PDF

¹⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Literacy-and-Numeracy/Review-of-National-and-International-Reports-on-Literacy-and-Numeracy.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/education/pisa-2015-results-volume-i-9789264266490-en.htm>

¹⁶ <http://www.erc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/TIMSS-initial-report-FINAL.pdf>

National Assessment of English Reading and Mathematics - All Primary Schools		Target for 2020 set in 2011 Strategy	current Position (NAERM 2014)	New Target
Reading: at or above level 3	Second Class	40%	46%	50%
	Sixth Class	40%	44%	50%
Reading: at or below level 1	Second Class	30%	22%	20%
	Sixth Class	30%	25%	20%
Mathematics: at or above level 3	Second Class	40%	47%	53%
	Sixth Class	40%	42%	50%
Mathematics: at or below level 1	Second Class	30%	26%	20%
	Sixth Class	30%	27%	20%

Overall performance on English reading in Sixth class was significantly higher in NA 14 than in NA '09, by 13 score points. The corresponding effect size, 0.26, can also be considered substantively important. Significant performance increases were also observed for Reading Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension component subscales, and for the Retrieve, Infer, Integrate & Interpret and Examine & Evaluate process subscales.

Overall performance on mathematics in Second and Sixth classes was significantly higher in NA '14 than in NA '09, by 14 score points and 12 score points, respectively. The effect size at Second class was 0.28 and at Sixth class was 0.24, both of which can be interpreted as being substantively important (that is, they can be considered large).

The table below shows the results for PISA

Programme for International Student Assessment - All Post Primary Schools		Target for 2020 set in 2011 Strategy	current Position (PISA 2015)	New
Reading: at or above level 4	15 year olds		28%	33%
Reading: at or above level 5 (highest achievers)	15 year olds	No corresponding targets in 2011 strategy	7%	10%
Reading: at or below level 1	15 year olds		16%	12%
Mathematics: at or above	15 year		23%	29%

level 4	olds			
Mathematics: at or above level 5 (highest achievers)	15 year olds		6%	10%
Mathematics: at or below level 1	15 year olds		22%	16%

TIMSS 2015 (November 2016) found that, at primary level, Irish pupils' mean score in Mathematics was significantly higher in 2015 than in 2011.

The next National Assessment in English and Mathematics is due to be held in 2020.

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)

'Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) the Action Plan for Educational Inclusion', was launched in May 2005 and remains the Department of Education & Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. There were 825 schools included in the programme in the 2016/17 school year.

In 2015 'Learning from the Evaluation of Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme'¹⁷ – an Economic and Social Research Institute (ERSI) Report commissioned by the Department of Education & Skills on the implementation over ten years of DEIS was published. The report assessed the main findings of this research and provided advice to inform future policy direction in relation to educational disadvantage including DEIS.

Following on from this publication, a process to review the DEIS programme began in 2015 and was nearing completion at the end of 2016. The review process examined all aspects of DEIS. The development of a new assessment framework using centrally held Central Statistics Office and Department of Education & Skills data for the identification of schools for inclusion in a new Programme was included in the review process.

Testing was undertaken in 2016 by the Educational Research Centre and the DES Inspectorate to assess pupil achievement outcomes and planning in schools

¹⁷ <https://www.esri.ie/pubs/RS39.pdf>

participating in the DEIS Programme. Results were to be published in 2017. Further information including a range of published DEIS evaluation documents are available on the ERC website at www.erc.ie

The School Completion Programme

The School Completion Programme is a core element of the Educational Welfare Service provided by Tusla. The programme enables local communities to develop tailored strategies to maximise participation levels of those at risk of early school leaving. Tusla's Education Welfare Service has a responsibility to ensure that every child attends school regularly, or otherwise receives a certain minimum education. It supports regular school attendance, tackles problems of absenteeism and provides a general educational welfare service. The service receives referrals from school authorities, parents and others relating to concerns for the educational welfare of individual children.

A review of the operation of the School Completion Programme¹⁸ by the Economic and Social Research Institute was published in 2015. The review found that there has been an improvement in attendance levels and in the proportion of young people staying in school until Leaving Certificate. It also concluded that the School Completion Programme, along with DEIS has played an important role. Tusla has taken a number of actions to strengthen the operation of the programme, such as improving annual retention plans and having discussions with relevant stakeholders on the review findings and on how to strengthen the core functions of the programme.

The Programme for Partnership Government committed to the development of a School Completion Strategy. This Strategy was to be developed during 2017.

Participation in Education

Early school leavers are defined as 18-24 year olds with at most lower secondary education and who are not in further education and training. The EU2020 headline target for early school leaving is 10%. The national target set by Ireland is 8%.

¹⁸ <https://www.esri.ie/publications/review-of-the-school-completion-programme/>

Ireland's current share of early school leavers fell from a baseline of 10.8% in 2011 to 6.3% in 2016 representing very positive progress in excess of the target.

The EU2020 Target for 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education is over 40%, Ireland's target is at least 60%. In 2015 Ireland reached 52.3% and 52.9% in 2016.

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)

While supporting the development of the academic, social and emotional competence of all students, the Department's psychological service, NEPS, prioritises its support for students at risk of educational disadvantage and those with special educational needs.

- In 2015 NEPS produced and disseminated the Well-being in Primary Schools Guidelines for Mental Health Promotion.
- Under the 'Action Plan for Education 2016-2019' considerable priority is afforded to the support of mental health and wellbeing, in this regard, the 'Action Plan for Education 2016-2019' commits to the expansion of NEPs staffing numbers by 65 psychologists.
- During 2016 a national recruitment process commenced to form regional recruitment panels to allow for both for the recoupment of staffing losses in the NEPS services but also to commence the realisation of the staffing increase commitment.

Evaluation of Provision for Pupils with Special Educational Needs in Primary Schools¹⁹

A new evaluation model 'Evaluation of Provision for Pupils with Special Educational Needs in Primary Schools' was introduced in September 2016. It has facilitated the gathering of comprehensive and up-to-date information on the quality of provision for pupils with special educational needs in primary schools. Since its introduction;

- The model has been deployed in 15 primary schools

¹⁹ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Evaluations-of-Provision-for-Pupils-with-Special-Educational-Needs-in-Primary-Schools/>

- Thirteen subject Inspections were conducted in mainstream schools at post-primary level
- Ten evaluations were conducted in Youthreach centres
- All schools with High Support Units, Special Care Units and Children Detention Schools were inspected during 2016.

The Inspectorate expected to publish a Composite Report on the Education of Children in Detention and Care based on evaluations carried out between 2013 and 2015 in 2017. The evaluation model for these schools has also been updated, in light of the findings of the Composite report.

Special Educational Needs

The National Council for Special Education undertook a comprehensive assessment of the Special Needs Assistants (SNA) scheme and commenced work on the development of proposals for a new model for allocating SNAs. The report of the comprehensive assessment and the proposals for the new model were scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2018.

Assistive technology continues to be funded to ensure that children with special educational needs are supported in accessing the curriculum. The Department's psychological service, NEPS, amongst other services, prioritises its support for students with special educational needs.

Traveller Education

In accordance with the Traveller Education Strategy, provision for Travellers has been mainstreamed with previously segregated provision now funded as part of the mainstream system. A number of Traveller-specific supports remain in the system to assist with the transition to the mainstream system of pupils, previously provided for in segregated provision. These comprise of: 141 alleviation resource teacher posts for schools with significant numbers of Travellers. Schools receive additional pupil capitation for Travellers at a rate of €70 per pupil for Primary, and €201 per pupil for Post Primary.

The phasing out of the two remaining Traveller-only Special schools was under discussion with the schools patron.

The Department of Education & Skills participated in the Steering Group established to oversee the development and implementation of a new National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS 2016-2020), which was led by the Department of Justice & Equality (DJE).

2.3 Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) Scheme

The Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) scheme was introduced in 2015 and aims to help families to move from social welfare into employment. This is available to lone parents who move into employment including those who avail of the Family Income Supplement. The BTWFD allows customers to retain the Increase for Qualified Child (IQC) portion of their former payment, for two years, with full IQC entitlement (worth €1,550 per child) in the first year and 50% entitlement in the second year. This provides a significant incentive for families with children who move into employment – as reported by the ESRI²⁰. The Department continues to monitor the incentives for welfare recipients to transition from welfare into employment with the aim of continuing to maintain the incentive into employment.

Child Income Support

2015 saw the first reduction in the number of children in consistent poverty since 2008. A number of budget measures were introduced in relation to child income support over the two years;

²⁰ <http://www.esri.ie/pubs/Savage-Making-Work-Pay-More-BudgetPerspectives2016.16Jun15.pdf>

2015

- The monthly rate of Child Benefit rate increased by €5 from €130 to €135
- A new 2 week Paternity Benefit Scheme was introduced.

2016

- The monthly rate of Child Benefit increased by a further €5 to €140 per month.
- An increase from €9.60 to €15.60 per week in the child rate of Direct Provision Allowance paid in respect of children living within the system of Direct Provision was approved.
- As part of Budget 2016 Family Income Supplement (FIS)(subsequently renamed to Working Family Payment) increased by €5 per week for families with one child and €10 per week for families with two or more children.

The target to maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33% to 35% of the minimum adult social welfare rate was achieved in 2015 and 2016. The Department continues to monitor and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Child and Family Income Supports in reducing child poverty.

School Meals Programme

In 2015 an additional €2m was provided for School Meals in 2015 bringing the total allocation to €39m. The additional funding was used to increase funding to existing Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) schools by about 20% in most cases. Priority was given to breakfast clubs which provide very positive outcomes for vulnerable children in terms of their school attendance, punctuality and energy levels. DEIS schools not already in the scheme were encouraged to join.

In 2016 a further €3m was provided for School Meals in 2016 bringing the total allocation to €42m. This additional funding was also used so that all DEIS schools could provide of a breakfast for all pupils if required and lunch for the majority of pupils. Focus continued to be on the provision of breakfast clubs and the inclusion of existing DEIS schools not participating in the scheme.

2.4 Department of Health

Free General Practitioner (GP) care

Free GP Care for children under 6 commenced in 2015. All children registered under the Scheme can attend a participating GP without charge.

In addition to free GP visits, the GP visit card for children under 6 covers specific assessments at age 2 and 5 and enhanced care for children with asthma.

See Chapter on Communities for more information.

Medical Cards

In November 2016, the Government approved the preparation of the Heads and General Scheme of a Bill to give children in receipt of Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) automatic entitlement to a medical card. The legislation means that all children in respect of whom a DCA payment is made will automatically qualify for a medical card and, therefore, no longer be subject to the medical cards means test at any point in the future while in receipt of DCA. In the region of 30,000 DCA medical cards would be assigned.



Chapter 3

People of Working Age

Goal 5: Labour Market Activation

Provide all registered unemployed people with efficient, work-focused income supports together with the supports and direction required to help them plan and implement a pathway into employment. In particular provide people who are long-term unemployed and young unemployed with opportunities to enhance their job prospects through value-adding job search, guidance, work experience, education and training activities.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)2015

- Pathways to Work 2015 was launched. This was the last iteration of the Government's strategy covering a four year period (2012-2015) to tackle the unemployment crisis.
- An updated Pathways to Work 2016-2020 was under development within the Department.

2016

A new Pathways to Work (PtW) strategy, Pathways to Work 2016 – 2020, was published in January 2016. The strategy considers how activation approaches developed during a time of recession should be adapted for a time of recovery and as a tool of social/active inclusion during a period of prosperity.

Goal 6: Welfare to work

Provide effective support to jobseekers and recipients of the jobseeker's transitional payment (former recipients of One-parent Family Payment) via the Department's Intreo offices and provide information on available in-work supports should they transition into employment.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)

The Department of Employment Affairs Social Protection undertook an extensive reform to the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP).

2015

- The final phase of the OFP scheme reforms took place on 2 July, 2015, when the maximum child age threshold of the scheme was reduced to 7 years.

2016

- The activation of lone parents on a jobseeker's payment commenced across all offices in early 2016.

The Department's Social Impact Assessment of Budgets 2015 and 2016 shows gains for lone parents of €18.55 per week for working lone parents and €7.90 per week for non-working lone parents.

Goal 7: Youth Employment

Engage all unemployed young people under the age of 25 through Intreo, with a view to ensuring that they receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. Enhance employability skills for young people through non formal and informal learning opportunities.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)

Under the Youth Guarantee process there is now monthly engagement by Intreo case officers with unemployed young people, from the time they become unemployed, to assist them to prepare and implement personal progression plans for employment.

The number of young people who became unemployed and remained so for 4 months or more fell from a baseline of 37,200 in 2013 to;

2015 - 28,200

2016 - 23,000

The youth unemployment rate fell consistently from 2013 baseline of 27% to;

2015 - 20.3%

2016 - 17%

Goal 8: Employment of people with Disabilities

Support the increased participation of people with disabilities in work by building skills, capacity and independence; providing bridges and supports into work; making work pay; promoting job retention and re-entry into work; providing seamless support and engaging with employers, as part of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)

Department of Justice & Equality (DJE)

2015

- A ten year Comprehensive Employment Strategy (CES) was launched to ensure a co-ordinated approach to support persons with disabilities to progress into employment. This strategy is a cross-government approach co-ordinated by the Department of Justice & Equality.

2016

- Over the course of 2016, the DEASP worked in conjunction with the National Disability Authority (NDA), the HSE, the Department of Health and the Department of Education & Skills to develop an effective co-ordinated policy approach to assist individuals with disabilities, including those who require a high level of support, to obtain and retain employment.
- In October 2016 the Government announced funding of €2 million would be provided for projects to deliver pre-activation supports for people with disabilities in 2017.

2015 & 2016

- The Integrating Employment and Mental Health Support (IEMHS) aimed to demonstrate how existing mental health and supported employment (EmployAbility) services can fulfil the best practice Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment through improved integration. During the period 2015 and 2016, DEASP collaborated with the HSE, Genio and Mental Health Reform with IEMHS.

- DEASP progressively rolled out its full activation support service to people with disabilities who wish to avail of the service on a voluntary basis. The first phase of this roll-out commenced in 2015 with the service being provided in ten Intreo Centres. The service was extended to all other locations over the course of 2016.
- During 2015 and 2016 the Department conducted a range of reviews relating to illness/disability policy including:
 - An Evaluation of the EmployAbility Service.
 - The Evaluation of the Disability Activation Project
 - Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Report on Disability Allowance Survey 2015
 - Make Work Pay for people with disabilities

3.1 Department of Justice & Equality

Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024²¹

The Government launched the Comprehensive Employment Strategy (CES) for People with Disabilities in 2015 to ensure a co-ordinated approach to support persons with disabilities to progress into employment. The strategy requires a cross-government approach that brings together actions by different departments and state agencies in a concerted effort to address the barriers and challenges that impact on employment of people with disabilities.

An implementation group meets regularly to oversee the implementation of the strategy and ensure that each Government Department is fulfilling its obligations and meeting its targets.

The Linkage Programme

The Probation Service continues to advance initiatives designed to address patterns of criminal behaviour associated with social exclusion, with an emphasis on restorative justice initiatives. In particular, it has supported the extension of the Linkage Programme to increase the number of offenders successfully placed in employment, education or Community Employment schemes.

In 2015, 1,800 offenders were referred by the Probation Service to Training and Employment Officers of the Linkage Programme. 1,435 of these referrals were sent for placement and 677 individuals were placed in employment, education or Community Employment Schemes. In 2016, 1,763 offenders were referred by the Probation Service to Training and Employment Officers of the Linkage Programme, of which 1,325 were referred for placement and 614 individuals were placed in employment, education or Community Employment Schemes.

²¹<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Comprehensive%20Employment%20Strategy%20for%20People%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Comprehensive%20Employment%20Strategy%20for%20People%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

3.2 Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Pathways to Work (PtW)

The goal of Pathways is to ensure that as many jobs as possible go to people on the Live Register. Ireland has made significant progress since the nadir of the jobs crisis, when unemployment peaked at over 15%. The Pathways to Work (PtW) strategy 2012 - 2015 has played a key role in this progress.

Successive Pathways to Work (PtW) strategies have focused on:

1. Facilitating new entrants to the Live Register to get back to work (2012) – with a focus on the newly unemployed.
2. In addition, facilitating those long-term unemployed, and youth unemployed, to get back to work (2014 (Youth Guarantee); 2015; 2016-2020).
3. In addition, facilitating those currently inactive working age adults (not in receipt of Jobseeker payments) with a capacity and desire to work, to get into employment (2018-2020). People who are not defined as jobseekers in the traditional sense and may face barriers to gaining employment.

Pathways to Work – Action Plan for 2016 – 2020²²

The new strategy, 'Pathways to Work 2016 – 2020', was published in January 2016. The strategy considers how activation approaches developed during a time of recession should be adapted for a time of recovery and as a tool of social/active inclusion during a period of prosperity. Accordingly, in addition to focussing on people who are registered as unemployed and while continuing to focus on the Long Term Unemployed (LTU) and youth unemployed, activation may during a period of economic growth and recovery seek to encourage other 'non-active' cohorts to participate in the labour market.

²² <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/PathwaysToWork2016-2020.pdf>

This 'Pathways to Work Strategy' therefore takes a two-pronged approach:

1. Consolidation: Consolidating the recent reforms to the Public Employment and Welfare Services and optimising provision to maximise outcomes for its clients.
2. Development: Gradually expanding access to activation services, as resources allow, to other non-employed people of working age.

Of 86 actions in PtW 2016-2020, 42% were completed and/or on-going in 2016, including:

- Promoting Intreo services for voluntary engagers and those with a disability
- Establishment of Regional Skills Fora
- Establishment of protocols between DEASP and other employment services providers
- New apprenticeships in place

Quarterly status reports²³ on progress on all Pathways to Work actions were published on www.welfare.ie

Stepping Stones

Stepping stones to work are provided through schemes and employment initiatives such as;

Rural Social Scheme (RSS) – provides income support for low-income farmers and fishermen/women on certain social welfare payments. In return, people participating in the RSS provide services that benefit rural communities. An additional 500 places were announced in 2016.

The Tús Initiative - is a community work placement scheme, providing short-term work opportunities, targeted at the long-term unemployed. At least 1,000 places are available for younger unemployed. In addition, 20% of available places are available for assisted referrals including persons on Jobseekers Transitional

²³ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/LMC-Pathways-to-Work-Publications.aspx>

Payments (formerly One Parent Family customers).

Gateway - is a local authority labour activation scheme that provides short-term work and training opportunities for long-term unemployed people who have been on the Live Register for over 2 years. The work opportunities are to benefit the local area. In 2015 and 2016 3,000 Gateway places were available to the long term unemployed. The number of places filled at the end of 2016 was 2,913.

Community Employment (CE) schemes - is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed (or otherwise disadvantaged) to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities. New rules on community employment provide access to all from age 21; this will benefit younger unemployed who will now have earlier access. In addition certain categories e.g. drug rehabilitation, ex-offenders and refugees, will be able to access at age 18.

Job Fairs

The Department hosted a variety of Job Fairs across the country throughout 2015 and 2016, ranging from large general Career Fairs catering for a range of job categories across a variety of business sectors to smaller, sector-specific Job Fairs. Jobs Week is an annual event that provides an opportunity to promote the range of Intreo supports and services to employers and jobseekers. Jobs Week 2016 saw 160 events nationwide attended by 600 employers and over 16,000 jobseekers including;

- Intreo Careers Fair in Dublin Castle Fair (50 employers recruiting for over 500 jobs & 2,000 jobseekers attended)
- Mid- West Job Fair in Limerick (2,500 attended)
- Buncrana and Letterkenny Job Fairs (2,800 attended)
- Bio-pharma Graduate Fair in Athlone (1,000 attended)

Other events around the country included smaller sector-specific Job Fairs, 'Education, Training and Development Fairs', CV clinics and 1-2-1 coaching sessions for jobseekers.

One-Parent Family Payment (OFP)

The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection undertook an extensive reform to the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) including the introduction of the Jobseeker's Transitional Allowance (JST) for lone parent's whose youngest child is aged 7-13. The implementation of the final phase of the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) changes took place in July 2015. This involved supporting lone parents on a jobseeker's payment back into employment and commenced across all offices in early 2016. While the customer is on the jobseeker's transitional payment access to these supports are potentially available for up to seven years while their youngest child is aged 7 to 13 years. This is a much broader support than the 12 month engagement that normally applies for jobseekers from their one to one meeting. The aim of this broader support is to improve the individual's employment prospects.

Budgets 2015 and 2016 introduced a number of measures that were of benefit to lone parents including the alignment of the Jobseeker's Transitional Payment (JST) means test more closely with the One-Parent Family Payment means test resulting in a more generous means test for JST customers. The Department's Social Impact Assessment of Budgets 2015 and 2016 showed gains for lone parents of €18.55 per week for working lone parents and €7.90 per week for non-working lone parents.

Youth Employment

Under the Youth Guarantee process there is now monthly engagement by Intreo case officers with unemployed young people, from the time they become unemployed, to assist them to prepare and implement personal progression plans for employment. Where young people do not find work quickly, additional supports are offered through places on employment and training schemes. Over 80% of such offers relate to upskilling through further education and training.

The number of employees supported by the JobsPlus²⁴ scheme increased from

²⁴ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/jobsplus.aspx>

3,000 to 6,000 in 2015. All employees who qualified for JobsPlus Youth²⁵ since the changes to the eligibility criteria were introduced in February 2015 are sent a form to confirm their eligibility and this can be presented to prospective employers.

The number of young people who became unemployed and remained so for 4 months or more fell from 37,200 in 2013 to 28,200 in 2015 and to 23,000 in 2016. The youth unemployment rate fell from 27% to 17% over this period.

The following table outlines the number of new participants on youth training schemes in 2015/2016.

Programme	Number of New Participants	
	2015	2016
Youthreach/Community Training Centres	3,266	3,216
FET for unemployed people		
Momentum	1,056	122
BTEA (excl. Momentum)	2,416	2,158
VTOS	827	843
SOLAS (Former FÁS) training for unemployed	7,152	5,875
	11,451	8,998
Work Experience		
JobBridge	2,294	928*
International Work Experience and Training	8	9
	2,302	937
Temporary Employment		
Tús	1,388	1,280
Gateway	142	6
Community Employment	726	855

²⁵ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobs-Plus.aspx>

	2,256	2,141
Subsidised Private-Sector Employment		
BTWEA (self-employment)	134	123
JobsPlus, including JobsPlus Youth (employee jobs)	710	732
	844	855
	20,119	16,147

JobPath – Employment Activation Programme

In 2015 the Department introduced JobPath. This new programme of employment activation is aimed specifically at the long-term unemployed (over 12 months and including those aged under 26 years of age) and those most distant from the labour market, to assist them to secure and sustain full-time paid employment or self-employment.

Employment of People with Disabilities

The Department progressively rolled out its full activation support service to people with disabilities who wish to avail of the service on a voluntary basis. The first phase of this roll-out commenced in 2015 with the service being provided in ten Intreo Centres. The service was extended to all other locations over the course of 2016. Training has been delivered to over 60 Case Officers to provide specialised support to people with disabilities presenting at Intreo Centres.

Under the CES, the Department engages with employers on an ongoing basis and promotes existing workplace supports such as;

- EmployAbility
- the Wage Subsidy Scheme
- the Reasonable Accommodation Fund (encompassing the Workplace Equipment/Adaptation Grant)
- the Personal Reader Grant
- the Job Interview Interpreter Grant
- the Employee Retention Grant
- the Disability Awareness Training Support Scheme

During the period 2015 and 2016, the Department collaborated with the HSE, Genio²⁶ and Mental Health Reform²⁷ in the Integrating Employment and Mental Health Support (IEMHS). This pilot project aimed to demonstrate how existing mental health and supported employment (EmployAbility) services can fulfil the best practice Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment through improved integration.

Over the course of 2016, the DEASP worked in conjunction with the National Disability Authority (NDA), the HSE, the Department of Health and the Department of Education & Skills to develop an effective co-ordinated policy approach to assist individuals with disabilities.

During 2015 and 2016 the Department conducted a range of reviews relating to illness/disability policy including:

- An Evaluation of the EmployAbility Service²⁸
- The Evaluation of the Disability Activation Project²⁹
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Report on Disability Allowance Survey 2015³⁰
- Make Work Pay for people with disabilities³¹

In 2016 the Government announced funding of €2 million would be provided for projects to deliver pre-activation supports for people with disabilities in 2017.

²⁶ <https://www.genio.ie/>

²⁷ <https://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/projects/integrating-employment-and-mental-health-support-iemhs/>

²⁸ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/IndeconEvaluationofEmployAbility.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/EvaluationofDACT-FinalReport-24September2015.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/DSPReportonDisabilityAllowanceSurvey2015.pdf>

³¹ <https://m.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Make-Work-Pay.aspx>

3.3 Department of Education & Skills

Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2014-2019³²

The 'Further Education and Training (FET) strategy 2014-2019' aims to deliver a higher quality learning experience leading to better outcomes for all those who engage in it.

Active inclusion is one of the key goals of the 'FET Strategy'. Programmes are delivered for a wide range of groups who are disadvantaged or at risk of exclusion with the aim of enabling every citizen to fully participate in society.

FET is funded through SOLAS and delivered by the 16 Education and Training Boards. The Government invests over €800 million in further education and training annually through SOLAS and the Education and Training Boards, providing over 270,000 places annually to support the delivery of high quality education and training at levels 1 to 6 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to over 320,000 beneficiaries.

The Department of Education & Skills and SOLAS through the 'Strategy Implementation Advisory Committee' (SIAC) monitor the implementation of the Strategy on an on-going basis. A mid-term review of the Strategy was due commence in 2017.

National Skills Strategy to 2025 (NSS)³³

As part of the 'Action Plan for Jobs 2015', the Department of Education & Skills developed a new 'National Skills Strategy 2025 - Ireland's Future'. This was published in January 2016.

The strategy was developed in the context of significant reform in the education and training sector to ensure a more dynamic, responsive and high quality system that provides all learners with the knowledge and skills they need to participate

³² <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf>

³³ https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/pub_national_skills_strategy_2025.pdf

fully in society and the economy.

The Strategy has over 150 measures and over 50 different stakeholders and provides a framework for skills development that will help drive Ireland's growth both economically and societally over the next decade.

Regional Skills Fora

In 2016, nine Regional Skills Fora were established to foster greater engagement between the education and training system, employers and other enterprise stakeholders in building the skills of each region.

The Fora have been established to align with wider Government policy and initiatives on regional economic development, including the Regional Action Plans for Jobs. The innovative structure of the fora sees the work plan within each region being driven by key stakeholders in the region including employers, enterprises and education and training providers.

The Apprenticeship Implementation Plan³⁴

The Apprenticeship Council was established in November 2014 through the 'Apprenticeship Implementation Plan'. In January 2015 the Council made an open call for new apprenticeship proposals. The Council received 86 proposals from consortia of enterprise, professional bodies and education and training providers. Following a comprehensive evaluation process the Council identified 25 new programmes that were both sustainable and ready to enter a detailed planning and development stage.

A review of the curricula for the existing craft apprenticeship began in early 2015 and from this five curricula were validated;

- Carpentry and Joinery,
- Electrical,
- Plumbing,
- Metal Fabrication and

³⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/Apprenticeship-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic.

A further 14 curricula were submitted to Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI) for validation in December 2016.

As of 31st December 2016, two new apprenticeships have commenced, Insurance Practitioner and Industrial Electrical Engineer, with more planned for 2017.

National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education (2015-2019)³⁵

The 'National Access Plan for 2015-19' was launched in December 2015. The plan contains 5 key goals and more than 30 actions, intended to assist under-represented groups to participate in third level education. It contains a number of targets for specific categories of students, including disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, mature students, and members of the Travelling community.

The 'Access Plan' aims to mainstream the 'access' agenda so that responsibility for promoting greater diversity extends beyond designated access officers. The Plan also aims to empower students in the development of access policy, and strengthen the links between further and higher education.

3.4 Department of Children & Youth Affairs

Childcare

In 2015 the DCYA set up an Inter Departmental Group to consider future investment in childcare. That group recommended reform of the childcare schemes including, the Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) scheme and the creation of a single scheme that would be more accessible and enable subsidisation of lower income families regardless of dependency on social welfare

³⁵ <http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/06/National-Plan-for-Equity-of-Access-to-Higher-Education-2015-2019.pdf>

payments. Budget 2016 provided seed funding for the development of this new scheme and work began on its development. Examples of other investments in Childcare programmes to support parents include;

- Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme: costs for 2016 were €38,633,526 with 24,561 approved children registered for the programme call 2015/16.
- Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) scheme: costs for 2016 were €11,914,000 with 3,991 approved children registered for the programme call.
- After-School Child Care Scheme (ASCC): cost €1,515,000 for 2016 with an uptake of 669 registered childcare places for the programme call.
- Community Employment Childcare (CEC) Programme: cost €4,947,000 for 2016 with 2,505 total registrations for 2015/2016.



Chapter 4

Older People

Goal 9: Community Care

Continue to support older people to live in dignity and independence in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Where this is not feasible, support access to appropriate quality long-term residential care.

Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG)

'Rebuilding Ireland an action plan on Housing and Homelessness' was published in July 2016. It sets out a range of commitments to support older people.

Goal 10: State and Workplace Pensions

Maintain the adequacy and sustainability of State pensions and improve, where possible, outcomes through the pension reform process. Develop a roadmap and timeline for the introduction of a universal, supplementary workplace retirement saving system that considers the constituent factors involved in constructing an efficient and effective broad scheme: design features; cost estimates and phase-in timeframe.

Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)

Throughout 2015/16, the commitment to maintain adequacy of state pensions has been exceeded. The real value of the state pension in 2016 was 7% up on its 2007 level. In the same period work also continued on establishing the evidence base to underpin fundamental decisions which will be required when selecting the appropriate operational framework and design elements for a new automatic enrolment universal retirement savings system. It was intended that by end 2017 Government would detail the measures which would be taken and the timelines involved to deliver automatic enrolment when publishing a wider 5 year pension reform plan. (Subsequently published in Feb 2018)

4.1 Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government

Rebuilding Ireland an action plan on Housing and Homelessness³⁶

'Rebuilding Ireland' was published in July 2016. The comprehensive plan addresses all aspects of the housing system under five Pillars:

- Address Homelessness
- Accelerate Social Housing
- Build More Homes
- Improve the Rental sector
- Utilise Existing Housing

The plan recognises that the ageing of our population represents one of the most significant demographic and societal developments that Ireland faces in the years ahead, with the number of people over the age of 65 expected to reach 1.4 million by 2041. The implications for public policy in areas such as housing are considerable.

A new cross-Departmental/inter-agency approach will therefore be taken to progress housing initiatives for older people, including a Dublin City Council pilot project for a sixty-home development, with opportunities for similar proposals in other local authority areas to be pursued in parallel.

Given the importance of housing adaptation and other grants that help older people live comfortably in their own homes for longer through local authority and HSE programmes, the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government will explore how the process of accessing these grants can be streamlined and simplified.

See Chapter on Communities for more information.

³⁶ <http://rebuildingireland.ie/>

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes

In 2015, total funding of €50.5m was provided under the suite of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for older people and people with a disability and 7,596 grants were paid. There are commitments under both the Programme for Government and Rebuilding Ireland to increase the funding for the scheme. Total funding of €56.25m was provided in 2016 and 8,010 grants were paid. The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government is continuing to work with local authorities to review the delivery of the scheme and streamline the application process for applicants.

4.2 Department of Rural & Community Development

Seniors Alert Scheme

The Programme for Government provides for significant investment in the Seniors Alert Scheme to provide additional safety and peace of mind for those living at home. The Department undertook to consider new approaches to the Seniors Alert Scheme in 2014 and arising from this, it was decided that the scheme would be managed by Pobal, given organisation's significant experience in delivering programmes on behalf of Government. While Pobal manages the scheme on behalf of the Department, it is important to note that the Department retains responsibility for the strategic policy direction of the Scheme. It also maintains an oversight role in relation to Pobal's delivery of the Scheme.

Between September 2015 and December 2016, almost 8,000 participant installations were completed. In 2016, Pobal engaged consultants to inform the future development of the Scheme. Following this process, a new version of the Scheme came into effect on 1 November 2017.

4.3 Department of Education & Skills

Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2014-2019³⁷

In the 'Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019', Goal 2 relates to Active Inclusion and aims to support the active inclusion of individuals of all ages and abilities to participate in further education and training to enable full participation in society. Within FET there is no upper age eligibility applicable to its programmes. The 'National Skills Strategy 2025' has set targets to increase participation. The Programme for Government includes the commitment to support an increase in the number of flexible courses available, giving people the opportunity to attend courses part time, during evenings, in the summer and at weekends.

4.4 Department of Health

National Positive Ageing Strategy³⁸

The Department of Health has recently formulated new arrangements to implement and monitor implementation of the 'National Positive Ageing Strategy' (NPAS). These new arrangements establish mechanisms that will give stakeholder groups effective and on-going access to Government Departments and State Agencies relevant to older people. This includes an annual Forum for stakeholders to identify what they consider to be their key priorities for Government for the coming year and the next three years; and establishing clear channels of communications between stakeholders and relevant Government Departments.

As part of the NPAS implementation process, a 'Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative' has been established in collaboration with the HSE's Health and Wellbeing Programme and the Atlantic Philanthropies to measure the impact of

³⁷ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf>

³⁸ http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National_Positive_Ageing_Strategy_English.pdf

the Strategy and establish an ongoing system for measuring and reporting on Positive Ageing. The Initiative will monitor changes in older people's health and wellbeing linked to the goals and objectives of the 'National Positive Ageing Strategy'. This will be done primarily through the development of Positive Ageing indicators to be published every two years.

The Initiative is intended to provide evidence of the factors contributing to positive ageing, including at local level and ultimately inform policy responses to population ageing in Ireland. The first national Positive Ageing Indicators report was published in 2016 and highlights many of the positive and negative aspects of growing old in Ireland.

National Dementia Strategy³⁹

A National Dementia Office was established in the HSE in early 2015 to drive implementation of the Strategy. A €27.5 million 'National Dementia Strategy Implementation Programme', co-funded by the HSE and the Atlantic Philanthropies, is under way.

This Programme provides for Dementia Specific Intensive Home Care Packages, a public awareness campaign, and supports for GPs and Primary Care Teams to diagnose and manage dementia. Other actions in the Strategy are being addressed to improve the experience of people with dementia across social care, primary care, acute services and long term care. A five year Community Nursing Unit Programme for Older People is also on-going.

Review of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme⁴⁰

An Interdepartmental/Agency Working Group has been established to progress the recommendations contained in the 'Nursing Homes Support Scheme' (NHSS) Review.

³⁹ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/30115-National-Dementia-Strategy-Eng.pdf>

⁴⁰ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Review-of-Nursing-Homes-Support-Scheme.pdf>

Developments to date include:

- Significant progress been made in relation to the implementation of the administrative reforms to the Scheme.
- A Steering Committee chaired by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) & including representatives from the Department of Health, the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and the NTPF was established to oversee the review of prices payable to private and voluntary nursing homes under the Scheme. External consultants were engaged by the NTPF in 2016 to assist in its review of the pricing mechanism. The NTPF have responsibility for the development of this report, although Department officials continue to engage with the NTPF regarding the review.
- The first progress report on the implementation of recommendations contained in the NHSS Review was made to the Cabinet Committee on Health in September 2016.

Community Intervention Teams (CITs)

The main focus of Community Intervention Teams (CITs) is the prevention of avoidable hospital admission and the facilitation of early discharge from hospitals through the provision of care in the community. CITs services are additional to existing mainstream community services.

Over 2015 and 2016, there was a significant increase in the number of CITs in place, with thirteen full time and one part time involved in the programme. In 2015, there were 19,675 patient referrals to CIT and 27,633 referrals in 2016.

This service is particularly important for patients aged over 65 years, who make up a large proportion of total CIT activity. The provision of this service has a positive impact on both reducing acute hospital attendance and length of stay in this patient group. The HSE continues to focus on developing CITs nationally within primary care settings.



Chapter 5

Communities

Goal 11: Social Housing

Create a more flexible and responsive system of social housing support including a range of actions to ensure that social housing supports are responsive to people's needs as well as to improvements in their circumstances.

Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG)2015

- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme - 5,680 additional households were supported across 18 local authority areas at year end

2016

- 'Rebuilding Ireland' was published in July 2016. As well as strengthening the existing housing-led approach in Dublin, Rebuilding Ireland also commits to extending it to other urban areas, focusing on persistent rough sleepers and long-term homeless households.
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme - 12,075 additional households were supported across 28 local authority areas at year end, including the accelerated roll-out of the scheme to 9 further local authorities under 'Rebuilding Ireland'

Goal 12: Primary Healthcare

Develop primary care services in the community which will give people direct access to integrated multi-disciplinary teams of general practitioners, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others.

Department of Health (DOH)

Primary Care Centres (PCC) continue to facilitate the shift from acute care towards primary care. They provide modern well equipped facilities where Primary Care Teams are located enabling a range of multi-disciplinary services to be provided. At the end of 2016, there were 99 PCCs operational and 37 locations where primary care infrastructure was under construction or at an advanced planning stage. A further 47 locations were at preliminary stages of development.

Goal 13: Migrant Integration

Promote the integration of migrants, and encourage social inclusion, equality, diversity and the participation of migrants in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their communities through a new migrant integration strategy.

Department of Justice & Equality (DJE)2015

Throughout 2015 the review of Ireland's approach to the integration of migrants continued. This review was to ensure that the policy remained fully in keeping with the Government's commitment in the Programme for Government.

2016

On 16th December, 2016, the Government agreed to the publication of the 'Migrant Integration Strategy' prepared by the Cross Departmental Group on Integration.

Goal 14: Affordable Energy

Identify an appropriate energy poverty methodology and the data tools necessary to estimate and track energy poverty levels. Reform existing efficiency programmes, or develop new programmes as the best way of addressing energy poverty in the long term, as part of a new national affordable energy strategy.

Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCAE)2015

The Department worked on the development of a successor strategy to 'Warmer Homes A Strategy for Affordable Energy in Ireland'.

2016

The 'Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty 2016-2019' was launched. This strategy aims to improve the evidence base around the multiple benefits of energy efficiency, as well as providing an accurate measure of the number of people in Ireland who are living in, or at risk of energy poverty.

5.1 Department of Health

Primary Healthcare

The reorganisation outlined in the 'Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO) Report'⁴¹ progressed in 2015 and 2016. Primary care services were organised and managed across 9 Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and delivered by 484 Primary Care Teams (PCTs). 96 Primary Care networks, which deliver a range of services in addition to those delivered by the PCTs, were mapped at national level.

At the end of 2016 there were;

- 99 Primary Care Centers (PCCs) operational
- 37 locations where primary care infrastructure was under construction or at an advanced planning stage.
- 47 locations at preliminary stages of development.
- 96 Primary Care Networks supporting the PCTs

Funding of €4m was made available in 2016 to recruit 83 new full-time staff in Speech and Language Therapy services to specifically focus on speech and language therapy waiting lists in Primary Care and Social Care for children up to 18 years of age. At the end of 2016, the recruitment of 53 staff had commenced with recruitment for the remaining 30 on-going.

A further €5m was allocated in for counselling and psychological supports in Primary Care for children under 18 years of age. This would support the recruitment of 20 full time psychologists and 114 assistant psychologists on a two-year pilot basis across the primary care psychology services. The recruitment of the full time posts had commenced at the end of 2016. Cover for absences are decided by HSE local management operating within the funding envelope provided to them.

⁴¹ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/choreport.html>

A Diabetes Cycle of Care which commenced on 1st October 2015, aims to improve clinical outcomes for patients and reduce complications often experienced with this condition. The cycle of care includes two scheduled review consultations annually comprising an annual review and follow-up visit. As at end 2016, approximately 85,000 patients had been registered for the cycle of care by their GPs.

Primary Care Services

The HSE rolled out a pilot in 2015 to provide GPs with direct access to ultrasound at ten primary care sites across four Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO) in the South and West. The onward referral rate to a hospital setting for further radiological/medical investigations was approximately 15-20% which demonstrates the success of the initiative. It highlights the effectiveness of having direct access to ultrasound available for GPs and is further relieving pressure on hospital services and decreasing waiting lists.

The initiative commenced in Quarter 4 of 2015 with eight of the ten primary care sites to provide the service being live at the end of that year. At the end of 2015 there were 869 referrals and at the end of 2016 over 13,700 referrals. Primary Care Centres with onsite x-ray facilities were in Arklow, Athlone and Mitchelstown at the end of 2016. The HSE continues to explore the development and expansion of diagnostic services in Primary Care.

Healthy Ireland

An annual Healthy Ireland Survey⁴² was commissioned to enhance data collection and monitoring capacity to track progress in achieving targets to evaluate the success of the Healthy Ireland Framework. The Survey, which involves in-home, face-to-face interviews with a sample of approximately 7,400 individuals representative of the Irish population aged 15 and over, is carried out on behalf of the Department by Ipsos MRBI.

⁴² <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/healthy-ireland/surveys/>

Results of the surveys were published in 2015 and 2016. The Survey provides an up-to-date picture of the nation's health with a robust and credible baseline set of data on a range of health behaviours.

National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016

Progress reports⁴³ on the 'National Drugs Strategy', as at end 2015 and at end 2016, are available on the Department of Health website. In the context of the development of a new strategy for the period after 2016, an international expert panel carried out a rapid review of the 'National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016'.

Out-of-hours GP services

Ninety percent of the population have access to GP out-of-hours services in 14 centres nationally, in all HSE regions, in at least part of every county. These services received approximately 981,000 contacts in 2015 and 1,090,000 contacts in 2016. Over 2,000 GPs provide services in the co-ops. The approach of initial telephone triage which may be followed by attendance at a treatment centre is regarded by the HSE as a good proxy measure for hospital avoidance via Emergency Department attendance.

In 2015, funding of approximately €43 million was provided by the HSE in respect of GP out of hours' fees (special type consultations and supplementary out of hours' fees). In 2016, this amounted to approximately €44 million. These figures do not include GP out of hours' costs in respect of call centres, drivers, nurse triage services, etc.

Free General Practitioner (GP) Care

Free GP Care for children under 6 commenced in 2015. All children registered under the Scheme can attend a participating GP without charge.

The Government is committed to the continued development of GP capacity to ensure that patients across the country continue to have access to GP services and that general practice is sustainable in all areas into the future. Several efforts

⁴³ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NDS-2015-Performance-Report.pdf>

to increase the number of practising GPs have been undertaken in recent years. These include changes to the entry provisions to the General Medical Service (GMS) scheme to accommodate more flexible/shared GMS/GP contracts, and to the retirement provisions for GPs under the GMS scheme, allowing GPs to hold GMS contracts until their 72nd birthday, as well as the introduction of enhanced supports for rural GP practices.

Separately, the State is seeking to train more GPs to provide GP services to the population. In 2009, there were 120 GP training places and in 2016 there were 172 training places filled. The Government is committed to further increasing this number.

See Chapter on Children for more information.

National Carers Strategy

The Department of Health works together with the HSE to implement the health-related actions in the 'National Carers Strategy'. The HSE has reported progress in a number of areas including the following:

- the establishment of a Multi-Divisional 'National Carers Strategy Group' in the HSE to progress implementation of the Strategy
- the establishment of a Steering Group to look at gaps in respite service provision and consider the development of performance indicators for respite services
- the publication of a discharge planning guide for acute hospitals
- the development of a carer page on the HSE website
- the development of Service User, Family Member and Carer engagement processes in the Mental Health area
- the development with the InterRAI consortium of a needs assessment tool for carers, and the continued provision of respite services within the available budget

The Department of Health and the HSE met with carers' representatives during 2015 and 2016 to discuss the implementation of the 'National Carers Strategy'.

The Department has published progress reports on implementation of the 'National Carers Strategy' for the period September 2014-September 2015 (third report) and September 2015-December 2016 (fourth report).

In 2015 & 2016 the Department of Health and HSE representatives attended the annual Carers Forum, hosted by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection, and chaired the Health thematic sub-group at each of these sessions, where carers and their representatives discussed the health issues of greatest concern to them.

5.2 Department of Justice & Equality

Migrant Integration

The review of Ireland's approach to the integration of migrants continued throughout 2015/2016. This review was to ensure that the policy remained fully in keeping with the Government's commitment in the Programme for Government. In December, 2016, the Government agreed to the publication of the 'Migrant Integration Strategy'. It envisages a whole-of-Government approach involving actions by all Departments.

The Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI) continues to implement the Government commitment in relation to migrant integration, partly through financial assistance to projects promoting integration of immigrants and combating racism. In 2015-2016, funding of around €2.35m was provided to organisations (mainly local authorities and NGOs) to promote integration and inclusion.

Other Funding/Programmes:

- 2015/2016: Ireland admitted 532 persons as Programme Refugees under its resettlement programme.
- 2015/2016: 240 people who arrived in Ireland from Greece under the European Union Relocation Programme were in the process of being resettled into their new communities.

- 2015: Work continued on administering the European Integration Fund (EIF) and the European refugee Fund (ERF) – both have since been replaced by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020.
- 2016: applications for funding were sought under the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2014-2020 and the European Social Fund Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.
- Integration at local level is further supported through Local Authority refugee resettlement projects which are funded through Irish Refugee Protection Programme grants supported by EU AMIF funding.

National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

The ‘National Disability Inclusion Strategy’⁴⁴ was prepared on foot of a comprehensive consultation process that commenced in 2016. The purpose of this process was to identify and agree specific actions and timescales for delivery under the following eight themes;

- Equality and Choice
- Joined up policies and public services
- Education
- Employment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Person centered disability services
- Living in the Community; and
- Transport and access to places

Implementation of the Strategy will be overseen by a Steering Group, with representatives of relevant Departments, agencies and disability stakeholders. The Group is chaired by the Minister of State. The ‘National Disability Strategy Steering Group’ will publish an annual report on progress made in each year of the Strategy.

⁴⁴ <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/dept-justice-ndi-inclusion-strategy-booklet.pdf/Files/dept-justice-ndi-inclusion-strategy-booklet.pdf>

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy

Development of a new National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy is underway. The Inclusion Strategy includes comprehensive public consultation with the Traveller community, NGOs and other interested parties as part of a three phase process.

- Phase 1 - identification of key themes for the new Strategy. (completed)
- Phase 2 - identification and agreement of high-level objectives under each agreed theme. (completed)
- Phase 3 - identification of detailed actions to achieve each agreed objective, with associated timescales, key performance indicators, institutional responsibilities and monitoring arrangements. (commenced in May 2016)

The draft strategy will be considered by the National Traveller and Roma Strategy Steering Group, before being submitted for consideration by Government. This process will provide for a set of very real actions which are needed to bring about a real improvement in quality of life for Travellers and Roma. This Strategy will involve the development and implementation of a range of cross-cutting policy measures in order to address the issues facing the Traveller and Roma communities. It will take a whole-of-Government approach to addressing issues facing the Traveller community in particular, including a sustained intervention to tackle feuding and anti-social behaviour.

The areas covered by the Inclusion Strategy include employment, accommodation, health, education, discrimination, children and youth, gender equality and cultural identity.

Government decided that the question of recognising Travellers as a distinct ethnic group will be addressed in the context of the new Strategy.

5.3 Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

Affordable Energy Strategy

A review of the 'Affordable Energy Strategy' was carried out in 2015. A public consultation⁴⁵ and public workshop took place.

The 'Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty 2016-2019'⁴⁶ was published in February 2016. The strategy builds on the progress and experience developed over the previous four years since the publication of the first ever Government strategy on Affordable Energy. It expands the reach of existing energy efficiency schemes and commits the Government to developing and piloting new measures to find more effective ways to focus energy efficiency efforts on those most at risk of energy poverty. It also puts in place the structures and the accountability to ensure that the challenge is effectively addressed at every level of Government and public service. Accompanying the strategy is an assessment of the level of energy poverty in Ireland using the objective methodology.

Progress on the actions in this strategy will improve the evidence base around the multiple benefits of energy efficiency as well as providing an accurate measure of the number of people in Ireland who are living in or at risk of energy poverty.

Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme

The requisite capital funding for the programme has been provided and the 'Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme', which is a Pilot Scheme, has been operating in areas of Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) since mid-2016. The scheme aims to measure the health impacts of significantly improving the energy efficiency

⁴⁵ <https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Towards%20a%20new%20Affordable%20Energy%20Strategy%20for%20Ireland.aspx>

⁴⁶ <https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/publications/Documents/5/A%20Strategy%20to%20Combat%20Energy%20Poverty%20-%20Web%20Version.pdf>

of a person's home who is living with a chronic respiratory condition. An independent analysis of the health and social inclusion outcomes of participants is being carried out alongside delivery of the scheme.

Warmer Homes Scheme

The Warmer Homes Scheme is the Government's main energy efficiency scheme for people in or at risk of energy poverty. The scheme provides free energy efficiency upgrades to eligible households.

In 2016 the eligibility of the Warmer Homes scheme and the Warmth and Wellbeing scheme were expanded to include those in receipt of the One Parent Family payment (OFP).

The National Broadband Plan (NBP)

Much progress was made under the 'National Broadband Plan' during the period 2015/2016. Extensive stakeholder consultations took place during 2015. In December 2015 the Procurement Process was formally launched and in October 2016 the Minister announced that three bidders in the procurement process had formally indicated that they were proposing a predominantly fibre to the home solution for rural Ireland.

The 2020 High Speed Broadband Map was also published in 2015, this followed ongoing engagement with industry and public consultation.

In 2016, a Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce was established to address immediate issues in relation to mobile phone and broadband coverage. A Regional Telecommunications Unit was established, in the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD), to work with local authorities and interested stakeholders to assist in the commercial deployment of telecommunications networks and mitigate any potential barriers to the rollout of the NBP. The Department continued to liaise closely with industry and relevant other Departments and agencies to assist in the commercial deployment of telecommunications networks. The Department provided co-funding with DRCD to each local authority to appoint a broadband officer.

Since the publication of the 'National Broadband Plan' in 2012, €2.5bn has been invested in upgrading and modernising networks which support the provision of high speed broadband and mobile telecoms services. These investments should assist in significantly improving the coverage and quality of broadband and mobile voice and data services throughout the country.

In 2012, less than 700k of premises had access to high speed broadband. In 2016, over 1.4 million or 61% of all premises could access high speed broadband services provided by commercial operators. By end of 2020 it is expected that nine out of ten premises will have access to high speed broadband.

5.4 Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government

Rebuilding Ireland an action plan on Housing and Homelessness

'Rebuilding Ireland' was published in July 2016. Under this action plan, the existing housing-led approach in Dublin will be strengthened and extended to other urban areas, focusing on persistent rough sleepers and long-term homeless households. The Dublin Region Homeless Executive was committed to tripling the target for tenancies under its 'housing first' programme from 100 to 300. Additional funding was provided in 2016 for the commissioning of the additional Intensive Case Managers (ICM) as part of Dublin's Housing First service and staff team.

As well as strengthening the existing housing-led approach in Dublin, Rebuilding Ireland also commits to extending it to other urban areas, focusing on persistent rough sleepers and long-term homeless households.

See Chapter on Older People for more information.

Housing Agency Fund

Under the 'Rebuilding Ireland', an Acquisitions Fund of €70m, which is a revolving fund, has been established with the objective of acquiring 1,600 units over the

period to 2020 for social housing use. The Housing Agency is currently actively engaged with banks and investment companies in relation to its acquisitions programme. Funding was made available to the Agency for the acquisition of housing in 2016 and the Agency drew down €6,741,000 from the Department in Q4 2016.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme

The Department continued to roll-out the HAP scheme on a statutory phased pilot basis:

- 2015 – 5,680 additional households were supported across 18 local authority areas at year end
- 2016 – 12,075 additional households were supported across 28 local authority areas at year end, including the accelerated roll-out of the scheme to 9 further local authorities under ‘Rebuilding Ireland’

Local authorities, along with the assistance of local Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Staff, continued to identify and transfer long-term Rent Supplement recipients to HAP.

Programme of upgrading social homes

A systematic programme of upgrading for social homes, focussed particularly on improving energy efficiency and combatting fuel poverty, has been underway since 2013 with an investment of €107m made to end 2016. Starting with the most energy inefficient homes, a total of over 58,000 social homes have had their energy efficiency improved.

This programme is now continuing with the next phase including, where necessary, the replacement of windows and doors as well as the insulation of social homes. Alongside the energy efficiency programme, some 7,200 social homes that had become empty were also insulated and refurbished before being re-let. This work has been underway since 2014 with a total investment to end-2016 of €85m.

The Government has continued investment in the regeneration programme, focussing on areas with large concentrations of social housing that can be characterised by the most extreme social exclusion, unemployment and anti-social behaviour.

Spend on regeneration in 2015 and 2016 was €50m and €59.9m respectively, principally on projects in Dublin, Limerick, Cork City Dundalk, Sligo and Tralee.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

A further 382 (2015) and 319 (2016) housing units were delivered under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), which provides funding to approved housing bodies to provide housing for the elderly, homeless and people with a disability, including for people with disability moving out of congregated settings into community based living.

Funding continues to be provided under the CAS towards the provision of accommodation for all of these categories.

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)

The Department's 2015 capital budget for Traveller-specific Accommodation was €4.3m, of which €4.1m was drawn down. This increased by almost 22% to €5.5m in the 2016 allocation and local authorities drew down €4.3m. In 2015 the Local Authorities achieved 94% provision of their Traveller Accommodation targets for the year. Provision increased in 2016 and the Local Authority targets were exceeded by 5% seeing 500 families provided with accommodation against a target of 475. Midterm into the fourth TAP, 58% of the overall target for the programme has been achieved. This reflects the increase in funding in 2014 which continued into 2015 and 2016.

In 2016 the Housing Agency commissioned an expert, independent review of capital/current funding for Traveller-specific accommodation to date, having regard to targets contained in the Local Authority TAPs and actual units delivered, the current status of accommodation funded, and funding provided for accommodation maintenance and other supports. The objective of the Housing

Agency commissioned review was to provide factual information, analysis and identification of particular challenges, as a key platform to undertake an audit in 2017 of implementation and delivery of the TAPs, with a focus on appropriate supply of accommodation.

5.5 Department of Rural & Community Development

Libraries Capital Investment Programme 2016-2021

A new Libraries Capital Investment Programme for 2016-2021⁴⁷ launched in January 2016. €23m will be invested in 17 capital projects over the programme, including the roll out of the 'My Open Library' which will see a further 20 pilot sites offering extended opening hours (8am-10pm, 7 days per week) on a self-service basis during unstaffed hours.

Free Library Membership introduced in January 2016, opens up inclusiveness and opportunity of access to 15 million items in the 333 libraries and many on line resources for recreation and lifelong learning.

The Single Library Management System will provide a platform for the provision of free access to core library services, a single library membership card, universal membership and a national digital library. The single Library System continued to be rolled out on a phased basis in 2016. The final roll out was due to take place in 2017. It will be complimented by the mainstream roll-out of the National Distribution Service which continued to be implemented on a pilot basis in 2016.

An alternative approach, a Regional Collaborative Model, was agreed at the end of 2016. This approach aims to establish stronger, more effective and efficient public libraries and deliver better library services to local communities and citizens.

⁴⁷ <http://www.lgcsb.ie/en/news/new-library-capital-investment-programme-2016-2021>

The National Literacy Programme, Right to Read, was piloted in 26 libraries nationally. It was due to be rolled out in mid-2017.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP), launched in 2015. The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

The Programme is managed locally by 33 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) with support from Local Authorities. Programme actions are delivered by Programme Implementers across 51 Lot areas.

The SICAP 2015-2017 target groups were;

- Children and Families from Disadvantaged Areas
- Lone Parents
- New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers)
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- People with Disabilities
- Roma
- The Unemployed (including those not on the Live Register)
- Low Income Workers/Households
- Travellers
- Young Unemployed People from Disadvantaged areas
- NEETs – Young people aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training.

Funding for 2015 was in the order of €26.8m. In the nine months up to the end of 2015, SICAP supported 2,506 Local Community Groups (LCG's) and 36,854 individuals on a one-to-one basis. The Programme assisted 2,322 LCGs either in formation, development or progression and these groups in turn supported over 125,000 people.

In 2016 funding of €37.5 million was made available for SICAP. During 2016, SICAP supported 47,511 individuals on a one-to-one basis and 3,076 LCGs, to

improve their life-chances and opportunities. Members of 1,048 LCG's were assisted by SICAP to participate in local, regional or national decision-making structures with over 218,000 people supported in total. Over 55,000 children received education or developmental support.

Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)

Programme

The 'RAPID programme' is aimed at improving the quality of life and the opportunity available to residents of the most disadvantaged communities in Irish cities and towns. It aims, in a focused and practical way, to reduce the deprivations faced by residents of disadvantaged communities. It attempts to do this through targeting significant state resources at the needs of disadvantaged areas.

The 2016 Programme for Partnership Government gave a commitment to reactivating the RAPID Programme. The logistical and other arrangements for the programme remained under consideration within the Department as at year end 2016 and it was anticipated that the re-cast RAPID would roll out in 2017. A total of €5 million has been made available for the Programme in Budget 2017, breakdown as follows:

- €2.5 million – Dublin North East Inner City
- €2 million – all 31 Local Authorities
- €0.5 million – legacy funding commitments from RAPID (original programme)

5.6 Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht

Gaeltacht and Island communities

The linguistic, cultural and economic development of the Gaeltacht remains a high-level goal of the Department as evidenced by the significant progress made in rolling out the language planning process under the Gaeltacht Act 2012 and the '20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030'. In this context, Údarás na Gaeltachta continues to create 500 Gaeltacht-based jobs per annum, while the Department's 'Irish Learners Scheme' provides Gaeltacht families with the

opportunity to earn significant income not just during the summer months but all year round.

During 2015/2016 the Department continued with its various initiatives and measures directed towards supporting the social, cultural and economic development of the inhabited offshore islands so as to ensure they survive as viable communities.

A number of capital projects aimed at improving access for island communities to the mainland have been included in the new 'National Development Plan'. The Department also continues to tender on an ongoing basis for passenger and cargo transport services to all of the offshore islands in order to ensure regular access to mainland-based public services and recreational activities.

Making Great Art Work (2016-2025)

In 2015 the Arts Council published its strategy document 'Making Great Art Work' (2016-2025)⁴⁸. This strategy places specific emphasis on the need to plan and provide for children and young people. The five high-level values of the strategy include a commitment to excellence, as well as respect for diversity of artistic practice, of public engagement, and of social and cultural traditions. The strategy also commits to working to achieve full implementation of the Arts in Education Charter.

Participation by Children in Arts and Cultural Activities

The Department has continued to encourage participation by children in arts and cultural activities throughout 2015 & 2016 through programmes etc. such as;

- In 2016 the Arts Council and Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) published 'Arts and Cultural Participation among Children and Young People – Insights from the Growing Up in Ireland study'⁴⁹. The research provides very

⁴⁸ http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Making_Great_Art_Work.pdf

⁴⁹ <http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>

useful insights in terms of children's exposure to arts and culture and identifies barriers to engagement with the arts.

- In 2016 the Creative Ireland programme⁵⁰ was launched and places a special focus on enabling the creative potential of every child.
- Funding of almost €750,000 for more than 60 local arts organisations around the country is being made available under Stream 3 of the 'Arts and Culture Capital Scheme' 2016-2018.

5.7 Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport

Rural Transport Programme (RTP)

The National Transport Authority (NTA) progressed with integration of local and rural transport, including the 'Rural Transport Programme' (RTP) and implementation of the restructuring of the RTP. During 2016, 1.765 million passenger journeys were recorded on over 242,000 transport services funded under the RTP. Funding of €11.86m was provided to the Programme in 2016.

The restructuring has consolidated services through a streamlined network of 17 Locallink offices which manage the services on behalf of the National Transport Authority (NTA).

A key feature of the new services is greater integration with existing public transport services and better linkages between and within towns and villages. The development of core services to support initiatives aimed at addressing social exclusion in rural areas is a key consideration of all proposals.

Enhancing Participation in Sport

In 2016, 17 Local Sports Partnerships (LSP's) received funding from Sport Ireland for Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) posts. These SIDOs continue to roll out sports ability days, boccia, football for all, wheelchair basketball etc. to promote on-going and active participation. Those LSPs that do not have a SIDO received funding to deliver training in the area of sports and disability.

⁵⁰ <https://creative.ireland.ie/en>

In 2016, Sport Ireland allocated €50,000 in funding to the CARA Centre. Sport Ireland is also continuing to fund the 3 Major Field Sports (GAA, Soccer and Rugby). The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport provided an additional allocation to Sport Ireland in 2016 for 17 Community Sports Development Officers within the LSPs. The aim of this funding is to foster and encourage a culture of active participation, supporting opportunities for, and access to, sport and physical activity through LSPs.

5.8 Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)

The role of MABS was expanded in 2015 with the establishment of a Dedicated Mortgage Arrears MABS service (DMA MABS) across the MABS network, to help people specifically with home mortgage arrears. There are now 32 specialist DMA advisors working across 27 locations countrywide, assisting borrowers to assess the options available to them and, where required, negotiating with lenders on their behalf. To end December 2016, almost 2,800 people have availed of the DMA MABS service. Additionally, MABS has established a national network of court mentors. The mentors attend each listed repossession Court hearing nationwide and provide support to distressed borrowers who are facing the loss of their home and signposting them to the appropriate services.

MABS is also the gateway to a new service launched in 2016, known as Abhaile, which provides access for people, who are insolvent and in home mortgage arrears, to defined levels of independent expert financial and/or legal advice and assistance, free of charge.

To end December 2016, over 3,537 vouchers for services have been issued, in respect of over 2,300 principle private residences (PPR's). Of the vouchers issued to date;

- 2,856 relate to the provision of personal insolvency practitioner services,
- 565 are for legal advice services on issues related to mortgage arrears, and
- 116 are for legal aid services relating to Section 115A Appeals, as defined under the Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Act 2015.

5.9 Department of Children & Youth Affairs

The Family Resource Centre (FRC)

In 2015 and 2016 the Child and Family Agency continued to provide financial support through the 'Family Resource Centre Programme'. This support typically covers the employment of two to three members of staff and some overhead costs of the centres.

The Counselling Grants Scheme

In 2015 and 2016 the Child and Family Agency continued to provide financial support to a broad range of national regional and local organisations providing marriage and relationship counselling, child counselling, the Rainbows peer support programme for children and bereavement counselling and support on the death of a family member.

Appendix 1: Government Department Names

Government Department's	Previous Department name (if changed since 2015)
Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine	
Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (2016)
Department of Defence	
Department of Education & Skills	
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	
Department of Health	
Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (2016)
Department of Justice & Equality	
Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Department of Rural & Community Development	New Department (2017)
Department of the Taoiseach	
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport	



November 2018



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Tuarascáil ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta, agus Tuarascálacha Bliantúla 2015 & 2016 san Áireamh

Samhain 2018

Arna fhoilsiú ag

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus

Coimirce Sóisialaí

Áras Mhic Dhiarmada

Sráid an Stórais

Baile Átha Cliath 1

ISBN: 978-1-908109-50-7

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus

Coimirce Sóisialaí

Baile Átha Cliath, Éire

Samhain 2018

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Brollach ón Aire



Cuirim fáilte roimh fhoilsiú na tuarascála seo ina mionsonraítear cur chun feidhme an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta nuashonraithe do na blianta 2015 agus 2016. Leagtar amach sa tuarascáil an dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis na 14 sprioc ardleibhéil a bhaineann leis na cúig chatagóir seo a leanas de thimthriall na beatha: leanaí; aois oibre; daoine scothaosta; daoine faoi mhíchumas; agus pobail. Déantar athbhreithniú inti freisin ar fhorbairtí gaolmhara breise.

Leagtar béim sa tuarascáil seo ar an gcomhiarracht atá déanta i ngach roinn de chuid an rialtais maidir le hoibriú i dtreo ár sprice chun an bhochtaineacht a laghdú in Éirinn.

Is í an sprioc shóisialta náisiúnta arna comhaontú ag an Rialtas sa bhliain 2012 maidir leis an mbochtaineacht a laghdú ná an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach a laghdú ó 6.3% i 2010 go 4% faoi 2016 agus go 2% nó níos ísle faoi 2020. Ba sprioc uailmhianach í sin, go mór mór le linn cúlaithe eacnamaíochta, ach is sprioc í dá bhfuil an Rialtas tiomanta i gcónaí.

Léirítear i Suirbhé na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh ar Dhálaí Ioncaim agus Maireachtála (SILC) gur tháinig ardú gear ar an mbochtaineacht sheasmhach i ndiaidh 2010, go buaic 9.1% sa bhliain 2013. De réir na sonraí is déanaí ó SILC 2016, arna eisiúint ag an bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh i mí na Nollag 2017, bhí laghdú go 8.3% tar éis teacht air sin. Bheadh laghdú 6% ag teastáil anois chun sprioc 2020 maidir leis an mbochtaineacht a bhaint amach.

Níl tionchar an téarnaimh le feiceáil go hiomlán fós sna sonraí is déanaí, ina léirítear dálaí ioncaim sna blianta 2015-2016. Ó shin i leith, tá an ráta dífhostaíochta tar éis titim ó 9.4% i lár na bliana 2015 go 5.9% go luath sa bhliain 2018. Tá laghdú tar éis teacht ar bhonn leanúnach ar an líon daoine a bhfuil tacaí ioncaim agus fostaíochta aoise oibre á bhfáil acu.

Is fianaise shoiléir iad na figiúirí ón Suirbhé ar Lucht Saothair is deanaí go bhfuil éifeacht ag baint le Straitéis an Rialtais i leith Fostaíochta. Ó bhí 2012 ann, tá méadú níos mó ná 350,000 tar éis teacht ar líon na bpost atá sa gheilleagar agus tá breis agus 2.2 milliún duine ag obair in Éirinn anois. Tá athchóirithe amhail an straitéis nua: Bealaí chun na hOibre; Bealaí chun na hOibre 2016-2020; an Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas, 2015-2024; agus an Straitéis Náisiúnta Scileanna 2015 - Todhchaí na hÉireann, tar éis cur go mór leis an téarnamh ó thaobh fostaíochta de ar bhealach ionchuimsitheach, agus tá siad tar éis fostóirí a chumasú chun leanúint dá ngnóthais a fhorbairt ag an am céanna.

Tá na forbairtí spriocdhírthe go léir amhail na cinn a leagtar amach sa tuarascáil seo lena n-áirítear cúram Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta saor in aisce do leanaí faoi bhun 6 bliana d'aois a thabhairt isteach; Straitéis chun Bochtaineacht (Tearcrochtain) Fuinnimh a Chomhrac, 2016-2019 a fhoilsiú; agus tiomantas an Rialtais chun Straitéis maidir le Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach a fhoilsiú, ag cur le cur chuige iltoiseach chun dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht agus leis an éagothromas in Éirinn.

Tá sé mar bhunspríoc fós ag sochaí na hÉireann an bhochtaineacht a chomhrac agus áirítear sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta an tiomantas docht atá ann chun Nuachreat Comhtháite um Chuimsiú Sóisialta a fhorbairt chun dul i ngleic leis an éagothromas agus leis an mbochtaineacht. Tioctaidh sé sin i gcomharbas ar an bPlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2007-2016 agus ar an nuashonrú 2015-2017 a rinneadh air.

Tá ullmhúcháin tosaithe cheana féin ag mo Roinn chun plean nua ceithre bliana a

fhorbairt maidir leis an tréimhse 2018-2021. Amhail a réamhtheachtaí, beidh cur chuige ar bhonn an Rialtais ar fad i gceist leis an bplean sin agus é mar aidhm ag an gcur chuige sin feabhas a chur ar thorthaí do dhaoine leochaileacha agus imeallaithe inár sochaí, agus é a aithint ag an am céanna go bhfuil freagracht chomhroinnte ar fud an Rialtais maidir le gníomhaíochtaí a chur i bhfeidhm chun na cuspóirí foriomlána a bhaint amach. Is é téama an phlean nua ná an cuimsiú gníomhach, rud a chuireann ar a gcumas do na saoránaigh go léir, go háirithe iad siúd is mó atá faoi mhíchumas, páirt iomlán a ghlacadh sa tsochaí, lena n-áirítear post a bheith acu.

Tá rannpháirtíocht páirtithe leasmhara fós ina croíthéama de bheartas an Rialtais maidir le dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht. Chomh maith leis an bhFóram um Chuimsiú Sóisialta bliantúil, tá an roinn tar éis tabhairt faoi chomhairliúchán poiblí níos forleithne a dhéanamh maidir leis an bplean nua.

Cé gurbh é sa bhliain 2015 a tháinig an chéad laghdú ó 2008 ar líon na leanaí atá ag maireachtáil faoi chuing na bochtaineachta seasmhaí, tá rátaí na bochtaineachta do leanaí fós ró-ard. Is é mo thuairim go gcaithfidimid tacaíocht a thabhairt do na daoine is leochailí ó thaobh an airgeadais de agus béim ar leith a chur ar fheabhsú ioncam na dteaghlach sin, lena n-áirítear teaghlach aontuismitheora, a bhfuil leanaí acu. Leanfaimid d'aghaidh a thabhairt ar an dúshlán seo trí fheabhsúcháin spriocdhírithé a bhaint amach amhail na cinn a tugadh isteach i gCáinainéis na bliana 2018 agus déanfaimid ár ndícheall i gcónaí chun na leanaí go léir a thabhairt saor ón mbochtaineacht. Is é mo rún go leanfaidh beartais an Rialtais d'fheabhas a chur ar chaighdeán mhaireachtála ar bhealach ar bhraitear i saol laethúil na ndaoine, na dteaghlach agus na bpobal ar fud na tíre.



Regina Doherty TD

An tAire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí



Caibidil 1

Réamhrá & Comhthéacs

1.1 Comhthéacs Náisiúnta

1.1.1 An Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2007-2017

Tá an Tuarascáil seo ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta mar chuid de na sásraí faireacháin agus tuairisceoireachta dá bhforáiltear sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta. Cuimsíonn an tuarascáil cur i ngníomh na mbeart sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta i rith na tréimhse ó Eanáir 2015 go Mí na Nollag 2016. Chomhordaigh an Rannán um Chuimsiú Sóisialta (RCS) den Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí ullmhú agus tiomsú na tuarascála, le tacaíocht ó na Ranna ábhartha Rialtais a chuir ábhar na tuarascála ar fáil. Seo an séú tuarascáil, agus chuimsigh na cúig cinn roimhe seo na tréimhsí 2007, 2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012 agus 2013-2014, faoi seach.

Ó bhí an bhliain 1997 ann, tá straitéisí náisiúnta in aghaidh na bochtaineachta saothraithe ag Éirinn d'fhonn creat straitéiseach a chur ar fáil chun dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht agus leis an eisiámh sóisialta. Sainithnítear sa straitéis reatha, an 'Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2007-2016', raon leathan gníomhartha agus tionscaintí spriocdhírthe chun tacú leis an gcuspóir foriomlán ó thaobh an Sprioc Shóisialta Náisiúnta um Laghdú na Bochtaineachta a bhaint amach. Baintear feidhm sa Phlean as cur chuige um thimthriall na beatha ina leagtar spriocanna amach i dtaca le gach dream: leanaí; daoine in aois oibre; daoine scothaosta agus pobail.

Cuireadh an Plean bord ar bhord leis an eolas ba dhéanaí i leith na tréimhse 2015 - 2017 ionas go mbeadh sé ina scáil ar na saincheisteanna agus tionscaintí reatha chun dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht. Áiríodh leis seo béim ní ba mhó ar an gcóras coimirce sóisialaí a nuachóiriú, ar éifeachtacht agus éifeachtúlacht na n-aistrithe sóisialta a fheabhsú agus beartais um chuimsiú gníomhach a neartú. Sa Phlean Nuashonraithe tá 14 cinn de spriocanna athcheaptha thar na Ranna agus Gníomhaireachtaí ar a bhfuil sainchúram ó thaobh an bheartais shóisialta de, mar chuid de chur chuige straitéiseach chun dul i gcion go mór ar an mbochtaineacht i gcaitheamh na tréimhse go dtí an bhliain 2017. Áirítear leis na

spriocanna béim ar an oideachas luath-óige, ar an eisiámh i measc na n-óg, ar an teacht ar mhargadh an tsaothair lena n-áirítear bearta do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas, lánpháirtíocht na n-imirceach, tithíocht shóisialta agus fuinneamh inacmhainne.

1.1.2 An Sprioc Shóisialta Náisiúnta um Laghdú na Bochtaineachta

Is gnách le fada d'Éirinn a bheith ag leagan amach spriocanna náisiúnta chun an bhochtaineacht a laghdú trí chreataí amhail an Straitéis Náisiúnta In Aghaidh na Bochtaineachta agus an 'Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta'. Sa bhliain 2012 rinne an Rialtas sprioc náisiúnta na bochtaineachta mar a leagadh amach i dtosach sa bhliain 2007 faoin bPlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta a athmheas agus a leasú. Rinneadh é a athainmniú mar an Sprioc Shóisialta Náisiúnta um Laghdú na Bochtaineachta.

- Is í an príomhspríoc athmheasta ná an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach a laghdú go dtí 4 faoin gcéad roimh an mbliain 2016 (sprioc eatramhach) agus go dtí 2 faoin gcéad roimh an mbliain 2020, ón ráta bonnlíne 6.3 faoin gcéad sa bhliain 2010.
- Is í an sprioc bhochtaineachta a bhaineann go sonrach le leanaí ná 70,000 leanbh ar a laghad a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht sheasmhach faoin mbliain 2020, ar bhonn ráta bonnlíne 107,000 na bliana 2011.
- Is í cion na hÉireann ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta na hEorpa 2020 ná 200,000 duine ar a laghad a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht chumaisc (bochtaineacht sheasmhach + daoine i mbaol na bochtaineachta + díothacht bhunúsach) idir 2010 agus 2020.

Tugtar tuairisc bhliantúil ar an dul chun cinn i dtreo na Sprice Sóisialta Náisiúnta um Laghdú na Bochtaineachta sa Mhonatóir ar an gCuimsiú Sóisialta, rud ina gcuimsítear sonraí ón Suirbhé is déanaí de chuid na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh ar Dhálaí Ioncaim agus Maireachtála.¹

Taispeánann na torthaí is déanaí ó Shuirbhé na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh ar Dhálaí

¹ https://pdf.cso.ie/www/pdf/20190104105319_Survey_on_Income_and_Living_Conditions_2016_full.pdf

Ioncaim agus Maireachtála i leith na bliana 2016 feabhsuithe sna dálaí maireachtála agus dul chun cinn áirithe i dtreo na spriocanna sóisialta náisiúnta. Bhí an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach gan athrú dáiríre ag 8.3% sa bhliain 2016. Thit an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach i measc na leanaí de 7,000 sa bhliain 2016. Tháinig feabhas freisin ar chion na hÉireann ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta an Aontais Eorpaigh (AE), trí thitim de 198,000 ar an 'mbochtaineacht chumaisc' sa bhliain 2016. Ag féachaint don téarnamh geilleagrach leanúnach ó cheann ceann na bliana 2017 agus ag féachaint do na bearta a tugadh isteach i gCáinainnéisí na mblianta 2017 agus 2018, luíonn sé le réasún go mbítear ag súil leis go bhfeicfear a thuilleadh feabhais sna figiúirí san am le teacht.

Tá bóthar fada rómhainn fós, áfach, chun na spriocanna sóisialta náisiúnta a bhaint amach. Bhí an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach chomh híseal le 4.2% sa bhliain 2008 nuair a bhí an borradh geilleagrach i mbarr a réime. Ina dhiaidh sin, mhéadaigh sí ar aon dul leis an ngéarchéim gheilleagrach. I bhfianaise na mblianta a cailleadh idir 2009 agus 2012 is smaoineamh an-uaimhianach é go laghdófar an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach faoi 75% anois agus ní móide go gcuirfear an sprioc seo i gcrích. Bhí gealltanais sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar an Sprioc Shóisialta Náisiúnta um Laghdú na Bochtaineachta sa bhliain 2017 i gcomhthéacs chríochnú na nuastraitéise náisiúnta in aghaidh na bochtaineachta.

1.1.3 An Bhochtaineacht i measc na Leanáí

I gcomhréir leis an sprioc bhochtaineachta a bhaineann le leanaí go sonracha, ó thaobh breis agus 70,000 leanbh ar a laghad a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht sheasmhach faoin mbliain 2020, tá rún daingean ag an Rialtas go ndéanfar cur chuige ar bhonn an Rialtais ar fad a fheidhmiú ó thaobh dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht i measc na leanaí, agus é sin a thógáil ar an gcur chuige um thimthriall na beatha sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta.

Thairis sin, athdhearbhaítear sprioc bhochtaineachta an Rialtais a bhaineann le leanaí go sonracha i gCreatlach an Pholasaí Náisiúnta do Leanáí agus do Dhaoine Óga 2014-2020 (Torthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí Níos Gile).

I gcomhar lena Ranna comhpháirtíochta agus le páirtithe leasmhara san earnáil dheonach phobail, lean an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS), mar an Roinn dár sannadh an phríomhfhreagracht as Toradh 4 faoi “Thorthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí Níos Gile: Slándáil gheilleagrach agus deis gheilleagrach”, dá cuid oibre chun an cur chuige ar bhonn an Rialtais ar fad a ghlacadh chuici féin.

Mar thaca leis an bpróiseas seo, tugadh grúpa ad hoc le chéile, a chuimsigh Ranna comhpháirtíochta agus páirtithe leasmhara san earnáil dheonach phobail, chun obair a dhéanamh ar phlean a chur ar fáil faoin gcaoi is fearr le dul i ngleic leis an mbochtaineacht i measc na leanaí. Rinne an RGFCS agus an Chomhghuaillíocht um Chearta Leanaí comhchathaoirleacht ar an ngrúpa. Áirítear leis an mballraíocht ó eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha daoine ó Barnardo’s, Comhairle Náisiúnta na nÓg, Teaghlach Amháin agus Cumann Naomh Uinseann de Pól.

Thit an bhochtaineacht sheasmhach i measc na leanaí ó 11.5% sa bhliain 2015 go 11.1% sa bhliain 2016. Is ionann seo agus 132,000 leanbh sa bhliain 2016 (síos ó bhuaic 152,000 sa bhliain 2014). D’ainneoin an laghdaithe seo, áfach, is gá fós 95,000 leanbh a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht chumaisc chun an sprioc a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2020.

1.1.4 Sásraí Tuairisceoireachta an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta

Tá raon gnáthshásraí tuairisceoireachta sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta, ina measc an Monatóir ar an gCuimsiú Sóisialta, an Fóram um Chuimsiú Sóisialta, an Mheasúnacht ar Thionchar Sóisialta agus cinn eile.

Is éard atá sa **Mhonatóir ar an gCuimsiú Sóisialta**² ná tuarascáil bhliantúil ina ndéantar faireachán ar an dul chun cinn i dtreo na sprice sóisialta náisiúnta um laghdú na bochtaineachta, lena n-áirítear an fho-sprioc ar an mbochtaineacht i

² <http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/SocialInclusionMonitor2015.pdf>

measc na leanaí agus ar chion na hÉireann ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta na hEorpa 2020. Is í an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí a ullmhaíonn an Monatóir, ar bhonn Shuirbhé na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh ar Dhálaí Ioncaim agus Maireachtála. Is é monatóir na bliana 2016 an séú heagrán agus baineann sé le sonraí na bliana 2016 de Shuirbhé na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh ar Dhálaí Ioncaim agus Maireachtála³.

Bhunaigh an Rialtas an **Fóram um Chuimsiú Sóisialta**⁴ mar chuid de na struchtúir chun faireachán agus meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar an bPlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta. Tionóladh Fóram um Chuimsiú Sóisialta sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016 araon. Tá an t-imeacht bliantúil seo mar chuid de na struchtúir institiúideacha a cuireadh ar bun chun taca a chur faoin gcur i ngníomh, faoin bhfaireachán agus faoin bhforbairt leanúnach i dtaca le clár gnó an Rialtais ar an gcuimsiú sóisialta. Cuireann sé láthair ar fáil i gcomhair an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí agus i gcomhair an phlé phoiblí ar bhonn níos leithne maidir le saincheistseanna faoin gcuimsiú sóisialta, go háirithe do dhaoine a thaithíonn an bhochtaineacht agus an t-eisiamh sóisialta agus na dreamanna a oibríonn leo. Ina theannta sin, cuireann an Fóram deis ar fáil chun go dtarlaíonn rannpháirtíocht idir oifigigh na Rann Rialtais, eagraíochtaí deonacha pobail agus daoine a thaithíonn an bhochtaineacht i ndáil leis an bPlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta. Ullmhaítear tuarascáil chomhdhála gach bliain agus déantar an tuarascáil sin a leagan faoi bhráid gach Tí den Oireachtas.

An Mheasúnacht ar Thionchar Sóisialta⁵ - seo cur chuige a bhunaítear ar fhianaise agus a dhéanann meastachán ar thionchar dáileach dóchúil na mbeartas ar an ioncam agus ar an éagothromas sóisialta. Baineann tábhacht ar leith le hiarmhairtí sóisialta na mbeartas cáináiseach chun na daoine is leochailí sa tsochaí a chosaint agus chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar an bhfeidhm ríthábhachtach a chomhlíonann na haistrithe sóisialta ó thaobh daoine a

³ <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2016/>

⁴ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Social-Inclusion-Forum-Publications.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/SocialImpact2017.pdf>

fhaigheann an leas sóisialach agus íocaíochtaí eile a choimeád ó thitim faoi chuing na bochtaineachta.

Tá measúnacht chomhtháite ar thionchar sóisialta forbartha ag an Rialtas chun treise a chur le cur i ngníomh na sprice sóisialta náisiúnta um laghdú na bochtainteachta agus cur i ngníomh na fo-sprice ar an mbochtaineacht i measc na leanaí agus chun éascaíocht a dhéanamh do chomhordú breise i dtaca leis an mbeartas sa réimse sóisialta. Cuirtear an mheasúnacht ar thionchar sóisialta i bhfeidhm maidir le raon saincheistanna beartais, i gcomhar le Ranna Rialtais agus páirtithe leasmhara eile.

Tá measúnacht ar thionchar sóisialta Cháinainnéisí na mblianta 2015, 2016 agus 2017 foilsithe ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí. Fionnadh sa mheasúnacht ar thionchar sóisialta Cháinainnéis na bliana 2017 gurbh é an toradh a bheadh ar na beartais leasa shóisialaigh agus cánach ioncaim ná méadú ar mheánioncaim líonta tí faoi 1 faoin gcéad (coibhéiseach le beagnach €9.20 in aghaidh na seachtaine). Lena chois sin, fionnadh sa mheasúnacht gur bhain tuismitheoirí aonair neamhthuillimh agus lánúineacha le leanaí an tairbhe ba mhó as Cáinainnéis na bliana 2017 agus gur mhó a bhain tuismitheoirí aonair neamhthuillimh agus lánúineacha le leanaí (suas le 4.5% sa bhreis). Thaispeáin an mheasúnacht gur lean na haistrithe sóisialta de bheith ag feidhmiú go láidir ó thaobh an bhochtaineacht a laghdú maille le laghdú measta 0.8 faoin gcéad sa daonra i mbaol na bochtaineachta.

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar spriocanna an Phlean Ghníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta sa bhliain 2015 mar chuid de thuarascálacha bliantúla na mblianta 2013 agus 2014 chun a n-ábharthacht leantach a shuíomh. Léiríodh san athbhreithniú seo go raibh cuid acu curtha i gcrích nó go raibh tosca eile nó athruithe ar an mbeartas i ndiaidh dul chun cinn ar spriocanna áirithe agus gur ghá iad a chur bonn ar bhonn leis an eolas ba dhéanaí. I gcásanna dá leithéid, rinneadh téacs cuí a dhréachtú chun cur síos a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí nua nó ar ghníomhaíochtaí cosúla, agus scaipeadh an téacs sin i measc na Rann ar pháirtithe leasmhara iad lena bhreithniú/fhaomhadh.

Tá an Tuarascáil reatha seo ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2015 agus 2016 mar chuid de na sásraí tuairisceoireachta freisin, agus tá sí ag díriú ar thaifead a dhéanamh ar an gcur i ngníomh atá déanta dáiríre ar na bearta a bhí beartaithe sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus sa Nuashonrú. Agus an tuarascáil seo á hullmhú ag an Roinn, chuathas i gcomhairle go forleathan leis na Ranna Rialtais eile a bhain le hábhar agus a bhfuil freagracht orthu as clár na ngníomhartha sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta a sholáthar. Rinne comhordaitheoirí/daoine idirchaidrimh, a bhí ceaptha i ngach Roinn, idirchaidreamh leis an bhfoireann rannáin agus chuidigh siad ó thaobh ábhar a thiomsú. Chuir na Ranna nuashonruithe ar an dul chun cinn, ar na heochairfhorbairtí agus ar ábhar eile isteach.

1.2 Tuairisceoireacht i gcomhair an AE & Tuairisceoireacht Idirnáisiúnta

1.2.1 An Clár Náisiúnta um Athchóiriú na hÉireann⁶

I Meitheamh na bliana 2010, ghlac an Chomhairle Eorpach *Eoraip 2020: Straitéis maidir le fás cliste, inbhuanaithe agus uilechumsitheach*, ina leagtar amach fíis gheilleagar margaidh shóisialta na hEorpa i dtaca leis an 21ú haois. Athneartaíonn an Straitéis an idirghníomhaíocht idir na beartais gheilleagracha, na beartais fostaíochta agus na beartais shóisialta, rud a mheastar a bheith bunriachtanach chun fás inbhuanaithe, cruthú fostaíochta, comhtháthú sóisialta agus comhtháthú críche a chothú.

Mar chuid den Straitéis, d'aontaigh an Chomhairle Eorpach cúig phríomhspríoc maidir le fostaíocht; taighde agus forbairt; athrú aeráide; oideachas agus bochtaineacht. Meastar na spríocanna a bheith idirghaolmhar agus meastar go n-athneartaíonn siad a chéile. Is í an spríoc bhochtaineachta ná 20 milliún duine a aistriú amach as baol na bochtaineachta nó baol an eisiaimh shóisialta faoin

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https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_of_the_Department/Economic_Division/Economic/NRP/20170419_National_Reform_Programme_2017.pdf

mbliain 2020. Mar chion ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta na hEorpa 2020, ceanglaítear ar na Ballstáit spriocanna bochtaineachta a leagan amach go náisiúnta ar bhonn na dtáscairí náisiúnta cuí, ag cur imthosca agus tosaíochtaí náisiúnta san áireamh.

Is í cion na hÉireann ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta na hEorpa 2020 ná 200,000 duine ar a laghad a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht chumaisc (bochtaineacht sheasmhach + daoine i mbaol na bochtaineachta + díothacht bhunúsach) idir 2010 agus 2020. Ní mór do na Ballstáit tuairisc a thabhairt ar an sprioc agus ar na gníomhartha gaolmhara i gClár Náisiúnta um Athchóiriú (CNA) ar bhonn bliantúil. Tháinig feabhas as an ‘mbochtaineacht chumaisc’, cion na hÉireann ar mhaithe le sprioc bhochtaineachta na hEorpa 2020, mar thit an ráta ó 33.7% sa bhliain 2015 go 29.2% sa bhliain 2016. Is ionann seo agus 1.4 milliún duine, agus is éard atá anseo ná laghdú 21,512 ó bhonnlíne na bliana 2010. Mar sin, caithfidh beagán faoi bhun 200,000 duine a aistriú amach as an mbochtaineacht chumaisc chun sprioc na hEorpa 2020 a bhaint amach.

1.2.2 Moladh a Bhaineann go Sonrach leis an Tír

Thairis sin, is é an Clár Náisiúnta um Athchóiriú an sásra tuairisceoireachta i dtaca leis na Moltaí a Bhaineann go Sonrach leis an Tír, a chomhaontaítear gach bliain idir Coimisiún an AE agus Ballstáit an AE. Ba d’aghaidh a thabhairt ar bhaol bochtaineachta na leanaí a thagair an dá Mholadh ba dhéanaí dá leithéid a d’eisigh an Chomhairle chun na hÉireann mar chuid den Seimeastar Eorpach (Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh, 2015; Coimisiún Eorpach 2016b). Ba iad Moltaí na hÉireann a Bhain go Sonrach leis an Tír i leith na bliana 2016 i ndáil leis an mbeartas sóisialta ná:

- Fairsingiú agus luathú a dhéanamh ar chur i ngníomh na mbeartas gníomhachtúcháin chun déine oibre na líonta tí a mhéadú agus chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar bhaol bochtaineachta na leanaí.
- Gabháil do bhearta chun fostaíocht a dhreasú trí bharrchaolú a dhéanamh ar aistarraingt sochar agus íocaíochtaí forlíontacha.

- Feabhas a chur ar sholáthar an chúraim inacmhainne leanaí ar ardchaighdeán.

Sa bhliain 2016⁷ thit líon na leanaí i líonta tí gan duine fostaithe faoi 7.1% ó bhí an bhliain 2012 ann. Ina theannta sin, tharla titim i gcéatadán na leanaí (0 go 17 de bhlianta d'aois) i mbaol na bochtaineachta nó i mbaol an eisiaimh shóisialta (AROE) sa bhliain 2015. Mhéadaigh an dífhostaíocht fhadtréimhseach go mór sa chúlú geilleagrach, ó 31,000 sa bhliain 2007 go buaicphointe de bhreis agus 200,000 go luath sa bhliain 2012. Le linn an téarnaimh, áfach, thit líon na ndaoine dífhostaithe go fadtréimhseach go 92,000 sa bhliain 2016, laghdú de bhreis agus 112,000. Lean na feabhsuithe ar aghaidh i rith na bliana 2015, ó thaobh na ndearbhbhthearmaí agus ó thaobh druidim le meán an AE araon.

Bunaithe ar Shuirbhé Eurostat ar an Lucht Saothair, bhí 253,000 líon tí gan duine fostaithe sa bhliain 2016. Cé gur thit an figiúr i gcomhair na hÉireann ó bhuaicphointe 23% sa bhliain 2012 go 17.6%, de thoradh an téarnaimh gheilleagraigh, tá roinnt áirithe leasuithe leagtha amach ag an Rialtas, agus an 'Plean Gníomhaíochta do Líonta Tí Gan Duine Fostaithe' san áireamh, rud a foilsíodh i Meán Fómhair na bliana 2017.

Ghabh an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Soisialaí do raon leasuithe ar chlár ghníomhacha don mhargadh saothair sna blianta deireanacha seo, lena áiríodh feidhmiú céimneach ar dhá chlár tacaíochta do chuardaitheoirí poist (Intreo agus Postchonnair/JobPath). Lena chois sin, tá dul chun cinn déanta go socair leanúnach ag an athchóiriú ar an mbreisoideachas agus oiliúint, athchóiriú atá dírithe ar athoiliúint agus uasoiliúint a chur chun cinn. Tá rath áirithe bainte amach ag an Rialtas freisin ó thaobh aghaidh a thabhairt ar an mbochtaineacht i measc na leanaí trí, mar shampla, feabhas a chur ar chlár um chuimsiú sóisialta. Tá dídhreasachtaí chun filleadh ar an bhfostaíocht laghdaithe ag an gClár Cúnaimh Tithíochta agus ag an bhForlónadh Ioncaim Teaghlaigh (ar a dtugtar anois an Íocaíocht do Theaghlach i bhFostaíocht), agus san am céanna tá feabhas curtha de réir a chéile ar an teacht ar an gcúram leanaí.

⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

1.2.3 Spriocanna na Náisiún Aontaithe um Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe

I Meán Fómhair na bliana 2015, aontaíodh sraith de 17 gcinn de Spriocanna um Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe i gCruinniú Mullaigh na Náisiún Aontaithe um Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe i Nua-Eabhrac. Is éard atá sna spriocanna seo, atá infheidhmithe ar bhonn uilíoch, ná plean uailmhianach chun an bhochtaineacht a dhíothú, chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an díghrádú comhshaoil agus an athrú aeráide agus chun domhan níos síochánta, níos cothroime agus níos inbhuanaithe a chruthú faoin mbliain 2030.

Agus na spriocanna seo á gcomhaontú againn, tugann an domhan uile aghaidh ar thodhchaí níos inbhuanaithe, níos rathúla agus níos síochánta a sholáthar do chách. Tagraíonn roinnt áirithe de na spriocanna seo don bhochtaineacht agus, dá réir sin, bíonn siad ábhartha don ‘Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta’. Áirítear leo seo fíorbhochtaineacht a dhíothú, céatadán na bhfear, na mban agus na leanaí a chónaíonn faoi chuing na bochtaineachta a laghdú faoina leath, chomh maith le córais chúí agus bearta cúí na coimirce sóisialaí a chur i ngníomh. Beidh Éire ag tuairisciú go tráthrialta ar an dul chun cinn maidir leis na Spriocanna um Fhorbairt inbhuanaithe.

Sna caibidlí seo a leanas, cuirfear sonraí ar fáil den dul chun cinn a rinneadh thar raon na spriocanna a leagadh amach sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2015-2017, i dtaca le gach ceann de na dreamanna um thimthriall na beatha. Tosaíonn gach caibidil le tábla gearr ina léirítear na príomhphointí agus ansin nuashonruithe níos mine ó gach Roinn⁸.

⁸ [Aguisín 1 Ainmneacha na Rann Rialtais](#)



Caibidil 2

Leanaí

Spríoc 1: Cúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige

Leanúint ar aghaidh ag infheistiú i gcúram agus oideachas na luathbhlianta ar ardchaigheán i gcomhair na leanaí ar fad trí sholáthar réamhscoile saor in aisce, trí thacaíocht a thabhairt do theaghlaigh ó thaobh na gcostas cúraim leanaí, go háirithe teaghlaigh ar ioncam íseal, agus trí fheabhas a chur ar chaighdeán an tsoláthair.

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige

Tá infheistíocht shuntasach déanta i gcúram agus oideachas na luath-óige ar ardchaigheán, agus an méid seo a leanas san áireamh;

2015

- €7 milliún i leith seirbhísí cúraim leanaí faoi Chlár Caipitil na Luathbhlianta.
- Obair ar an tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain.
- Tionscnamh chlár na Ceannaireachta um Chuimsiú.
- €85 milliún i bpacáiste cúraim leanaí.

2016

- €6.5 milliún a cuireadh ar fáil do Chlár Caipitil na Luathbhlianta.
- Tháinig an chuid ba mhó de na Rialacháin fán Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 i bhfeidhm.
- Fairsingíodh an clár réamhscoile um Chúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige.
- Tugadh isteach an tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain.
- Thosaigh clár na Ceannaireachta um Chuimsiú.
- Tugadh isteach an Scéim um Chúram Inacmhainne Leanaí.

Spríoc 2: Litearthacht agus Uimhearthacht

Na céatadán de leanáí bunscoile atá ag feidhmiú ar na leibhéal is airde sa Mheasúnacht Náisiúnta ar Mhatamaitic agus ar Léitheoireacht Bhéarla a mhéadú faoi 5 faoin gcéad ar a laghad i rang a dó agus i rang a sé araon faoin mbliain 2020. An céatadán de leanáí atá ag feidhmiú ar an íosleibhéal, nó faoina bhun sin, sa Mheasúnacht Náisiúnta ar Mhatamaitic agus ar Léitheoireacht Bhéarla a laghdú faoi 5 faoin gcéad ar a laghad i rang a dó agus i rang a sé araon faoin mbliain 2020.

An Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna

2015

Cuireadh tús le hAthbhreithniú Eatramhach ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta: Litearthacht agus Uimhearthacht don Fhoghlaim agus don Saol 2011-2020 sa bhliain 2015, ionas go bhféadfaí meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar na bearta i gcrích agus ar na dúshláin lenar buaileadh ó thaobh an straitéis a chur i ngníomh go dtí sin. Áiríodh leis an athbhreithniú eatramhach seo breithniú ar fhionnachtana taighde, ar an mbonn náisiúnta agus ar an mbonn idirnáisiúnta araon, agus próiseas comhairliúcháin le raon mór páirtithe leasmhara.

2016

Cuireadh críoch ar an Athbhreithniú Eatramhach ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta: Litearthacht agus Uimhearthacht don Fhoghlaim agus don Saol 2011-2020 go déanach sa bhliain 2016 trí fhoilsiú PISA (2015) agus TIMSS (2015)

Spríoc 3: Rannpháirtíocht in Oideachas

Lucht saothair dea-oilte a chur chun cinn d'fhonn tacú le téarnamh na hÉireann agus ardchaighdeán mhaireachtála a sholáthar dár saoránaigh trí chéatadán na ndaoine atá 18-24 de bhlianta d'aois a bhfuil iar-bhunoideachas sóisearach ar a mhéad acu, agus nach bhfuil i mbreisoideachas ná oiliúint, a laghdú go 8%; agus sciar na ndaoine atá 30-34 de bhlianta d'aois, a bhfuil oideachas tríú leibhéal nó a mhacasamhail críochnaithe acu, a mhéadú go 60% ar a laghad.

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Tá dul chun cinn dearfach déanta ag Éirinn i dtaca leis an dá spríoc sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016

Luathfhágálaithe scoile

Is í príomhspríoc an AE 2020 i leith na luathfhágála scoile ná 10%.

Is í an spríoc náisiúnta arna leagan amach ag Éirinn ná 8%

2015 – 6.9%

2016 – 6.3%

Spríoc do dhaoine atá 30-34 de bhlianta d'aois, a bhfuil oideachas tríú leibhéal nó a mhacasamhail críochnaithe acu

Is í príomhspríoc an AE 2020 ná méid os cionn 40%

Is í spríoc na hÉireann ná 60% ar a laghad

2015 – 52.3%

2016 – 52.9%

Spríoc 4: Taca Ioncaim Leanaí

Comhluch na dtacaí ioncaim leanaí a choinneáil ar 33%-35% d'íosráta na híocaíochta leasa shóisialaigh do dhuine fásta agus a n-éifeachtacht a uasmhéadú ó thaobh an bhochtaineacht i measc na leanaí a laghdú, agus leanúint ar aghaidh ag tacú leis na tuismitheoirí ar fad ó thaobh na gcostas a bhaineann le leanaí a thógáil.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

Baineadh amach sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016 an spríoc go gcoinneofaí comhluch na dtacaí ioncaim leanaí ar 33% go 35% d'íosráta na híocaíochta leasa shóisialaigh do dhuine fásta.

2.1 An Roinn Leanáí & Gnóthaí Óige

Clár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige

Tharla roinnt áirithe forbairtí maidir le Clár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige i gcaitheamh na mblianta 2015 agus 2016;

- Tá creat náisiúnta meastóireachta deartha i dtaca le Clár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige. Tá an mheastóireacht ar siúl, agus tá Sainghrúpa Comhairleach Idirnáisiúnta ag maoirsiú na meastóireachta. Bhíothas ag súil le tuarascáil eatramhach sa bhliain 2017 agus leis an tuarascáil deiridh sa bhliain 2018.
- Sa bhliain 2015, bunaíodh grúpa tascdhírthe chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi is fearr leis an bhfoghlaim ó Chlár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige a phríomhshruthú i réimse an bheartais agus i réimse an tsoláthair d'fhonn feabhas a chur ar na torthaí do leanáí agus do dhaoine óga.
- Thairis sin, bunaíodh Grúpa Pleanála um Pobal Foghlama Chlár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige d'fhonn limistéir a chur ar fáil chun foghlaim, fios agus cleachtas a roinnt agus chun tacaíocht a thabhairt dá chéile ar mhaithe le seirbhísí comhtháite éifeachtacha a sholáthar.
- Sa bhliain 2016, thionóil an Roinn Imeacht an AE um Piarmheasúnú, i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath, ar théama Sheirbhísí an Choisc agus na Luath-Idirghabhála chomh maith lena cion feidhme ó thaobh feabhas a chur ar na torthaí do leanáí a bheadh i mbaol na bochtaineachta agus i mbaol an eisiaimh shóisialta.
- Rinne an Roinn a thuilleadh forbartha agus a thuilleadh beachtúcháin ar a plean tríd an Tionscnamh um Cháilíocht agus um Fhorbairt Acmhainne. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an Tionscnamh um Cháilíocht agus um Fhorbairt Acmhainne cur chuige comhordaithe a ghlacadh chun feabhas a chur ar chumas, ar fhios agus ar cháilíocht ó thaobh an choisc agus ó thaobh na luath-idirghabhála do leanáí, do dhaoine óga agus dá dteaghlaigh, ag féachaint dóibh siúd atá i mbaol drochthorthaí a shaothrú. Tá ceithre cinn de chomhchodanna tábhachtacha sainaitheanta a bhfuil sé mar aidhm acu sonraí a chur in oiriúint; leas a bhaint as fianaise; feabhas a chur ar an gcur i ngníomh trí chóitseáil

agus trí fhorbairt; agus neadú a dhéanamh ar bhealaí an choisc agus na luath-idirghabhála trí chreat cáilíochta.

- Ag féachaint dá n-aistriú isteach ní ba luaithe i gClár Limistéarbhunaithe na hÓige, bhí na trí cinn d'iarláithreacha Chlár an Choisc agus na Luath-Idirghabhála le teacht go deireadh a gconarthaí i lár na bliana 2016. Socraíodh an maoiniú chun na conarthaí a shíneadh go Lúnasa na bliana 2017 ar aon dul leis an gcuid eile de na láithreacha.

An Scéim um Chúram Inacmhainne Leanaí

Fógraíodh i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2016 go dtabharfaí isteach Scéim nua um Chúram Inacmhainne Leanaí⁹. Tiocfaidh an Scéim seo in ionad na gclár spriocdhírthe reatha um chúram leanaí trí bhithin scéime amháin a bheidh níos éifeachtaí agus níos áisiúla don úsáideoir, lena n-áireofar “timchúram” do leanaí réamhscoile agus do leanaí aoise scoile. Soláthróidh an scéim nua córas ar féidir fóirdheontais uilíochta agus fóirdheontais spriocdhírthe araon a chur ar fáil uathí i leith chostas an chúraim leanaí. Ina theannta sin, cruthóidh sé bonn solúbtha i gcomhair na hinfeistíochta sa todhchaí i dtacaí maoinithe um chúram leanaí, rud a cheadóidh coigeartú ar thairseacha glanioncaim agus fairsingiú ar fhóirdheontais do leanaí breise agus do theaghlaigh bhreise le himeacht ama.

Forbairtí i gCláir um Chúram Leanaí:

- Na Rialacháin fán Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016: Tháinig an chuid ba mhó de na rialacháin i bhfeidhm i Meitheamh na bliana 2016. Forálann na Rialacháin nach mór do gach fostaí, a oibríonn go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís, mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige ar Leibhéal 5 i gCreat Náisiúnta na gCáilíochtaí ar a laghad a shealbhú, nó cáilíocht eile a mheasann an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach.
- Clár Caipitil na Luathbhlianta: Sa bhliain 2015, soláthraíodh cistiú €5 mhilliún ón gclár seo i dtaca le seirbhísí pobail agus seirbhísí neamhbhrabúis um chúram leanaí agus €2 mhilliún i dtaca le saoráidí príobháideacha agus saoráidí pobail um chúram leanaí. Sa bhliain 2016, soláthraíodh €6.5 milliún i

⁹ affordablechildcare.ie

dtaca le cistiú um Chlár Caipitil na Luathbhlianta. Ba go sonrath ar mhaithe le soláthraithe réamhscoile ar mhian leo a gcuid seirbhísí a fhairsingiú chun freastal ar a thuilleadh leanaí ó Mheán Fómhair na bliana 2016 a tugadh an cistiú seo. Thairbhígh 1,006 cinn de sheirbhísí ar fud na tíre den bheart seo.

- Scéim Cúraim agus Oideachais na Luath-Óige: Fairsingíodh an scéim seo sa dóigh go bhféadfadh gach leanbh teacht saor in aisce ar an réamhscolaíocht ó thrí bliana d'aois go dtí go dtosóidís ar scoil (agus iad ag dul isteach sa réamhscoil i Meán Fómhair, in Eanáir nó in Aibreán tar éis dóibh trí bliana d'aois a bhaint amach). Anois tairbhíonn leanaí de mheán 61 seachtain ar an scéim, méadú ó 38 seachtaine.
- An tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain: Tugadh isteach an tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain i Meán Fómhair na bliana 2016. Is é is eochairchuspóir leis an tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain ná tacú le soláthraithe réamhscoile chun taithí ionchuimsitheach réamhscoile a chur ar fáil, chun go gcinnteofar go bhféadfaidh na leanaí faoi mhíchumas páirt iomlán a ghlacadh i gClár Cúraim agus Oideachais na Luath-Óige, agus ar an gcaoi sin go mbainfear tairbhe as an oideachas réamhscoile den scoth. Samhail leanbhíarnach is ea an tSamhail um Chuimsiú agus Rochtain agus áirítear léi seacht leibhéal de thacaíocht fhorásach de réir riachtanais an linbh agus na réamhscoile.
- Clár na Ceannaireachta um Chuimsiú: Thosaigh an clár seo i Meán Fómhair na bliana 2016 mar chuid de phacáiste níos leithne de thacaí oideachais agus oiliúna chun uasoiliúint a chur ar scileanna lucht saothair na luathbhlianta i ndáil leis an gcuimsiú agus i ndáil leis an míchumas.

Torthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí Níos Gile - Creatlach an Pholasaí Náisiúnta do Leanaí agus do Dhaoine Óga 2014-2020¹⁰

Seo an chéad chreatlach uileghabhálach um beartas náisiúnta do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga ón mbreith go dtí 24 bliana d'aois. Sheol an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige an chreatlach sa bhliain 2014. Déantar tríd an gcreatlach sraith chomhroinnte torthaí a shuíomh do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga a n-oibríonn na ranna rialtais, na gníomhaireachtaí, na seirbhísí reachtúla agus na hearnálacha

¹⁰ https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf

deonacha pobail go léir ina leith, chun deimhin a dhéanamh de fhreagairt chomhchuí do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga. Straitéisí comhpháirte de “Thorthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí Níos Gile” is ea an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rannpháirtíocht na Leanaí agus na nDaoine Óga sa Chinnteoireacht, 2015-2020 agus an Straitéis Náisiúnta don Aos Óg, 2015-2020.

Foilsíodh an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Rannpháirtíocht na Leanaí agus na nDaoine Óga sa Chinnteoireacht, 2015-2020 i Meitheamh na bliana 2015. Is í sin an chéad straitéis ar rannpháirtíocht na leanaí agus na ndaoine óga sa chinnteoireacht san Eoraip. Is é is cuspóir leis an straitéis ná a chinntiú go mbeidh guth ag leanaí agus daoine óga ina gcuid saolta laethúla ar bhonn aonair agus ar bhonn comhchoiteann thar na cúig réimse náisiúnta torthaí de “Thorthaí Níos Fearr, Todhchaí Níos Gile”. Foilsíodh an chéad Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar Fhorfheidhmiú na Straitéise seo in Iúil na bliana 2016. Foilsíodh sa bhliain 2015 treoir phraiticiúil ar leanaí agus daoine óga a chloistear go hannamh a chur san áireamh maidir leis an gcinnteoireacht.

Foilsíodh an Straitéis Náisiúnta don Aos Óg, 2015-2020 i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2015. Saináithnítear sa Straitéis thart ar 50 gníomh tosaíochta le seachadadh ag Ranna Rialtais, Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit agus dreamanna eile, lena n-áirítear seirbhísí deonacha don aos óg. Dearadh na gníomhartha seo chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheistanna ar ardtosaíochtaí iad do na daoine óga féin. Áirítear leo saincheistanna amhail teacht ar sheirbhísí meabhairshláinte ar líne don aos óg, Beartas Náisiúnta agus Plean Gníomhaíochta ar Mhurtall, deiseanna do na daoine óga is faide ó mhargadh an tsaothair, agus tionscnaimh fiontraíochta na n-óg i scoileanna agus i suíomhanna oibre don aos óg.

Forbairt na Saoráidí agus na Seirbhísí don Aos Óg i gCeantair faoi

Mhíbhuntáiste

Rinneadh soláthar suntasach i dtaca le forbairt na saoráidí agus na seirbhísí don aos óg i gceantair faoi mhíbhuntáiste sna blianta 2015/16, lena áiríodh na cinn seo a leanas:

- Tugtar tacaíocht ón gCiste Áiseanna agus Seirbhísí don Aos Óg do thart ar 230 tionscadal príomhshrutha. Cuireadh cistiú €18.4m ar fáil sa bhliain 2015 agus €18.9m sa bhliain 2016. Bunaíodh an ciste seo chun cuidiú le forbairt na straitéisí coisctheacha ar dhóigh spriocdhírthe, trí fhorbairt na saoráidí don aos óg, ina measc saoráidí spóirt agus saoráidí caithimh aimsire i gceantair faoi mhíbhuntáiste ina bhfuil fadhb shuntasach drugaí nó ina bhféadfadh a leithéid teacht chun cinn.
- €1m i gcistiú caipitil a cuireadh ar fáil do sheirbhísí spriocdhírthe don aos óg sna blianta 2015/2016. Bhí tionscadail agus seirbhísí a raibh maoiniú faoin gCiste Áiseanna agus Seirbhísí don Aos Óg á fháil acu intofa chun iarratas a dhéanamh.
- Thosaigh cur i ngníomh na moltaí san Athbhreithniú ar Luach ar Airgead agus ar Bheartas¹¹ maidir le cláir don aos óg sa bhliain 2015 go háirithe, i bhfianaise fheidhmiú céimneach na Straitéise Náisiúnta don Aos Óg 2015-2020¹², a foilsíodh an 8 Deireadh Fómhair, 2015.
- Sa bhliain 2016, cuireadh tús le cúig cinn de Thionscadail Shamplacha ar Luach ar Airgead, a raibh leithdháileadh iomlán €200,000 acu, i gceithre cinn de cheantair a bhí i ngátar: Cill Mhantáin Thiar, Tiobraid Árann Theas, An Cabhán Thoir agus Droichead Átha.
- Tá an Tionscnamh Infhostaitheachta don Aos Óg, a fógraíodh i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2015, á mhaoiniú ag Ciste na gCuntas Díomhaoin chun €600,000 a chur ar fáil do sheirbhísí deonacha don aos óg i dtaca le cláir do dhaoine óga nach bhfuil ag gabháil don oideachas, don oiliúint ná don fhostaíocht.
- Tá an Roinn tar éis gabháil do cheacht, i gcomhar le Pobal agus leis an Oifigeach Óige i ngach Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna (BOO), a dhéanfaidh léarscáilíocht ar an soláthar seirbhíse don aos óg ar fud an Stáit. Cuideoidh an ceacht léarscáilíochta seo leis an Roinn agus leis an mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna a bhaineann le hábhar ó thaobh forbairt a dhéanamh ar phróifíl

¹¹ <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/20141223ValueforMoneyYouthProjects.pdf>

¹² <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/20151008NatYouthStrat2015to2020.pdf>

shochdhéimeagrafach mhionsonraithe maidir le líon na ndaoine agus leibhéal na díothachta araon.

Coistí na Seirbhísí do Leanaí agus do Dhaoine Óga (CSLDÓ)

Foilsíodh an treoirphlean maidir le forbairt Choistí na Seirbhísí do Leanaí agus do Dhaoine Óga (CSLDÓ) i Meitheamh na bliana 2015. Sna blianta 2015 agus 2016 cuireadh síolchiste ar fáil ón Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige chun tacú le tionscadail a roghnaíodh ó na pleananna trí bliana a bhí ag gach ceann de na CSLDÓ. Tugadh an feidhmiú céimneach ar bhonn náisiúnta de na CSLDÓ chun críche sa bhliain 2016. Bunaíodh seacht gcinn is fiche de na CSLDÓ agus bhí sé chomhordaitheoir is fiche acu go hiomlán. Áiríodh leis seo cúig cinn de CSLDÓ i réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath agus comhordaitheoir CSLDÓ a bhí á roinnt ag contaetha áirithe. Is é Túsla a fhostaíonn na comhordaitheoirí go léir trí bhíthin comhchistiúcháin ón Roinn agus ó Thúsla.

Scéim Phíolótach um Maoirseacht ar Bhannaí

Seoladh Scéim Phíolótach um Maoirseacht ar Bhannaí i réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath i Samhain na bliana 2016. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an Scéim um Maoirseacht ar Bhannaí seirbhís thimfhillteach agus tacaí teiripeacha sa phobal a chur ar fáil do leanaí agus dá dteaghlaigh, rud a chuideoidh le leanaí ar athchur ó thaobh cloí leis na coinníollacha bannaí, agus a laghdóidh ar an gcaoi sin an gá le leanaí a bheith ar athchur faoi choinneáil. Bronnadh conradh ar Extern chun Scéim um Maoirseacht ar Bhannaí a chur ar fáil ar bhonn píolótach i mórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath, ar feadh dhá bhliain, maille le meastóireacht agus athbhreithniú go leanúnach.

2.2 An Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna

Straitéis Náisiúnta: Litearthacht agus Uimhearthacht don Fhoghlaim agus don Saol 2011-2020¹³

Cuireadh tús le hAthbhreithniú Eatramhach¹⁴ ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta: Litearthacht agus Uimhearthacht don Fhoghlaim agus don Saol 2011-2020 sa bhliain 2015, ionas go bhféadfaí meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar na bearta i gcrích agus na dúshlán lenar buaileadh ó thaobh an straitéis a chur i ngníomh go dtí sin. Áiríodh leis an athbhreithniú eatramhach seo breithniú ar fhionnachtana taighde, ar an mbonn náisiúnta agus ar an mbonn idirnáisiúnta araon, agus próiseas comhairliúcháin le raon mór páirtithe leasmhara. Tháinig sé chun críche go déanach sa bhliain 2016 trí fhoilsiú PISA (2015)¹⁵ agus TIMSS (2015)¹⁶.

Thaispeáin an tAthbhreithniú Eatramhach a foilsíodh sa bhliain 2017, go raibh dul chun cinn mór déanta ag pointe lárbhealaigh na Straitéise. Is cúis mhaíte go mór mór an dul chun cinn atá déanta ag Éirinn ó thaobh leibhéal litearthachta do chách a chur chun cinn. Rangaíodh scoláirí na hÉireann sa tríú háit as 35 thír den Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch (ECFE/OECD) sa léitheoireacht in PISA 2015. Thairis sin, sainithníodh réimsí inar gá béim bhreise a leagan dá mba mhian le hÉirinn a huailmhian a bhaint amach, mar a sainíodh sa 'Phlean Gníomhaíochta don Oideachas 2016-2019', ba é sin go mbeadh an córas oideachais agus oiliúna ab fhéarr aici sna naoi mbliana le teacht.

Rinneadh an Mheasúnacht Náisiúnta ba dhéanaí ar Bhéarla agus ar Mhatamaitic sa bhliain 2014. Taispeántar sa tábla thíos na spriocanna bunaidh, an dul chun

¹³ https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/pub_ed_interim_review_literacy_numeracy_2011_2020.PDF

¹⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Literacy-and-Numeracy/Review-of-National-and-International-Reports-on-Literacy-and-Numeracy.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/education/pisa-2015-results-volume-i-9789264266490-en.htm>

¹⁶ <http://www.erc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/TIMSS-initial-report-FINAL.pdf>

cinn a taifeadadh agus na spriocanna nua a cinneadh tar éis an athbhreithnithe eatramhaigh.

Measúnacht Náisiúnta ar Léitheoireacht Bhéarla agus ar Mhatamaitic (MNLBM/NAERM) - Na Bunscoileanna Go Léir		Sprioc do 2020 a leagadh amach i Straitéis 2011	Scéal Reatha (MNLBM /NAERM 2014)	Sprioc Nua
Léitheoireacht: ar leibhéal 3 nó os a chionn sin	Rang a Dó	40%	46%	50%
	Rang a Sé	40%	44%	50%
Léitheoireacht: ar leibhéal 1 nó faoina bhun sin	Rang a Dó	30%	22%	20%
	Rang a Sé	30%	25%	20%
Matamaitic: ar leibhéal 3 nó os a chionn sin	Rang a Dó	40%	47%	53%
	Rang a Sé	40%	42%	50%
Matamaitic: ar leibhéal 1 nó faoina bhun sin	Rang a Dó	30%	26%	20%
	Rang a Sé	30%	27%	20%

Bhí an fheidhmíocht fhoriomlán ar léitheoireacht Bhéarla i Rang a Sé go suntasach nób airde i Measúnacht Náisiúnta '14 ná i Measúnacht Náisiúnta '09, de 13 phointe scórála. Thairis sin, is féidir an méid comhfhreagrach éifeachta, 0.26, a mheas mar rud atá tábhachtach go substainteach. Breathnaíodh freisin ar mhéaduithe suntasacha feidhmíochta i dtaca leis na fo-scálaí comhpháirte um Stór Focal Léitheoireachta agus Tuiscint Léitheoireachta agus i dtaca leis na fo-scalaí próisis um Aisghabh, Bain Tátal, Comhtháthaigh & Léirmhínigh agus Scrúdaigh & Measúnaigh.

Bhí an fheidhmíocht fhoriomlán ar mhatamaitic i Rang a Dó agus i Rang a Sé go suntasach nób airde i Measúnacht Náisiúnta '14 ná i Measúnacht Náisiúnta '09, de 14 phointe scórála agus de 12 phointe scórála, faoi seach. Ba é an méid éifeachta i Rang a Dó ná 0.28 agus i Rang a Sé ná 0.24, agus is féidir an dá cheann acu a léirmhíniú mar rud atá tábhachtach go substainteach (is é sin le rá, is féidir iad a mheas mar rud mór).

Taispeántar sa tábla seo thíos na torthaí i dtaca le PISA

Clár do Mheasúnú Idirnáisiúnta Mac Léinn – Na hIar-Bhunscoileanna Go Léir		Spríoc do 2020 a leagadh amach i Straitéis 2011	Scéal Reatha (CMIML/ PISA 2015)	Nua
Léitheoireacht: ar leibhéal 4 nó os a chionn sin	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois		28%	33%
Léitheoireacht: ar leibhéal 5 nó os a chionn sin (na gnóthachtálaithe is airde)	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois	Ní raibh spriocanna comhfhreagracha ar bith i straitéis na bliana 2011	7%	10%
Léitheoireacht: ar leibhéal 1 nó faoina bhun sin	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois		16%	12%
Matamaitic: ar leibhéal 4 nó os a chionn sin	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois		23%	29%
Matamaitic: ar leibhéal 5 nó os a chionn sin (na gnóthachtálaithe is airde)	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois		6%	10%
Matamaitic: ar leibhéal 1 nó faoina bhun sin	scoláirí atá 15 bliana d'aois		22%	16%

Fionnadh i dTreochtaí sa Staidéar Idirnáisiúnta ar an Matamaitic agus ar an Eolaíocht - TIMSS 2015 (Samhain 2016) go raibh, ar leibhéal na bunscoile, scór meánach na scoláirí Éireannacha go suntasach níos airde sa bhliain 2015 ná sa bhliain 2011.

Tá an chéad Mheasúnacht Náisiúnta eile ar Bhéarla agus ar Mhatamaitic le heagrú sa bhliain 2020.

Comhionannas Deiseanna sna Scoileanna a Sheachadadh (CDSS/DEIS)

Ba i mBealtaine na bliana 2005 a seoladh ‘Comhionannas Deiseanna sna Scoileanna a Sheachadadh (CDSS/DEIS) – an Plean Gníomhaíochta um Chuimsiú Oideachasúil’ agus is é sin fós ionstraim bheartais na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an míbhuntáiste oideachasúil. Áiríodh 825 scoil leis an gclár sa scoilbhliain 2016/17.

Foilsíodh sa bhliain 2015 “Foghlaim ón Meastóireacht ar an gClár ‘Comhionannas Deiseanna sna Scoileanna a Sheachadadh’”¹⁷ – Tuarascáil de chuid na Institiúide um Thaighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta (ITES/ESRI) arna coimisiúnú ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna ar chur i ngníomh DEIS thar deich mbliana. Measúnaíodh sa tuarascáil príomhfhionnachtana an taighde seo agus cuireadh comhairle ar fáil chun teorú an bheartais sa todhchaí a mhúnlú i ndáil leis an míbhuntáiste oideachasúil, agus DEIS san áireamh.

I ndiaidh an fhoilseacháin seo, cuireadh tús sa bhliain 2015 le próiseas chun clár DEIS a athbhreithniú agus bhí sé sin ag druidim chun críche i ndeireadh na bliana 2016. Scrúdaíodh gach gné de DEIS i bpróiseas an athbhreithnithe. Áiríodh le próiseas an athbhreithnithe creat nua measúnachta inar úsáideadh sonraí lárshéalbhaithe de chuid na Príomh-Oifige Staidrimh agus de chuid na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna d’fhonn scoileanna a shainaithint chun iad a áireamh le Clár nua.

Thug an Foras Taighde ar Oideachas agus Cigireacht na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna faoi thástáil sa bhliain 2016 chun measúnacht a dhéanamh ar tháirgí gnóthachtála na ndaltaí agus ar an bpleanáil sna scoileanna a bhí ag glacadh páirte i gClár DEIS. Bhí na torthaí le foilsiú sa bhliain 2017. Tá a thuilleadh eolais, agus raon cáipéisí meastóireachta a foilsíodh faoi DEIS ar fáil ar láithreán gréasáin an Fhorais Taighde ar Oideachas ag www.erc.ie

An Clár Críochnaithe Scolaíochta

Croíchuid den tSeirbhís Leasa Oideachais arna soláthar ag Túsla is ea an Clár Críochnaithe Scolaíochta. Cuireann an clár ar chumas na bpobal áitiúil forbairt a dhéanamh ar straitéisí saincheaptha chun leibhéil na rannpháirtíochta a mhéadú a oiread agus is féidir i measc na ndaoine sin a bhíonn i mbaol na luathfhágála scoile. Tá freagracht ar Sheirbhís Leasa Oideachais Thúsla deimhin a dhéanamh de go bhfuil gach leanbh ag freastal go rialta ar scoil, nó ar dhóigh eile go bhfuil íoschaighdeán oideachais á fháil aige nó aici. Tacaíonn an tseirbhís le freastal rialta scoile, téann sí i ngleic le fadhbanna na neamhláithreachta agus cuireann sí

¹⁷ <https://www.esri.ie/system/files?file=media/file-uploads/2015-07/RS39.pdf>

seirbhís ghinearálta leasa oideachais ar fáil. Faigheann an tseirbhís atreoruithe ó údaráis scoile, ó thuismitheoirí agus ó dhaoine eile maidir le buarthaí faoi leas oideachais na leanaí ar leith.

D'fhoilsigh an Institiúid um Thaighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta athbhreithniú ar oibriú an Chláir Chríochnaithe Scolaíochta¹⁸ sa bhliain 2015. Fionnadh san athbhreithniú gur tharla feabhsú ar na leibhéil freastail agus i gcéatadán na ndaoine óga a bhí ag fanacht ar scoil go dtí an Ardteistiméireacht. Ba é an tátal a baineadh ná gur chomhlíon an Clár Críochnaithe Scolaíochta, mar aon le DEIS, cion tábhachtach feidhme. Tá roinnt áirithe gníomhartha glactha ag Túsla chun oibriú an chláir a neartú, amhail feabhas a chur ar phleananna bliantúla coinneála agus pléití a thionól le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha ar na fionnachtana ón athbhreithniú agus ar an gcaoi le croífhaidhmeanna an chláir a neartú.

Rinneadh tiomantas sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta go ndéanfaí an Straitéis Chríochnaithe Scolaíochta a fhorbairt. Bhí an Straitéis seo le forbairt i rith na bliana 2017.

Rannpháirtíocht in Oideachas

Is é an sainmhíniú ar luathfhágálaithe scoile ná daoine atá idir 18 mbliana agus 24 bliana d'aois, a bhfuil iar-bhunoideachas sóisearach ar a mhéad acu agus nach bhfuil i mbreisoideachas ná oiliúint. Is í príomhspríoc an AE 2020 i leith na luathfhágála scoile ná 10%. Is í an spríoc náisiúnta atá leagtha amach ag Éirinn ná 8%. Thit sciar reatha na hÉireann de luathfhágálaithe scoile ó bhonnlíne 10.8% sa bhliain 2011 go 6.3% sa bhliain 2016, arbh éard a bhí ann ná dul chun cinn an-dearfach os cionn na sprice.

Is í spríoc an AE 2020 do dhaoine atá 30-34 de bhlianta d'aois agus a bhfuil oideachas tríú leibhéal nó a mhacasamhail críochnaithe acu ná méid os cionn 40%, is í spríoc na hÉireann ná 60% ar a laghad. Shroich Éire 52.3% sa bhliain 2015 agus 52.9% sa bhliain 2016.

¹⁸ <https://www.esri.ie/publications/review-of-the-school-completion-programme>

An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Síceolaíochta Oideachais (SNSO)

Cé go tacaítear le forbairt na hinniúlachta acadúla, sóisialta agus mothúchánaí i measc na ndaltaí ar fad, tugann seirbhís síceolaíochta na Roinne, SNSO, tosaíocht dá tacaíocht le daltaí a bhíonn i mbaol an mhíbhuntáiste oideachasúil agus leo siúd a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu.

- Sa bhliain 2015, tháirg agus scaip SNSO “Folláine i mBunscoileanna: Treoirínte maidir le Meabhairshláinte a Chur Chun Cinn”.
- Faoin ‘bPlean Gníomhaíochta don Oideachas 2016-2019’ tugtar tosaíocht mhór do thacaíocht le meabhairshláinte agus folláine, agus ina thaobh seo, tugtar tiomantas sa ‘Phlean Gníomhaíochta don Oideachas 2016-2019’ do mhéadú ar líon foirne SNSO de 65 shíceolaí.
- Thosaigh próiseas náisiúnta earcaíochta le linn na bliana 2016 chun painéil réigiúnacha earcaíochta a chur ar bun d’fhonn caoi a thabhairt ar aisghabháil na gcaillteanas foirne i seirbhísí SNSO ach freisin d’fhonn tús a chur le forghníomhú an tiomantais i dtaca le méadú na foirne.

Meastóireacht ar Sholáthar do Dhaltaí a bhfuil Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais acu i mBunscoileanna¹⁹

Tugadh isteach i Meán Fómhair na bliana 2016 nuashamhail mheastóireachta ‘Meastóireacht ar Sholáthar do Dhaltaí a bhfuil Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais acu i mBunscoileanna’. Tá éascaíocht déanta ag an tsamhail d’eolas atá cuimsitheach agus bord ar bhord leis na hathruithe is déanaí a bhailiú ar chaighdeán an tsoláthair do dhaltaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu i mbunscoileanna. Ó tugadh isteach í:

- Baineadh feidhm as an tsamhail i 15 cinn de bhunscoileanna
- Seoladh trí cinn déag de Chigireachtaí Ábhair i scoileanna príomhshrutha ar leibhéal an iar-bhunoideachais
- Seoladh deich gcinn de mheastóireachtaí i lárionaid Ógtheagmhála
- Rinneadh cigireacht ar gach scoil ina raibh Aonad Ardtacaíochta nó Aonad Sainchúraim agus ar Scoileanna Coinneála Leanáí i rith na bliana 2016.

¹⁹ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Evaluations-of-Provision-for-Pupils-with-Special-Educational-Needs-in-Primary-Schools/>

Bhí an Chigireacht ag súil leis go bhfoilseofaí sa bhliain 2017 Tuarascáil Ilchodach ar Oideachas na Leanaí faoi Choinneáil agus faoi Chúram ar bhonn na meastóireachtaí a rinneadh idir an bhliain 2013 agus an bhliain 2015. Rinneadh samhail na meastóireachta i gcomhair na scoileanna seo a chur bord ar bhord leis an eolas ba dhéanaí, i bhfianaise fhionnachtana na Tuarascála Ilchodaí.

Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais

Thug an Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta faoi mheasúnacht chuimsitheach ar scéim na gCúntóirí Riachtanas Speisialta agus chuir sí tús le hobair ar fhorbairt na dtograí i dtaca le nuashamhail chun Cúntóirí Riachtanas Speisialta a lamháil. Bhí an tuarascáil ar an measúnacht chuimsitheach agus na tograí i dtaca leis an nuashamhail le críochnú faoi dheireadh an Mhárta 2018.

Táthar ag leanúint de theicneolaíocht chúnta a mhaoiniú chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag tacú le leanaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu ó thaobh teacht ar an gcuraclam. Tá seirbhís síceolaíochta na Roinne, SNSO, i measc seirbhísí eile, ag tabhairt tosaíochta dá tacaíocht le daltaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu.

Oideachas don Lucht Siúil

I gcomhréir leis an Straitéis Oideachais don Lucht Siúil, tá an soláthar don Lucht Siúil príomhshruthaithe agus tá an soláthar a bhí leithscartha roimhe seo á mhaoiniú anois mar chuid den chóras príomhshrutha. Tá roinnt áirithe tacaí atá bainteach go sonrach leis an Lucht Siúil fós sa chóras chun cuidiú leis an trasdul go córas príomhshrutha na ndaltaí, rud a bhí á chur ar fáil roimhe seo trí sholáthar leithscartha. Is éard atá anseo ná: 141 phost mar mhúinteoir acmhainne maolúcháin do scoileanna ina bhfuil líon suntasach daltaí ón Lucht Siúil.

Faigheann scoileanna caipitíocht bhreise do dhaltaí ón Lucht Siúil ar ráta €70 in aghaidh an dalta ar leibhéal an Bhunoideachais, agus €201 in aghaidh an dalta ar leibhéal an Iar-bhunoideachais.

Bhí an céimniú amach ar an dá scoil speisialta don Lucht Siúil amháin, a bhí fós ann, á phlé le pátrún na scoileanna.

Ghlac an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna páirt sa Ghrúpa Stiúrtha a bunaíodh chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar an bhforbairt agus ar an gcur i ngníomh maidir le Straitéis Náisiúnta nua um Chuimsiú an Luchta Shiúil agus na Romach (NTRIS 2016-2020), rud a bhí á threorú ag an Roinn Díl agus Cirt agus Comhionannais.

2.3 An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí

An Scéim Díbhinne um Fhilleadh ar Obair

Tugadh isteach sa bhliain 2015 an Scéim Díbhinne Teaghlaigh um Fhilleadh ar Obair agus tá sé mar aidhm aici cabhrú le teaghlaigh bogadh ón leas sóisialach isteach san fhostaíocht. Tá sí seo ar fáil do thuismitheoirí aonair a théann le fostaíocht, agus iad siúd atá ag baint leasa as an bhForlíonadh Ioncaim Teaghlaigh san áireamh. Ceadáíonn an Díbhinn Teaghlaigh um Fhilleadh ar Obair do chustaiméirí an chuid dá n-iaríocaíocht, a bhaineann le Méadú um Leanbh Cáilithe, a choinneáil ar feadh dhá bhliain, rud a chiallaíonn teidlíocht iomlán ar an Méadú um Leanbh Cáilithe (ar fiú €1,550 in aghaidh an linbh é) sa chéad bhliain agus teidlíocht 50% sa dara bliain. Tugann sé seo dreasacht shuntasach do theaghlaigh le leanáí a théann le fostaíocht – mar a thuairiscíonn an Institiúid um Thaighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta²⁰. Leanann an Roinn d'fhaireachán a dhéanamh ar na dreasachtaí d'fhaighteoirí an leasa shóisialaigh chun go ndéanfaidh siad trasdul ón leas sóisialach go dtí an fhostaíocht d'fhonn leanúint de chothabháil a dhéanamh ar an dreasacht isteach san fhostaíocht.

Taca Ioncaim Leanáí

Chonacthas sa bhliain 2015 an chéad laghdú ar líon na leanáí faoi chuing na bochtaineachta seasmhaí ó bhí an bhliain 2008 ann. Tugadh isteach roinnt áirithe beart cáinainnéise i ndáil le taca ioncaim leanáí thar an dá bhliain:

²⁰ <http://www.esri.ie/pubs/Savage-Making-Work-Pay-More-BudgetPerspectives2016.16Jun15.pdf>

2015

- Mhéadaigh ráta míosúil an tSochair Linbh de €5 ó €130 go €135
- Tugadh isteach Scéim dhá sheachtain nua an tSochair Atharthachta.

2016

- Mhéadaigh ráta míosúil an tSochair Linbh de €5 sa bhreis go €140 in aghaidh na míosa.
- Faomhadh méadú ó €9.60 go €15.60 in aghaidh na seachtaine ar ráta an linbh den Liúntas Soláthair Dhírigh a íoctar i leith leanaí a chónaíonn laistigh de chóras an tSoláthair Dhírigh.
- Mar chuid de Cháinainnéis na bliana 2016 méadaíodh an Forlíonadh Ioncaim Teaghlaigh (FIT) (a athainmníodh ina dhiaidh sin go dtí an Íocaíocht do Theaghlach i bhFostaíocht) de €5 in aghaidh na seachtaine do theaghlaigh le leanbh amháin agus €10 in aghaidh na seachtaine do theaghlaigh le beirt leanaí nó níos mó.

Baineadh amach sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016 an sprioc ó thaobh comhluach na dtacaí ioncaim leanaí a choinneáil ar 33% go 35% d'íosráta na híocaíochta leasa shóisialaigh do dhuine fásta. Tá an Roinn ag leanúint d'fhaireachán agus d'fheabhsú a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht agus éifeachtúlacht na dTacaí Ioncaim Teaghlaigh agus Leanaí ó thaobh an bhochtaineacht i measc na leanaí a laghdú.

Clár na mBéilí Scoile

Cuireadh ar fáil suim bhreise €2m sa bhliain 2015 do Bhéilí Scoile, rud a thug an leithdháileadh iomlán airgid go €39m. Úsáideadh an cistiú breise chun an cistiú a mhéadú i gcomhair na scoileanna reatha faoin gclár 'Comhionannas Deiseanna sna Scoileanna a Sheachadadh (DEIS)' de thart ar 20% sa chuid ba mhó de na cásanna. Tugadh tosaíocht do chlubanna bricfeasta a sholáthraíonn torthaí a bhíonn an-dearfach do leanaí leochaileacha ó thaobh a bhfreastail scoile, ó thaobh a bponcúlachta agus ó thaobh a leibhéal fuinnimh. Tugadh spreagadh do

scoileanna DEIS, nach raibh sa scéim cheana, dul isteach sa scéim.

Cuireadh ar fáil suim bhreise €3m sa bhliain 2016 do Bhéilí Scoile, rud a thug an leithdháileadh iomlán airgid go €42m. Úsáideadh an cistiú breise seo freisin ionas go bhféadfadh na scoileanna DEIS go léir bricfeasta a chur ar fáil do gach leanbh dá mba ghá sin agus lón don chuid ba mhó de na daltaí. Leanadh de bhéim a chur ar sholáthar na gclubanna bricfeasta agus ar scoileanna DEIS, nach raibh sa scéim cheana, a áireamh leis an scéim.

2.4 An Roinn Sláinte

Cúram Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta (LG) saor in aisce

Cuireadh tús sa bhliain 2015 le Cúram Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta (LG) do leanáí faoi bhun 6 bliana d'aois. Is féidir le gach leanbh atá cláraithe faoin Scéim freastal saor in aisce ar LG atá rannpháirteach sa Scéim.

Chomh maith le cuairteanna a thabhairt saor in aisce ar LG, cumhdaíonn an cárta cuairte LG do leanáí faoi bhun 6 bliana d'aois sainmheasúnachtaí in aois 2 bhliain agus in aois 5 bliana agus cúram feabhsaithe do leanáí a bhfuil an plúchadh (asma) orthu.

Féach an Chaibidil ar Phobail chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil.

Cártaí Leighis

I Samhain na bliana 2016, d'fhaomh an Rialtas go n-ullmhófaí Cinn agus Scéim Ghinearálta an Bhille chun teidlíocht uathoibríoch ar chárta leighis a thabhairt do leanáí a fhaigheann an Liúntas Cúraim Bhaile (LCB). Ciallaíonn an reachtaíocht go gcáileoidh gach leanbh, a n-íoctar íocaíocht LCB ina leith, do chárta leighis go huathoibríoch agus, dá bhrí sin, nach mbeidh an leanbh sin faoi réir na tástála acmhainne um chárta leighis a thuilleadh tráth ar bith sa todhchaí le linn don LCB a bheith á fháil i leith an linbh. Shannfaí timpeall is 30,000 cárta leighis LCB.



Caibidil 3

Daoine in Aois Oibre

Spríoc 5: Gníomhachtú Mhargadh an tSaothair

Soláthar a dhéanamh ar thacaí ioncaim atá éifeachtúil agus dírithe ar an obair, mar aon leis na tacaí agus an treoir atá riachtanach chun cabhrú leo bealach isteach san fhostaíocht a phleanáil agus a chur i ngníomh, do na daoine dífhostaithe cláraithe ar fad. Soláthar a dhéanamh go háirithe ar dheiseanna ar a n-ionchais fostaíochta a fheabhsú trí ghníomhaíochtaí breisluacha maidir le cuardach poist, teorú, taithí oibre, oideachas agus oiliúint, do dhaoine atá dífhostaithe le fada agus do dhaoine dífhostaithe óga.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

2015

- Seoladh “Bealaí chun na hOibre 2015”. Seo an atriall deireanach ar straitéis an Rialtais a chumhdaíonn tréimhse cheithre bliana (2012-2015) chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim dífhostaíochta.
- Bhí plean nuashonraithe um “Bealaí chun na hOibre 2016-2020” á fhorbairt laistigh den Roinn.

2016

Foilsíodh in Eanáir na bliana 2016 straitéis nua um “Bealaí chun na hOibre 2016 – 2020”. Breithnítear sa straitéis an chaoi ar cóir bealaí gníomhachtúcháin, a shaothraítear in am an chúlaithe, a chur in oiriúint d’am an téarnaimh agus mar uirlis um chuimsiú sóisialta/gníomhach i dtréimhse an rathúnais.

Spríoc 6: Ó leas sóisialach go hobair

Tacaíocht éifeachtach a chur ar fáil do chuardaitheoirí poist agus d’fhaighteoirí na hÍocaíochta eatramhaí cuardaitheora poist (iarfhaighteoirí na hÍocaíochta Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora) trí Oifigí Intreo na Roinne agus eolas a chur ar fáil ar thacaí atá ar fáil ag an obair má tá siad ag aistriú isteach san fhostaíocht.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

Thug an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí faoi athchóiriú fairsing ar an Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora (ÍTA).

2015

- Tharla an chéim dheireanach den athchóiriú ar scéim ÍTA an 2 Iúil, 2015, nuair a laghdaíodh uastairseach aoise linbh na scéime go dtí 7 mbliana.

2016

- Ba go luath sa bhliain 2016 a thosaigh gníomhachtú na dtuismitheoirí aonair ar íocaíocht chuardaitheora poist i ngach oifig.

Taispeánann Measúnacht ar Thionchar Sóisialta na gCáinainneisí 2015 agus 2016 de chuid na Roinne go ndearnadh gnóthachan €18.55 in aghaidh na seachtaine do thuismitheoirí aonair i bhfostaíocht agus gnóthachan €7.90 in aghaidh na seachtaine do thuismitheoirí aonair nach mbíonn i bhfostaíocht.

Spríoc 7: Fostaíocht don Aos Óg

Na daoine óga dífhostaithe ar fad atá faoi bhun 25 bliana d'aois a tharraingt isteach trí Intreo, lena chinntiú go bhfaighidh siad tairiscint fostaíocta, oideachas leantach, printíseacht nó cúrsa oiliúna, a bheidh ar ardchaighdeán, laistigh de thréimhse cheithre mhí ó bheith dífhostaithe nó ó oideachas foirmiúil a fhágáil. Feabhas a chur ar scileanna infhostaitheachta do dhaoine óga trí dheiseanna seachfhoirmiúla agus neamhfhoirmiúla foghlama.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

Faoi phróiseas na Ráthaíochta don Aos Óg, anois bíonn cásoifigigh Intreo ag plé ar bhonn míosúil le daoine dífhostaithe, ón tráth a bhíonn siad dífhostaithe, chun cuidiú leo pleananna pearsanta um dhul chun cinn i gcomhair na fostaíochta a ullmhú agus a chur i ngníomh.

Thit líon na ndaoine óga a ndearnadh dífhostaithe iad agus a d'fhan dífhostaithe ar feadh ceithre 4 mhí nó ní ba mhó ó bhonnlíne 37,200 sa bhliain 2013 go dtí;

2015 - 28,200

2016 - 23,000

Thit an ráta dífhostaíochta i measc na n-óg go seasta ó bhonnlíne na bliana 2013

27% go dtí;

2015 - 20.3%

2016 - 17%

Spríoc 8: Fostaíocht na nDaoine faoi Mhíchumas

Tacú le rannpháirtíocht mhéadaithe na ndaoine faoi mhíchumas san obair trí scileanna, cumas agus neamhspleáchas a chruthú; naisc agus tacaí isteach san obair a chur ar fáil; an obair a dhéanamh slán ó thaobh an phá de; coinneáil na fostaíochta agus athiontráil san obair a chur chun cinn; tacaíocht gan uaim a chur ar fáil agus plé le fostóirí, mar chuid den Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas 2015-2024.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

An Roinn Dlí & Cirt & Comhionannais

2015

- Seoladh Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta deich mbliana chun deimhin a dhéanamh de chur chuige comhordaithe chun tacú le daoine faoi mhíchumas ó thaobh dul chun cinn san fhostaíocht. Seo cur chuige trasrialtais arna chomhordú ag an Roinn Dlí & Cirt & Comhionannais.

2016

- D'oibrigh an RGFCS, i gcaitheamh na bliana 2016, i gcomhar leis an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an Roinn Sláinte agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar chur chuige beartais, a bhí éifeachtach agus comhordaithe, d'fhonn cuidiú le daoine faoi mhíchumas, lena áiríodh iad siúd ar theastaigh leibhéal ard tacaíochta uathu, chun fostaíocht a fháil agus a choinneáil.
- D'fhógair an Rialtas i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2016 go gcuirfí cistiú €2 mhilliún ar fáil do thionscadail chun tacaí réamh-ghníomhachtúcháin a sholáthar do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas sa bhliain 2017.

2015 & 2016

- Bhí sé mar aidhm ag an Tacaíocht um Chomhtháthú Fostaíochta agus Meabhairshláinte léiriú a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi ar féidir le seirbhísí meabhairshláinte agus seirbhísí fostaíochta faoi thacaíocht (Infhostaitheacht) atá ann cheana comhlíonadh a dhéanamh ar an tsamhail bharrchleachtais um Shocrúchán agus Tacaíocht Aonair i dtaca le fostaíocht faoi thacaíocht trí chomhtháthú feabhsaithe. Le linn na tréimhse 2015 agus 2016, rinne an RGFCS

comhar le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Genio agus Athchóiriú Meabhairshláinte maidir leis an an Tacaíocht um Chomhtháthú Fostaíochta agus Meabhairshláinte.

- Rinne an RGFCS feidhmiú céimneach ar bhonn forásach dá seirbhís lánghníomhachtúcháin tacaíochta do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas ar mhian leo leas a bhaint as an tseirbhís ar bhonn deonach. Thosaigh an chéad chéim den fheidhmiú céimneach seo sa bhliain 2015 nuair a cuireadh an tseirbhís ar fáil i ndeich gcinn de Lárionaid Intreo. Rinneadh an tseirbhís a shíneadh go dtí na láithreacha eile go léir i gcaitheamh na bliana 2016.
- Sheol an Roinn athbhreithnithe éagsúla maidir leis an mbeartas breoiteachta/míchumais i rith na mblianta 2015 agus 2016, lena áiríodh:
 - Meastóireacht ar an tSeirbhís Infhostaitheachta.
 - Meastóireacht ar an Tionscadal um Ghníomhachtú Míchumais
 - Tuarascáil na Roinne Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí faoin Suirbhé ar an Liúntas Míchumais 2015
 - Athbhreithniú ar an Obair a Dhéanamh Slán, ó Thaobh an Phá de, do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas

3.1 An Roinn Dí & Cirt & Comhionannais

An Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas 2015-2024²¹

Sheol an Rialtas an Straitéis Chuimsitheach Fostaíochta do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas sa bhliain 2015 chun deimhin a dhéanamh de chur chuige comhordaithe ó thaobh tacú le daoine faoi mhíchumas chun dul chun cinn san fhostaíocht. Bíonn gá faoin straitéis le cur chuige trasrialtais a thugann le chéile gníomhartha na rann éagsúil rialtais agus gníomhartha na ngníomhaireachtaí éagsúla stáit agus iad ar theann a ndíchill chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na bacainní agus na dúshláin a théann i bhfeidhm ar infhostaitheacht na ndaoine faoi mhíchumas.

Buaileann grúpa forfheidhmiúcháin go rialta le chéile chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i ngníomh na straitéise agus chun féachaint chuige go mbíonn gach Roinn Rialtais ag comhlíonadh a ndualgas agus ag sroicheadh a spriocanna.

An Clár Nascála

Tá an tSeirbhís Phromhaidh ag leanúint de luathú a dhéanamh ar thionscnaimh atá ceaptha chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar phatrúin na hiompraíochta coiriúla atá bainteach leis an eisiámh sóisialta, ag féachaint go háirithe do thionscnaimh um cheartas aisiríoch. Tá tacaíocht tugtha ag an tSeirbhís go háirithe do shíneadh an Chláir Nascála chun méadú a dhéanamh ar líon na gciontóirí a cuireadh go rathúil i bhfostaíocht, in oideachas nó i Scéimeanna Fostaíochta Pobail.

Rinne an tSeirbhís Phromhaidh sa bhliain 2015 1,800 ciontóir a atreorú chuig Oifig Fostaíochta agus Oiliúna an Chláir Nascála. Seoladh 1,435 de na hatreoruithe seo i gcomhair socrúcháin agus cuireadh 677 duine i bhfostaíocht, in oideachas nó i Scéimeanna Fostaíochta Pobail. Rinne an tSeirbhís Phromhaidh 1,763 chiontóir a atreorú chuig Oifig Fostaíochta agus Oiliúna an Chláir

²¹ [http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities - FINAL.pdf/Files/Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities - FINAL.pdf](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Comprehensive%20Employment%20Strategy%20for%20People%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Comprehensive%20Employment%20Strategy%20for%20People%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20FINAL.pdf)

Nascála sa bhliain 2016, agus atreoraíodh 1,325 i gcomhair socrúcháin agus cuireadh 614 duine i bhfostaíocht, in oideachas nó i Scéimeanna Fostaíochta Pobail.

3.2 An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí

Bealaí chun na hOibre

Is í sprioc na mBealaí chun na hOibre ná a chinntiú go bhfaighidh daoine ar an mBeochlár an líon is mó post agus is féidir. Tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ag Éirinn ón tréimhse is measa de ghéarchéim na fostaíochta, nuair a bhain an dífhostaíocht buaicphointe os cionn 15% amach. Tá cion tábhachtach feidhme comhlíonta ag an straitéis um Bealaí chun na hOibre 2012 - 2015 maidir leis an dul chun cinn seo.

Tá béim leagtha ag na straitéisí comhleanúnacha um Bealaí chun na hOibre ar:

1. Éascaíocht a dhéanamh d'iontrálaithe nua ar an mBeochlár chun filleadh ar an obair (2012) – ag féachaint go mór mór do dhaoine nach bhfuil i bhfad dhífhostaithe.
2. Thairis sin, éascaíocht a dhéanamh dóibh siúd atá dífhostaithe le fada, agus do dhaoine dífhostaithe óga, chun filleadh ar an obair (2014 (An Ráthaíocht don Aos Óg); 2015; 2016-2020).
3. Ina theannta sin, éascaíocht a dhéanamh dóibh siúd ar daoine fásta in aois oibre iad ach nach bhfuil gníomhach faoi láthair (agus gan Íocaíochtaí Cuardaitheora Poist á bhfáil acu) agus a bhfuil cumas agus mian acu obair a chéanamh, chun dul isteach san fhostaíocht (2018-2020). Daoine nach sainmhínítear iad mar chuardaitheoirí poist sa chiall thraidisiúnta agus a bhféadfaidh dúshláin a bheith rompu ó thaobh fostaíocht a fháil.

Bealaí chun na hOibre – Plean Gníomhaíochta i leith 2016 – 2020²²

Foilsíodh an straitéis nua, 'Bealaí chun na hOibre 2016 – 2020', in Eanáir na

²²<https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/PathwaysToWork2016-2020.pdf>

bliana 2016. Breithnítear sa straitéis an chaoi ar cóir bealaí gníomhachtúcháin, a shaothraítear in am an chúlaithe, a chur in oiriúint d'am an téarnaimh agus mar uirlis um chuimsiú sóisialta/gníomhach i dtréimhse an rathúnais. Dá réir sin, chomh maith le béim a chur ar dhaoine atá cláraithe mar dhaoine dífhostaithe agus le linn dúinn a bheith ag díriú ar na daoine atá dífhostaithe le fada agus ar na daoine dífhostaithe óga, féadfaidh an gníomhachtú a bheith ag féachaint le díormaí daoine 'neamhghníomhacha' eile a spreagadh le páirt a ghlacadh i margadh an tsaothair i dtréimhse an fháis gheilleagraigh agus an téarnaimh gheilleagraigh.

Baineann dhá ghné leis an 'Straitéis um Bealaí chun na hOibre' seo, mar sin:

1. Comhdhlúthú: Na leasuithe a rinneadh le déanaí ar na Seirbhísí Poiblí Fostaíochta agus Leasa a chomhdhlúthú agus an soláthar a bharrfheabhsú chun na torthaí do na cliaint a uasmhéadú.
2. Forbairt: An teacht ar sheirbhísí gníomhachtúcháin a fhairsingiú, de réir a chéile agus de réir mar a bheidh acmhainní ar fáil, do dhaoine neamhfhostaithe eile in aois oibre.

As na 86 cinn de ghníomhartha i 'mBealaí chun na hOibre 2016 – 2020', bhí 42% acu a tugadh chun críche agus/nó bhí siad ag leanúint ar aghaidh sa bhliain 2016, lenar áiríodh:

- Seirbhísí Intreo a chur chun cinn do dhaoine deonacha agus dóibh siúd atá faoi mhíchumas
- Fóraim Réigiúnacha Scileanna a chur ar bun
- Prótacail idir an RGFCs agus soláthraithe seirbhísí fostaíochta eile a chur ar bun
- Printíseachtaí nua i bhfeidhm

Foilsíodh tuarascálacha ráithiúla stádais²³ ar an dul chun cinn i ngach ceann de na gníomhartha um 'Bealaí chun na hOibre' ar www.welfare.ie

²³ <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/LMC-Pathways-to-Work-Publications.aspx>

Clocha Cora

Tá na clocha cora chun na hoibre á gcur ar fáil trí scéimeanna agus trí thionscnaimh fostaíochta mar iad seo a leanas:

Scéim Shóisialta na Tuaithe (SST) – cuireann an scéim seo tacaíocht ioncain ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí ar ioncam íseal agus d'iascairí ar íocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh áirithe. Ina chomaoin sin, soláthraíonn na daoine a ghlacann páirt i SST seirbhísí a théann chun tairbhe do phobail na tuaithe. Fógraíodh 500 áit sa bhreis sa bhliain 2016.

Tionscnamh 'Tús' – scéim na socrúchán oibre pobail is ea Tús, ina gcuirtear deiseanna gearrthréimhseacha oibre ar fáil, a dhírítear ar na daoine sin a bhíonn dífhostaithe le fada. Tá 1,000 áit ar a laghad ar fáil do dhaoine dífhostaithe óga. Lena chois sin, tá 20% de na háiteanna infhaighte ar fáil i gcomhair atreoruithe cuidithe, agus daoine ar Íocaíochtaí Eatramhacha Cuardaitheora Poist (ar a dtugtaí custaiméirí ar Íocaíochtaí Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora tráth) san áireamh.

Tairseach (Gateway) – seo scéim ghníomhachtúcháin saothair na n-údarás áitiúil ina bhfuil deiseanna gearrthréimhseacha oibre agus oiliúna á gcur ar fáil do dhaoine atá dífhostaithe le fada agus atá ar an mBeochlár le breis agus dhá bhliain. Caithfidh na deiseanna oibre a bheith ag dul chun tairbhe don cheantar áitiúil. Sna blianta 2015 agus 2016 bhí 3,000 áit i dTairseach ar fáil do dhaoine a bhí dífhostaithe le fada. Ba é an méid áiteanna líonta i ndeireadh na bliana 2016 ná 2,913.

Scéimeanna Fostaíochta Pobail (FP) – tá na scéimeanna seo ceaptha chun cabhrú le daoine atá dífhostaithe le fada (nó atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste ar dhóigh eile) chun filleadh ar an obair trí shocrúcháin pháirtaimseartha shealadacha a thairiscint i bpoist atá bunaithe i bpobail áitiúla. Tugann rialacha nua na fostaíochta pobail teacht do chách ar na scéimeanna ó 21 bhliain d'aois; rachaidh sé seo chun tairbhe do dhaoine dífhostaithe óga a mbeidh teacht níos luaithe ar na scéimeanna acu anois. Thairis sin, beidh dreamanna áirithe, mar shampla, daoine ag déanamh athshlánúcháin ó dhrugaí, iarchiontóirí agus dídeanaithe, in ann teacht ar na scéimeanna agus iad 18 mbliana d'aois.

Aonaigh Phost

Thionóil an Roinn Aonaigh Phost éagsúla ar fud na tíre i gcaitheamh na mblianta 2015 agus 2016, lenar áiríodh Aonaigh ghinearálta mhóra ar Ghairmeacha ina ndearnadh freastal ar raon catagóirí fostaíochta in earnálacha éagsúla gnó agus Aonaigh Phost eile a bhí ní ba lú agus a bhain go sonrach le hearnáil amháin.

Imeacht bliantúil is ea Seachtain na bPost ina gcuirtear deis ar fáil maidir le raon na dtacaí agus na seirbhísí ó Intreo d'fhostóirí agus do chuardaitheoirí poist.

Tharla 160 imeacht ar fud na tíre i Seachtain na bPost 2016, imeachtaí ar fhreastail 600 fostóir agus breis agus 16,000 cuardaitheoir poist orthu, agus iad seo a leanas san áireamh;

- Aonach Gaimeacha Intreo i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath (50 fostóir ag earcú i gcomhair breis agus 500 post agus d'fhreastail 2,000 cuardaitheoir poist air)
- Aonach Post an Mheán-Iarthair i Luimneach (d'fhreastail 2,500 duine air)
- Aonaigh Phost Bhun Cranncha agus Leitir Ceanainn (d'fhreastail 2,800 duine orthu)
- Aonach Céimithe Bithchógaisíochta i mBaile Átha Luain (d'fhreastail 1,000 duine air)

Áiríodh leis na himeachtaí eile timpeall na tíre Aonaigh Phost eile a bhí ní ba lú agus a bhain go sonrach le hearnáil amháin, 'Aonaigh Oideachais, Oiliúna agus Forbartha', clinicí CV agus seisiúin chóitseála 'duine le duine' do chuardaitheoirí poist.

Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora (ÍTA)

Thug an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí faoi athchóiriú fairsing ar an Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora (ÍTA), lenar áiríodh an Liúntas Eatramhach Cuardaitheora Poist a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí aonair a bhfuil an leanbh is óige acu idir 7 mbliana agus 13 bliana d'aois. Ba in Iúil na bliana 2015 a tharla an cur i ngníomh den chéim dheireanach de na hathruithe ar an Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora (ÍTA). Áiríodh leis an obair seo tacaíocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí aonair ar íocaíocht chuardaitheora poist, agus iad ag dul ar ais san fhostaíocht agus thosaigh an tacaíocht seo i ngach oifig go luath sa bhliain 2016. Le linn don chustaiméir a bheith ar an íocaíocht eatramhach chuardaitheora

poist, d'fhéadfadh an teacht ar na tacaí seo a bheith ar fáil go ceann seacht mbliana dá mbeadh an leanbh ab óige acu idir 7 mbliana agus 13 bliana d'aois. Seo tacaíocht i bhfad níos leithne ná an gealltanas ar feadh 12 mhí a mbíonn feidhm leis de ghnáth i leith na gcuardaitheoirí poist óna gcruinniú 'duine le duine'. Is í is aidhm leis an tacaíocht níos leithne seo ná feabhas a chur ar ionchais fostaíochta an duine.

I gCáinainnéisí na mblianta 2015 agus 2016 tugadh roinnt áirithe beart a chuaigh chun tairbhe do thuismitheoirí aonair, lena áiríodh tástáil acmhainne na hÍocaíochta Eatramhaí Cuardaitheora Poist a chur i gcomhréir ní ba dhlúithe le tástáil acmhainne na hÍocaíochta Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora, arbh é an toradh leis ná tástáil acmhainne na hÍocaíochta Eatramhaí Cuardaitheora Poist a bheith ní ba fhlaithiúla do chustaiméirí. Thaispeáin Measúnacht ar Thionchar Sóisialta na gCáinainnéisí 2015 agus 2016 de chuid na Roinne go ndearnadh gnóthachan €18.55 in aghaidh na seachtaine do thuismitheoirí aonair i bhfostaíocht agus gnóthachan €7.90 in aghaidh na seachtaine do thuismitheoirí aonair nach mbíonn i bhfostaíocht.

Fostaíocht don Aos Óg

Faoi phríoséas na Ráthaíochta don Aos Óg anois, bíonn cásoifigigh Intreo ag plé ar bhonn míosúil le daoine dífhostaithe, ón tráth a bhí siad dífhostaithe, chun cuidiú leo pleananna pearsanta um dhul chun cinn i gcomhair na fostaíochta a ullmhú agus a chur i ngníomh. Más rud é nach bhfaigheann daoine óga obair go sciobtha, tairgtear tacaí breise dóibh trí áiteanna ar scéimeanna fostaíochta agus oiliúna. Baineann breis agus 80% de thairiscintí dá leithéid le huasoiliúint trí bhreisoideachas agus oiliúint.

Mhéadaigh líon na bhfostaithe lena thacaigh an scéim JobsPlus²⁴ ó 3,000 go 6,000 sa bhliain 2015. Maidir le gach fostaí a cháiligh do JobsPlusYouth²⁵ ó tugadh isteach na hathruithe ar na critéir intofachta i bhFeabhra na bliana 2015, cuirtear foirm chuige nó chuici chun an intofacht a dhaingniú agus is féidir í seo a

²⁴ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/jobsplus.aspx>

²⁵ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/jobsplus.aspx>

thabhairt d'fhostóirí ionchais.

Thit líon na ndaoine óga a ndearnadh dífhostaithe iad agus a d'fhan dífhostaithe ar feadh ceithre mhí nó ní ba mhó ná sin ó 37,200 sa bhliain 2013 go 28,200 sa bhliain 2015 agus go 23,000 sa bhliain 2016. Thit an ráta dífhostaíochta i measc na n-óg ó 27% go 17% i rith na tréimhse seo.

Léirítear sa tábla seo a leanas líon na rannpháirtithe nua ar scéimeanna oiliúna don aos óg sa bhliain 2015/2016.

Clár	Líon na Rannpháirtithe Nua	
	2015	2016
Lárionaid Ógtheagmhála/ Oiliúna Pobail	3,266	3,216
Breisoideachas agus Oiliúint (FET) do dhaoine dífhostaithe		
Móiminteam	1,056	122
Liúntas um Fhilleadh ar Oideachas (gan Móiminteam a áireamh)	2,416	2,158
Scéim Deiseanna Oiliúna Gairmoideachais (SDOG/VTOS)	827	843
Oiliúint SOLAS (ar a dtugtaí FÁS tráth) do dhaoine dífhostaithe	7,152	5,875
	11,451	8,998
Taithí Oibre		
JobBridge	2,294	928*
Taithí Idirnáisiúnta Oibre agus Oiliúint Idirnáisiúnta	8	9
	2,302	937
Fostaíocht Shealadach		
Tús	1,388	1,280
Tairseach (Gateway)	142	6
Fostaíocht Phobail	726	855
	2,256	2,141
Fostaíocht Fhóirdheonaithe san Earnáil Phríobháideach		

Liúntas Fiontraíochta um Fhilleadh ar Obair (féinfhostaíocht)	134	123
JobsPlus, agus JobsPlusYouth san áireamh (poist mar fhostaí)	710	732
	844	855
	20,119	16,147

Postchonnair (JobPath) – Clár um Ghníomhachtú Fostaíochta

Thug an Roinn Postchonnair (JobPath) isteach sa bhliain 2015. Tá an nuachlár seo um ghníomhachtú fostaíochta dírithe go sonrach ar na daoine atá dífhostaithe le fada (os cionn 12 mhí agus iad siúd atá faoi bhun 26 bliana d'aois san áireamh) agus orthu siúd is faide ó mhargadh an tsaothair, chun cuidiú leo fostaíocht lánaimseartha ar phá nó féinfhostaíocht a dhaingniú agus a bhuanú.

Fostaíocht na nDaoine Óga faoi Mhíbhuntáiste

Rinne an Roinn feidhmiú céimneach ar bhonn forásach dá seirbhís lánghníomhachtúcháin tacaíochta do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas ar mhian leo leas a bhaint as an tseirbhís ar bhonn deonach. Thosaigh an chéad chéim den fheidhmiú céimneach seo sa bhliain 2015 nuair a cuireadh an tseirbhís ar fáil i ndeich gcinn de Lárionaid Intreo. Rinneadh an tseirbhís a shíneadh go dtí na láithreacha eile go léir i gcaitheamh na bliana 2016. Tá oiliúint curtha ar fáil do bhreis agus 60 Cásoifigeach chun go soláthrófar saintacaíocht do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas a thagann chuig Lárionaid Intreo.

Faoin Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail, oibríonn an Roinn le fostóirí ar bhonn leanúnach agus cuirtear chun cinn tacaí reatha ar an láthair oibre mar:

- Infhostaitheacht
- an Scéim um Fhóirdheontas Pá
- an Ciste um Fhreastal Réasúnach (ina gcuimsítear an Deontas um Oiriúnú Trealaimh ar an Láthair Oibre)
- an Deontas um Léitheoir Pearsanta
- an Deontas um Ateangaire Agallaimh Phoist
- an Deontas um Choinneáil Fostaí
- an Scéim um Thacaíocht Oiliúna Feasachta ar an Míchumas

Le linn na tréimhse 2015 agus 2016, rinne an Roinn comhar le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Genio²⁶ agus Athchóiriú Meabhairshláinte²⁷ maidir leis an Tacaíocht um Chomhtháthú Fostaíochta agus Meabhairshláinte. Bhí sé mar aidhm ag an tionscadal píolótach seo léiriú a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi ar féidir le seirbhísí meabhairshláinte agus seirbhísí fostaíochta faoi thacaíocht (Infhostaitheacht) atá ann cheana comhlíonadh a dhéanamh ar an tsamhail bharrchleachtais um Shocrúchán agus Tacaíocht Aonair i dtaca le fostaíocht faoi thacaíocht trí chomhtháthú feabhsaithe.

I gcaitheamh na bliana 2016, d'oibrigh an RGFCS, i gcomhar leis an Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an Roinn Sláinte agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar chur chuige beartais a bhí éifeachtach agus comhordaithe d'fhonn cuidiú le daoine faoi mhíchumas.

Sheol an Roinn athbhreithnithe éagsúla maidir leis an mbeartas breoiteachta/míchumais i rith na mblianta 2015 agus 2016, lena áiríodh:

- Meastóireacht ar an tSeirbhís Infhostaitheachta²⁸
- Meastóireacht ar an Tionscadal um Gníomhachtú Míchumais²⁹
- Tuarascáil na Roinne Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí faoin Suirbhé ar an Liúntas Míchumais 2015³⁰
- Athbhreithniú ar an Obair a Dhéanamh Slán, ó Thaobh an Phá de, do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas³¹

D'fhógair an Rialtas sa bhliain 2016 go gcuirfí cistiú €2 mhilliún ar fáil do

²⁶ <https://www.genio.ie/>

²⁷ <https://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/projects/integrating-employment-and-mental-health-support-iemhs/>

²⁸ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/IndeconEvaluationofEmployAbility.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/EvaluationofDACT-FinalReport-24September2015.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/DSPReportonDisabilityAllowanceSurvey2015.pdf>

³¹ <https://m.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Make-Work-Pay.aspx>

thionscadail chun tacaí réamh-ghníomhachtúcháin a sholáthar do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas sa bhliain 2017.

3.3 An Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna

An Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna 2014-2019³²

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an ‘Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna 2014-2019’ taithí foghlama ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar, arb é an toradh a bheidh air ná torthaí níos fearr dóibh siúd go léir a bheidh gafa leis.

Tá an cuimsiú gníomhach ar cheann d’eocharspriocanna na ‘Straitéise Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna’. Tá cláir á soláthar do raon leathan dreamanna atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste nó i mbaol an eisiaimh, agus é mar aidhm acu caoi a thabhairt do gach saoránach le páirt iomlán a ghlacadh sa tsochaí. Tá an Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna á maoiniú trí SOLAS agus á seachadadh trí na 16 cinn de Bhoird Oideachais agus Oiliúna. Infheistíonn an Rialtas breis agus €800 milliún i mbreisoideachas agus oiliúint gach bliain trí SOLAS agus na Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna, rud a chuireann breis agus 270,000 áit ar fáil gach bliain chun tacú le hoideachas agus oiliúint ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar ar leibhéal 1 go 6 de Chreat Náisiúnta na gCáilíochtaí (CNC) do bhreis agus 320,000 tairbhí.

Déanann an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna agus SOLAS faireachán ar chur i ngníomh na Straitéise ar bhonn leantach tríd an ‘gCoiste Comhairleach ar Fhorfheidhmiú na Straitéise’. Bhí athbhreithniú lárthearma ar an Straitéis le tosú sa bhliain 2017.

³² <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf>

An Straitéis Náisiúnta Scileanna go 2025³³

Mar chuid de 'Phlean Gníomhaíochta do Phoist 2015', d'fhorbair an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna 'Straitéis Náisiúnta Scileanna 2025 - Todhchaí na hÉireann'. Foilsíodh í seo in Eanáir na bliana 2016.

Forbraíodh an straitéis i bhfianaise an athchóirithe shuntasaigh san earnáil oideachais agus oiliúna chun deimhin a dhéanamh de chóras atá níos fuinniúla, níos freagrúla agus níos airde ó thaobh na cáilíochta agus atá ag soláthar an fheasa agus na scoileanna is gá chun páirt iomlán a ghlacadh sa tsochaí agus sa gheilleagar do gach foghlaimeoir.

Tá breis agus 150 beart agus 50 páirtí leasmhar ag an Straitéis agus tá creat á chur ar fáil aici ar mhaithe le forbairt na scileanna a chabhróidh le fás na hÉireann a thiomáint sa gheilleagar agus sa tsochaí araon sna deich mbliana le teacht.

Fórim Réigiúnacha Scileanna

Bunaíodh naoi gcinn d'Fhórim Réigiúnacha Scileanna sa bhliain 2016 chun a thuilleadh rannpháirtíochta a chothú idir an córas oideachais agus oiliúna, fostóirí agus páirtithe leasmhara fiontraíochta eile ó thaobh na scileanna i ngach réigiún a chruthú.

Bunaíodh na Fórim chun gnóthaí a chur i gcomhréir le beartas Rialtais níos leithne agus le tionscnaimh ar an bhforbairt gheilleagrach réigiúnach, agus na Pleananna Réigiúnacha Gníomhaíochta do Phoist san áireamh. Cinntítear trí struchtúr nuálach na bhfóram go mbíonn an plean oibre i ngach réigiún á thiomáint ag na heochairpháirtithe leasmhara sa réigiún, lena n-áirítear na fostóirí, na fiontair agus na soláthraithe oideachais agus oiliúna.

An Plean Forfheidhmiúcháin Printíseachta³⁴

Bunaíodh an Chomhairle Phrintíseachta i Samhain na bliana 2014 tríd an 'bPlean Forfheidhmiúcháin Printíseachta'. In Eanáir na bliana 2015 rinne an Chomhairle

³³ https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/pub_national_skills_strategy_2025.pdf

³⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/Apprenticeship-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

glaos oscailte ar thograí printíseachta nua. Fuair an Chomhairle 86 thogra ó chuibhreannais de chomhlachtaí fiontraíochta, de chomhlachais ghairmiúla agus de sholáthraithe oideachais agus oiliúna. Tar éis don Chomhairle próiseas cuimsitheach meastóireachta a dhéanamh, shainaithin sí 25 chlár nua a bhí inbhuanaithe agus ullamh chun cromadh ar chéim mhionsonraithe um pleanáil agus forbairt.

Thosaigh athbhreithniú ar churaclaim na printíseachta ceardaíochta reatha go luath sa bhliain 2015 agus uaidh seo rinneadh bailíochtú ar chúig churaclam:

- Cearpantóireacht agus Siúinéireacht,
- Ceird Leictreach,
- Pluiméireacht,
- Oibriú Miotail agus
- Meicneoir Feithiclí Troma.

Cuireadh 14 churaclam eile faoi bhráid Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann (DCCÉ/QQI) lena mbailíochtú i Mí na Nollag 2016.

Amhail ar an 31 Mí na Nollag 2016, thosaigh dhá phrintíseacht nua, Cleachtóir Árachais agus Innealtóir Leictreach Tionsclaíoch, agus bhí a thuilleadh beartaithe i leith na bliana 2017.

An Plean Náisiúnta do Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ardoideachas (2015-2019)³⁵

Seoladh an 'Plean Náisiúnta Rochtana i leith 2015-19' i Mí na Nollag 2015. Sa phlean tá 5 phríomhspríoc agus breis agus 30 gníomh, atá ceaptha chun cuidiú le dreamanna atá faoi ghannionadaíocht ó thaobh páirt a ghlacadh san oideachas tríú leibhéal. Tá roinnt áirithe aidhmeanna sa phlean maidir le hearnálacha sonracha mac léinn, ina measc mic léinn faoi mhíbhuntáiste, mic léinn faoi mhíchumas, mic léinn lánfhásta, agus daoine den Lucht Siúil.

³⁵ <http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/06/National-Plan-for-Equity-of-Access-to-Higher-Education-2015-2019.pdf>

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an 'bPlean Rochtana' príomhshruthú a dhéanamh ar chlár oibre na rochtana sa dóigh go ndéanfar an fhreagracht as cothú na héagsúlachta breise a shíneadh thar oifigigh rochtana atá ainmnithe. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an bPlean freisin cumhacht a thabhairt do mhic léinn ó thaobh an beartas rochtana a fhorbairt, agus na naisc a neartú idir an breisoideachas agus an t-ardoideachas.

3.4 An Roinn Leanaí & Gnóthaí Óige

Cúram Leanaí

Bhunaigh an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige Grúpa Idir-Rannach sa bhliain 2015 chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an infheistíocht sa chúram leanaí sa todhchaí. Mhol an grúpa sin go ndéanfaí athchóiriú ar na scéimeanna cúraim leanaí, agus an Scéim um Chúram Leanaí Oiliúna agus Fostaíochta san áireamh, agus go gcruthófaí scéim amháin a bheadh níos insroichte agus a cheadódh an fóirdheonú ar theaghlaigh ar ioncam íseal gan beann ar a bheith spleách ar íocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh. Cuireadh síolchiste ar fáil i gCáinainéis na bliana 2016 chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar an scéim nua seo agus thosaigh an obair ar fhorbairt na scéime. Áirítear na cinn seo a leanas le samplaí d'infheistíochtaí eile i gclár chúraim leanaí chun tacú le tuismitheoirí:

- An Clár Fóirdheontais um Chúram Leanaí Pobail: ba iad na costais i leith na bliana 2016 ná €38,633,526 maille le 24,561 leanbh a bhí faofa agus cláraithe i gcomhair an chláir 2015/16.
- An Scéim Tacaíochta Cúraim Leanaí um Oiliúint agus Fostaíocht: ba iad na costais i leith na bliana 2016 ná €11,914,000 maille le 3,991 leanbh a bhí faofa agus cláraithe i gcomhair an chláir.
- Scéim um Chúram Iarscoile Leanaí: ba é costas na scéime ná €1,515,000 i leith na bliana 2016 maille le piocúlacht 669 áit chúraim leanaí a bhí cláraithe i gcomhair an chláir.
- An Clár um Chúram Leanaí Fostaíochta Pobail: ba é costas an chláir ná €4,947,000 i leith na bliana 2016 maille le 2,505 chlárúchán go hiomlán i leith 2015/2016.



Caibidil 4

Daoine Scothaosta

Spríoc 9: Cúram Pobail

Leanúint ar aghaidh ag tacú le daoine scothaosta chun maireachtáil faoi dhínit agus neamhspleáchas ina n-áiteanna cónaithe féin agus ina bpobail féin chomh fada agus is féidir. Más rud é nach bhfuil sé seo indéanta, tacú le teacht ar chúram fadtréimhseach cónaithe ar ardchaighdeán cuí.

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála & Rialtais Áitiúil (RTPRÁ)

Ba in Iúil na bliana 2016 a foilsíodh 'Atógáil na hÉireann: plean gníomhaíochta maidir le Tithíocht agus Easpa Dídine'. Leagtar amach sa plean raon gealltanais chun tacú le daoine scothaosta.

Spríoc 10: Pinsin Stáit agus Pinsin Áite Oibre

Leordhóthanacht agus inbhuanaitheacht na bpinsean Stáit a chothabháil agus, nuair is féidir sin, feabhas a chur ar thorthaí tríd an bpróiseas um athchóiriú na bpinsean. Forbairt a dhéanamh ar threochlár agus amlíne chun córas forlíontach uilíoch um choigilteas scoir a thabairt isteach ina ndéantar breithniú ar na tosca comhpháirte a bhaineann le cruthú scéime a bhíonn leathan, éifeachtach agus éifeachtúil: gnéithe deartha; meastacháin chostais agus creat ama chun é a thabhairt isteach de réir a chéile.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí (RGFCS)

Sáraíodh an gealltanais ó thaobh leordhóthanacht na bpinsean stáit a chothabháil ó cheann ceann na mblianta 2015/16. Bhí fíorluach an phinsin stáit sa bhliain 2016 7% ní ba mhó ná leibhéal na bliana 2007. Leanadh ar aghaidh sa tréimhse chéanna leis an obair ar an mbonn fianaise a shuíomh chun taca a chur faoi chinntí bunúsacha a bheidh riachtanach nuair a bheidh an creat cuí oibriúcháin agus na míreanna deartha á roghnú i dtaca le nuachóras uilíoch coigilitis scoir um chlárú uathoibríoch. Bhí sé beartaithe go sonródh an Rialtas faoi dheireadh na bliana 2017 na bearta a dhéanfaí agus na hamlínte a bhainfeadh leis an gclárú uathoibríoch a sheachadadh nuair a bheadh plean ní ba leithne um chóiriú na bpinsean thar cúig bliana á fhoilsiú. (Rud a foilsíodh ina dhiaidh sin i bhFeabhra na bliana 2018)

4.1 An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála & Rialtais Áitiúil

Atógáil na hÉireann: plean gníomhaíochta maidir le Tithíocht agus Easpa Dídine³⁶

Foilsíodh ‘Atógáil na hÉireann’ in Iúil na bliana 2016. Tugtar aghaidh sa phlean cuimsitheach faoi gach gné den chóras tithíochta faoi chúig Cholún:

- Aghaidh a Thabhairt ar an Easpa Dídine
- An Tithíocht Shóisialta a Bhrostú
- Tuilleadh Tithe a Thógáil
- Feabhas a Chur ar an Earnáil Chóiríochta ar Cíos
- Leas a Bhaint as an Tithíocht Reatha

Aithnítear sa phlean gurb ionann aosú ár ndaonra agus ceann de na forbairtí déimeagrafacha agus sochaíocha is suntasaí a mbeidh ar Éirinn aghaidh a thabhairt orthu sna blianta le teacht, agus tuartar go sroichfidh líon na ndaoine os cionn 65 bliana d’aois 1.4 milliún faoin mbliain 2041. Is mór na ciallachais bheartais phoiblí ó thaobh na réimsí mar thithíocht.

Glacfar nuachur chuige tras-Rannach/idir-ghníomhaireachta, dá bhrí sin, chun tionscnaimh thithíochta do dhaoine scothaosta a chur ar aghaidh, lena n-áireofar tionscadal píolótach Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath maidir le forbairt seasca teach, maille le deiseanna ar thograí dá leithéid sin i gceantair na n-údarás áitiúil eile a mbeifear ag gabháil dóibh in éineacht leis an tionscadal píolótach.

Ag féachaint don tábhacht a bhaineann le deontais um oiriúnú tithe agus le deontais eile a chabhraíonn le daoine scothaosta maireachtáil nób fhaide go compordach ina n-áiteanna cónaithe féin trí chlár de chuid na n-údarás áitiúil agus de chuid Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, ciorfaidh an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil an chaoi ar féidir cuíchóiriú agus simpliú a

³⁶ <http://rebuildingireland.ie/>

dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas ó thaobh teacht ar na deontais seo.

Féach an Chaibidil ar Phobail chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil.

Scéimeanna na nDeontas um Oiriúnú Tithe

Sa bhliain 2015, cuireadh cistiú iomlán €50.5m ar fáil faoi choimirce Scéimeanna na nDeontas um Oiriúnú Tithe do dhaoine scothaosta agus do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas agus íocadh 7,596 dheontas. Is ann do ghealltanais faoi Chlár an Rialtais agus faoi Atógáil na hÉireann araon an cistiú i gcomhair na scéime a mhéadú. Cuireadh cistiú iomlán €56.25m ar fáil sa bhliain 2016 agus íocadh 8,010 deontas. Tá an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil ag leanúint d'oibriú le húdaráis áitiúla chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na scéime agus cuíchóiriú a dhéanamh ar phróiseas na n-iarratas ó na hiarratasóirí.

4.2 An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe & Pobail

Scéim Foláirimh do Sheanóirí

Déanann Clár an Rialtais soláthar d'infheistíocht shuntasach sa Scéim Foláirimh do Sheanóirí chun a thuilleadh sábháilteachta agus a thuilleadh suaimhnis intinne a chur ar fáil dóibh siúd a chónaíonn sa bhaile. Gheall an Roinn go ndéanfaí breithniú maidir le cur chuige nua i leith na Scéime Foláirimh do Sheanóirí sa bhliain 2014 agus, ag éirí as an méid seo, cinneadh go mbainistíodh Pobal an scéim, ag féachaint do thaithí shuntasach na heagraíochta ó thaobh cláir a sheachadadh ar son an Rialtais. Cé go mbainistíonn Pobal an scéim ar son na Roinne, ní foláir a thabhairt faoi deara go gcoimeádann an Roinn an fhreagracht as treorú straitéiseach na Scéime ó thaobh an bheartais de. Coinníonn an Roinn cúram maoirseachta freisin i ndáil le seachadadh na Scéime a dhéanann Pobal.

Idir Meán Fómhair na bliana 2015 agus Nollaig na bliana 2016, críochnaíodh beagnach 8,000 suiteáil do rannpháirtithe. D'fhruiligh Pobal sainchomhairleoirí sa bhliain 2016 chun forbairt na Scéime sa todhchaí a mhúnlú. I ndiaidh an phróisis seo, tháinig leagan nua den Scéim i bhfeidhm an 1 Samhain 2017.

4.3 An Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna

An Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna 2014-2019³⁷

Baineann Sprioc 2 sa ‘Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna 2014-2019’, leis an gCuimsiú Gníomhach agus is éard is aidhm léi tacú le cuimsiú gníomhach na ndaoine de gach aois chun páirt a ghlacadh sa bhreisoideachas agus san oiliúint d’fhonn an rannpháirtíocht iomlán sa tsochaí a chinntiú. Laistigh den Straitéis Bhreisoideachais agus Oiliúna níl aon uasteorainn aoise atá bainteach le hintofacht do chlár na Straitéise. Tá spriocanna leagtha síos sa ‘Straitéis Náisiúnta Scileanna 2025’ chun an rannpháirtíocht a mhéadú. Áirítear le Clár an Rialtais an gealltanas go dtacófar le méadú ar líon na gcúrsaí solúbtha a bheidh ar fáil, agus an deis a thabhairt do dhaoine ar a bheith ag freastal ar chúrsaí ar bhonn páirtaimseartha, um thráthnóna, sa samhradh agus ag na deirí seachtaine.

4.4 An Roinn Sláinte

An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Aosú Dearfach³⁸

Tá socruithe nua ceaptha le déanaí ag an Roinn Sláinte chun an ‘Straitéis Náisiúnta um Aosú Dearfach’ a chur i ngníomh agus chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar an gcur i ngníomh sin. Suitear trí na socruithe nua seo sásraí a chinnteoidh go mbeidh teacht go héifeachtach leanúnach ag na páirtithe leasmhara ar Ranna Rialtais agus ar Ghníomhaireachtaí Stáit a bhaineann le hábhar maidir le daoine scothaosta. Áirítear leis seo Fóram bliantúil do pháirtithe leasmhara chun sainaitheint a dhéanamh ar na príomhthosaíochtaí a mheasann siad a bheith tábhachtach i dtaca le gníomhartha an Rialtais sa bhliain le teacht agus sna chéad trí bliana eile; agus bealaí soiléire cumarsáide a bhunú idir páirtithe leasmhara agus na Ranna Rialtais a bhaineann le hábhar.

³⁷ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf>

³⁸ http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National_Positive_Ageing_Strategy_English.pdf

Mar chuid den phróiseas um chur i ngníomh na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Aosú Dearfach, tá 'Tionscnamh um Aosú Dearfach Sláintiúil' curtha ar bun i gcomhar le Clár na Sláinte agus na Folláine de chuid Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus le Daonchairdeas Atlantach (Atlantic Philanthropies) chun tionchar na Straitéise a thomhas agus chun córas leanúnach a shuíomh ar mhaithe le tomhas agus tuairisceoireacht ar an Aosú Dearfach. Déantar faireachán tríd an Tionscnamh ar na hathruithe ó thaobh sláinte agus folláine na ndaoine scothaosta a bhaineann le spriocanna agus cuspóirí na 'Straitéise Náisiúnta um Aosú Dearfach'. Is go príomha trí fhorbairt na dtáscairí um Aosú Dearfach, a fhoilseofar gach re bliain, a dhéanfar é seo.

Tá an Tionscnamh ceaptha le fainaise ar na tosca atá ag cur leis an aosú dearfach, agus ar an leibhéal áitiúil san áireamh, a chur ar fáil agus ar deireadh na freagairtí beartais a mhúnlú maidir le haosú an daonra in Éirinn. Foilsíodh an chéad tuarascáil náisiúnta ar na Táscairí um Aosú Dearfach sa bhliain 2016 agus léirítear sa tuarascáil mórán de na gnéithe dearfacha agus diúltacha a bhaineann le dul in aois in Éirinn.

An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Néaltrú³⁹

Bunaíodh Oifig Náisiúnta um Néaltrú i bhFeidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte go luath sa bhliain 2015 chun forfhorfheidhmiú na Straitéise a thiomáint. Tá 'Clár Forfheidhmiúcháin na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Néaltrú', ar fiú €27.5 milliún é agus atá á chómhaoiniú ag Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus ag Daonchairdeas Atlantach (Atlantic Philanthropies), ar siúl.

Déanann an Clár seo soláthar do Phacáistí Dianchúraim Bhaile a Bhaineann go Sonrach le Néaltrú, feachtas feasachta poiblí, agus tacaí do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta agus Buíonta Cúraim Phríomhúil chun an néaltrú a fháthmheas agus a bhainistiú. Tá aghaidh á tabhairt ar ghníomhartha eile sa Straitéis chun feabhas a chur ar thaithí na ndaoine a bhfuil an néaltrú orthu sa chúram sóisialta, sa chúram príomhúil, sna seirbhísí géarchúraim agus sa chúram fadtréimhseach. Tá Clár

³⁹ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/30115-National-Dementia-Strategy-Eng.pdf>

Cúig Bliana um Aonad Altranais Phobail do Dhaoine Scothaosta ag leanúint ar aghaidh freisin.

Athbhreithniú ar Scéim Tacaíochta na dTithe Altranais⁴⁰

Tá Meitheal Oibre Idir-rannach/Idirghníomhaireachta curtha ar bun chun feidhmiú a dhéanamh ar na moltaí san Athbhreithniú ar 'Scéim Tacaíochta na dTithe Altranais'.

Áirítear iad seo a leanas leis na forbairtí go dtí seo:

- Tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ó thaobh leasuithe riaracháin na Scéime a chur i ngníomh.
- Bunaíodh Coiste Stiúrtha faoi chathaoirleacht an Chiste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóireála (CNCC) agus le hionadaithe ón Roinn Sláinte, ón Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe agus ón CNCC chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar an athbhreithniú ar na praghsanna a bhí iníoctha le tithe príobháideacha altranais agus tithe deonacha altranais faoin Scéim. D'fhruiligh an CNCC sainchomhairleoirí seachtracha sa bhliain 2016 chun cuidiú lena athbhreithniú ar an sásra praghsála. Tá an CNCC freagrach as forbairt na tuarascála, cé go bhfuil an Roinn ag leanúint d'oibriú leis an CNCC i dtaobh an athbhreithnithe.
- Ba i Meán Fómhair na bliana 2016 a rinneadh an chéad tuarascáil chuig Coiste Comh-Aireachta ar an tSláinte maidir leis an dul chun cinn ó thaobh na moltaí san Athbhreithniú ar Scéim Tacaíochta na dTithe Altranais a chur i ngníomh.

Foirne Idirghabhála Pobail (FIP)

Tá na Foirne Idirghabhála Pobail (FIP) dírithe go príomha ar iontráil inseachanta in ospidéal a chosc agus ar éascaíocht a dhéanamh don scaoileadh abhaile luath ó ospidéal trí chúram a chur ar fáil sa phobal. Tá na seirbhísí FIP sa bhreis ar na seirbhísí pobail príomhshrutha atá ann cheana.

Sna blianta 2015 agus 2016, tharla méadú suntasach ar an líon FIP a bhí i

⁴⁰ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Review-of-Nursing-Homes-Support-Scheme.pdf>

bhfeidhm, agus bhí trí fhoireann déag a bhí lánaimseartha agus foireann amháin a bhí páirtaimseartha páirteach sa chlár. Rinneadh 19,675 atreorú ar othair chuig na FIP sa bhliain 2015 agus 27,633 atreorú sa bhliain 2016.

Tá an tseirbhís seo thar a bheith tábhachtach d’othair atá os cionn 65 bliana d’aois, ar cuid mhór iad den ghníomhaíocht iomlán sna FIP. Téann soláthar na seirbhíse seo i bhfeidhm go dearfach ar laghdú an fhreastail ar ospidéal géarchúraim agus ar an bhfad ama a chaitheann na hothair seo in ospidéal géarchúraim. Tá Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte ag leanúint de bhéim a chur ar na FIP a fhorbairt sna suíomhanna cúraim phríomhúil ar bhonn náisiúnta.



Caibidil 5

Pobail

Sprioc 11: Tithíocht Shóisialta

Córas tacaíochta um thithíocht shóisialta a chruthú atá níos solúbtha agus níos freagrúla agus ina bhfuil raon gníomhartha chun a chinntiú go bhfuil na tacaí tithíochta sóisialta ag freagairt do riachtanais na ndaoine chomh maith le feabhsuithe ina gcuid cúinsí.

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála & Rialtais Áitiúil (RTPRÁ)2015

- Scéim na hÍocaíochta Cúnaimh Tithíochta - tugadh tacaíocht do 5,680 líon tí sa bhreis in 18 gcinn de limistéir na n-údarás áitiúil i ndeireadh na bliana.

2016

- Ba in Iúil na bliana 2016 a foilsíodh 'Atógáil na hÉireann'. Chomh maith le treisiú a dhéanamh ar an gcur chuige reatha i mBaile Átha Cliath atá á threorú ag an tithíocht, tá gealltanais in 'Atógáil na hÉireann' freisin go ndéanfar é a shíneadh do cheantair uirbeacha eile, ag díriú ar dhaoine atá de shíor ag codladh amuigh agus ar líonta tí atá gan dídean le fada.
- Scéim na hÍocaíochta Cúnaimh Tithíochta - tugadh tacaíocht do 12,075 líon tí sa bhreis in 28 gcinn de limistéir na n-údarás áitiúil i ndeireadh na bliana, lenar áiríodh feidhmiú céimneach brostaithe na scéime go 9 gcinn eile d'údarás áitiúla faoi 'Atógáil na hÉireann'

Sprioc 12: Cúram Sláinte Príomhúil

Seirbhísí cúraim phríomhúil a fhorbairt sa phobal a chuirfidh caoi ar fáil do dhaoine le teacht go díreach ar bhuíonta ildisciplíneacha comhtháite de liachleachtóirí ginearálta, altraí, fisiteiripeoirí, teiripeoirí gairme agus daoine eile.

An Roinn Sláinte

Leanann na Lárionaid Chúraim Phríomhúil d'éascaíocht a dhéanamh don athrú ón ngéarchúram sláinte go dtí an cúram príomhúil. Cuireann siad saoráidí deisiúla nuaaimseartha ar fáil ina suitear Buíonta Cúraim Phríomhúil, rud a cheadaíonn soláthar ar raon seirbhísí ildisciplíneacha. I ndeireadh na bliana 2016, bhí 99 gcinn de Lárionaid Chúraim Phríomhúil ag feidhmiú agus bhí 37 suíomh ina raibh bonneagar cúraim phríomhúil á thógáil nó ar ardchéim na pleanála. Bhí 47 suíomh eile ar réamhchéimeanna na forbartha.

Spríoc 13: Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach

Lánpháirtíocht na n-imirceach a chur chun cinn agus cuimsiú sóisialta, comhionannas, éagsúlacht agus rannpháirtíocht na n-imirceach a spreagadh sa saol geilleagrach, sóisialta, polaitiúil agus cultúrtha dá bpobail trí straitéis nua ar mhaithe le lánpháirtíocht na n-imirceach.

An Roinn Dlí & Cirt & Comhionannais2015

Lean an t-athbhreithniú ar chur chuige na hÉireann i dtaca le Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach ó cheann ceann na bliana 2015. Rinneadh an t-athbhreithniú seo chun a chinntiú go bhfanfadh an beartas go hiomlán i gcomhréir le gealltanais an Rialtais i gClár an Rialtais.

2016

D'aontaigh an Rialtas an 16 Mí na Nollag 2016 go bhfoilseofaí an 'Straitéis um Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach' arna hullmhú ag an nGrúpa Tras-Rannach ar an Lánpháirtíocht.

Spríoc 14: Fuinneamh Inacmhainne

Sainaithint a dhéanamh ar mhodheolaíocht chúil um bochtaineacht (tearcrochtain) fuinnimh agus ar na huirlisí sonraí is gá chun an bhochtaineacht fuinnimh a mheas agus a rianú. Athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar na cláir éifeachtúlachta atá ann cheana, nó forbairt a dhéanamh ar chlár nua mar an tslí is fearr le tabhairt faoin mbochtaineacht fuinnimh go fadtréimhseach, mar chuid de straitéis náisiúnta nua um fhuinneamh inacmhainne.

An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil2015

D'oibrigh an Roinn ar fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar straitéis chomharbachta ar 'Tithe Níos Teo: Straitéis um Fhuinneamh Inacmhainne in Éirinn'.

2016

Seoladh an 'Straitéis chun an Bhochtaineacht Fuinnimh a Chomhrac 2016-2019'. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an straitéis seo feabhas a chur ar an mbonn fianaise le tairbhí líonmhara na héifeachtúlachta fuinnimh, chomh maith le tomhas cruinn a chur ar fáil faoi líon na ndaoine in Éirinn atá ag maireachtáil faoi chuing na bochtaineachta fuinnimh, nó atá i mbaol na bochtaineachta fuinnimh.

5.1 An Roinn Sláinte

Cúram Sláinte Príomhúil

Rinneadh dul chun cinn sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016 maidir leis an atheagrú a léiríodh sa ‘Tuarascáil ar Eagraíochtaí um Chúram Sláinte Pobail’⁴¹. Rinneadh na seirbhísí cúraim phríomhúil a eagrú agus a bhainistiú thar 9 gcinn d’Eagraíochtaí um Chúram Sláinte Pobail agus sholáthair 484 cinn de Bhuíonta Cúraim Phríomhúil na seirbhísí sin. Rinneadh léarscáilíocht náisiúnta ar 96 cinn de Líonraí Cúraim Phríomhúil, a sholáthraíonn raon seirbhísí sa bhreis orthu siúd ó na Buíonta Cúraim Phríomhúil.

I ndeireadh na bliana 2016 bhí an scéal mar seo a leanas:

- 99 Lárionad Cúraim Phríomhúil ag feidhmiú.
- 37 suíomh ina raibh bonneagar cúraim phríomhúil á thógáil nó ar ardchéim na pleanála.
- 47 suíomh eile ar réamhchéimeanna na forbartha.
- 96 Líonra Cúraim Phríomhúil ag tacú leis na Buíonta Cúraim Phríomhúil.

Cuireadh cistiú €4m ar fáil sa bhliain 2016 chun 83 bhall foirne lánaimseartha nua a earcú i dtaca le Seirbhísí Teiripe Urlabhra agus Teanga chun díriú go sonrach ar na liostaí feithimh teiripe urlabhra agus teanga maidir le Cúram Príomhúil agus Cúram Sóisialta do leanaí suas le 18 mbliana déag d’aois. I ndeireadh na bliana 2016, bhí an earcaíocht tosaithe ar 53 bhall foirne agus bhí an earcaíocht ar an 30 eile ar siúl.

Lamháladh €5m eile i dtaca le tacaí comhairleoireachta agus síceolaíochta sa Chúram Príomhúil do leanaí faoi bhun 18 mbliana d’aois. Thacódh sé seo le hearcaíocht ar 20 síceolaí lánaimseartha agus 114 shíceolaí cúnata ar bhonn píolótach dhá bhliain thar na seirbhísí síceolaíochta um chúram príomhúil. Bhí earcaíocht na bpost lánaimseartha tosaithe faoi dheireadh na bliana 2016. Is iad

⁴¹ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/choreport.html>

na bainisteoirí áitiúla de chuid Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, agus iad ag feidhmiú laistigh den leithdháileadh cistiúcháin a chuirtear ar fáil dóibh, a dhéanann cinntí maidir leis an gcumhdach i leith na n-asláithreachtaí.

Tá sé mar aidhm ag Timthriall Cúraim an Diaibéitis, lenar cuireadh tús an 1 Deireadh Fómhair 2015, feabhas a chur ar na torthaí cliniciúla d'othair agus laghdú a chur ar na haimhréidheanna a thaithítear go minic leis an riocht sláinte seo. Áirítear leis an timthriall cúraim dhá sheisiún sceidealaithe comhairliúcháin um athbhreithniú gach bliain a chuimsíonn athbhreithniú bliantúil agus cuairt leantach. I ndeireadh na bliana 2016, bhí thart ar 85,000 othar cláraithe ag a Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta i gcomhair an timthrialla chúraim.

Seirbhísí Cúraim Phríomhúil

Rinne Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte feidhmiú céimneach sa bhliain 2015 ar thionscnamh pólótach chun caoi a chur ar fáil do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta le teacht go díreach ar an ultrafhuaim i ndeich gcinn de láithreacha cúraim phríomhúil thar ceithre cinn d'Eagraíochtaí um Chúram Sláinte Pobail sa Deisceart agus san Iarthar. Ba é ráta na n-atreoruithe ar aghaidh chuig ospidéal i gcomhair imscrúduithe raideolaíochta/leighis ná thart ar 15-20%, a thaispeánann an rath a bhí ar an tionscnamh. Léiríonn sé an éifeachtúlacht a bhaineann le teacht go díreach a bheith ag Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta ar an ultrafhuaim agus maolaíonn sé a thuilleadh an brú ar na seirbhísí ospidéil chomh maith leis na liostaí feithimh a laghdú.

Thosaigh an tionscnamh sa Cheathrú Ráithe den bhliain 2015 agus bhí ocht gcinn de na deich láthair cúraim phríomhúil ag cur na seirbhíse ar fáil i ndeireadh na bliana sin. Bhí 869 atreorú i ndeireadh na bliana 2015 agus bhí breis agus 13,700 atreorú i ndeireadh na bliana 2016. Bhí Lárionad Cúraim Phríomhúil a raibh saoráidí x-gha ar an láthair aige suite san Inbhear Mór, i mBaile Átha Luain agus i mBaile Mhistéala i ndeireadh na bliana 2016. Leanann Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte de chíoradh a dhéanamh ar fhorbairt agus ar fhairsingiú na seirbhísí fáthmheasacha sa Chúram Príomhúil.

Éire Shláintúil

Coimisiúnaíodh Suirbhé bliantúil um Éire Shláintúil⁴² chun feabhas a chur ar an gcumas bailiúcháin sonraí agus ar an gcumas faireacháin d'fhonn an dul chun cinn a rianú ó thaobh na spriocanna a bhaint amach, ar mhaithe le meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar an rath a bhí ar an gCreat um Éire Shláintúil. Is é Ipsos MRBI a dhéanann an Suirbhé thar ceann na Roinne, agus baineann agallaimh 'duine le duine' san áit chónaithe leis mar aon le sampla de thart ar 7,400 duine atá ionadaíoch do dhaonra na hÉireann atá 15 bliana d'aois nó níos mó ná sin.

Foilsíodh torthaí na suirbhéanna sna blianta 2015 agus 2016. Tugann an Suirbhé pictiúr reatha shláinte na tíre chomh maith le tacar sonraí bonnlíne, a bhíonn stóinsithe agus inchreidte, maidir le raon iompraíochtaí sláinte.

An Straitéis Náisiúnta Drugaí 2009-2016

Tá tuarascálacha ar dhul chun cinn⁴³ faoin 'Straitéis Náisiúnta Drugaí', amhail mar a bhí i ndeireadh na bliana 2015 agus i ndeireadh na bliana 2016, ar fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne Sláinte. I bhfianaise na forbartha ar straitéis nua i leith na tréimhse i ndiaidh na bliana 2016, rinne painéal idirnáisiúnta saineolaithe atbhreithniú mear ar an 'Straitéis Náisiúnta Drugaí 2009-2016'.

Seirbhísí Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta Iasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta an chloig

Tá teacht ag nócha faoin gcéad den daonra ar sheirbhísí Liachleachtóra Ginearálta Iasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta an chloig i 14 lárionad ar fud na tíre, i ngach réigiún d'Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, i gcuid de gach contae ar a laghad. Fuair na seirbhísí seo thart ar 981,000 teagmháil sa bhliain 2015 agus 1,090,000 teagmháil sa bhliain 2016. Cuireann os cionn 2,000 Liachleachtóir Ginearálta seirbhísí ar fáil sna comharchumainn. I ndiaidh na tríaiseála tosaigh ar an nguthán, is féidir go ndéanfar freastal ar lárionad cóireála agus féachann Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte ar an gcur chuige seo mar dhea-bheart ionadach chun freastal ar Roinn Éigeandála Ospidéal a sheachaint.

⁴² <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/healthy-ireland/surveys/>

⁴³ <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NDS-2015-Performance-Report.pdf>

Chuir Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte cistiú de thart ar €43 mhilliún ar fáil sa bhliain 2015 i leith táillí na Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta lasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta an chloig (comhairliúcháin de chineál ar leith agus táillí forlíontacha lasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta an chloig). Ba ionann é seo sa bhliain 2016 agus thart ar €44 mhilliún. Ní áirítear leis an suimeanna seo costais na Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta lasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta an chloig i leith na lárionad glaonna, tiománaithe, seirbhísí triáiseála altraí, srl.

Cúram Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta Saor In Aisce

Ba sa bhliain 2015 a cromadh ar Chúram Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta a sholáthar saor in aisce do leanaí faoi bhun 6 bliana d'aois. Tá cead ag gach leanbh atá cláraithe faoin Scéim freastal ar Liachleachtóir Ginearálta rannpháirteach saor in aisce.

Tá an Rialtas tiomanta d'fhorbairt leanúnach chumas na Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta chun féachaint chuige go leanfaidh na hothair ar fud na tíre de theacht ar sheirbhísí Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta agus go mbeidh an liachleachtas ginearálta inbhuanaithe i ngach ceantar sa todhcháí. Le blianta beaga anuas, tá roinnt mhaith iarrachtaí déanta chun líon na Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta cleachtacha a mhéadú. Áirítear leis na hiarrachtaí seo athruithe ar na forálacha iontrála i scéim na Seirbhíse Ginearálta Leighis chun freastal ar chonarthaí Seirbhíse Ginearálta Leighis/ Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta a bhíonn níos solúbtha/comhroinnte, agus athruithe ar na forálacha scoir do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta faoi scéim na Seirbhíse Ginearálta Leighis, ag ceadú do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta conarthaí Seirbhíse Ginearálta Leighis a shealbhú go dtí go sroichfidh siad 72 bhliain d'aois, chomh maith le tacaí feabhsaithe a thabhairt isteach do chleachtaí Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta faoin tuath.

Ar deighilt ón méid seo, tá an Stát ag féachaint lena thuilleadh Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta a oiliúint chun seirbhísí Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta a chur ar fáil don daonra. Bhí 120 áit oiliúna do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta sa bhliain 2009 agus bhí 172 áit oiliúna do Liachleachtóirí Ginearálta a líonadh sa bhliain 2016. Tá an Rialtas tiomanta do mhéadú breise a chur ar an méid seo.

Féach an Chaibidil ar Leanáí chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil.

An Straitéis Náisiúnta do Chúramóirí

Oibríonn an Roinn Sláinte in éineacht le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte chun na gníomhartha a bhaineann le sláinte sa ‘Straitéis Náisiúnta do Chúramóirí’ a chur i ngníomh. Tá dul chun cinn tuairiscithe ag Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte maidir le roinnt áirithe réimsí, agus iad seo a leanas san áireamh:

- Grúpa ilrannánach na Straitéise Náisiúnta do Chúramóirí a bhunú i bhFeidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte chun forfheidhmiú na Straitéise a chur ar aghaidh
- Grúpa Stiúrtha a bhunú chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na bearnaí i soláthar na seirbhíse faoisimh agus breithniú a dhéanamh ar thascairí feidhmíochta a fhorbairt i gcomhair na seirbhísí faoisimh
- Treoir a fhoilsiú ar an bpleanáil ó thaobh duine a scaoileadh amach as ospidéal géarchúraim
- Leathanach do chúramóirí a fhorbairt ar láithreán gréasáin Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
- Forbairt a dhéanamh ar phróisis um Úsáideoir Seirbhíse, Ball den Teaghlach agus Rannpháirtíocht Chúramóra i Réimse na Meabhairshláinte
- Forbairt a dhéanamh i gcomhar le cuibhreannas InterRAI ar uilis um measúnú ar riachtanais do chúramóirí, agus soláthar leanúnach na seirbhísí faoisimh laistigh den bhuiséad atá ar fáil.

Bhuail an Roinn Sláinte agus Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte le hionadaithe na gcúramóirí i rith na mblianta 2015 agus 2016 chun plé a dhéanamh ar an ‘Straitéis Náisiúnta do Chúramóirí’ a chur i ngníomh.

Tá tuarascálacha foilsithe ag an Roinn ar dhul chun cinn na ‘Straitéise Náisiúnta do Chúramóirí’ i leith na tréimhse ó Mheán Fómhair 2014 go Meán Fómhair 2015 (an tríú tuarascáil) agus i leith na tréimhse ó Mheán Fómhair 2015 go Mí na Nollag 2016 (an ceathrú tuarascáil).

Sna blianta 2015 agus 2016, d’fhreastail ionadaithe ón Roinn Sláinte agus ó

Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte ar Fhóram bliantúil na gCúramóirí, arna thionól ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí, agus rinne siad cathaoirleacht ar an bhfo-ghrúpa téamach faoin tSláinte i ngach ceann de na seisiúin seo, áit ar phléigh cúramóirí agus a n-ionadaithe na saincheisteanna sláinte ar mhó an tábhacht dóibh iad.

5.2 An Roinn Dí & Cirt & Comhionannais

Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach

Lean an t-athbhreithniú ar chur chuige na hÉireann i dtaca le lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach ó cheann ceann na tréimhse 2015/2016. Rinneadh an t-athbhreithniú seo chun a chinntiú go bhfanadh an beartas go hiomlán i gcomhréir le gealltanais an Rialtais i gClár an Rialtais. D'aontaigh an Rialtas i Nollaig na bliana 2016, go bhfoilseofaí an 'Straitéis um Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach'. Táthar ag dréim sa Straitéis le cur chuige ar bhonn an Rialtais ar fad a mbainfidh gníomhartha na Rann ar fad leis.

Leanann an Oifig chun Lánpháirtíocht na nImirceach a Chur Chun Cinn de ghealltanais an Rialtais a chur i ngníomh i ndáil le lánpháirtíocht na n-imirceach, i bpáirt trí chúnamh airgid do thionscadail chun lánpháirtíocht na n-imirceach a chur chun cinn agus an ciníochas a chomhrac. Sa tréimhse 2015-2016, cuireadh cistiú de thart ar €2.35m ar fáil d'eagraíochtaí (go formhór údaráis áitiúla agus Eagraíochtaí Neamhrialtasacha) chun an lánpháirtíocht agus an cuimsiú a chur chun cinn.

Ba iad Cistí/Cláir eile ná:

- 2015/2016: Lig Éire 532 duine isteach mar Dhídeanaithe Cláir faoina clár athlonnaíochta.
- 2015/2016: Tháinig 240 duine go hÉirinn ón nGréig faoi Chlár Athshocrúcháin an Aontais Eorpaigh agus bhíothas i mbun iad a athlonnú ina bpobail nua.
- 2015: Lean an obair ar aghaidh ó thaobh riarachán a dhéanamh ar an gCiste Eorpach um Lánpháirtíocht agus ar an gCiste Eorpach do Dhídeanaithe – ar

tháinig Ciste an AE um Thearmann, Imirce agus Lánpháirtíocht 2014-2020 in ionad an dá cheann acu idir an dá linn.

- 2016: Iarradh iarratais ar mhaoiniú faoi Chiste an AE um Thearmann, Imirce agus Lánpháirtíocht 2014-2020 agus faoi Chlár Chiste Sóisialta na hEorpa um Infhostaitheacht, Cuimsiú agus Foghlaim 2014-2020.
- Tugtar a thuilleadh tacaíochta don lánpháirtíocht ar an leibhéal áitiúil trí thionscadail athlonnaíochta na n-údarás áitiúil do dhídeanaithe a mhaoinítear trí dheontais ó Chlár na hÉireann um Chosaint Dhídeanaithe, rud lena dtacaítear as Ciste an AE um Thearmann, Imirce agus Lánpháirtíocht.

An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Míchumais 2017-2021

Ullmhaíodh an ‘Straitéis Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Míchumais’⁴⁴ de bhun an phróisis chuimsithigh chomhairliúcháin a thosaigh sa bhliain 2016. Ba é ba chuspóir leis an bpróiseas seo ná gníomhartha agus amscálaí sonracha a shainiú agus a chomhaontú agus go ndéanfaí iad a chur i bhfeidhm faoi na hocht dtéama seo a leanas:

- Comhionannas agus Rogha
- Beartais agus seirbhísí poiblí i gcomhar
- Oideachas
- Fostaíocht
- Sláinte agus Folláine
- Seirbhísí míchumais atá dírithe ar an duine
- Maireachtáil sa Phobal; agus
- Iompar agus teacht ar áiteanna

Is é Grúpa Stiúrtha, ar a bhfuil ionadaithe ó na Ranna, gníomhaireachtaí agus páirtithe leasmhara míchumais atá ábhartha a dhéanfaidh maoirseacht ar fhorfheidhmiú na Straitéise. Is é an tAire Stáit a dhéanann cathaoirleacht ar an nGrúpa. Foilseoidh ‘Grúpa Stiúrtha na Straitéise Náisiúnta Míchumais’ tuarascáil bhliantúil ar an dul chun cinn a dhéanfar i ngach bliain den Straitéis.

⁴⁴ <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/dept-justice-ndi-inclusion-strategy-booklet.pdf/Files/dept-justice-ndi-inclusion-strategy-booklet.pdf>

An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú an Luchta Shiúil agus na Romach

Tá forbairt ar Straitéis Náisiúnta nua um Chuimsiú an Luchta Shiúil agus na Romach ar siúl. Áirítear leis an Straitéis um Chuimsiú comhairliúchán cuimsitheach poiblí leis an Lucht Siúil, na hEagraíochtaí Neamhrialtasacha agus páirtithe leasmhara eile mar chuid de phróiseas trí chéim.

- Céim 1 - eochairthéamaí i gcomhair na Straitéise nua a shainaitheint. (críochnaithe)
- Céim 2 - cuspóirí ardleibhéil faoi gach téama comhaontaithe a shainaitheint agus a chomhaontú. (críochnaithe)
- Céim 3 - gníomhartha mionsonraithe a shainaitheint chun gach cuspóir comhaontaithe a bhaint amach, maille le hamscálaí, eochairtháscairí feidhmíochta, freagrachtaí institiúideacha agus socruithe faireacháin a ghabhann leo. (tosaithe i mBealtaine na bliana 2016)

Is é Grúpa Stiúrtha na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú an Luchta Shiúil agus na Romach a dhéanfaidh breithniú ar an dréachtstraitéis, sula gcuirfear í faoi bhráid an Rialtais chun go ndéanfar í a mheas. Forálfaidh an próiseas seo do shraith d'fhíorghníomhartha is gá chun fíorfheabhsú a chruthú i gcaighdeán na beatha don Lucht Siúil agus do na Romaigh. Beidh forbairt agus forfheidhmiú ar raon gníomhartha leathana beartais ag baint leis an Straitéis chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na saincheisteanna roimh an Lucht Siúil agus pobal na Romach. Glacfaidh an Straitéis cur chuige ar bhonn an Rialtais ar fad ó thaobh dul i ngleic leis na saincheisteanna roimh an Lucht Siúil go háirithe, lena n-áireofar tionscnamh marthanach chun bruíon agus iompraíocht fhrithshóisialta a chomhrac.

Áirítear leis na réimsí faoi chumhdach na Straitéise um Chuimsiú fostaíocht, cóiríocht, sláinte, oideachas, idirdhealú, leanaí agus ógra, comhionannas inscne agus féiniúlacht chultúrtha.

Chinn an Rialtas go ndéanfaí breithniú i gcomhthéacs na Straitéise nua maidir le haitheantas a thabhairt don Lucht Siúil mar ghrúpa eitneach ar leith.

5.3 An Roinn Cumaráide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil

An Straitéis um Fhuinneamh Inacmhainne

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an ‘Straitéis um Fhuinneamh Inacmhainne’ sa bhliain 2015. Tharla comhairliúchán poiblí⁴⁵ agus ceardlann phoiblí.

Ba i bhFeabhra na bliana 2016 a foilsíodh an ‘Straitéis chun an Bhochtaineacht Fuinnimh a Chomhrac 2016-2019’⁴⁶. Cuireann an straitéis leis an dul chun cinn agus an taithí sna ceithre bliana roimhe sin ó foilsíodh an chéad straitéis de chuid an Rialtais ar an bhFuinneamh Inacmhainne. Fairsingíonn sé réim na scéimeanna reatha i dtaca leis an éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh agus cuimsíonn sé tiomantas an Rialtais d’fhorbairt agus píolótú a dhéanamh ar bhearta nua chun slite nua a aimsiú le hiarrachtaí éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh a dhíriú orthu siúd is mó atá i mbaol na bochtaineachta fuinnimh. Ina theannta sin, cruthaíonn sé na struchtúir agus an chuntasacht chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar aghaidh ar an dúshlán go héifeachtach ar gach leibhéal den Rialtas agus den tseirbhís phoiblí. In éineacht leis an straitéis tá measúnacht ar leibhéal na bochtaineachta fuinnimh in Éirinn tríd an mhodheolaíocht oibiachtúil a úsáid.

Cuirfidh an dul chun cinn ar na gníomhartha sa straitéis seo feabhas ar an mbonn fianaise le tairbhí líonmhara na héifeachtúlachta fuinnimh, chomh maith le tomhas cruinn a chur ar fáil faoi líon na ndaoine in Éirinn atá ag maireachtáil faoi chuing na bochtaineachta fuinnimh, nó atá i mbaol na bochtaineachta fuinnimh.

An Scéim Teasa agus Folláine

⁴⁵ [https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Towards a new Affordable Energy Strategy for Ireland.aspx](https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Towards%20a%20new%20Affordable%20Energy%20Strategy%20for%20Ireland.aspx)

⁴⁶ [https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/publications/Documents/5/A Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty - Web Version.pdf](https://www.dcae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/publications/Documents/5/A%20Strategy%20to%20Combat%20Energy%20Poverty%20-%20Web%20Version.pdf)

Tá an cistiú caipitil is gá i gcomhair an chláir seo curtha ar fáil agus tá an ‘Scéim Teasa agus Folláine’, ar Scéim Phíolótach í, ag oibriú i gceantair na hEagraíochta um Chúram Sláinte Pobail ó bhí lár na bliana 2016 ann. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an scéim na tionchair sláinte a thomhas ó thaobh feabhas suntasach a chur ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh na háite cónaithe atá ag duine agus é nó í ag maireachtáil faoi riocht ainsealach riospráide. Tá anailís neamhspleách á déanamh ar thorthaí sláinte na rannpháirtithe, agus ar a dtorthaí um chuimsiú sóisialta, in éineacht le seachadadh na scéime.

An Scéim “Tithe Níos Teo”

Is éard atá sa Scéim “Tithe Níos Teo” ná an phríomhscéim éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh de chuid an Rialtais do dhaoine atá faoi chuing na bochtaineachta fuinnimh, nó atá i mbaol na bochtaineachta fuinnimh. Tugann an scéim uasghráduithe éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh saor in aisce do líonta tí intofa.

Fairsingíodh an intofacht faoin scéim “Tithe Níos Teo” agus faoin Scéim Teasa agus Folláine sa bhliain 2016 chun iad siúd a bhí ag fáil na hÍocaíochta Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora a chur san áireamh.

An Plean Leathanbhanda Náisiúnta

Rinneadh mórán dul chun cinn faoin ‘bPlean Leathanbhanda Náisiúnta’ i rith na tréimhse 2015/2016. Tharla comhairliúchán fairsing le páirtithe leasmhara sa bhliain 2015. Seoladh Próiseas an tSoláthair go foirmiúil i Nollaig na bliana 2015 agus d’fhógair an tAire i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2016 go raibh sé tugtha le fios go foirmiúil ag triúr tairgeoirí i bpróiseas an tsoláthair gurbh éard a bhí á mholadh acu go príomha mar réiteach leathanbhanda faoin tuath in Éirinn ná snáithín go dtí an baile cónaithe.

Thairis sin sa bhliain 2015, foilsíodh Léarscáil Leathanbhanda Ardluais 2020, agus rinneadh é seo i ndiaidh na hoibre leanúnaí leis an tionscal agus i ndiaidh an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí.

Bunaíodh Tascfhórsa Leathanbhanda agus Fón Póca sa bhliain 2016, chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na saincheistanna práinneacha maidir leis an gclúdach

leathanbhanda agus fón póca. Bunaíodh Aonad um Theileachumarsáid Réigiúnach, sa Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, chun oibriú leis na húdaráis áitiúla agus páirtithe leasmhara d'fhonn cuidiú ó thaobh úsáid tráchtála na líonraí teileachumarsáide agus d'fhonn bacainní féideartha ar bith a mhaolú i dtaca le soláthar céimneach an Phlean Leathanbhanda Náisiúnta. Lean an Roinn de theagmháil go dlúth leis an tionscal agus le ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha eile chun cuidiú ó thaobh úsáid tráchtála na líonraí teileachumarsáide. Chuir an Roinn cómhaoiniú i dteannta na Roinne Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail ar fáil do gach údarás áitiúil chun oifigeach leathanbhanda a cheapadh.

Ó foilsíodh an 'Plean Leathanbhanda Náisiúnta' sa bhliain 2012, tá €2.5bn infheistithe in uasghrádú agus nuachóiriú na líonraí a thacaíonn le soláthar an leathanbhanda ardluais agus soláthar na seirbhísí teileachumarsáide soghluaiste. Ba chóir go gcabhródh na hinfheistíochtaí seo ó thaobh feabhas suntasach a chur ar an gclúdach agus ar an gcaighdeán a bhaineann le seirbhísí leathanbhanda, seirbhísí gutha soghluaiste agus seirbhísí sonraí soghluaiste ar fud na tíre.

Bhí teacht ag líon faoi bhun 700 míle áitreabh ar an leathanbhanda ardluais sa bhliain 2012. Bhí os cionn 1.4 milliún áitreabh nó 61% den iomlán in ann teacht ar an leathanbhanda ardluais a bhí á sholáthar ag oibrítheoirí tráchtála sa bhliain 2016. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2020, táthar ag súil leis go mbeidh teacht ag naoi gcinn as gach deich n-áitreabh ar an leathanbhanda ardluais.

5.4 An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála & Rialtais Áitiúil

Atógáil na hÉireann: plean gníomhaíochta maidir le Tithíocht agus Easpa Dídine

Ba in Iúil na bliana 2016 a foilsíodh 'Atógáil na hÉireann'. Faoin bplean gníomhaíochta seo, déanfar an cur chuige reatha i mBaile Átha Cliath atá á threorú ag an tithíocht a threisiú agus a shíneadh go ceantair uirbeacha eile, ag díriú ar dhaoine atá de shíor ag codladh amuigh agus ar líonta tí atá gan dídean le

fada. Bhí an Fheidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa Dídine i Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath tiomanta don sprioc i dtaca le tionóntachtaí a mhéadú faoi thrí sa chlár ‘an tithíocht sa chéad áit’ dá cuid ó 100 go 300. Cuireadh cistiú breise ar fáil sa bhliain 2016 i dtaca leis an gcoimisiúnú ar na Dian-Chásbhainisteoirí breise mar chuid de bhuíon foirne agus seirbhíse na heagraíochta ‘An Tithíocht Sa Chéad Áit’ i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Chomh maith le treisiú a dhéanamh ar an gcur chuige reatha i mBaile Átha Cliath atá á threorú ag an tithíocht, tá Atógáil na hÉireann tiomanta don chur chuige sin a shíneadh go ceantair uirbeacha eile, ag díriú ar dhaoine atá de shíor ag codladh amuigh agus ar líonta tí atá gan dídean le fada.

Féach an Chaibidil ar Dhaoine Scothaosta chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil.

An Ciste Gníomhaireachta Tithíochta

Faoi ‘Atógáil na hÉireann’, tá Ciste Éadálacha €70m, ar ciste imrothlach é, bunaithe agus ís é is cuspóir leis ná seilbh a ghlacadh ar 1,600 aonad sa tréimshé go 2020 chun críche tithíochta sóisialta. Tá an Gníomhaireacht Tithíochta ag plé go gníomhach faoi láthair le bainc agus le cuideachtaí infheistíochta i ndáil lena clár éadálacha. Cuireadh cistiú ar fáil don Gníomhaireacht chun seilbh a ghlacadh ar thithíocht sa bhliain 2016 agus tharraing an Gníomhaireacht €6,741,000 anuas ón Roinn sa Cheathrú Ráithe den bhliain 2016.

Scéim na hÍocaíochta Cúnaimh Tithíochta

Lean an Roinn d’fheidhmiú céimneach Scéim na hÍocaíochta Cúnaimh Tithíochta ar bhonn píolótach céimnithe reachtúil:

- 2015 – tugadh tacaíocht do 5,680 líon tí sa bhreis in 18 gcinn de limistéir na n-údarás áitiúil i ndeireadh na bliana
- 2016 – tugadh tacaíocht do 12,075 líon tí sa bhreis in 28 gcinn de limistéir na n-údarás áitiúil i ndeireadh na bliana, lenar áiríodh feidhmiú céimneach brostaithe na scéime go 9 gcinn eile d’údaráis áitiúla faoi ‘Atógáil na hÉireann’

Lean na húdaráis áitiúla, le cúnaimh ó fhoireann áitiúil na Roinne Gnóthaí

Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí, d'fhaighteoirí fadtréimhseacha an Fhorlíonta Chíosa a shainaithe agus a aistriú chuig Scéim na hÍocaíochta Cúnaimh Tithíochta.

Clár chun áiteanna cónaithe sóisialta a uasghrádú

Tá clár córasach chun áiteanna cónaithe sóisialta a uasghrádú, agus é dírithe go háirithe ar an éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a fheabhsú agus ar an mbochtaineacht bhreosla a chomhrac, ar siúl ón mbliain 2013 maille le hinfheistíocht €107m a rinneadh go deireadh na bliana 2016. Ag tosú leis na háiteanna cónaithe is neamhéifeachtúla ó thaobh an fhuinnimh de, tá feabhas curtha ar an éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh in 58,000 áit chónaithe shóisialta.

Tá an clár seo ag leanúint ar aghaidh anois leis an gcéad chéim eile, lena n-áirítear, más gá, athsholáthar na bhfuinneog agus na ndoirse chomh maith le hinsliú na n-áiteanna cónaithe sóisialta. I dteannta an chláir éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh, rinneadh insliú agus athfheistiú ar thuairim agus 7,200 áit chónaithe shóisialta a d'éirigh folamh sula ndearnadh iad a athligean ar cíós. Tá an obair seo ar siúl ón mbliain 2014 agus tá infheistíocht iomlán €85m déanta go deireadh na bliana 2016.

Tá infheistíocht leantach déanta ag an Rialtas sa chlár athnuachana, agus é ag díriú ar cheantair ina bhfuil dlús mór de thithíocht shóisialta agus ag ar féidir na cineálacha is measa den eisiáimh sóisialta, den dífhostaíocht agus den iompraíocht frithshóisialta a bheith mar chomharthaí sóirt.

Ba é an caiteachas ar an athbheochan sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016 ná €50m agus €59.9m, faoi seach, go príomha ar thionscadail i mBaile Átha Cliath, i Luimneach, i gCathair Chorcaí, i nDún Dealgan, i Sligeach agus i dTrá Lí.

Scéim Chúnaimh Chaipitil

Soláthraíodh 382 (2015) agus 319 (2016) d'aonaid tithíochta sa bhreis faoin Scéim Chúnaimh Chaipitil, ina gcuirtear cistiú ar fáil do chomhlachtaí faofa tithíochta chun tithíocht a chur ar fáil do dhaoine aosta, do dhaoine gan dídean agus do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas, lena n-áirítear daoine faoi mhíchumas ag

bogadh amach as láithreacha comhchónaithe agus isteach in áiteanna maireachtála pobalbhunaithe.

Leantar de chistiú a chur ar fáil faoin Scéim Chúnamh Chaipitil chun cóiríocht a chur ar fáil do gach ceann de na catagóirí seo.

An Clár Cóiríochta don Lucht Siúil

Ba é buiséad caipitil na Roinne sa bhliain 2015 i dtaca leis an gCóiríocht don Lucht Siúil go sonrach ná €4.3m, agus tarraingíodh €4.1m den tsuim seo anuas. Mhéadaigh an ciste seo faoi bheagnach 22% go €5.5m i leithdháileadh na bliana 2016 agus tharraing na hÚdaráis Áitiúla €4.3m anuas. Sa bhliain 2015, bhain na hÚdaráis Áitiúla soláthar 94% dá gcuid spriocanna ó thaobh na Cóiríochta don Lucht Siúil i leith na bliana. Mhéadaigh an soláthar sa bhliain 2016 agus sáraíodh spriocanna na nÚdarás Áitiúil faoi 5%, rud a cheadaigh soláthar na cóiríochta do 500 teaghlach i bhfianaise na sprice 475. Leath bealaigh sa cheathrú Clár Cóiríochta don Lucht Siúil, tá 58% den sprioc iomlán i leith an chláir bainte amach. Is scáil e seo ar an méadú ar an gcistiú sa bhliain 2014 a lean ar aghaidh isteach sa bhliain 2015 agus sa bhliain 2016.

Choimisiúnaigh an Ghníomhaireacht Tithíochta sa bhliain 2016 athbhreithniú neamhspleách saineolaíoch ar chistiú caipitil/reatha i gcomhair na cóiríochta don Lucht Siúil go sonrach go dtí seo, ag féachaint do na spriocanna i gClár Chóiríochta don Lucht Siúil de chuid na nÚdarás Áitiúil agus do na haonaid a soláthraíodh dáiríre, ag féachaint do stádas reatha na cóiríochta a maoiníodh, agus ag féachaint don chistiú a cuireadh ar fáil i dtaca le cothabháil na cóiríochta agus tacaí eile. Ba é ba chuspóir leis an athbhreithniú arna coimisiúnú ag an nGníomhaireacht Tithíochta ná eolas fíriciúil, anailís agus sainaitheint a chur ar fáil ar dhúshlán faoi leith, mar eochairardán chun tabhairt faoi iniúchadh sa bhliain 2017 ar an gcur i ngníomh agus ar an seachadadh de na Clár Chóiríochta don Lucht Siúil, agus béim á cur ar sholáthar cuí na cóiríochta.

5.5 An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe & Pobail

An Clár Infheistíochta Caipitil do na Leabharlanna 2016-2021

Seoladh clár nua in Eanáir na bliana 2016, an Clár Infheistíochta Caipitil do na Leabharlanna i leith na mblianta 2016-2021⁴⁷. Infheisteofar €23m i 17 gcinn de thionscadail chaipitil thar shaolré an chláir, lena n-áireofar feidhmiú céimneach den áis ‘Mo Leabharlann Oscailte’, rud trína soláthrófar 20 treoirshuíomh eile ina dtairgfear uaireanta sínte oscailte (8 r.n.-10 i.n., 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine) ar bhonn féinseirbhíse i rith na n-uaireanta gan foireann.

Tugadh isteach Ballraíocht Leabharlainne Saor In Aisce in Eanáir na bliana 2016, agus tugann sí seo ionchuimsitheacht agus deis rochtana i dtaca le 15 mhiliún mír sna 333 leabharlann agus mórán acmhainní ar líne i dtaca le caitheamh aimsire agus foghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil.

Soláthróidh an Córas Singil Bainistíochta Leabharlainne ardán chun teacht saor in aisce ar chroísheirbhísí leabharlainne, cárta singil ballraíochta leabharlainne, ballraíocht uilíoch agus leabharlann dhigiteach náisiúnta. Leanadh den Chóras Singil Leabharlainne a fheidhmiú ar bhonn céimnithe sa bhliain 2016. Bhí an feidhmiú céimneach deireanach le tarlú sa bhliain 2017. Déanfar é a chomhlánú trí fheidhmiú príomhshrutha na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Dáileacháin ar leanadh dá cur i ngníomh ar bhonn píolótach sa bhliain 2016.

Aontaíodh a mhalairt de chur chuige, Samhail Chomhoibríoch Réigiúnach, i ndeireadh na bliana 2016. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gcur chuige seo leabharlanna poiblí a bhunú atá níos láidre, níos éifeachtaí agus níos éifeachtúla agus atá ag soláthar seirbhísí leabharlainne níos fearr do phobail áitiúla agus do shaoránaigh.

Rinneadh an Clár Náisiúnta Litearthachta, An Ceart Chun Léimh, a phíolótú i 26 leabharlann go náisiúnta. Bhí sé le cur i bhfeidhm i lár na bliana 2017.

⁴⁷ <http://www.lgcsb.ie/en/news/new-library-capital-investment-programme-2016-2021>

An Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus um Ghníomhachtú Pobail (CCSGP)

Seoladh an Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus um Ghníomhachtú Pobail (CCSGP), an clár comharbachta ar an gClár Forbartha Áitiúla agus Pobail, a seoladh sa bhliain 2015. Tá sé mar aidhm ag CCSGP an bhochtaineacht a laghdú, an cuimsiú sóisialta agus an comhionannas a chur chun cinn trí rannpháirtíocht agus trí chomhar ar bhonn áitiúil, ar bhonn réigiúnach agus ar bhonn náisiúnta. Tá an Clár á bhainistiú ar bhonn áitiúil ag 33 Choiste Forbartha Áitiúla Pobail le tacaíocht ó Údaráis Áitiúla. Is iad na Clárfheidhmeoirí a dhéanann seachadadh ar na Clárghníomhartha thar 51 cheantar Lota.

Ba iad spriocghrúpaí CCSGP 2015-2017 ná:

- Leanaí agus Teaghlach ó Cheantair faoi Mhíbhuntáiste
- Tuismitheoirí Aonair
- Pobail Nua (lena n-áirítear Dídeanaithe/larrthóirí Tearmainn)
- Daoine a chónaíonn i bPobail faoi Mhíbhuntáiste
- Daoine faoi Mhíchumas
- Romaigh
- Na Daoine Dífhostaithe (lena n-áirítear iad siúd nach bhfuil ar an mBeochlár)
- Oibrithe/Líonta Tí ar Ioncam Íseal
- Daoine den Lucht Siúil
- Daoine Dífhostaithe Óga ó cheantair faoi Mhíbhuntáiste
- Daoine óga atá 15-24 de bhlianta d'aois agus nach bhfuil i bhfostaíocht, in oideachas ná in oiliúint.

Ba é an cistiú i leith na bliana 2015 ná tuairim agus €26.8m. Sna naoi mí go dtí deireadh na bliana 2015, thacaigh CCSGP le 2,506 cinn de Ghrúpaí Áitiúla Pobail agus 36,854 duine aonair ar bhonn duine le duine. Chuidigh an Clár le 2,322 Ghrúpa dá leithéid a bhí á bhfoirmiú, á bhforbairt nó á bhforcheimniú agus thacaigh na grúpaí seo le breis agus 125,000 duine.

Cuireadh cistiú €37.5 milliún ar fáil sa bhliain 2016 do CCSGP. Le linn na bliana 2016, thacaigh CCSGP le 47,511 duine ar bhonn duine le duine agus 3,076 cinn de Ghrúpaí Áitiúla Pobail, chun feabhas a chur ar a ndeiseanna agus a gcaíonna sa saol. Thug CCSGP tacaíocht do 1,048 gcinn de Ghrúpaí Áitiúla Pobail ó

thaobh páirt a ghlacadh i struchtúir áitiúla, réigiúnacha nó náisiúnta na cinnteoireachta agus cabhraíodh le breis agus 218,000 duine go hiomlán. Fuair os cionn 55,000 leanbh tacaíocht oideachais nó forbartha.

An Clár “Ceantair a Athbheochan trí Pheanáil, Infheistíocht agus Forbairt (RAPID)”

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gclár ‘RAPID’ (Ceantair a Athbheochan trí Pheanáil, Infheistíocht agus Forbairt) feabhas a chur ar chaighdeán na beatha agus ar an deis atá ar fáil do chónaitheoirí na gceantar is mó faoi mhíbhuntáiste i gcathracha agus i mbailte na hÉireann. Is í is aidhm leis an gclár, ar dhóigh phraiticiúil dhírthe, maolú a dhéanamh ar na díothachtaí nach mór do chónaitheoirí na gceantar faoi mhíbhuntáiste aghaidh a thabhairt orthu. Féachann sé leis an méid seo a dhéanamh trí acmhainní suntasacha an Stáit a dhíriú ar riachtanais na gceantar faoi mhíbhuntáiste.

Tugadh tiomantas i gClár na bliana 2016 do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta don Chlár ‘RAPID’ a athghníomhú. Bhí na socruithe lóistíochtúla agus eile i gcomhair an chlár fós faoi bhreithniú laistigh den Roinn i ndeireadh na bliana 2016 agus measadh go ndéanfaí feidhmiú céimneach sa bhliain 2017 ar an gclár ‘RAPID’ athmhúnlaithe. Tá ciste iomlán €5 milliún curtha ar fáil don Chlár i gCáinainéis na bliana 2017, agus is é an miondealú ná é seo a leanas:

- €2.5 milliún – Lárchathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Thoir Thuaidh
- €2 mhilliún – na 31 Údarás Áitiúla ar fad
- €0.5 milliún – gealltanais mhaoiniúcháin oidhreachta ó RAPID (an clár bunaidh)

5.6 An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta & Gaeltachta

Pobail na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán

Sprioc ardleibhéil na Roinne fós is ea forbairt teanga, cultúir agus geilleagair na Gaeltachta, rud lena ndéantar fianaise tríd an dul chun cinn suntasach a rinneadh ó thaobh feidhmiú céimneach a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas pleanála teanga faoi

Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 agus faoin 'Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030'. Ina thaobh seo, tá Údarás na Gaeltachta ag leanúint de 500 post, atá bunaithe sa Ghaeltacht, a chruthú in aghaidh na bliana, agus tá 'Scéim na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge' de chuid na Roinne ag tabhairt na deise do theaghlaigh Ghaeltachta ar ioncam suntasach a thuilleamh ní hamháin i rith mhíonna an tsamhraidh ach freisin i gcaitheamh na bliana ar fad.

I rith na mblianta 2015/2016, lean an Roinn dá tionscnaimh agus bearta éagsúla a díriodh ar thacú le forbairt shóisialta, chultúrtha agus gheilleagrach na n-oileán amach ón gcósta a bhfuil cónaí iontu ionas go bhféadfaí a chinntiú go dtiocfadh na hoileáin sin slán mar phobail inmharthana.

Áirítear leis an 'bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta' nua roinnt áirithe tionscadal caipitil a dhírítear ar fheabhas a chur ar an teacht ag pobail na n-oileán ar an móirthír. Thairis sin, leanann an Roinn de thairiscintí a lorg ar bhonn leanúnach maidir le seirbhísí iompair lastais agus paisinéirí chuig gach oileán amach ón gcósta ionas go bhféadfar deimhin a dhéanamh de theacht go rialta ar sheirbhísí poiblí agus ar imeachtaí caithimh aimsire a bhunaítear ar an móirthír.

An Mhór-Ealaín A Chur Ag Obair (2016-2025)

D'fhoilsigh an Chomhairle Ealaíon a cáipéis straitéise 'An Mhór-Ealaín A Chur Ag Obair' (2016-2025) sa bhliain 2015⁴⁸. Cuirtear béim ar leith sa straitéis seo ar an ngá le pleanáil agus soláthar a dhéanamh do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga. Áirítear le cúig luach ardleibhéil na straitéise an tiomantas don fheabhas, chomh maith le hurraim d'éagsúlacht an chleachtais ealaíonta, an rannpháirtíocht phoiblí agus na traidisiúin shóisialta agus chultúrtha. Ina theannta sin, déantar gealltanais sa straitéis go n-oibreofar i dtreo forfheidhmiú iomlán na Cairte um Ealaíona san Oideachas a bhaint amach.

⁴⁸ http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Making_Great_Art_Work.pdf

Rannpháirtíocht na Leanaí sna hEalaíona agus sna himeachtaí Cultúrtha

Lean an Roinn de spreagadh a thabhairt do leanaí sna healaíona agus sna himeachtaí cultúrtha ó cheann ceann na mblianta 2015 agus 2016 trí chlár srl. mar iad seo a leanas:

- D'fhoilsigh an Chomhairle Ealaíon agus an Institiúid um Thaighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta sa bhliain 2016 “An Rannpháirtíocht sna hEalaíona agus an Rannpháirtíocht Chultúrtha i measc na Leanaí agus i measc na nDaoine Óga – Léargais ón staidéar ‘Ag Fás Aníos In Éirinn’”⁴⁹. Tá léargais sa taighde atá an-úsáideach ó thaobh teagmháil na leanaí leis na healaíona agus leis an gcultúr agus tá cur síos ann ar bhacainní ar an rannpháirtíocht sna healaíona.
- Seoladh an clár “Éire Ildánach”⁵⁰ sa bhliain 2016 agus cuirtear béim ar leith sa chlár sin ar chaoi a thabhairt do gach leanbh ar a (h)acmhainneacht chruthaitheach a chur in iúl.
- Tá cistiú ar fiú beagnach €750,000 é á chur ar fáil faoi Sruth 3 den Scéim Chaipitil Ealaíon agus Cultúir 2016-2018 ar mhaithe le breis agus 60 eagraíocht ealaíon ar leibhéal áitiúil timpeall na tíre.

5.7 An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta & Spóirt

An Clár Iompair Tuaithe (CIT)

Rinne an tÚdarás Náisiúnta Iompair (ÚNI) dul chun cinn le comhtháthú an iompair áitiúil agus tuaithe, lena áiríodh an ‘Clár Iompair Tuaithe’ (CIT) agus forfheidhmiú athstruchtúrú an chlár CIT. Taifeadadh 1.765 milliún turas paisinéirí ar bhreis agus 242,000 seirbhís iompair a maoiníodh faoin CIT i rith na bliana 2016. Cuireadh cistiú €11.86m ar fáil don Chlár sa bhliain 2016.

⁴⁹ <http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>

⁵⁰ <https://creative.ireland.ie/en>

Tá seirbhísí tugtha le chéile ag an athstruchtúrú trí líonra cuíchóirithe de 17 n-oifig “Nasc Áitiúil” atá ag bainistiú na seirbhísí thar ceann an Údaráis Náisiúnta Iompair (ÚNI).

Eochairghné de na seirbhísí nua is ea comhtháthú breise le seirbhísí iompair phoiblí atá ann cheana agus naisc níos fearr idir bailte agus sráidbhailte agus laistigh de bhailte agus sráidbhailte. Eochairthoisic i ngach togra is ea forbairt a dhéanamh ar chroísheirbhísí chun tacú le tionscnaimh atá dírithe ar aghaidh a thabhairt ar an eisiámh sóisialta i gceantair tuaithe.

An Rannpháirtíocht sa Spóirt a Fheabhsú

Fuair 17 gcinn de Chomhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt (CÁS) cistiú sa bhliain 2016 ó Spóirt Éireann i dtaca le poist mar Oifigeach Rannpháirtíochta sa Spóirt do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas. Tá na hOifigigh Rannpháirtíochta seo ag leanúint de laethanta cumais spóirt, boccia, peil do chách, cispheil chathaoir rothaí srl. a chur i bhfeidhm chun an rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach leanúnach a chur chun cinn. Fuair na CÁS sin, nach bhfuil Oifigeach Rannpháirtíochta sa Spóirt do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas acu, cistiú chun oiliúint a sholáthar maidir le spóirt agus míchumas.

Rinne Spóirt Éireann cistiú €50,000 a lamháil sa bhliain 2016 do Lárionad CARA. Lena chois sin, tá Spóirt Éireann ag leanúint de na 3 cinn de Phríomhspóirt Pháirce (CLG, Sacar agus Rugbaí) a mhaoiniú. Chuir an Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt leithdháileadh breise ar fáil do Spóirt Éireann sa bhliain 2016 i dtaca le 17 nOifigeach Forbartha Spóirt Phobail laistigh de na CÁS. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gcistiú seo cultúr na rannpháirtíochta gníomhaí a chothú agus a spreagadh, agus tacú le deiseanna ar, agus teacht ar, spóirt agus gníomhaíocht choirp trí CÁS.

5.8 An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta & Coimirce Sóisialaí

Seirbhís Bhuiséadta agus Chomhairle Airgid (SBCA)

Fairsingíodh cion feidhme na seirbhíse SBCA sa bhliain 2015 trí bhunú na Seirbhíse Tiomnaithe um Riaráiste Morgáiste de chuid SBCA (STRM SBCA) thar an líonra SBCA, chun cabhair a thabhairt go sonrach do dhaoine i dtaca lena riaráiste morgáiste tí. Anois tá 32 shainchomhairleoir STRM ag obair i 27 suíomh ar fud na tíre, agus iad ag cuidiú le hiasachtaithe measúnacht a dhéanamh ar na roghanna atá ar fáil dóibh agus, más gá, idirbheartaíochtaí a dhéanamh le hiasachtóirí ar a son. Bhain beagnach 2,800 duine leas as an STRM SBCA go deireadh Mhí na Nollag 2016. Thairis sin, tá líonra náisiúnta de mheantóirí cúirte curtha ar bun ag SBCA. Freastalaíonn na meantóirí ar gach éisteacht chúirte athshealbhúcháin a liostaítear ar fud na tíre agus cuireann siad tacaíocht ar fáil d'iasachtaithe a bhíonn i gcruachás agus a mbíonn orthu aghaidh a thabhairt ar chailteanas a n-áite cónaithe agus iad a threorú chuig na seirbhísí cuí.

Is éard atá i SBCA freisin ná an bealach chuig seirbhís nua a seoladh sa bhliain 2016, agus ar a dtugtar Abhaile, a chuireann caoi ar fáil do dhaoine, atá dócmhainneach agus i riaráiste morgáiste tí, le teacht ar leibhéil shainmhínithe de shainchomhairle/chúnamh neamhspleách airgeadais agus/nó dlí, saor in aisce.

Tá os cionn 3,537 dearbhán i leith seirbhísí eisithe go deireadh Mhí na Nollag 2016, i dtaca le breis agus 2,300 príomháiit chónaithe phríobháideach. As na dearbháin a eisíodh go dtí seo;

- Baineann 2,856 le soláthar na seirbhísí pearsanta cleachtóra dócmhainneachta,
- Baineann 565 le seirbhísí comhairle dlí ar shaincheisteanna i ndáil le riaráiste morgáiste, agus
- Baineann 116 le seirbhísí cúnaimh dlí i ndáil le hAchoirle faoi Alt 115A, mar a shainmhínítear faoin Acht um Dhócmhainneacht Phearsanta (Leasú) 2015.

5.9 An Roinn Leanaí & Gnóthaí Óige

An Lárionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh

Lean an Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach sna blianta 2015 agus 2016 de chúnamh airgid a chur ar fáil trí 'Chlár na Lárionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh'. De ghnáth, cumhdaíonn an tacaíocht seo beirt nó triúr ball foirne a fhostú chomh maith le forchostais áirithe na lárionad.

Scéim na nDeontas Comhairleoireachta

Lean an Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach sna blianta 2015 agus 2016 de thacaíocht airgeadais a chur ar fáil do raon leathan eagraíochtaí náisiúnta, réigiúnacha agus áitiúla a sholáthraíonn an chomhairleoireacht treorach pósta agus caidrimh, an chomhairleoireacht linbh, clár piarthacaíochta na mBoghanna Báistí do leanaí, agus comhairleoireacht agus tacaíocht an mhéala ar bhás duine den teaghlach.

Aguisín 1:

Ainmneacha na Rann Rialtais

Ranna Rialtais

Ainm na Roinne roimhe seo (má athraíodh ó bhí 2015 ann)

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia & Mara

An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar & Nuálaíochta

An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta

An Roinn Leanáí & Gnóthaí Óige

An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil

An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta & Gaeltachta

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta (2016)

An Roinn Cosanta

An Roinn Oideachais & Scileanna

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha & Trádála

An Roinn Sláinte

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála & Rialtais Áitiúil

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil (2016)

An Roinn Dlí & Cirt & Comhionannais

An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí & Athchóirithe

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe & Pobail

Roinn Nua (2017)

Roinn an Taoisigh

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta & Spóirt



Samhain 2018