

# Social Inclusion Report

Incorporating Annual Reports for 2009 and 2010



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí

Department of Social Protection

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**Social Inclusion Report:**  
**Incorporating Annual Reports for 2009 and 2010**

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### **Minister's Foreword**

This third Annual Social Inclusion Report for 2009 and 2010 outlines the findings of a review of progress made during this period in implementing the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016.

During this period, Ireland found itself in the midst of a major economic recession, which resulted in increased levels of unemployment and a decrease in household incomes and living standards. Furthermore, the ability to finance public expenditure has significantly reduced the capacity of government programmes to address the programme goals as before. Therefore we have to consider new ways to achieve our aims.

Although this review has identified some progress in implementing this National Action Plan across a wide range of policy areas during the review period, evidence of the adverse impact of the economic downturn during this time has clearly emerged.

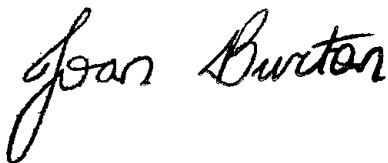
The challenge to maintain progress in meeting the goals and targets in the National Action Plan in the prevailing economic situation is considerable. This is borne out by the most recent *Survey on Income and Living Statistics (SILC)* for 2010, which shows a consistent poverty rate of 6.2% for 2010, up from 4.2% in 2008 and 5.5% in 2009. These increases and the results of this review highlight the need to restore economic growth and maintain public services to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

To this end, the Government has set the expansion of active labour market measures to promote employment growth as a priority in tackling the economic crisis, which would also serve to build real and sustainable economic growth.

In my own area of responsibility, social protection, the SILC returns indicate that social transfers continued to provide a vital safety net for those who lost jobs in 2009 and 2010. These statistics highlight that social transfers reduced the at-risk-of-poverty rate from 51% (before social transfers) to 16%, therefore showing a poverty reduction effect of 69% for those receiving welfare payments, state pensions, child benefits, etc. This clearly demonstrates the important stabilising role that social transfers play for the economy and in protecting people from the impact of the economic and fiscal downturn.

The Government *Programme for National Recovery 2011-2016* sets out the Government's economic recovery framework. Employment opportunities will be increased through labour market activation, skills training and education measures. Measures to identify poverty traps and to support people in moving from welfare to work, and to counter welfare fraud are key commitments. The Programme also sets out commitments relating to child poverty and educational disadvantage.

Despite the significant challenges to the Government and to society as a whole, the elimination of poverty remains a key objective and achieving the targets in the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion* to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty remain an important commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joan Burton' in a cursive script.

Joan Burton TD  
Minister for Social Protection

## Chapter 1

### Introduction

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 to 2016 (*NAPinclusion*), was launched in February 2007. It sets out a wide ranging and comprehensive programme of action to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It uses a lifecycle approach which places the individual at the centre of policy development and delivery by assessing the risks facing him or her and the supports available at key stages of the lifecycle. The lifecycle stages are children, people of working age, older people and people with disabilities. There is also a chapter on communities.

The *NAPinclusion* provides a strategic framework to facilitate greater co-ordination and integration of structures across Government. It sets out a wide-ranging and comprehensive programme of action to assist those who continue to be socially excluded from the living standards and opportunities that the majority enjoy. The plan contains a series of high level goals and targets aimed at making a decisive impact on poverty. They focus on:

- Ensuring that children reach their full potential;
- Supporting working age people and people with disabilities, through activation measures and the provision of services to increase employment and participation;
- Providing the type of supports that enable older people to maintain a comfortable and high-quality standard of living;
- Building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged areas and building social capital.

The overall goal of the *NAPinclusion* is to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty<sup>1</sup> to between 2% and 4% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating it by 2016, from a baseline rate of 7% in 2005. The *NAPinclusion* prioritises 12 high level goals and identifies some 150 targets across all policy areas, which are at the core of the strategic approach, aimed at making a decisive impact on poverty and building a more inclusive society over the coming years.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent poverty is the official Irish Government measure of poverty. People are in consistent poverty if their equivalised household income is below 60% of median income (at-risk-of poverty) and they are living in a household experiencing two or more items of basic deprivation. The 11 item list of deprivation includes for example, keeping the home adequately warm; buying new clothes; having family or friends for a drink or meal once a month.

The Government is undertaking a review of the national poverty target. The purpose of the review is to enable it to adopt appropriate and achievable national poverty targets to meet Ireland's contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy and the commitments in the programme for government (Government for National Recovery 2011-2016). This review is being finalised and will be considered by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy in late February.

## Structure of Report

The Report in respect of 2009 and 2010 covers the period from January 2009 to December 2010. This is the third annual social inclusion report.

This Report has been prepared by the Social Inclusion Division in the Department of Social Protection as part of its role to co-ordinate implementation of government strategies for social inclusion through the monitoring and reporting mechanisms provided in the *NAPinclusion* and Towards 2016. The Division consulted widely with the other relevant Government Departments that have responsibility for delivering the programme of actions set out in the *NAPinclusion*. In collating material for the Annual Report co-ordinators/liaison persons were put in place in each Department to liaise with Social Inclusion Division staff. Departments submitted updates on progress, key developments and other material. Reply material, in relation to any other initiatives relevant to the *NAPinclusion* that occurred after the period covered were also provided and are included in the report.

The Report outlines the progress made in implementing the *NAPinclusion* in 2009 and 2010 and closely reflects the content and format of the plan and material provided by relevant departments.

This report contains chapters covering each lifecycle stage. Each chapter sets out the strategic vision for the lifecycle stage, the main policy developments and the progress made to date.

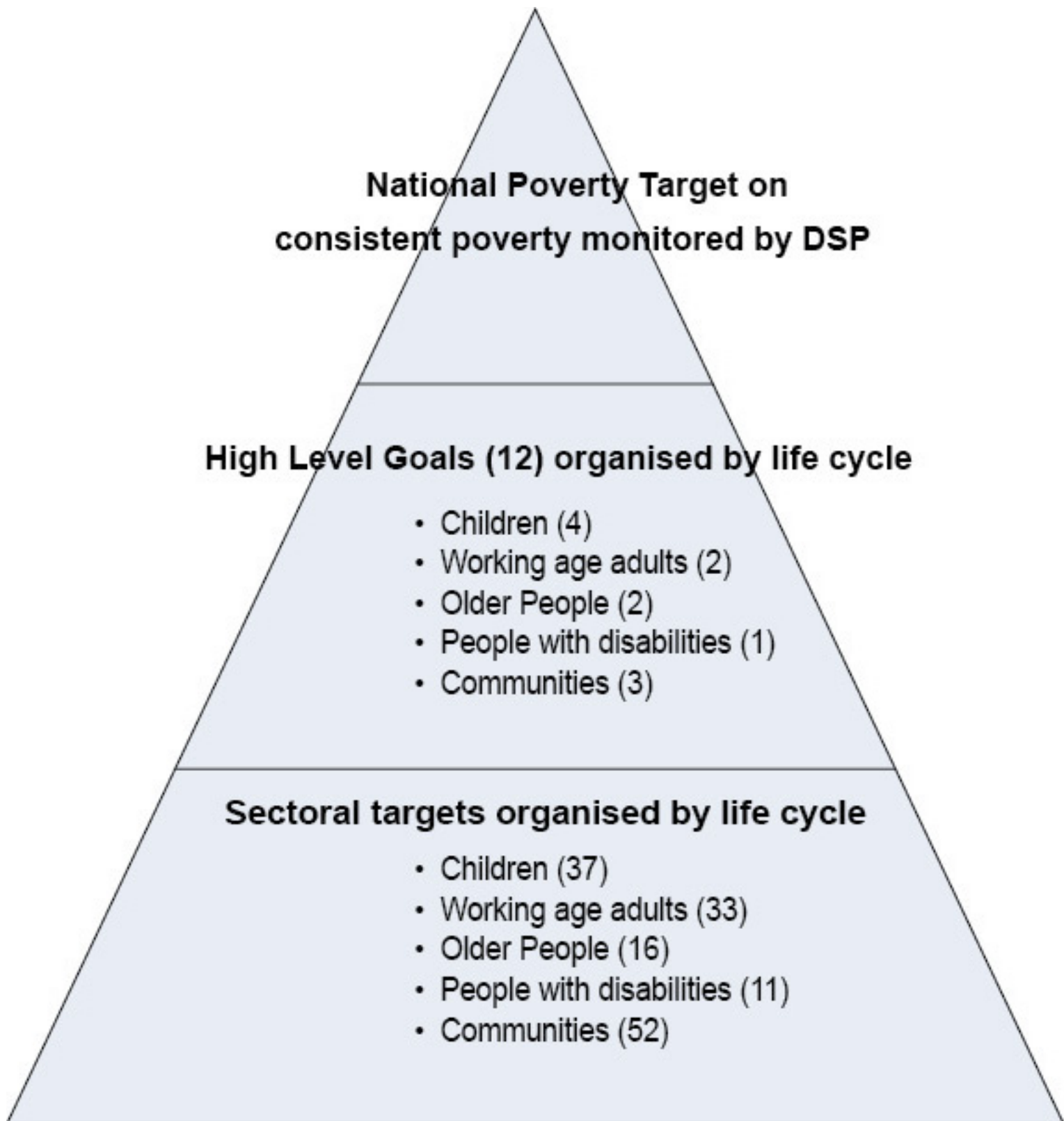
The progress made in meeting the High Level Goals of the *NAPinclusion* in relation to the life cycles is described in Part 1 of the Report. The *NAPinclusion* sets down a series of more specific targets, also on a lifecycle basis, and the details of progress in relation to those targets and actions contained in the *NAPinclusion*, which are either relevant to the timeframe of this report or where significant developments have been reported, are set out in Part 2.

As part of the provision for regular monitoring and reporting of progress, this will be evaluated and acted on by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy and the Senior Officials Group on Social Policy. The report will also be available to other key stakeholders and the general public on the website of the Social Inclusion Division.

[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)



**Diagram 1: Overview of the *NAPinclusion***



## Chapter 2

### Context

#### Economic and Social Situation

Ireland remained in recession in 2010, with a negative growth rate experienced by the economy for the third year in a row. The GDP growth rate was -0.4% in 2010. The public balance deficit was the highest of any EU member state at just under a third of GDP, while government debt increased to just over 96% of GDP, having been at only 25% of GDP in 2007. Ireland's employment rate was below the EU average, and its unemployment rate was the sixth highest in the EU.<sup>2</sup>

Average annual equivalised disposable income (i.e. household income adjusted for household composition) in 2010 was €22,168, a drop of 5.0% on the 2009 figure of €23,326.<sup>3</sup>

The impact of the economic crisis on employment, unemployment and long-term unemployment has been substantial. The employment rate has fallen from 68.8% in the first quarter of 2007 to 59.6% in the second quarter of 2011. The decline in the male employment rate is particularly noticeable falling from 77.5% to 63.3% over the same period. The rate of unemployment has more than trebled over the period, rising from 4.5% to 14.3%. Again the gender difference can be seen in the male unemployment rate more than trebling from a rate of 4.8% Q1 2007 to 17.5% in Q2 2011. Long-term unemployment at a rate of 7.7% in the second quarter of 2011 is more than six times the rate experienced in the first quarter of 2007 (i.e. 1.2%).

The increase in these rates has put pressure on the social welfare system and activation services. There is particular concern with the increase in the long-term unemployed due to their loss of skills and subsequent difficulties finding employment. Other employment related impacts relate to reductions in working hours and salary levels, increases in levies/deductions from workers' salaries, changes to workers' terms and conditions and experiences of in-work poverty.

One of the most severe consequences of the economic crisis has been the increasing number of people in receipt of social welfare. Recent figures from the Department of Social Protection indicate that a total of almost 2.1 M people benefit from social welfare payments each week. Ireland has a robust social protection system, where social transfers (excluding pensions) reduce the at-risk-of-poverty rate by 60% - the highest poverty reduction effect of social transfers in the EU. Since 2009, the fiscal crisis facing the Irish State has curtailed scope for further welfare improvements,

<sup>2</sup> Measuring Ireland's Progress 2010, Central Statistics Office.

<sup>3</sup> Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2010 (SILC), Central Statistics Office.

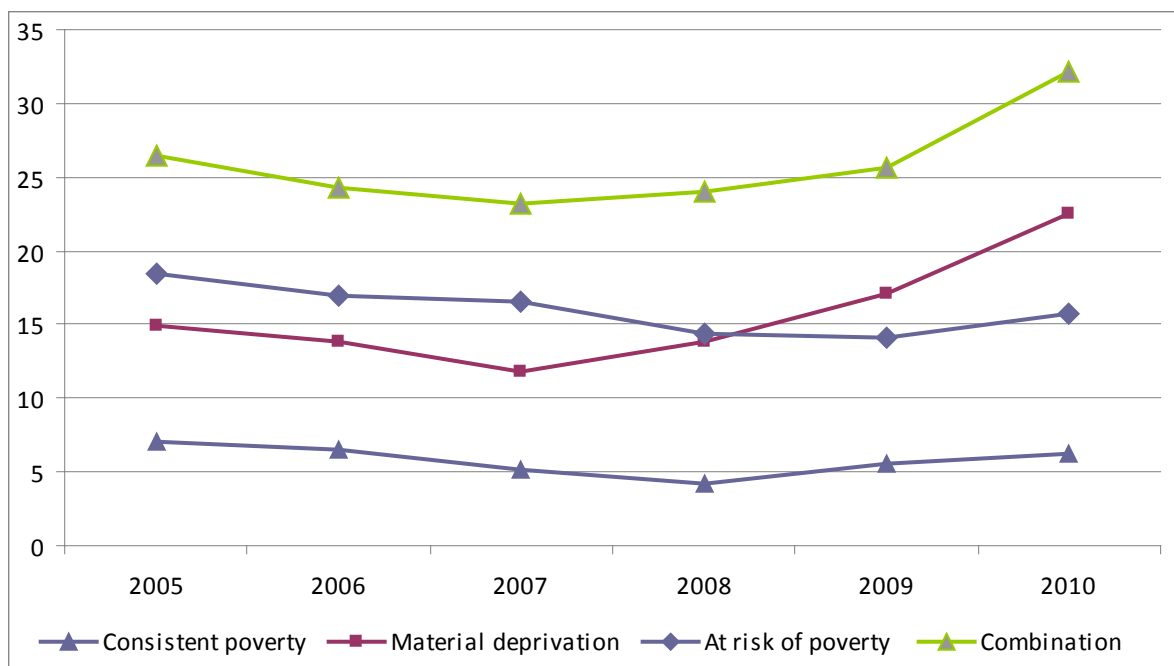
with reductions in welfare payments for people of working age in 2010 and 2011 by a cumulative 8%.

### Monitoring Poverty Trends

Diagram 2 provides an overview of trends in Irish poverty rates from 2005 to 2010. Consistent poverty is the official measure of poverty in Ireland<sup>4</sup>. It fell from a baseline rate of 7% in 2005 to 4.2% in 2008 before increasing over the next two years to reach 6.2% in 2010. Looking at the component indicators of consistent poverty, at risk-of-poverty decreased on a continuous basis from 18.5% in 2005 to 14.1% in 2008, before increasing to 15.8% in 2010.

From a baseline of 15%, material deprivation reached its lowest point in 2007 (12%), before rising in successive years to 22.5% in 2010. Significantly, the rate of material deprivation is now greater than that of at-risk-of-poverty. This is a major turnaround in recent years. Also shown is the composite total of the three indicators, which in 2010 was 32.1%, which is higher than the 2005 figure of 26.4%.

**Diagram 2: Poverty trends 2005 - 2010**



Source: CSO SILC 2005 – 2010

<sup>4</sup> People are in consistent poverty if their household income is below 60% of median income (at-risk-of poverty) and they are living in a household experiencing two or more items of basic deprivation, out of an 11 item list.

A 2010 ESRI research report, *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland 2004-2007*, examined changes in poverty rates for lifecycle groups.

### **Children**

During 2004 to 2007, there were substantial improvements in poverty risks for young children aged less than 5 years, children in large households and children in lone parent households. Despite this, the rate of child poverty remained higher than that of other lifecycle groups. Children in lone parent families remained extremely vulnerable to poverty: in 2007, 65% of children in consistent poverty were in lone parent families. Other factors contributing to child poverty over this period include labour market inactivity, jobless households, low educational levels and high numbers of children in the household.

### **Working-age people**

In relation to the working age population, improvements were most significant for lone parent households and those living alone: nevertheless, these groups still experienced much higher at-risk-of-poverty and consistent poverty rates than other working age adults. Households headed by a person unable to work due to illness/disability experience longer-term exclusion from the labour market and a longer exposure to poverty. There is a strong link between working-age poverty and unemployment, especially long-term unemployment and jobless households (the latter are up to 11 times more likely to be poor than those in work-rich households). The report highlights an at-risk-of-poverty rate of 7% for those in work. The working poor are more likely to be older, with children, in part-time employment and in households with fewer working adults. The report notes the importance of the minimum wage being maintained along with enhanced child income supports for low income families through a child benefit supplement.

### **Older People**

The lower rate of poverty among older people is strongly linked to the dependence on the state pension. Nonetheless, some older people have higher poverty risks: those living alone and those with ill-health or disabilities.

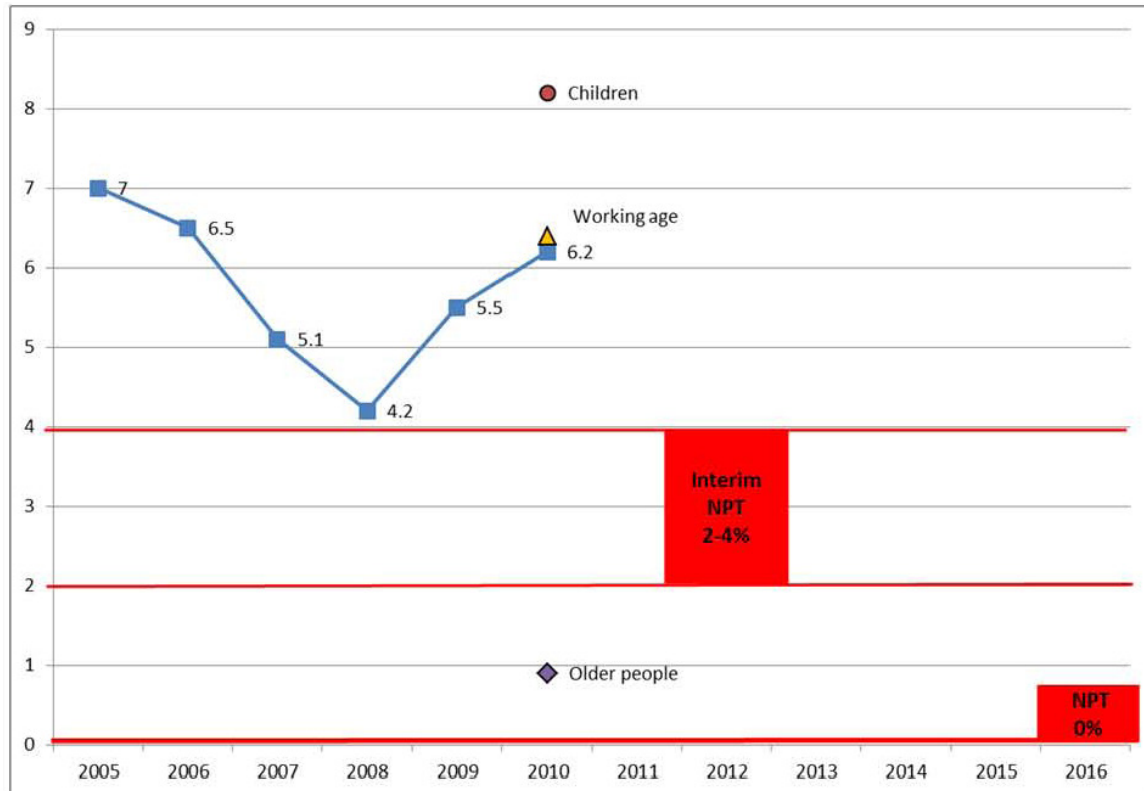
### **Progress towards the National Poverty Target**

Diagram 3 reveals progress on the national poverty targets, including the Irish contribution to the EU poverty target. The national poverty target is to reduce consistent poverty to between 2-4% by 2012 and to eliminate it by 2016, using 2005 as baseline year. Progress on this is shown on the left axis, with the blue line revealing the trend in the percentage rate of consistent poverty between 2005

and 2010, while the red boxes indicate the interim and final targets. There is a gap of between 2.2 and 4.2 percentage points between the 2010 rate and the interim target.

The Government is currently reviewing the national poverty target. The purpose of the review is to enable Ireland to adopt appropriate and achievable national poverty targets to meet Ireland's contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy.

**Diagram 3: Progress on the National Poverty Target (2005-2016)**

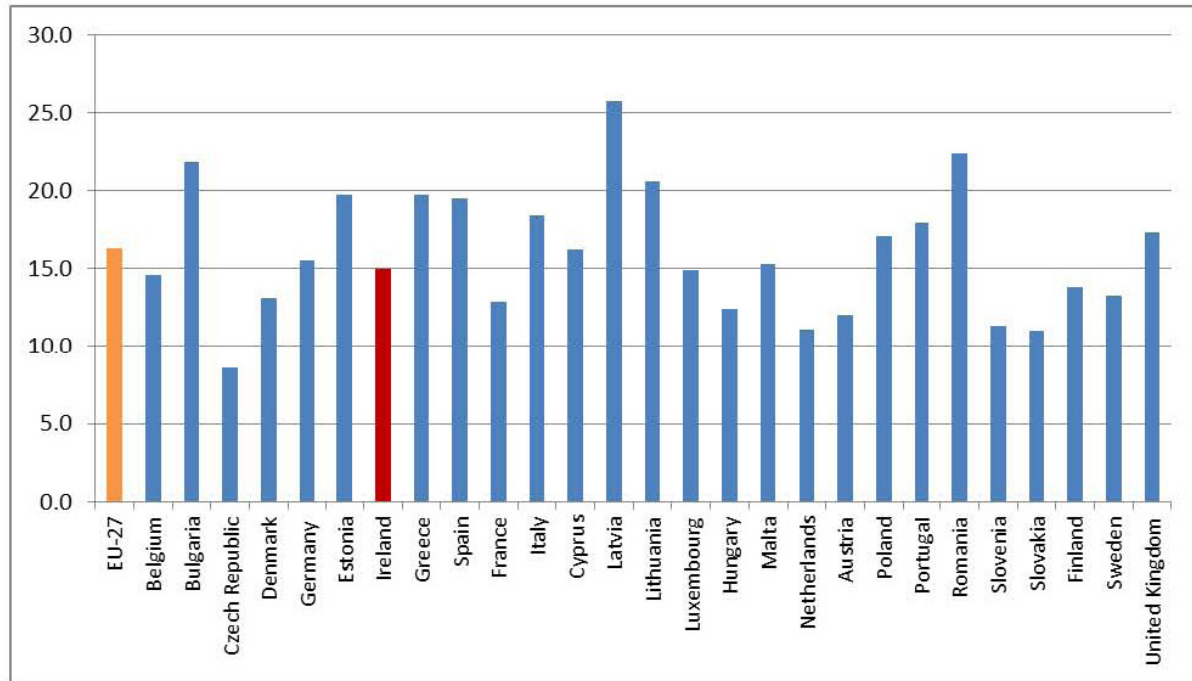


## Poverty and the EU

Comparative information on poverty and social exclusion across Member States is available from Eurostat, the official statistical office of the EU. The latest figures available for all countries relates to 2009<sup>5</sup>. Diagram 4 shows the at-risk-of-poverty rate for Member States in 2009. Ireland experienced a rate of 15%, which was 1.3 percentage points lower than the at-risk-of-poverty rate for EU-27 countries.

<sup>5</sup> Data for 2010 for all countries will be available in due course at: see [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe\\_2020\\_indicators/headline\\_indicators](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators)

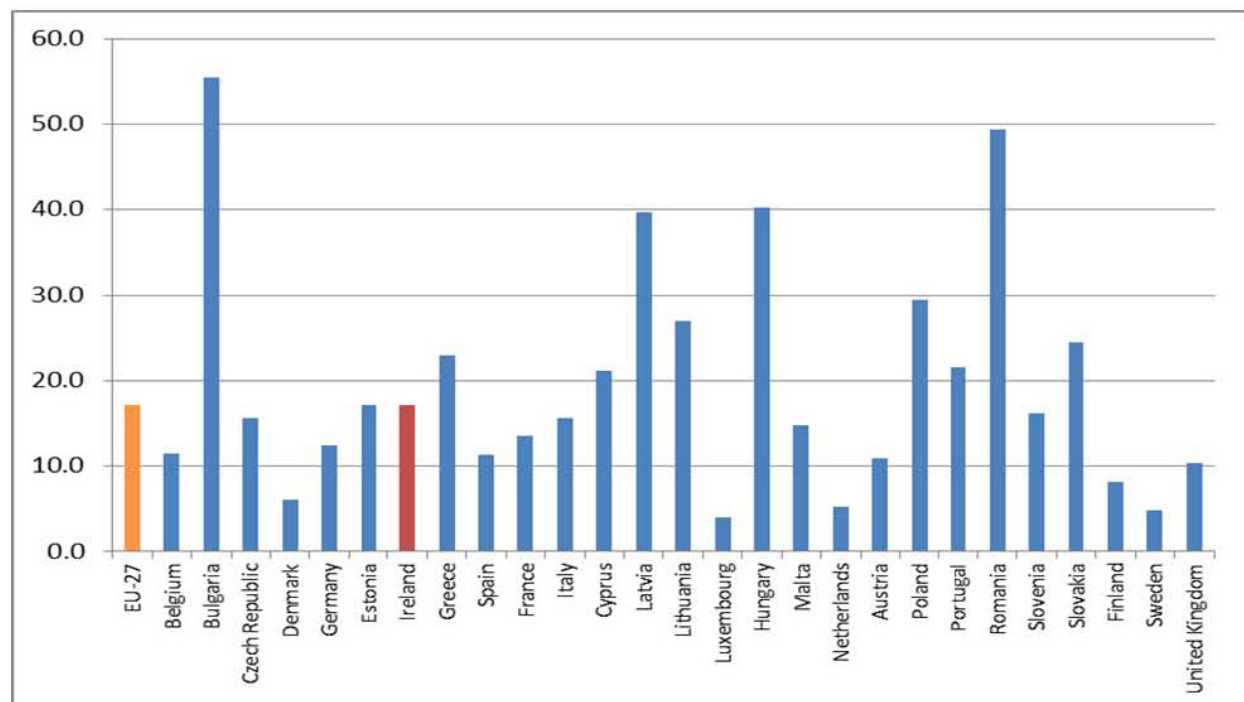
**Diagram 4: At-risk-of-poverty rates across the EU, 2009**



Source: Eurostat EU-SILC 2009

Diagram 5 illustrates the material deprivation rates across the EU in 2009. The rate for Ireland and EU-27 countries was 17.1%.

**Diagram 5: Material deprivation rates across the EU, 2009**



Source: Eurostat EU-SILC 2009

In 2009 the Department of Social Protection funded an ESRI research report entitled *Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland in Comparative Perspective*. The report took an in-depth look at Irish poverty rates in a comparative EU perspective using EU SILC data for 2006. It uses the at-risk-of-poverty and consistent poverty indicators and measures these at both national and European levels. In comparing Member States, the report distinguishes between six welfare categories: social democratic, liberal, corporatist, southern European and post-communist. Ireland is located in the liberal grouping along with the UK. The study also concentrates in more detail on a comparison of Ireland, the UK, Finland, Austria, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Estonia, as representing smaller (except UK) European countries across a range of welfare regimes. The main finding is that Ireland performs badly by EU standards regardless of the poverty measure used. This reflects underlying socio-economic inequalities in Ireland linked to unemployment and lone parenthood. In the current economic climate, the report recommends that the policy priority for Ireland should be to address the negative consequences associated with exclusion from the labour market and lone parenthood.

## Europe 2020

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 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>6</sup> The strategy contains five headline targets on employment; research and development; climate change; education; and poverty. It was the first time the EU adopted a poverty target.

The *Europe 2020* poverty target aims to promote social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion across the EU by 2020. In support of this target, each member state is obliged to set a national poverty target which will contribute to meeting the European target.

## Irish National Reform Programme for Europe 2020

Ireland's contribution to the European target is to lift at least 186,000 people out of consistent poverty by 2016, using 2008 as the baseline year.<sup>7</sup> This figure is based on the national poverty target set out in the *NAPinclusion*, i.e. to reduce the rate of consistent poverty to between 2-4% by 2012 and to eliminate it by 2016.

<sup>6</sup> European Council Conclusions, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

<sup>7</sup> This target is the number of people who would be lifted out of poverty if the 2008 rate of consistent poverty (4.2%) is reduced to 0%. The figure is based on Central Statistics Office estimate of the national population in 2008 of 4,422,100 people. Similarly, the interim target is to lift between 9,000 and 97,000 out of consistent poverty.



## European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The European Commission established the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, as one of its seven flagship initiatives of the European Union Europe 2020 Strategy. The Platform aims at creating a joint commitment among the Member States, European Union Institutions and the key stakeholders to fight poverty and social exclusion. As most of the upcoming decade is likely to be marked by reduced public budgets, actions will have to increase efficiency and trust by finding new participative ways to address poverty while continuing to develop prevention policies and target needs where they arise. It is complementary and strongly linked to the other flagships which focus on raising employment and improving education and skills.

## Emerging Priorities

As reflected in the *NAPinclusion*, the government is committed to a strategic and integrated approach for meeting the challenges of preventing and reducing poverty and social exclusion, using a lifecycle framework focusing on children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and communities (including areas of rural and urban disadvantage, immigrants, Travellers and the homeless).

The priorities for Ireland in the current situation are to restore economic and employment growth, to expand active labour market measures and to protect the most vulnerable from the burden of fiscal consolidation.

An inclusive labour market is central to social inclusion policy. This means ensuring that the benefits of employment growth accrue to all sectors in society. Enhanced activation measures in the National Recovery Plan and a stronger financial incentive to return to work and to make work pay are key policy areas for addressing the social challenges Ireland is facing. Priority is being given to helping lone parents, the long-term unemployed and jobless households to access employment. Maximising employment opportunities for marginalised groups will also contribute to tackling child poverty in Ireland.

## Financial Exclusion and Over-Indebtedness

Financial exclusion and over-indebtedness among households are of increasing importance in Irish social policy in a time of economic recession. A new ESRI research study, *Financial Exclusion and Over-indebtedness in Irish Households*, provides baseline information on the extent of financial exclusion in Ireland, covering bank current accounts, credit, savings and home insurance.<sup>8</sup> It also details the extent of household over-indebtedness and the underlying risk factors.

<sup>8</sup>The report is available here [http://www.socialinclusion.ie/publications/documents/2011\\_03\\_07\\_FinancialExclusionPublication.pdf](http://www.socialinclusion.ie/publications/documents/2011_03_07_FinancialExclusionPublication.pdf)



The main research findings are:

- Twenty% of households do not have a bank current account, the main indicator of financial exclusion. Households most likely not to have a bank current account include older people, people not in employment, lone parents, social housing tenants and those on low incomes. Half of households are unable to save, a quarter of households do not have home insurance and a tenth of households do not have access to credit.
- There is a clear pattern of higher levels of financial exclusion among vulnerable groups, in particular those on low income.
- Irish people are up to three times more likely not to have a bank current account than the EU norm.
- Over five% of households are over-indebted, while eight% have persistent arrears for utility bills, housing payments and personal loans. More recent data suggest these problems are worsening.
- Low income, rather than high consumption, is the main factor in over-indebtedness. A sudden income drop is a key trigger for over-indebtedness, while people in rented housing have a greater risk.

## Chapter 3

### Children

#### Vision

The vision as set out in *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016* for children in Ireland is a society where children are respected as young citizens with a valued contribution to make and a voice of their own; where all children are cherished and supported by family and the wider society; where they enjoy a fulfilling childhood and realise their potential. Ireland has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is committed to its implementation in our laws and policies.

To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners have pledged to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals for children in Ireland:

- Every child should grow up in a family with access to sufficient resources, supports and services to nurture and care for the child and foster the child's development and full and equal participation in society;
- Every family should be able to access childcare services which are appropriate to the circumstances and needs of their children;
- Every child should leave primary school literate and numerate;
- Every student should complete a senior cycle or equivalent programme, (including ICT ) appropriate to their capacity and interests;
- Every child should have access to world-class health, personal social services and suitable accommodation;
- Every child should have access to quality play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood, and;
- Every child and young person will have access to appropriate participation in local and national decision-making.

## High Level Goals

### **Goal 1: Education**

*Ensure that targeted pre-school education is provided to children from urban primary school communities covered by the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) action plan.*

### **Goal 2: Education**

*Reduce the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. The target is to halve the proportion from the current 27%-30% to less than 15% by 2016.*

### **Goal 3: Education**

*Work to ensure that the proportion of the population aged 20-24 completing upper second-level education or equivalent will exceed 90% by 2013.*

### **Goal 4: Income Support**

*Maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate over the course of this plan and review child income supports aimed at assisting children in families on low income.*

## Main Policy Developments

Several international and national developments and initiatives occurred or were initiated in 2009/2010 that relate to children, which are of relevance to goals and targets under the National Action Plan.

Addressing child poverty and promoting child well-being was a major focus of the 2010 EU Trio Presidency, culminating in a major international conference organised by the Belgian Presidency in September 2010<sup>9</sup>. Recently, the EPSCO Council<sup>10</sup> put forward a number of recommendations on child wellbeing and child poverty.

At national level, the introduction and success of the ECCE scheme (free year of pre-school provision) is a significant development, given that international best practice suggests early intervention (for example through provision of high-quality pre-school services) is critical in addressing educational disadvantage and breaking the cycle of poverty. A second significant development is the establishment of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in May 2011. The D/CYA takes over the work of the former Office for the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs, as well as a number of other functions/areas of responsibility in relation to children and young people previously ascribed to a range of Departments. The establishment of the new Department will provide a stronger focus on children and young people.

<sup>9</sup> See the conference report, Frazer, H. (2010) Who cares? Roadmap for a Recommendation to fight child poverty, Brussels: King Baudouin Foundation.

<sup>10</sup> EPSCO (2011) Tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being- Council Conclusions 11844/11, 17th June.

## Progress on High Level Goals

Four of the twelve high level goals in the *NAPinclusion* relate to children. This reflects the vision for children as set out in *Towards 2016* and recognises children (especially those in jobless households) are more vulnerable to poverty than adults. These high level goals emphasise education and income support as priority areas. In addition, the National Action Plan contains 37 targets for children, covering issues such as early childhood development and care, nutrition, homelessness, youth justice and children's participation in decision making.

### Goal 1: Education

*Ensure that targeted pre-school education is provided to children from urban primary school communities covered by the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) action plan.*

- This high level goal was superseded by the introduction of a free pre-school year (the ECCE scheme) for all children in January 2010, representing a major policy change from targeted interventions in Early Years to one of universal provision. The scheme is funded and administered through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and in its first full year of operation, 94% of children in the eligible age cohort were availing of their free pre-school place. Over 4,000 pre-school services are participating in the ECCE scheme. Approximately 20% of these services are in receipt of the higher capitation rate.
- The Department of Education and Skills has funded two practice frameworks (Síolta and Aistear) to support the development of quality provision in pre-school services. Síolta's Quality Assurance Programme is being implemented on a field-test basis by Voluntary Child Care Organisations (VCOs) working in partnership with the Early Years Education Policy Unit.
- 25 Síolta Co-ordinators, drawn from the VCOs were selected and trained to provide specialist support for participating ECCE setting. The Department of Education and Skills will continue to work with other departments and agencies to add value to existing childcare schemes.

## Goal 2: Education

*Reduce the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. The target is to halve the proportion from the current 27%-30% to less than 15% by 2016.*

The Department of Education and Skills reported progress on a number of DEIS initiatives including:

- The Reading Recovery Programme increased by 17 schools to 229 DEIS schools.
- The First Steps Programme was delivered in 338 schools, an increase of 55 DEIS schools.
- In the Maths Recovery Programme, 27 additional schools joined the programme in 2010, bringing the total number of participating DEIS schools to 294.
- The number of DEIS schools implementing the Ready Set Go Maths programme increased to a total of 258 in 2010.
- At second-level, 184 DEIS schools provided the Junior Cert School Programme and 29 provided the Demonstration Library Project.
- A comprehensive evaluation of DEIS has been carried out since 2006 by the Educational Research Centre (ERC). The aim of the evaluation is to monitor the implementation of the programme and assess its impact on students, families, schools, and communities at primary and post-primary levels.
- A forthcoming report (the second in the series<sup>11</sup>) deals with the evaluation of DEIS at primary level with a particular focus on change in English reading and mathematics between 2007 and 2010. The initial findings show that when comparing the overall average reading in 2007 with its equivalent in 2010, urban schools revealed an overall improvement in average reading and maths achievement.
- A number of developments have also taken place with regard to planning and target setting. Tailored planning templates were provided to all DEIS schools by end 2010. The Department's Inspectorates carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of planning and target setting in 18 primary and 18 post-primary DEIS schools<sup>12</sup>.
- The report recommends that the DEIS planning framework be made available to all schools to assist them in their school development planning and school self-evaluation processes. The report of post-primary schools is currently under consideration by the Department.

<sup>11</sup> A previous report on DEIS focusing on rural disadvantage is available for download from the Educational Research Centre website ([www.erc.ie](http://www.erc.ie)).

<sup>12</sup> The findings of the evaluation of primary DEIS schools indicates that a systematic planning process comprising target-setting, the implementation of appropriate strategies and interventions to achieve the targets set, the monitoring of progress and the review of targets in DEIS schools is necessary.

### Goal 3: Education

*Work to ensure that the proportion of the population aged 20-24 completing upper second-level education or equivalent will exceed 90% by 2013.*

- The Department of Education and Skills has adopted a broad-based approach to tackling early school leaving. Enhancing attendance, progression, retention and attainment are central elements of DEIS. This includes targeted interventions such as the School Completion Programme (SCP), targeting children and young people who are at risk of leaving school early; and the Home School Community Liaison services (HSCL), establishing partnership and cooperation between parents and teachers in the interests of children's learning, to maximise children's educational potential. Other aspects of this approach include additional funding for pupils at risk of early school leaving and alternative curricular options (Junior Certificate Schools Programme, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, and the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme).
- From September 2009, the SCP, HSCL, the Educational Welfare Service and Visiting Teacher Service for Traveller pupils were all integrated under the National Education Welfare Board<sup>13</sup>. The work on planning and developing a single strategic approach on attendance, retention and participation has commenced under the direction of a project steering group established by the Board<sup>14</sup>.
- The Department of Education and Skills' latest *Report on Retention Rates in Post Primary Schools* presents the retention rates of pupils who entered the first year of the junior cycle in the years from 1991 to 2004 and completed second level schooling no later than 2010. The report shows that the:
  - Percentage of students who sit the Leaving Certificate overall has risen by more than 6% to 87.7% in 8 years.
  - Average unadjusted Leaving Certificate retention rate in DEIS schools increased by 5% from 68.2% to 73.2% for students who entered second level in 2001 to 2004 while the (unadjusted) retention in non-DEIS schools increased from 85.0% to 87.4% for the same entry cohorts.

<sup>13</sup> The Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers (VTST) was withdrawn with effect from 31 August 2011, as one of a number of measures under the National Recovery Plan 2011 to 2014, to secure expenditure savings in the 2011/2012 school year. Educational teaching supports to Traveller students will be provided on the same basis as other students in schools and based on 'individual educational need' rather than 'Traveller identity' which is a core principle of *The Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy*.

<sup>14</sup> With effect from 11th May 2011 the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB), SCP and HSCL have been transferred to the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs. Both the D/ES and D/CYA will continue to work together in combating early school leaving.

**Goal 4: Income Support**

*Maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate over the course of this plan and review child income supports aimed at assisting children in families on low income.*

- In the area of Child Benefit (CB), rates were maintained in Budget 2009. Due to fiscal constraints, Budget 2010 saw a reduction in CB rates. However, compensatory measures (in Qualified Child Increases and Family Income Supplement) were also introduced, to protect families with children most likely to be affected by these decreases. This ensured that the child income support targets as per this high level goal continued to be met. The changes to CB rates represents a continuation of the shift from the mainly universal child income support system that characterised the mid-2000s, towards a mixed system where the proportion of universal payments to selective payments was roughly of equal value (51%: 49% in 2010).
- Over the period 2009 – 2010 a review of Child Income Support (CIS) policies and associated programmes was also conducted. The report examined the objectives of CIS policy, considered if they remain valid, if programme spending and associated administrative costs were well configured to meet these objectives and if alternative approaches would achieve better outcomes and impacts. The Review found that there is a need to rationalise the current system of CIS payments and selective programmes, in particular, in order to provide more consistent assistance to low income families and to encourage parental employment.

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to children can be found at Part Two**

## Chapter 4

### People of Working Age

#### Vision

The vision as set out in *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 - 2016* for people of working age is of an Ireland where all people of working age have sufficient income and opportunity to participate as fully as possible in economic and social life and where all individuals and their families are supported by a range of quality public services to enhance their quality of life and well-being.

To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners have pledged to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals for people of working age:

- Every person of working age should be encouraged and supported to participate fully in social, civic and economic life;
- Every person of working age would have access to lifelong learning, a sense of personal security in a changing work environment and an opportunity to balance work and family commitments consistent with business needs;
- Every person of working age would have an income level to sustain an acceptable standard of living and to enable them to provide for an adequate income in retirement;
- Every person of working age on welfare will have access to supports towards progression and inclusion, access to quality work and learning opportunities, encouraging a greater degree of self-reliance and self-sufficiency;
- Every person, irrespective of background or gender, would enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination;
- Every family would have access to health and social care, affordable accommodation appropriate to their needs and a well-functioning public transport system, and;
- Every person with caring responsibilities would have access to appropriate supports to enable them to meet these responsibilities alongside employment and other commitments.



## High Level Goals

### **Goal 5: Employment and Participation**

*Introduce an active case management approach that will support those on long-term social welfare into education, training and employment. The target is to support 50,000 such people, including lone parents and the long-term unemployed, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long-term social welfare payments by 2016. This target will be reviewed in the light of experience.*

### **Goal 6: Income Support**

*Maintain the relative value of the lowest social welfare rate at least at €185.80, in 2007 terms, over the course of this Plan, subject to available resources.*

## Main Policy Developments

A new National Employment and Entitlements Service (NEES) is being established by the Department of Social Protection. The objective is to integrate all employment and benefit support services in a single delivery unit which will provide a 'one stop shop' for people wishing to establish their benefit entitlements, seeking employment and, or, advice about their training options.

It is expected that the establishment of the NEES will have a significant impact on employment, exchequer finances and control.

- **Reductions in unemployment:** The service will focus on activation and support for the unemployed and will ultimately lead to reductions in the numbers unemployed.
- **Prevention/reduction of numbers on long-term unemployment:** It will also help to ensure that those who remain unemployed and the long-term unemployed will receive help to enable them to become job ready and will increase their chances of employability.
- **Savings for the exchequer:** It is expected that the new service will reduce the numbers on the live register and will in time realise significant savings for the exchequer. It is estimated that a 1% reduction in the live register would produce savings to the exchequer of approximately €82 M.
- **Impact on control:** By providing a more personalised and holistic service to customers and thereby monitoring the levels of engagement and commitment of customers, it is expected that the new service will provide for more effective control measures and that there will be a reduction in fraudulent claims.

- **Reduction in poverty:** The new service should also assist in the reduction of poverty in the longer term. Individuals will be supported in engaging in employment, training or up-skilling, as appropriate and this will improve a person's life chances and potentially improve personal circumstances.

### Progress on High Level Goals

Two of the twelve high level goals in the *NAPinclusion* relate to people of working age. These emphasise employment, participation and income support as priority issues. In addition the Plan contains 19 further targets and actions, covering issues such as literacy, second chance education and equality.

### Goal 5: Employment and Participation

*Introduce an active case management approach that will support those on long-term social welfare into education, training and employment. The target is to support 50,000 such people, including lone parents and the long-term unemployed, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long-term social welfare payments by 2016. This target will be reviewed in the light of experience.*

In relation to the Activation and Participation Programme, the Department of Social Protection reported that:

- In 2010, work commenced on the development of technology and work practices to implement customer profiling, introduce a caseload management system for use of facilitators and a new IT system to allow for a more flexible referral process under the National Employment Action Plan.
- The National Profiling System was completed in 2009. It uses a set of characteristics, combined with coefficients reflecting their relative importance, to statistically calculate the probability of an unemployed person finding work early, or becoming long-term unemployed.
- In 2010 functionality was developed to provide for the capture of 'profile' data from jobseekers and the calculation of each person's "Probability of Exit" from the Live Register within 12 months. Testing on the technology commenced in February 2011. The profiling system is currently 'live' in four Social Welfare Local Offices.
- Work is currently underway on developing and testing an appropriate activation model using the profile data. The intention is to prioritise interventions for those who are most likely to fall into long-term unemployment taking account of their specific characteristics e.g. literacy, training etc.
- A new system providing for the automatic scheduling and case management of appointments has been developed for DSP Facilitators and is currently 'live' in DSP's Dublin North region and the central Facilitators support team in Carrick-on-Shannon.

- In the period January 2008 of the end of December 2010, 1048 illness-related payment recipients have engaged directly with the Disability Activation Project. Of these, some 663 people have been in contact with project staff on a one-to-one basis to complete personal progression plans. In the same period, 18 training programmes targeted specifically at people on illness/disability payments, have been held. A total of 210 people have participated in programmes.

The “Disability Activation Project” received funding under the ESF “Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007-2013” and commenced in January 2008. The Disability Activation Project was formulated in the context of the overall national aim to integrate disadvantaged groups into the labour market, in this case persons with disabilities.

### **Goal 6: Income Support**

*Maintain the relative value of the lowest social welfare rate at least at €185.80, in 2007 terms, over the course of this Plan, subject to available resources.*

- In Budget 2009, there was a €6.50 per week increase in the maximum personal rate of all working age payments. The lowest rate of social welfare payment following Budget 2009 was €204.30.
- In Budget 2010, the maximum personal rate of all working age payments was reduced by €8.30 per week. The lowest rate of social welfare payment following Budget 2010 was €196.00 per week

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to people of working age can be found at Part Two**

## Chapter 5

### Older People

#### Vision

The vision as set out in *Nation Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016* for older people is of an Ireland where supports are provided, where necessary, to enable older people to maintain their health and well-being, as well as to live active and full lives, in an independent way in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners in *Towards 2016* have undertaken to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals in the context of increased longevity and greater possibilities and expectations for quality of life of older people:

- Every older person would be encouraged and supported to participate to the greatest extent possible in social and civic life;
- Every older person would have access to an income which is sufficient to sustain an acceptable standard of living;
- Every older person would have adequate support to enable them to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible. This will involve access to good quality services in the community, including: health, education, transport, housing and security, and;
- Every older person would, in conformity with their needs and conscious of the high level of disability and disabling conditions amongst this group, have access to a spectrum of care services stretching from support for self-care through support for family and informal carers to formal care in the home, the community or in residential settings. Such care services should ensure the person has opportunities for civic and social engagement at community level.

## High Level Goals

### **Goal 7: Community Care**

*Continue to increase investment in community care services for older people, including home care packages and enhanced day care services, to support them to live independently in the community for as long as possible.*

### **Goal 8: Income Support**

*Maintain a minimum payment rate of €200 per week, in 2007 terms, for all social welfare pensions over the course of this Plan and, if possible, having regard to available resources and the Government's commitment in Towards 2016, to enhance this provision. The overall pension structures and system to provide income supports for pensioners will be reviewed in the light of the forthcoming Green Paper on Pensions, to be finalised at end March 2007. This will review all the pillars of pension provision.*

## Main Policy Developments

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

Arising from an independent Evaluation of Home Care Packages, undertaken by PA Consulting and published in December 2009, the Department and HSE accept that a more standardised approach to provision is required nationally, including the question of access. The Evaluation, commissioned by the Department, found that the HSE was successful in implementing the policy vision to make packages a viable option to support a highly dependent group of vulnerable people in the community.

In 2010 the HSE developed its model of care to maximise community services to vulnerable older people (with a view to rolling out these initiatives over 2011). This includes:-

- National Guidelines & Procedures for Standardised Implementation of Home Care Packages;
- Quality Guidelines for Home Care Support Services for Older People;
- National Guidelines for the Home Help Service;
- A Public Procurement Framework for Home Care Services.

*The National Pensions Framework* was published in March 2010 and aims to deliver security, equity, choice and clarity for the individual, the employer and the State. It also aims to increase pension coverage, particularly among low to middle income groups and includes proposals for an auto enrolment scheme to provide access to private pensions.

### **Progress on High Level Goals**

Two of the twelve high level goals in the *NAPinclusion* relate to older people. These emphasise income support and community care as priority issues for older people. In addition the Plan contains eleven targets covering issues such as housing, long-term care and participation.

### **Goal 7: Community Care**

*Continue to increase investment in community care services for older people, including home care packages and enhanced day care services, to support them to live independently in the community for as long as possible*

The Department of Health reported that:

- During 2009 almost 12 million home help hours were provided to over 53,500 people. In 2010 the number of home help hours was slightly reduced while 54,500 people benefited from the service.
- The throughput of people benefiting from a home care package increased from 12,000 in 2009 to 13,200 in 2010 while there were 9,650 people in receipt of such packages at the end of 2010.
- Annual investment in Homecare Packages in 2009 was €120M with an additional €10M in 2010. A further €8M in 2011 has been provided to expand the Home Care Package nationally

### **Goal 8: Income Support**

*Maintain a minimum payment rate of €200 per week, in 2007 terms, for all social welfare pensions over the course of this Plan and, if possible, having regard to available resources and the Government's commitment in Towards 2016, to enhance this provision. The overall pension structures and system to provide income supports for pensioners will be reviewed in the light of the forthcoming Green Paper on Pensions, to be finalised at end March 2007. This will review all the pillars of pension provision.*

- Increases in Budget 2009 brought the rates being paid for contributory payments to €230.30 per week and €219.00 per week for non-contributory payments. These rates were maintained for 2010.

At present, social welfare pensions are the main source of income for Irish pensioners and account for 54% of gross income. Household incomes improved from 1994 to 2001 due to earnings from work, improved participation in the workforce and lower taxation. While pensioners' incomes increased significantly, the risk of poverty for people age 65+ increased from 6.5% to 36.6% during this period. However, pensioners' incomes caught up rapidly from 2003-2008 with the result that the risk of poverty for people age 65+ in 2009 was lower than for the overall population: 9.6% compared to 14.1% overall.

- The *National Pensions Framework* was published in March 2010.

The aim of the Framework is to deliver security, equity, choice and clarity for the individual, the employer and the State. It also aims to increase pension coverage, particularly among low to middle income groups and includes proposals for an auto enrolment scheme to provide access to private pensions. The Framework also recognises that many people want to have the option to work longer and proposes, for those who wish to postpone drawing down their State pension, to put in place arrangements to enable them to receive an actuarially increased benefit. In addition, for those with contribution shortfalls at pension age, arrangements will be put in place to allow them to receive additional benefits if they continue to make paid contributions for pensions purposes while remaining in work or self-employment.

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to older people can be found at Part Two**

## Chapter 6

### People with Disabilities

#### Vision

The vision as set out in the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 - 2016*, for people with disabilities is of an Ireland where people with disabilities have, to the greatest extent possible, the opportunity to live a full life with their families and as part of their local community, free from discrimination.

To achieve this vision, the Government and the social partners have committed to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals with a view to continued improvements in the quality of life of people with disabilities:

- Every person with a disability would have access to an income which is sufficient to sustain an acceptable standard of living;
- Every person with a disability would, in conformity with their needs and abilities, have access to appropriate care, health, education, employment and training and social services;
- Every person with a disability would have access to public spaces, buildings, transport, information, advocacy and other public services and appropriate housing;
- Every person with a disability would be supported to enable them, as far as possible, to lead full and independent lives, to participate in work and in society and to maximise their potential, and;
- Carers would be acknowledged and supported in their caring role.

#### High Level Goal

##### **Goal 9: Employment and Participation**

*Increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in retaining a job. The immediate objective is to have an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. The longer term target is to raise the employment rate of people with disabilities from 37% to 45% by 2016, as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey. The overall participation rate in education, training and employment will be increased to 50% by 2016. These targets will be reviewed in the light of experience and the availability of better data.*



## Main Policy Developments

- Reports of progress on the implementation of the Sectoral Plans under the Disability Act 2005 were prepared by all relevant departments and completed within the statutory deadline. The reports were noted by Government on 2 February 2010 and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 5 February 2010.
- A review of the operation of the Disability Act 2005 was completed in July 2010 following consultation with disability stakeholders. The report was noted by the Minister on 4 August 2010.
- The National Advocacy Service was rolled out under the Citizen's Information Board in January 2011. It provides independent, representative advocacy services for people with disabilities. Mainstream advocacy continues to be provided through Citizens Information Services (CIS) focusing on access to services, welfare entitlements and employment rights to ensure that people with disabilities are encouraged and supported to use the mainstream services where possible.
- The "*National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability*" sets out a framework for the proposed delivery of housing for people with disabilities through mainstream housing policy. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with a National Advisory Group, chaired by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and involving the Department of Health, the HSE, local authorities, organisations representing people with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders, including the National Disability Authority. The strategy was published on 6th October 2011.

## Progress on High Level Goals

The *NAPinclusion* high level goal, in line with the National Disability Strategy, emphasises participation in education, training and employment. In addition the Plan contains eight targets covering housing, income support, education and access to buildings, infrastructure and public transport.

### Goal 9: Employment and Participation

*Increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in retaining a job. The immediate objective is to have an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. The longer term target is to raise the employment rate of people with disabilities from 37% to 45% by 2016, as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey. The overall participation rate in education, training and employment will be increased to 50% by 2016. These targets will be reviewed in the light of experience and the availability of better data.*

This goal is being pursued on a cross-departmental basis and the progress has been reported as follows:

FÁS reported that in 2009, 1,497 people were placed in jobs from various FÁS programmes and 1,372 in 2010. The cumulative number over five years (2006 -2010) amounted to 8,005 placements. Excluding Wage Subsidy Scheme, placement into jobs refers to placement at the end of a given calendar year, the caveat being that a person's employment status may have changed in the meantime.

An annual national target is set in all FÁS regions in the first quarter of the year for a number of target groups, including people with disabilities. In 2010, 9,135 people with disabilities completed FÁS employment and training programmes. A comparable level is being maintained in 2011 wherein the first six months of the year, 4,680 people with disabilities completed FÁS training and employment programmes.

FÁS and the HSE have developed a bridging Initiative for clients to progress from rehabilitative training (RT) to FÁS vocational training (VT) as outlined for the Comprehensive Employment Strategy. The Initiative is being tested in two areas with two different disability groups – Roscommon (mild to moderate intellectual disability) and Dublin (mental health issues). The tests will be completed by December 2011 and an evaluation will report on the findings.

The “Disability Activation Project” received funding under the ESF “Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007-2013” and commenced in January 2008. The Disability Activation Project was formulated in the context of the overall national aim to integrate disadvantaged groups into the labour market, in this case persons with disabilities. From the commencement of the Disability Activation Project, in January 2008 to the end of Dec. 2010, 1048 illness-related payment recipients engaged directly with the project. Of these, some 663 people have been in contact with project staff on a one-to-one basis to complete personal progression plans. In the same period, 18 training programmes targeted specifically at people on illness/disability payments, have been held. A total of 210 people have participated in programmes.

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to people with disabilities can be found at Part Two**

## Chapter 7

### Communities

#### Vision

The vision as set out in the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 - 2016*, for community life in Ireland is centred on building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged areas and building social capital. Tackling disadvantage in urban and rural areas is a key priority. Urban poverty can take a number of forms. Poor households living in urban areas, urban communities where there are high levels of unemployment and high concentrations of poverty and areas suffering from a decline in the environmental and social infrastructure. Similarly rural disadvantage can manifest itself in a number of ways. Declining or slow-growing populations, migration of younger people from rural to urban areas, lack of services, lack of employment opportunities, low income farming households, higher dependency levels and isolation are examples. Whether in the urban or rural context, social exclusion is frequently the result of multiple disadvantages.

#### High Level Goals

##### **Goal 10: Housing**

*Deliver high quality housing for those who cannot afford to meet their own housing needs and to underpin the building of sustainable communities. An important element will be the enhanced housing output reflected in Towards 2016, which will result in the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households being addressed over the period 2007 to 2009. This will embrace meeting special housing needs (the homeless, Travellers, older people and people with disabilities).*

##### **Goal 11: Health**

*Develop 500 primary care teams by 2011 which will improve access to services in the community, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards.*

##### **Goal 12: Integration of Migrants**

*Develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in our society. As an initial action, resources for the provision of 550 teachers for language supports in the education sector will be provided by 2009 and access to other public services through translation of information and supports will be improved.*

## **Main Policy Developments**

- The new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) was introduced in January 2010. The Programme replaced the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP) and the Community Development (CDP), both of which closed in December 2009. The new Programme which was designed to have a strong focus on making it easier for groups to objectively demonstrate the positive impacts they are securing for their local communities. Some €48.8M and €19.8M was invested in the LDSIP and CDP respectively in 2009, with €67.5M allocated under the new LCDP in 2010.

The LCDP has adopted a more integrated approach which ensures a more efficient, responsive and effective provision of services for the individuals and communities it serves. The LCDP aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities.

The LCDP Programme is underpinned by four high level goals:

- To promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services;
- To increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources;
- To increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects; and;
- To promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.

## **Progress on the High Level Goals**

Three of the twelve high level goals in the NAPinclusion relate to housing, health and the integration of migrants. In addition the Plan contains 28 targets covering issues such as transport, fuel poverty, the arts and cultural initiatives.

### **Goal 10: Housing**

*Deliver high quality housing for those who cannot afford to meet their own housing needs and to underpin the building of sustainable communities. An important element will be the enhanced housing output reflected in Towards 2016, which will result in the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households being addressed over the period 2007 to 2009. This will embrace meeting special housing needs (the homeless, Travellers, older people and people with disabilities).*

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government reported that:

- Through social and affordable housing programmes the needs of 71,000 households were addressed over the period 2007-2010.
- The Government's new housing policy statement was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, replacing Delivering Homes: Sustaining Communities. The new statement will serve as a framework for a sequence of legislative and policy initiatives in the short to medium term.
- The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009, enacted in July 2009 included the new housing needs assessment process that was implemented through regulations.
- Investment in 2009 allowed for some 7,400 social housing units to be commenced /acquired, and 5,000 in 2010 through a combination of the local authority housing programme, voluntary and co-operative housing and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) contractual arrangements.
- In 2009 some €57.7M was recouped to local authorities around the country in respect of remedial works carried out to local authority estates. In 2010 €25.2 M was provided to local authorities for works undertaken under the Remedial Works Scheme.
- The four year Central Heating Programme completed in 2009, has seen installation of central heating and associated thermal improvements in some 27,000 local authority units at a cost to the exchequer of €133M.
- The Department introduced a programme, in 2009, for the retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures in vacant properties, across the local authority housing stock of 125,000 dwellings. The Department recouped almost €11M in 2009 to authorities across the country for some 900 improved units. The Department significantly increased the level of funding available for retrofitting works in 2010 to €40M. Works were carried out to some 1,800 vacant and the programme was also expanded to include occupied units.
- Under the Affordable Housing Scheme 1,506 units were delivered in 2009 reflecting reduced demand. A Government decision was taken to end the affordable housing initiative in January 2010. Units may still be delivered under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts but with the cessation of the other two delivery methods, the numbers of units provided in 2010 is expected to be less than in earlier years.
- "*The Way Home: A Strategy to address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008 -2013*" was published in August 2008. A National Implementation Plan for the Strategy was launched in April 2009. The appropriate actions in the Strategy are largely underway to improve delivery of mainstream housing to enable those residing in emergency homeless accommodation to move on to independent living. In 2010 there was sufficient bed capacity on a nightly basis to accommodate all those in need of emergency accommodation and an assertive outreach service assisted in maintaining the Government's commitment to eliminating the need for homeless persons to sleep rough.

- All local authorities successfully adopted their third Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) by the end of April 2009. In 2009 a total of 480 units of accommodation were provided to Traveller families. This includes standard housing, Traveller specific accommodation and families accommodated through the RAS scheme or in voluntary housing. In 2010, the second year of the third TAP, a further 374 Traveller families were accommodated.

### **Goal 11: Health**

*Develop 500 primary care teams by 2011 which will improve access to services in the community, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards.*

The Department of Health reported that:

- At the end of December 2010, 350 Primary Care Teams (PCT) were holding clinical team meetings on individual client cases.
- Over 3,690 HSE allied health professionals, including 600 new frontline professionals were assigned to PCTs and were providing services at the end of December 2010. 2,615 of these professionals were assigned to the 350 teams mentioned above.
- Some 1,309 GPs were involved in the development of teams (on average, 3.7 GPs per team).
- Over 2.8 M of the population was covered as at the end of December 2010.
- The HSE has identified 518 PCTs and 132 Health and Social Care Networks to be developed by the end of 2011.

### **Goal 12: Integration of Migrants**

*Develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in our society. As an initial action, resources for the provision of 550 teachers for language supports in the education sector will be provided by 2009 and access to other public services through translation of information and supports will be improved.*

The Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI), formerly the Office of the Minister for Integration, continues to support and progress anti-racism measures and actions aimed at the integration of migrants. The National Action Plan Against Racism came to an end in 2008. However, many of the initiatives which were instigated under the plan continued to be progressed in 2009 and 2010 with the support of the OPMI:

- ‘*An Intercultural Education Strategy (2010-2015)*’ was launched by the Department of Education and Skills in September 2010.
- ‘*A Diversity Strategy for the Arts Sector*’ was also launched in September 2010 along with a Pamphlet ‘*Cultural Diversity and the Arts: Language and Meaning*’.
- The Garda Síochána developed a ‘*Diversity Strategy and Implementation Plan (2009 -2012)*’.

The Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, together with the Equality Authority, continued to fund a workplace diversity strategy to support integrated workplaces in 2009 and 2010. This strategy includes a range of initiatives to assist employers and trade unions to respond effectively to the potential and challenges of a culturally diverse workforce.

The new funding lines which were established by the OPMI in 2008 to promote integration continued during 2009 and 2010. In line with the policy priorities identified in *Migration Nation; Statement on Integration Strategy and Diversity Management* (published in 2008), funding was allocated to national sporting bodies and local authorities to encourage integration-related activities and the development and implementation of local integration plans.

Other organisations working with migrants, such as the Third Age Foundation (who run conversational English language classes through the Fáilte Isteach project) also received funding.

A Ministerial Council was established in 2010 to advise the Minister on issues faced by migrants in Ireland. This Council consists of 15 to 20 members from migrant communities in four regional forums. The inaugural meetings of the regional forums took place in October/November 2010.

A website ([www.integration.ie](http://www.integration.ie)) for the OPMI was developed and launched in 2009. The website provides links to information for migrants in a range of languages and advice on a range of topics.

**An Garda Síochána** - Latest figures (as of 30 June 2011) show that a total of 46 Garda officers from 12 different countries are currently serving in An Garda Síochána. A further 64 foreign nationals are members of the Garda Reserve. There are currently 386 members serving as Ethnic Liaison Officers – 269 male and 117 females.



The Department of Education and Skills also reported that:

- In 2009, the ESRI's "*Adapting to Diversity: Irish Schools and Newcomer Schools*" study was published. This was a nationally representative study examining how primary and post-primary schools were accommodating increased diversity. Ireland was one of six participating countries in the OECD's thematic *Review of Migrant Education*. Ireland's stand-alone country report was published in December 2009, with the study's composite report published in 2010.
- In 2009, there was a general re-introduction of the two English as an Additional Language (EAL)- teacher limit for schools, with provision for additional posts in special circumstances. These include, for example, where post- primary schools had senior cycle students requiring continued support. Expenditure on EAL teaching posts/hours is approximately €85.3M in 2010/11.

	Primary	Post-primary	Total
<b>08/09</b>	1620	560	2180
<b>09/10</b>	1180	365	1545

- In the light of cuts in the budget of 2008, there was a change in the allocation criteria from September 2009. The allocation criterion makes provision for additional support for schools with high concentrations of pupils requiring language support.

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to communities can be found at Part Two**



## Chapter 8

### Implementation and Monitoring

#### 1. Introduction

A co-ordinated effort across all government departments, agencies and other stakeholders is required to ensure the goals of *NAPinclusion* are achieved. The Department of Social Protection has overall responsibility for monitoring and reporting on its implementation. This responsibility is carried out by the Social Inclusion Division and includes monitoring poverty trends based on the annual CSO *Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)*, an annual progress report on the detailed actions in the plan and the report on the stakeholder's views articulated at the annual Social Inclusion Forum. The Department also provides technical inputs on the basis of data, research and analysis to inform policy decision and is responsible for monitoring and reporting on poverty trends at national and European levels to inform anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and practice and to facilitate improved oversight of outcomes.

#### 2. Monitoring and Reporting on Progress

##### 2.1 Poverty Measurement

The SILC is the official source of data on household and individual income in Ireland and also provides a number of key national poverty indicators, such as *at risk of poverty*, *consistent poverty* and *material deprivation*. SILC is conducted, by the Central Statistics Office under EU legislation (Council regulation No. 1177/2003), on an annual basis in order to monitor changes in income and living conditions over time. The survey is also carried out in other EU Member States allowing comparable statistics to be compiled on a pan-European basis.

The national poverty target, as set out in the *NAPinclusion* and discussed in Chapter 2, is to reduce the rate of consistent poverty to between 2-4% by 2012 and to eliminate it by 2016, from a baseline rate of seven% in 2005.

##### 2.2 Technical Advisory Group

The Social Inclusion Division is responsible for developing indicators and data sources to improve monitoring of outcomes of social inclusion policies. The Division is supported in this work by a Technical Advisory Group composed of specialists in research, data collection and poverty measurement representing Government departments, agencies, social partners and research organisations. The Group assists the Social Inclusion Division in the development and implementation of comprehensive data strategies and research to inform anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and practice and to facilitate improved monitoring of outcomes. It identifies data sources, gaps and the most effective approaches to poverty measurement. The Group met three times a year in 2009 and in 2010. The key work tasks during this period were:

- In-depth discussions on the adoption of a first EU poverty target<sup>15</sup> and the setting of a national poverty target to contribute to the European target. Discussions fed into deliberations on the poverty target in Ireland's *National Reform Programme*.
- An initial template was developed, based on existing data matrix and indicators work, for the *Towards 2016* performance indicators commitment under *Towards 2016 Review and Transitional Agreement*. A consultation meeting took place with the indicators sub-group of the Community and Voluntary Pillar. The template was piloted for use on the *NAPinclusion* high level goals piloted as part of 2009-2010 Annual Social Inclusion Report. It will be revised in light of this and submitted to the Technical Advisory Group, Senior Officials Group on Social Policy and the Department of the Taoiseach.
- Organisation of a half day seminar to look at the use of indicators and targets in social inclusion policy at national and European levels on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010, in conjunction with the ESRI and the UCD Social Science Research Centre. The seminar was part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010. Presentations are available at: [http://www.esri.ie/news\\_events/events/past\\_events/event\\_details/index.xml?id=268](http://www.esri.ie/news_events/events/past_events/event_details/index.xml?id=268)
- Monitoring of poverty statistics and trends through the release of the annual SILC Discussion on data and research developments at national, EU and international level, including work of the Division, the CSO, the OECD, Eurostat and the Indicators Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee.
- Consideration of the outputs of the Department's research programme on poverty trends with the ESRI.

### **2.3 Code of Practice to support the engagement of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the development and implementation of relevant policies**

The Code of Practice was drawn up to develop appropriate mechanisms to promote the participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and those who work with them in developing and implementing the social inclusion strategies. It was prepared in consultation with Government Departments and Agencies, and with groups and organisations experiencing poverty and social exclusion and in consideration of different approaches to, standards and tools developed for community engagement in Ireland and in other countries.

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<sup>15</sup> To promote social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 M people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion across the EU by 2020

The Code of Practice can be used by any government department or agency that has a responsibility for policy making and policy implementation. It is relevant for a wide range of Government functions which are aimed at improving regulation, customer service, strategic development and providing a better service to citizens.

### **3. Poverty Impact Assessment**

Poverty impact assessment is the process by which Government Departments, local authorities and state agencies assess policies and programmes at design, implementation and review stages in relation to the likely impact that they will have or have had on poverty and on inequalities which are likely to lead to poverty with a view to poverty reduction.

The Social Inclusion Division is responsible for providing commentary and recommendations to policy proposals made in Government memorandums on the impact these proposals may have on those experiencing poverty and social exclusion. The Division has responded in this regard to a significant number of memorandums during 2009 and 2010.

The Division has carried out a poverty impact assessment on the *Report of Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes (McCarthy Report)* and subsequent budgetary proposals in Budget 2010 and Budget 2011. The poverty impact assessment carried out on Budget 2011 was published on the website of the Department of Social Protection [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).

The responsibility to undertake a poverty impact assessment falls to the relevant Government Department that is developing/reviewing the policy. The Social Inclusion Division promotes the implementation of poverty impact assessment. It provides assistance to Government Departments on the application of the poverty impact assessment guidelines and works with a number of local authorities on the application of the guidelines in a local Government context. Guidelines for the use of poverty impact assessment by social inclusion units in local authorities were completed in 2010. A pilot process on the development of a number of local area plans was carried out and the guidelines made available to all local authorities.

Revised guidelines for poverty impact assessment were introduced in March 2008 and are available on [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie) and by request from the Social Inclusion Division.

## 4. Research on Poverty and Social Inclusion

### 4.1 Research Remit

*NAPinclusion* identifies the on-going need for, and value of, independent research into the causes and nature of poverty and social inclusion, especially for vulnerable groups of people. Reliable and robust research is needed to ensure that current policy is not only meeting the needs identified but more so, that it is achieving enduring and effective outcomes in the eradication of poverty. The Government seeks to ensure that any research which it commissions and supports, for example with the ESRI and NESDO, is effectively aligned with the priorities in *NAPinclusion*. The funded research outputs must include a focus on mechanisms for delivery, performance assessment and knowledge transfer. The Social Inclusion Division has a coordinating role in this area and works closely with the institutions conducting research of this nature, and with government departments and agencies. The Division also has a co-ordinating role in relation to the contributions made by Ireland to social inclusion research projects organised at international level.

The Division's research and policy analysis responsibilities are met in part by in-house staff with relevant expertise, and from two funded streams of external research. The Division also consults with technical expert groups and senior government officials with responsibilities for social protection about the annual research work programmes and emerging policy issues. This ensures that annual research work programmes will be proactive and strategic in focus and implementation.

### 4.2 Research Programme on Monitoring Poverty Trends

The first stream of funding for external research takes the form of a multi-annual research programme conducted by the ESRI. This research programme involves the analysis of the measurement of poverty and deprivation in Ireland, using the official measure of consistent poverty. The data on income and living conditions used for the analysis is collated by the CSO in their annual household survey SILC. The outputs of this research programme typically include an annual report on new and emerging poverty issues and technical papers on aspects of poverty measurement. The findings are published and disseminated at seminars.

Research outputs in period 2009 to 2010 included:

Whelan, T., Maitre, B. (2009), *Poverty and deprivation in Ireland in comparative perspective*, ESRI Research Series No. 11, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin.

Russell, H, Maitre, B and Nolan, B (2010), *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland 2004-2007: Key Issues for Children, People of Working Age and Older People*. ESRI Research Series No. 17, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin.

Russell, H., Maitre, B., Donnolly, N. (2011), *Financial Exclusion and Over-indebtedness in Irish Households*. Department of Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs and the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin.

A research briefing on the financial exclusion study was published in Irish and English.

### 4.3 Social Inclusion Research Innovation Awards

The second stream of research funding is the Social Inclusion Research Innovation Awards (SIRIA). The aim of SIRIA is to promote research excellence and innovation on poverty and social exclusion among third level institutions. This programme was launched towards the end of 2010 and is managed by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)<sup>16</sup> as part of its Research Development Initiative. Funds were provided under three difference streams for single and/or joint research studies and academic summer schools exploring new aspects poverty and the lifecycle.

In 2010, two research studies were awarded funding. These included a joint research initiative of Trinity College Dublin and Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice, entitled '*Establishing minimum income standards for Irish households*'. The second study is on '*Poverty and the life-course: developing material deprivation indicators for a diverse older population in Ireland*' by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland, Galway. The Geary Institute in University College Dublin and the School of Applied Social Sciences, University College Cork received funding for summer schools on poverty research and methodology hosted in October 2011 and summer 2012 respectively.

The SIRIA research work programme draws on lessons learned from former Combat Poverty Poverty Research Initiative. Over the period 2009-2010, 18 funded research working papers under the Poverty Research Initiative were published online covering a broad range of topics such as exclusion in housing, education, financial exclusion, poverty and the lifecycle and child poverty. Papers can be accessed on line at <http://www.combatpoverty.ie/publications/workingpapers.htm>

### 4.4 Social Portraits of Lifecycle Groups

The Department commissioned the ESRI in 2005 to undertake a series of social portraits of lifecycle groups to inform the implementation of the *NAPinclusion*, as part of the Division's data strategy. To date, five social portraits have been developed to inform the implementation and monitoring of actions from the *NAPinclusion*: children (published 2007), older people (2007), people of working age (2008), communities (2009) and people with disabilities (2011).

<sup>16</sup> The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) was established in 2000. With the support of the National Development Plan, the IRCHSS funds cutting-edge research in the humanities, social sciences, business and law with the objective of creating new knowledge and expertise beneficial to Ireland's economic, social and cultural development.

These portraits provide a useful collection of socio-economic and other data in respect of persons at each stage of the lifecycle. They provide a clear picture of those groups who are most at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland and assist in informing policies designed to address the particular challenges faced by these groups. The portraits are designed to be read by a wide audience with the statistical information presented in a colourful, visual and accessible format.

The social portrait of communities was launched in February 2009 by the Minister for Social Protection.<sup>17</sup> The portrait provides a statistical description and analysis of communities in Ireland today and considers the situation of specific vulnerable groups such as people living in areas of urban and rural disadvantage, migrants and ethnic minorities, Travellers and the homeless. It is designed to be read by a wide audience, including members of the general public.

## **5. Social Inclusion Initiatives**

### **5.1 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010**

The European Commission designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The Irish Government appointed the Social Inclusion Division (originally of the Department of Social and Family Affairs and later of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs) as the National Implementing Body (NIB) to co-ordinate and organise its participation at national level. The NIB was responsible for defining the national programme and the priorities for the European Year and also for selecting the individual actions to be proposed for Community funding. The NIB consulted with the National Advisory Committee (NAC), which was composed of a broad range of stakeholders including the Social Partners. The NAC advised on all aspects of the programme for the year and its implementation. Ireland ensured that maximum use was made of bodies which were already in place to monitor implementation of the *NAPinclusion*.

The Irish National Year Programme successfully achieved its specified aims and objectives along with those of the overall European Year. It supported the organisation of over 20 national and regional events along with numerous additional local events and activities, at which awareness of poverty and social exclusion was raised. Although, many events had a strong local social inclusion focus, the broader collective responsibility in combating poverty at national level was also highlighted.

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<sup>17</sup> Nolan, B., Maitre, B., (2009) *A Social Portrait of Communities in Ireland*, Office for Social Inclusion, Dublin. See <http://www.socialinclusion.ie/documents/5062SOCIALPORTCOMMUNITY-7-AW-LO.pdf>



All of the events organised as part of the Irish National Programme were well attended by a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society representatives, social partners, local and regional authorities and national government. The active participation of people experiencing poverty ensured that their concerns, opinions, experiences and testimonies were voiced, and heard.

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/eu2010/Pages/eu2010.aspx>

## 6. Annual Social Inclusion Forum

The annual Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) is part of government structures to monitor the implementation of the *NAPinclusion*. It provides a forum of engagement between officials from Government Departments, community and voluntary organisations and people experiencing poverty. A report of the stakeholders views expressed at the SIF is prepared and laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

- The 2009 SIF took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Croke Park, Conference Centre, Dublin 3. The main focus of this Forum meeting was preparing for the unique European Year (2010) devoted to Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, with reference in particular to the major challenges for social inclusion from the economic downturn. The new Social Inclusion Division in the then Department of Social and Family Affairs and its strategic plan was also formally launched at the Forum.
- The 2010 SIF took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, Dublin 1. The 2010 Forum also marked the concluding event of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

### 6.1 Public Awareness Funding Initiative for United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Over the last number of years the Social Inclusion Division has run a very successful Public Awareness Funding Initiative to mark the *United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. This involves providing once-off funding to anti-poverty groups or organisations to undertake work at local or national level to promote awareness of 17<sup>th</sup> October, *UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*.

The funding is open to anti-poverty organisations and groups working with people experiencing poverty at national or local level.

Activities that can be funded include once-off initiatives with a local, regional or national focus that aim:

- to create public awareness of the *UN International Day for the Elimination of Poverty*;
- to create public awareness of poverty in Ireland;
- to involve people at risk of or experiencing poverty;
- to express solidarity with the fight to eradicate poverty globally.

## 6.2 Healthy Food for All

The Department of Social Protection, through the Social Inclusion Division, provides support to *Healthy Food for All* (HFfA) for the implementation of its development plan. HFfA is an all-Ireland multi-agency initiative which combats food poverty by promoting access, availability and affordability of healthy food for low-income groups. Its main activities are supporting local food initiatives in schools and communities, promoting good practice and shared learning and providing policy advice and research. In October 2010, the Social Inclusion Division supported the publication of the HFfA *Good Practice Guide on Community Food Initiatives*, which was launched by the Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

## 7. Institutional Structures

### 7.1 Cabinet Committee and Senior Officials Group

The Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration<sup>18</sup> chaired by the Taoiseach, met regularly during the review period. This group was supported by the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion. The focus was on promoting a co-ordinated approach to the implementation of *NAPinclusion* and progressing monitoring strategies towards its long-term goals. A broad focus was maintained on effectiveness of cross-departmental engagement on issues in the social policy sphere.

### 7.2 Social Inclusion Division

The integration of the Combat Poverty Agency and the Office for Social Inclusion took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, to form a new Social Inclusion Division within the then Department of Social and Family Affairs. The primary objective of the integration process was to strengthen the institutional mechanisms that underpin the Government's social inclusion strategies.

The necessary legislative provisions entailed the dissolution of the Agency and the transfer of its staff into the Department. The provisions were brought into effect by way of a Commencement Order in July 2009.

<sup>18</sup> The Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration was replaced by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy in 2011.



The Division was transferred to the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010 and has since been transferred back to the Department of Social Protection (1<sup>st</sup> May 2011).

## Part 2

### PROGRESS IN RELATION TO TARGETS IN THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION 2007-2016

## Part Two

### Lifecycle: Children

#### Childcare

Target	Progress
An infrastructure will be developed to provide quality, affordable childcare and an increase in the number of childcare places (of all types) by 100,000 over the period to 2016. The National Childcare Investment Programme, 2006–2010 (NCIP) will create 50,000 of these places.	With the economic downturn, new capital grant applications ceased to be approved from mid-2008. NCIP capital funding will result in the creation of approximately 25,000 new childcare places.
The review of the NCIP, 2006–2010, will be undertaken during 2010 in consultation with the social partners. This will assess progress made to date to address childcare needs with a view to ensuring that new policy responses and any subsequent programme(s) are appropriate to emerging needs in childcare.	<p>In January 2010, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme was introduced, which provides for an annual programme of early learning for children in the year before primary school. The programme, which cost €153.5M in 2010, replaced the Early Childcare Supplement which was abolished with effect from December 2009.</p> <p>A new Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme was introduced in September 2010, which will continue to provide funding to community childcare services to enable them to charge reduced childcare fees to disadvantaged and low-income working parents. A new Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) programme was also introduced in September 2010 to provide free childcare places to qualifying parents attending FÁS and VEC courses.</p>

## Early Childhood Education

Target	Progress
<p>In order to meet high level Goal 1<sup>19</sup> the Early Childhood Education measure under the DEIS Action Plan will be extended to the urban primary school communities with the most immediate and pressing needs by 2010. This measure will continue to be extended to encompass the remaining schools in the urban primary strand of DEIS after 2010.</p>	<p>The introduction of a free pre-school year (the ECCE scheme) for all children in January 2010 represented a major policy change from targeted interventions in Early Years to one of universal provision. The scheme is funded and administered through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and in its first full year of operation, 94% of children in the eligible age cohort were availing of their free pre-school place.</p> <p>Over 4,000 pre-school services are participating in the ECCE scheme. Approx 20% of these services are in receipt of the higher capitation rate.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Skills has funded two practice frameworks (Síolta and Aistear) to support the development of quality provision in pre-school services.</p> <p>Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education is a comprehensive set of practice guidelines for all settings where children aged birth to six years are present. Síolta's Quality Assurance Programme is being implemented on a field-test basis by Voluntary Child Care Organisations (VCOs) working in partnership with the Early Years Education Policy Unit. 25 Síolta Coordinators, drawn from the VCOs were selected and trained to provide specialist support for participating ECCE settings.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Skills will continue to work in partnership with other Departments and agencies to add value to existing childcare programmes.</p>

<sup>19</sup> This High level goal has been overtaken by events with the introduction of universal pre-school provision in January 2010

**Early School Leavers/Absenteeism**

Target	Progress
<p>To help further address absenteeism, early school leaving, behavioural problems and special needs, an additional 100 posts will be provided for the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) by 2009.</p>	<p>Towards 2016 provided for 100 new posts to be assigned between NEPS and the NEWB. Under Phase 1 of this agreement, sanction was given to the NEWB for an additional 15 full time posts which brought the staff complement to 109. These additional posts were filled by end of 2008. From 1st September 2009 the remit of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) was extended to include responsibility for the Home School Community Liaison service, The Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers and the School Completion Programme in addition to the Educational Welfare Service. The Integration of Education Services provides for streamlining of frontline service delivery and this approach is in keeping with the Government's overall approach to Transforming Public Services announced in November 2008 and in agreement with the commitment in the Renewed Programme for Government to provide a more effective service for children who may have difficulties fully participating in school. As a Non-Commercial State Sponsored Body (NCSSB) under the aegis of the Department of Education &amp; Skills, the NEWB is now subject to the Moratorium on Public Sector Recruitment. The Board now operates across 5 regional teams at 31 locations nationwide. Ceilings approved for the Board under the Employment Control Framework in the Education Sector for the period 2011 to 2014 are as follows;</p> <p>2011 – 110,  2012 – 109,  2013 – 108,  2014 – 106.</p> <p>NEPS recruitment continued during 2009 however the gains in new psychologist (9) intake were offset by a similar number of losses due to resignation / retirement. During 2010 psychologist number increased to 165 and by early 2011 to 172. Numbers currently (September 11) stand at 177.</p>

## Integration of Migrant Children

Target	Progress				
<p>Support for the effective integration of migrant children at both primary and second-level will be enhanced through the provision of an extra 550 teachers for language supports by 2009 and the removal of the current limit of two additional teachers per school. Some €637M will be available by 2013 for teachers for language supports to assist children from non-English speaking backgrounds.</p>	<p>In 2009, training continued for EAL teachers at primary and post-primary levels, as well as for school leaders and other teachers.</p> <p>In 2009, there was a general re-introduction of the two EAL- teacher limit for schools, with provision for additional posts in special circumstances. These include, for example, where post-primary schools had senior cycle students requiring continued support. Expenditure on EAL teaching posts/hours is approximately €85.3M in 2010/11.</p> <p>A value for money review of expenditure on EAL in both the primary and post-primary sectors is being undertaken</p> <p>In addition, a post-primary language assessment kit was sent to all schools.</p> <p>A post-primary version of the “Toolkit for Diversity” was launched in early 2010 by the Inclusion and Diversity Service in Northern Ireland. There are also versions aimed at the pre-school and special education sectors.</p> <p>In terms of expenditure, this has risen as follows (figures are given to the nearest M):</p> <table data-bbox="818 1160 1066 1249"> <tr> <td>08/09</td><td>€136M</td></tr> <tr> <td>09/10</td><td>€100M</td></tr> </table> <p>Expenditure to date, therefore, already amounts to €488M.</p>	08/09	€136M	09/10	€100M
08/09	€136M				
09/10	€100M				

## Traveller Education Strategy

Target	Progress
<p>The majority of the recommendations of the Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy, mindful of the Survey of Traveller Education Provision will be implemented between 2007 and 2011.</p>	<p>Work is continuing on the implementation of the Traveller Education Strategy. A Traveller Implementation Group (TIG) was established within the Department in 2006 to steer progress in the implementation of recommendations of the report. The Traveller Education Strategy Advisory &amp; Consultative Forum was established in late 2009 as a forum for consultation on the ongoing implementation of the Traveller Education Strategy. The Forum includes key stakeholders in the education sector with an interest in or a responsibility for Traveller education in Ireland as well as Traveller Representative Groups and Travellers. The object of the Forum is to identify issues, including obstacles, to the implementation of recommendations of the Traveller Education Strategy. It will also examine appropriate responses to issues identified and report to the Traveller Implementation Group, from time to time, to highlight key issues of concern.</p> <p>To date five meetings of the Forum have been held, the 5th having been held on the 27th July 2011.</p>
<p>Segregated provision at primary and post-primary level will be phased out to ensure that Travellers are integrated into mainstream schools by 2009.</p>	<p>Consultation has started with the patrons of these schools to identify the best approach for the phased closure. From September 2011 Resource Teacher for Traveller posts/ Teaching Hours for Traveller pupils were withdrawn. Traveller pupils who are eligible for learning support teaching should receive this tuition through the existing learning support provision in schools. All schools should select students for learning support on the basis of priority of need. Limited alleviation or adjustment measures are being provided to assist schools that have high concentrations of Traveller pupils who were previously supported by Resource Teachers for Travellers.</p>
<p>Pre-schools for Travellers will be integrated over a longer period with current and new pre-school provision, so that young Travellers may experience an inclusive integrated education from an early age.</p>	<p>The introduction of universal free pre-school provision meant that the phasing out of segregated Traveller pre-schools, which is an objective of the 2006 Traveller Education Strategy, could be accelerated. Where there were sufficient places available in mainstream community or private pre-schools, Traveller pre-schools were encouraged to either close their segregated provision or apply for inclusion in the free pre-school year scheme. By the end of 2010, only 6 segregated Traveller pre-schools were being funded by the Department of Education and Skills.</p>

## Youth Justice

Target	Progress
The OMC in partnership with the new Irish Youth Justice Service and the Justice sector, the Health Service Executive and the Department of Education and Science and the Education sector will support the accelerated implementation of the Children Act 2001. The legislative provisions will be commenced on 1 March 2007.	All provisions of the Act commenced.
Provisions to enable the full implementation of the Children Act 2001 will be in place in 2007 with the further development of quality standards with enhanced monitoring and inspection of these standards.	In 2010, a review of the operation of the Children Act was undertaken by the Irish Youth Justice Service and is due to be completed shortly.
The Irish Youth Justice Service will ensure that services needed to facilitate commencement of all community alternatives to detention, delivered by the Probation Service, are provided as early as possible during the period 2007–2013.	During 2009 and 2010 the IYJS, in co-operation with the Young Persons Probation (YPP) Service Division of the Probation Service through the network of community based organisations, extended the provision of a range of initiatives including community based sanctions for young people as provided for under the Children Act 2001 (as amended). These include – the establishment of the Day Centres in Cork and Dublin; the provision of parenting programmes; the extension of volunteer mentoring to develop pro-social thinking and behaviour; the increased use of restorative justice principles; the delivery of cognitive behavioural group work programmes and the development of a through care approach facilitating re-integration of young people into the community.
The scheduled date for the commencement of the legislative provisions to implement community sanctions is 1 March 2007. The measures will subsequently be rolled out on a phased basis across the country. This roll-out will be completed by 2013.	YPP continues to work within the Children's Courts providing advice, assessments and the supervision of orders to ensure the continued operation of its functions under the Children Act 2001 (as amended). YPP has continued to build partnerships with the HSE, An Garda Síochána and the Children Detention Schools to ensure the Courts are provided with the best available information to inform their decisions; ensuring detention is used as a last resort. Training for all officers and associated project staff in restorative practice has ensured best practice with young offenders and their families, and continues to provide the Courts with appropriate alternatives to custody.

<p>The total number of Youth Diversion Projects will increase to approximately 130, catering for in the region of 4,500 young people by 2013. A comprehensive evaluation of the Youth Diversion projects will be conducted in 2007–2008 to inform the evolution of the projects.</p>	<p>The planned expansion in the number of GYDPs beyond the existing 100 was re-assessed in the light of the changed economic climate and this expansion has now been put on hold.</p> <p>The primary focus through 2009 and 2010 has been on ensuring the quality and effectiveness of the services provided, as set out under the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008–2010. The results of the baseline analysis of the GYDPs, which commenced in 2008, were published in 2009 in the report “Designing effective local responses to youth crime – a baseline analysis of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects”. Work commenced during 2009 and continued through 2010 to implement the recommendations of the report with five trial sites piloted to use the new model.</p> <p>All projects are supported by a new online learning community which was put in place for practitioners during 2009 to share information and good practice. Significant work has also been undertaken by IYJS in partnership with AGS to review the governance of the projects to improve their effectiveness.</p> <p>The part funded European Social Fund Human Capital Investment Operational Programme continued to be rolled out to projects through 2009 and 2010 with nearly all 100 projects employing an additional worker to enhance supports available to young people participating in the Garda projects.</p>
<p>An education strategy for all children in high support, special care and Children Detention Schools is being prepared to provide a continuum of education and training opportunities for these children before, during and after any periods in special care or detention.</p>	<p>The Education Strategy for the Children Detention School Service September 2010–2013 has been published.</p>



## Mental Health

Target	Progress
The delivery, under the framework of the Vision for Change Strategy, of child and adolescent Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) in the order of 1 CMHT per 100,000 of the population by 2008 and 2 CMHTs per 100,000 of the population by 2013.	<p>The number of child and adolescent mental health teams nationally has increased from 50 to 55, with further teams to be developed in line with the recommendation of 'A Vision for Change'.</p> <p>During 2009, bed capacity for children and adolescents almost doubled bringing the total number of in-patient beds to 30. In addition, during 2010 construction was completed on two 20 bed in-patient child and adolescent units in Galway and Cork which will bring the total number of in-patient beds to 52. In-patient capacity will further increase in 2011 with plans for additional beds in Dublin – St Loman's, Palmerstown and St. Vincent's, Fairview. In addition, work on the Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Day Facility in Cherry Orchard, Dublin is expected to be completed by September 2011. It is anticipated that this facility will provide day care and treatment for children and adolescents with mental health needs and will obviate the need for some admissions.</p>

## Substance Abuse

Target	Progress
The prevalence trends of smoking and substance use will be monitored through the National Health and Lifestyle Surveys and the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD). ESPAD results will be available in late 2007 or early 2008.	<p>Research for the European Schools Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) 2011 is underway.</p> <p>In order to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Ireland, the Department of Health initiated a review to identify what further policy proposals might be introduced aimed at reducing the prevalence and initiation of smoking in Ireland. The review is well underway and its report is at an advanced stage of preparation.</p>
The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey (HBSC) results will be available from mid-2007.	Work is ongoing on HBSC 2010. It is hoped that it will be launched later in 2011.
Access to treatment will be provided to 100% of problematic drugs users aged under-18 within one month after assessment.	Under 18 year olds are prioritised for methadone maintenance treatment and there are no waiting lists for this cohort. The HSE allocated funding of €2.46M in 2010 to voluntary sector agencies to put in place Tier 3 community based services which prioritise addiction services to under 18s. This has allowed for the ongoing development of additional frontline services for under 18s in partnership with the voluntary sector. Approval was given for the addition of two Consultant Psychiatrists in substance misuse in the HSE South and the HSE West to support the development of services for under 18s.

Substance use policies will be put in place in 100% of schools by 2008.	<p>A Lifeskills Survey of all schools was undertaken by the DES in 2009. Response rates: 80% (primary) and 66% (post-primary). Completed responses showed: 84% of primary-level schools and 96% of schools at post primary level had a substance abuse policy.</p> <p>A template to assist schools in developing a substance use policy is available on the DES website.</p>
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## Nutrition

Target	Progress
<p>A National Nutrition Policy to address children's food poverty and obesity will be finalised and launched by mid-2007. A national database will be developed to monitor prevalence trends of growth, overweight and obesity. The Programme of Action for Children (PAC) has developed a growth module for children and its implementation will be dealt with in the National Nutrition Policy.</p>	<p>As part of the Review of Public Health Policy, the Department of Health is in the process of reviewing the broad determinants of health and health inequalities through our health services, community and education settings. The review will describe the approaches and priority objectives and actions under key lifestyle headings, so as to improve health, reduce inequalities, disease and costs on the health system.</p> <p>With regard to nutrition, the Department has therefore focused its attention on revising the Food Pyramid and Healthy Eating Guidelines.</p> <p>The State of the Nation's Children report – Ireland 2010, reports on nutrition, physical activity and the overweight/obesity indicator Body Mass Index.</p> <p>The Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance carried out a survey – the National Adults Nutrition Survey, part funded by the Department.</p> <p>The Department participated in the Expert Working Group, who developed a Report on The Health and Nutrition of Children Living in Ireland, to help inform the Review of the Children's Commercial Code by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. A national consultation is underway regarding the specific rules governing the promotion of food and drink to children. In implementing the EU salt reduction, the Department has been working with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.</p>

## School Meals

Target	Progress
The 475 schools in the DEIS action plan not benefiting from the school meals programme will be targeted to increase participation and the current number of participating schools will be increased by 215, by the end of 2007. Additional funding of €3M has been provided for this programme in 2007.	<p>Funding for the School Meals Programme (Urban School Meals Scheme and School Meals Local Projects Scheme) was maintained at €35M since 2009. This has ensured that funding provided to individual projects and schools had not been cut. New schools are invited to join the School Meals Local Projects Scheme as funding becomes available through schools opting out of the scheme.</p> <p>13 additional DEIS schools joined the School Meals Local Project Scheme in 2009 and 9 in 2010 (6 in 2011). Pupils from approximately 700 DEIS schools have benefitted from the scheme in recent years.</p>

## Youth Café Programme

Target	Progress
Proposals for the roll-out of the Youth Café Programme will be developed by September 2007.	<p>2 Policy Documents Published;</p> <p>Funding scheme launched;</p> <p>Results of funding scheme announced;</p> <p>16 new Sites Funded;</p> <p>50 existing sites supported;</p> <p>Bulk of new sites to come on stream in 2012.</p>

## Children's Play Facilities

Target	Progress
The RAPID Programme will provide €3M under its Playground Grants Scheme in 2007.	Applications in the amount of €3.2M were paid to 56 RAPID areas.
15 playground projects will be completed in 2007 through funding of some €700,000 under the 2005 Local Authority Playground Grants Scheme. In addition, over €4M is being allocated to each City and County Council under the 2006 Local Authority Playground Grants scheme to provide up to 90 additional playground projects over the next two years.	<p>Total payments of €7.26M issued for 155 Playgrounds across the country.</p> <p>Funding for the programmes ceased at the end of 2010. Funding for a small number of projects was not drawn down by the Local Authorities.</p>
21 projects to develop skateboard facilities will be completed through overall funding of €2M by the end of 2007.	A total of €1.7M was spent across the country for 20 skateboard parks, with funding not drawn down for one project.

## Comhairle Na nÓg

Target	Progress
Continued support and guidance for the improved operation of the 34 Comhairlí Na nÓg.	<p>All 34 Comhairlí now receive funding under the DCYA Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund Expenditure under this fund and other supports in 2009 – 2010 exceeded €680,000.</p> <p>The reports of the independent evaluator for the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund (2007–2010) highlight the importance of the rigorous funding criteria imposed by the DCYA and the significant improvements in the operation of Comhairle na nÓg resulting from the Fund. Among the key criteria for funding is the requirement for local authorities to evidence the involvement of seldom-heard children and young people in Comhairle na nÓg,</p> <p>A two year development plan for Comhairle na nÓg (2009–2011) was developed and is being successfully implemented.</p>

## Dáil na nÓg

Target	Progress
The duration and frequency of Dáil na nÓg will be reviewed by 2008. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs will support the work of Dáil na Nóg Council, which is comprised of 34 young people elected from each Comhairle na nÓg in the country.	<p><u>Dáil na nÓg 2010</u></p> <p>The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs continues to host Dáil na nÓg each year. The last Dáil na nÓg took place in March 2010 and discussed the issues of mental health and access to education. Working on the resulting recommendations, the Dáil na nÓg Council 2010 was involved with consulting young people on the reform of the Junior Cycle in November 2010, along with the OMCYA and the NCCA. The Ministers for Children and Youth Affairs and Education and Skills will jointly launch the report of this consultation in 2011.</p> <p><u>Dáil na nÓg 2009</u></p> <p>Dáil na nÓg 2009 discussed Physical Health and Mental Health. Pursuing the subsequent recommendations, Dáil na nÓg Council 2009 worked on the need for the effective implementation of SPHE at senior cycle in second-level schools, and on the need for effective Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in the senior cycle of second-level schools.</p> <p>This study of the implementation of SPHE and RSE led to the publication of the report 'Life skills life matters – not just points' in 2010. The 2009 councillors also worked on the recommendation that the cervical cancer vaccine should be made available free of charge for all 12–18 year old girls, and their contribution was then acknowledged by the then Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney.</p>

## Inclusion Programme

Target	Progress
<p>Measures to ensure that hard-to-reach children and young people are included in the above participation structures will be established by 2008.</p>	<p>The DCYA has captured the learning from this programme (2007 – 2009) through an independent evaluation, which highlights the benefits accrued from the programme, but identifies considerable challenges in providing relevant participation opportunities to seldom heard children.</p> <p>In order to address the findings of the evaluation and build on the work of this programme, the DCYA commissioned research in January 2011 comprising a literature review and identification of good practice in the field of participation of seldom heard children and young people relevant to the Irish context. This research will include participation of key groups such as Travellers, children and young people with disabilities and children and young people from disadvantaged/vulnerable backgrounds/communities.</p>
<p>The Department of Children and Youth Affairs will support the development of actions considered in improving the practice of listening to children in care.</p>	<p>The Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (2009) recommended that <i>children in care should be able to communicate without fear</i>. In response to the Ryan Report, the DCYA conducted a consultation process called <i>Listen to Our Voices! Hearing Children and Young People in the Care of the State</i> during 2010. €63,155 was spent on this consultation process.</p> <p>The aims and objectives of the consultations were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek the views of children and young people in the care of the State on the issues that matter to them and on which they would like to be heard;</li> <li>Explore existing mechanisms for children and young people to express their views and;</li> <li>Make recommendations on future structures to be established for children and young people to express their views.</li> </ul> <p>211 children and young people participated in 15 consultations in Cork, Dublin, Galway and Sligo. A parallel process for children and young people with disabilities and communications difficulties, who are living in care, was conducted in November and December 2010.</p> <p>The report of the consultation process was launched by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in July 2011. The recommendations from the report have been fed into all key State organisations and agencies with responsibility in this area.</p> <p>The DCYA will establish a Voice of Children in Care Implementation Group, comprised of children and young people in care during 2012, to develop actions to be considered in improving the practice of listening to children in care.</p>

<p>The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs will report to Government in 2012 on the overall assessment of models of best practice which promote integrated, locally-led, strategic planning for children's services. This will be informed by: i) the DCYA initiative testing models for integrated services and interventions for children at local level; ii) the development of multi-agency Children's Services Committees (CSCs) within each of the City/County Development Boards; iii) the ongoing research and data development initiatives undertaken or supported by the DCYA.</p>	<p>By the end of 2010 all services had been designed and were operational across all project sites. In the vast majority of cases, evaluation strands were in place and associated evaluation reports were being submitted in accordance with contractual obligations.</p> <p>At the end of 2010 there were 10 CSCs in place and an invitation to participate in setting up a Phase III CSC was sent to targeted locations. A number of supports for the <i>Working Together for Children</i> initiative (which is the planning model for national and local interagency working to improve outcomes for children and includes the DCYA, National Children's Strategy Implementation Group and the CSCs) were produced to aid the further development of the CSCs and included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Plan;</li> <li>A Toolkit for the establishment of a CSC based on the learning from the initial sites;</li> <li>A template to assist the CSCs with developing a Workplan;</li> <li>A Governance Framework;</li> <li>An Internal Communications Plan.</li> </ul>
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### Child Income Supports Review

Target	Progress
<p>The review of child income supports by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, informed by the NESC study on a second tier child income support, will be completed in 2007.</p>	<p>In line with the Government's expenditure review initiative, a policy and value for money review of Child Income Support (CIS) policies and associated programmes was established in 2009 to examine the objectives of CIS policy, consider if they remain valid, if programme spending and associated administrative costs are well configured to meet these objectives and if alternative approaches would achieve better outcomes and impacts.</p> <p>The Review was published in November 2010. The Review found that there is a need to rationalise the current system of CIS payments and selective programmes in particular in order to provide more consistent assistance to low income families and to encourage parental employment. A range of possible approaches to achieve better effectiveness and efficiency in child income support spending were examined and compared in the review. The Department is undertaking follow-up work, including a detailed assessment of the future design of child income supports payments.</p>

<p>The introduction of legislation to provide for Child Benefit to be divided equally between parents in cases where they are not living together and where joint equal custody arrangements apply.</p>	<p>The findings of the technical review of the entire social welfare code, including this child benefit issue, are being examined by scheme and policy owners in the Department. The examination of the issue of splitting child benefit between parents in joint custody cases is being carried out in light of the Law Reform Commission's report on legal aspects of family relationships, which was published in December 2010.</p>
<p>The implications of and issues involved in transferring payment from the child's primary carer to an alternative qualified person in circumstances where it is established that the Child Benefit is not being utilised for the benefit of the child.</p>	<p>This action is being progressed in tandem with the previous action concerning splitting child benefit, as outlined above.</p>



## Data and Research about Children

Target	Progress
<p>Growing Up in Ireland: The National Longitudinal Study of Children: This major study, initially contracted for the period April 2006 to end 2012, will track the outcomes for children of Government supports and policies, community and family support and will aim to identify what policy changes and further developments are required to achieve improved outcomes. It is expected that a report comprising the initial data study will be published by the end of 2008.</p>	<p>The first waves of quantitative and qualitative fieldwork have been completed for the infant (at age 9 months) and child (at age 9 years) cohorts and the achieved sample size for the quantitative fieldwork for the infant and child cohorts is approximately 11,100 and 8,570 respectively. For the qualitative fieldwork the achieved sample size is 120 each for the infant and child cohorts. The second waves of quantitative fieldwork for the infant cohort (at age 3) commenced in December 2010.</p> <p>The first substantive quantitative report 'The Lives of Nine Year Olds' was launched in December 2009 at the first Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference. The second quantitative substantive report 'The Infants and their Families' was launched in November 2010 at the second Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference. A series of conceptual, technical and key findings documents have also been published.</p> <p>The quantitative Anonymised Microdata Files (AMF) from wave one of the infant and child cohorts have been lodged in the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) for use by bona fide researchers. The qualitative Anonymised Microdata File (AMF) from wave one of the child cohort has been lodged in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) for use by bona fide researchers. GUI data is being analysed in a wide range of studies, PhD and Masters theses and related work.</p>



<p>National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives.</p>	<p>This Strategy was in the process of development by the Research Unit of the OMCYA (now the Department of Children and Youth Affairs) during 2009 and 2010. Key inputs to its development included a public consultation conducted in 2009, a consultation workshop with children and young people, a review of policy documents over the period 2000–2008 and an inventory of data sources on children's lives. A detailed and systematic analysis of these inputs, and subsequent consultation on the findings to ensure more recent developments were taken into account, resulted in the development of a detailed action plan. The plan was circulated for agreement to around 24 key Departments and agencies who were expected to participate in the actions set out. This work was underpinned by reviews of relevant literature, identification of best practice and examination of strategic developments in Ireland and elsewhere in this area. The analysis was structured around a life-course approach and a thematic structure closely mirroring the National Service Outcomes of the Agenda for Children's Services, and the principal focus of the actions developed was on making better use of existing information sources and harnessing existing resources to produce improved information on children's lives. The Strategy was scheduled for publication in 2011.</p>
<p>State of the Nations Children Report: Ireland 2010.</p>	<p>The State of the Nations Children Report: Ireland 2010 was published in December 2010. This Report, which is the third in a biennial series, was compiled by the Research Unit of the OMCYA (now Department of Children and Youth Affairs), in association with the Central Statistics Office and the Health Promotion Research Centre at National University of Ireland, Galway. The State of the Nation's Children Report: Ireland 2010 presents administrative, survey and Census data on children's lives, focussing specifically on children's outcomes (including health, educational and social, emotional and behavioural), children's relationships with family and friends and children's services and supports.</p>

Other Research and Data Activities	<p>In 2009 and 2010, the Research Unit of the OMCYA (now Department of Children and Youth Affairs) also:</p> <p>Funded eight postgraduate research studies under the National Children's Research Scholarship Programme. Since this Programme was established in 2001, 35 postgraduate research studies have been funded.</p> <p>Published findings from seven research studies, which were funded under the National Children's Research Programme.</p> <p>Jointly funded, with Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), three research studies under the Research Development Initiative (RDI).</p>
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## Part Two

## Working Age

## Education

Target	Progress
A total of €1 billion will be invested in the post-leaving certificate sector over the period 2007–2013 to provide participants with specific vocational skills to enhance their prospects of securing employment and support progression to other studies.	Annual expenditure on PLC in 2009 and 2010 was over €180M. In 2009, an additional 1,500 PLC places were allocated and a further 1,000 places were allocated in 2011, bringing the total to 32,688.
In consultation with the Department of Education and Skills, the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education will set goals and targets and develop baseline data for the participation of students with a disability, mature students and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, including Travellers and other minorities over the period 2007–2013. Grant support to students will be provided through the Fund for Students with a Disability, the Student Assistance Fund, the Millennium Partnership Fund, and the financial resources of higher education institutions.	<p>Implementation of the <i>National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2008-2013</i> is continuing.</p> <p>A mid-term review of this indicates that there is steady progress towards the objectives and targets in the national plan. Key achievements include the development of access and lifelong learning plans by all higher education institutions.</p> <p><u>Equal Access Data</u></p> <p>The most recent published data (2009–10) can be analysed in chapter 7 of the HEA publication <i>Higher Education: Key Facts and Figures 2009/10</i>.</p> <p><u>The Student Assistance Fund</u></p> <p>2010–2011 €5M allocation</p> <p>7,681 students benefited from the Fund in 2009–10.</p> <p><u>The Fund for Students with Disabilities</u></p> <p>2010–2011 €13.7M allocation</p> <p>6,093 approved students.</p> <p>The Millennium Partnership Fund was discontinued follow a budgetary decision in 2009.</p>
The Back to Education Initiative, providing support for adults who did not complete upper second-level schooling, will be expanded by an additional 2,000 places by 2009, in addition to the 8,000 places currently provided.	There are currently 12,000 BTEI places available, including 3,000 additional places allocated this year under the Jobs Initiative.

## Training & Development

Target	Progress
<p>Almost €4.9 billion is being allocated by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment over the period 2007–2013 to provide targeted training and supports to groups outside the labour market such as the unemployed, people with disabilities, lone parents, Travellers and prisoners. This funding will also support the increased participation of women, older workers, part-time workers and migrants.</p>	<p>The Special Initiative for Travellers (SIT) Following an open call for funding in 2010, 13 projects were approved and approximately 600 travellers engaged in the programme. The expenditure for 2010 was €0.63M.</p> <p>In 2010, 7,595 people who had been in receipt of a disability payment completed FÁS programmes– Approximately 7,000 individuals commenced FÁS programmes in 2010.</p> <p>A Social Inclusion Model was piloted in the Dublin region during the period November 2009 – May 2010 and sought to address the barriers that were identified as preventing lone parents from accessing education and training opportunities. At the same time FÁS also provided funding for a New Futures Training Programme in Galway. This programme was managed by One Family and adopted a similar approach to the Social Inclusion Model.</p> <p>An “ex-offender protocol” was developed (between FÁS, the Irish Prison Service, Linkage and the Probation Service) to provide a seamless referral process to FÁS for ex-offenders by the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service, through the Linkage Programme. A Sex-Offender Protocol is currently also being developed as an integral part of the Ex-Offender Protocol.</p> <p>The Technical Employment Support Grant (TESG) – Approximately 14,000 clients were approved for a grant and the budget was €6M in 2010.</p>

<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will invest some €2.9 billion between 2007–2013 to improve training for people in employment, to help upskill those who may be affected by industrial restructuring, to improve and enlarge the apprenticeship system and to provide progression opportunities for school leavers.</p>	<p>FÁS focused much of its activity in 2010 on supporting unemployed people to help them take up available employment opportunities, and to position themselves for the longer-term recovery.</p> <p>The total number of people completing FÁS training during 2010 was 89,500 and 72,700 in 2009. This includes 36,650 full-time training programmes for unemployed people and jobseekers in 2010.</p> <p>Over 20,600 people completed Specific Skills Training (SST) courses (up from 15,900 in 2009) and 4,400 completed Traineeships (2,700 in 2009). Among the other beneficiaries of full-time training programmes were in excess of 2,100 people who completed training for early school leavers in Community Training Centres, 3,800 people from disadvantaged backgrounds completing Local Training Initiative programmes and 1,300 people with a disability completing Specialist Training.</p> <p>In 2010 Skillnets invested €17.3M in developing the skills of over 39,000 people in Ireland. Trainees benefitted from over 185,000 training days, delivered by over 60 Skillnet networks across the country.</p> <p>In 2010 the total number of apprentices across all phases of training was 17,578. The number of new apprentice registrations by trade for 2010 was 1,204.</p> <p>Under Recognition of Prior Learning arrangements put in place by FÁS, apprentices not currently meeting the minimum on-the-job training period, but with verifiable work experience from Ireland or abroad, can submit an application and portfolio of evidence to the FÁS Redundant Accreditation Committee for assessment and with a view to obtaining the award of their Advanced Craft Certificate. In 2010, 100 apprentice applications were approved for the Award of the Advanced Certificate–Craft.</p> <p>Redundant apprentices may also avail of existing specific skills training courses and evening courses available at FÁS Training Centres to enhance their employable skills. In all, 1,133 course places were availed of by redundant apprentices.</p> <p>The Redundant Apprentice Placement Scheme was introduced in April 2010 to provide opportunities to redundant apprentices to complete on-the-job training at Phase 3, 5 and 7. The scheme provided a weekly subsidy of €250 to the employer towards employment costs. In December 2010, 443 redundant apprentices had availed of the scheme.</p>
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<p>A National Skills Strategy will be implemented to increase the skills levels of those at work, based on the Forfás <i>Expert Group on Future Skills Needs Study</i>.</p> <p><b>NSS Targets</b></p> <p>The key proposals in the National Skills Strategy for 2020 are that:</p> <p>48% of the labour force should have qualifications at National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) levels 6–10 – i.e. from higher/advanced certificate to PhD level;</p> <p>45% should have qualifications at NFQ levels 4 and 5 – Awards equivalent to upper secondary level education; and</p> <p>The remaining 7% are likely to have qualifications at NFQ levels 1 to 3 (equivalent or below Junior Certificate) while aiming to make the transition to higher levels of educational attainment.</p>	<p>In order to achieve these objectives, action is required at a number of levels:</p> <p>An additional 500,000 individuals within the workforce will need to progress by at least one level on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). More specifically, the targets will entail up–skilling 70,000 from NFQ levels 1 &amp; 2 to level 3; 260,000 up to levels 4 &amp; 5; and 170,000 to levels 6 to 10.</p> <p>The proportion of the population aged 20–24 with NFQ level 4 or 5 awards should be increased to 94%, either through completion of the Leaving Certificate or through equivalent, more vocationally oriented programmes. The retention rate at Leaving Certificate should reach 90% by 2020.</p> <p>The progression rate to third level education will have to increase from 55 to 72%.</p> <p>Significant progress has already been made towards meeting the objectives set out in the National Skills Strategy for the period to 2020. This is particularly the case in relation to third level. However, there remains a significant gap to close especially in relation to the targets aimed at the Leaving Certificate equivalent and lower levels of the NFQ.</p>
<p>The Workplace Basic Education Fund will register 2,000 learners during the period 2007–2010.</p>	<p>The WBEF administered by FAS trained 2,407 persons in 2009. In 2010 the Fund transitioned from DETE to DES and administration moved from FAS to County Dublin VEC. In 2010 the Fund supported 230 national adult literacy and numeracy programmes for 1,599 workers with low basic skills.</p>

## Adult Literacy

Target	Progress
<p>The proportion of the population aged 16–64 with restricted literacy will be reduced to between 10%–15% by 2016, from the level of 25% found in 1997 (restricted literacy being defined as Level I on the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) scale, or equivalent).</p>	<p>Investment in adult literacy has been maintained at similar levels as before. In 2011, there were 54,000 adult literacy participants.</p> <p>Ireland is participating in Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). The field survey is being conducted at present by the CSO (Central Statistics Office) and results are expected in October 2013.</p>

As part of the general national literacy service, the Vocational Education Committees will provide an additional 7,000 places by 2009, from the current level of 35,000 participants annually. There will be a particular focus on increasing the number of migrants receiving an English language service.	The report regarding the development of a national English language training policy and framework for legally resident adult immigrants based on extensive stakeholder consultation was completed. It forms part of on going policy development in the area.
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## Health

Target	Progress
Ensuring that people who are not able to meet the cost of GP services for themselves and their families are supported appropriately, either by means of a medical card or a GP visit card, depending on their means. Since the beginning of 2005 some 122,296 additional people have qualified for access to GP services free of charge. This includes a net additional 74,746 medical cards and 47,550 GP visit cards.	At the end of 2010, there were: 1,615,809 medical cards – an increase of 470,726 (39.8%) since the start of 2005; 117,423 GP visit cards have been issued since the scheme commenced in 2005. 1,733,232 people had free access to GP services – 38.77% of the population in comparison to 29.5% in 2005.
There is a strong body of evidence linking poverty and poor mental health and poverty is associated with greater use of mental health services. By 2013 there will be two General Adult Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) per 100,000 of the population	There are 124 General Adult Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) in place nationally, although many do not have the full multidisciplinary complement recommended in ' <i>A Vision for Change</i> '.  The 2010 Employment Control Framework for the health service provided an exemption from the moratorium and allowed the filling of 100 psychiatric nursing posts.  Special consideration was given to the mental health sector in Budget 2011 through a maximum reduction of 1.8% in the allocation for this sector. The relatively lower reduction, compared to other sectors of health, recognises that these services are provided to vulnerable groups. A prerequisite for the lower savings target is the prioritising of services while reforming and modernising models of delivery.

<p>Working in partnership, the Department of Health &amp; Children will develop specific community and sectoral initiatives to encourage healthy eating and access to healthy food and physical activity among adults, with a particular focus on adults living in areas of disadvantage.</p>	<p>The HSE continues its work with Local Authorities in developing food co-ops in disadvantaged areas. It is also involved in a number of workplace programmes which address physical activity and nutrition.</p> <p>The Department:</p> <p>Collaborates with Healthy Food for All (HFfA), an all-island multi-agency initiative seeking to address food poverty by promoting access, availability and affordability of healthy food for low-income groups.</p> <p>Sponsored HFfA's booklets, during 2009 &amp; 2010, i.e. Good Practice Guides for School and Community Food Initiatives.</p> <p>Successfully supported a HFfA initiative seeking cheese under a DG Agri Most Deprived Persons Scheme.</p> <p>With the HSE developed National Physical Activity Guidelines which were launched in 2009 and a Steering Group comprising these two organisations commenced developing a National Physical Activity Plan.</p>
<p>The Department of Health and Children will publish a <i>Men's Health Policy and Action Plan</i> in 2007, against a backdrop where life expectancy among Irish men is among the lowest in Europe.</p>	<p>The Department of Health published its Men's Health Policy in January 2009. A Group was established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations and this met at regular intervals throughout 2009 and 2010 to monitor progress.</p>



## Linkage Programme

Target	Progress
<p>The Probation Service will continue to advance initiatives designed to address patterns of criminal behaviour associated with social exclusion, with an emphasis on restorative justice initiatives. In particular, there will be support to extend the Linkage Programme to increase the number of offenders successfully placed in employment, education or Community Employment schemes. Referrals by the Probation Service to the Linkage Programme are expected to result in a rise from 614 placements in 2005 to 900 placements a year by 2016.</p>	<p>In 2009 1,671 offenders were referred by the Probation Service to the Linkage Programme and 1,319 individuals were placed in employment, education or Community Employment schemes. In 2010 1,567 offenders were referred by the Probation Service to the Linkage Programme and 1,192 individuals were placed in employment, education or Community Employment schemes.</p> <p>The Linkage Programme had 16 Training and Employment Officers in 2009–2010. The Linkage Programme is continuing to meet targets as outlined to date, the economic downturn has severely impacted on employment opportunities. Within the current economic constraints the original projected targets will be difficult to maintain.</p> <p>The National Commission on Restorative Justice published its final report on 17 December 2009. Two RJ projects (Tallaght and Nenagh) are currently funded by the Department of Justice and, Equality through the Probation Service. Following examination of the final report a pilot scheme has been initiated to extend the range of restorative interventions for adult offenders.</p> <p>Young Persons Probation in partnership with Le Chéile Mentoring manages the Limerick Restorative Justice Initiative, specifically for young offenders offering victim empathy training and restorative conferencing. Funding is provided by Limerick Regeneration Project and the Probation Service through the Irish Youth Justice Service.</p>

## National Women's Strategy

Target	Progress
<p>The <i>National Women's Strategy 2007-2015</i>, to be published early in 2007, aims to put in place a range of measures to equalise socio-economic opportunity, ensure well-being and encourage greater engagement of women in decision-making and civil society. It includes measures to encourage women to advance within the labour market, thereby increasing their earning capacity. It also addresses the gender pay gap, another phenomenon which impacts on women's economic standing.</p>	<p>During 2009/2010, over 75 projects have been active in supporting the development of women's economic engagement, providing developmental training for over 4,700 women (Strand 1 – access to employment) and supports for over 400 entrepreneurs or women considering entrepreneurship (Strand 2).</p> <p>The total number of women who have benefited under Strand 1 of the Measure includes: (Note: these data are not mutually exclusive).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,259 unemployed women;</li> <li>• 1,691 inactive women;</li> <li>• 2,176 early school leavers;</li> <li>• 1,253 who have completed secondary school and have no further qualifications;</li> <li>• 612 young people;</li> <li>• 812 older people;</li> </ul> <p>The participation of women from marginalised groups was significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96 Travellers;</li> <li>• 527 Migrants;</li> <li>• 325 People with Disabilities;</li> <li>• 194 Lone parents.</li> </ul> <p>The percentage of women in consistent poverty fell to 4.5% in 2008 but increased again to 5.4% in 2009. The percentage of women on State Boards was 34.0% in 2009.</p>

<p>Positive actions will be set out in the forthcoming <i>National Women's Strategy 2007-2015</i> to further increase the number of women in the labour market, to foster the advancement of women in the workplace and to address the gender pay gap.</p>	<p>The Nation Women's Strategy envisages women's economic empowerment as being essential to their economic independence and the avoidance of the poverty trap.</p> <p>The economic downturn has impacted on both male and female employments since 2007/2008. To date the impact on women's jobs has been considerably less than on men's jobs.</p> <p>The number of women in administrative and management positions continues to grow. However, a recent report by the CSO shows that women managers earn on average almost €10 per hour less than their male counterparts.</p> <p>Overall the unadjusted gender pay gap in 2009 was 12.8%, an improvement over the 2007 rate of 15.2%. Work to achieve the implementation of the key goals of the National Women's Strategy is continuing.</p>
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## Family Income Supplement

Target	Progress
<p>The role of the Family Income Supplement scheme as an income support for low-income working families with children has been substantially improved and will be reviewed during 2007.</p>	<p>In Budgets 2009 and 2010, Family Income Supplement weekly income thresholds were increased by €10 and €6 per week per child respectively. These increases added an average €10 to the average FIS payment per child per week.</p> <p>FIS was one of the child income support payments that was considered in the context of the policy and value for money review of Child Income Support (CIS) policies and associated programmes. The review determined that there is a need for FIS to be reformed if it is to achieve both employment and child income support objectives.</p> <p>Furthermore there is a need to rationalise the current system of child income support payments and selective programmes in particular in order to provide more consistent assistance to low income families and to encourage parental employment. The Department is undertaking follow-up work, including a detailed assessment of the future design of child income supports payments.</p>

## Activation

Target	Progress
<p>Following the consultation process on the Government's Discussion Paper, proposals will be considered by Government in early 2007 aimed at reforming income supports for lone parents and other low income families and supporting them into education, training and employment. The proposals will address supports such as access to childcare, flexible training and education programmes, and positive opportunities for customers. Priority consideration will be given to extending the <i>National Employment Action Plan</i> process to include lone parents and other parents on low income while funding for the Community Services programme, which targets lone parents among others, is to be increased.</p>	<p>Since the launch of the paper extensive consultation has taken place with relevant stakeholders. Work has also been undertaken with other relevant Departments and Agencies on the non-income issues raised in the paper.</p> <p>Changes in recent Budgets, including increases in the One-Parent Family Payment's (OFP's) earnings disregard and the streamlining of increases for qualified children are in line with the recommendations contained in the paper.</p> <p>Also, a major programme to allow for the local processing of OFP claims in social welfare local offices throughout the country is underway. This will support engagement with lone parents at a local level. While it has not been possible to progress the proposals as outlined in the discussion paper, due, in part, to current economic conditions, these proposals have informed deliberations regarding the reform of the OFP scheme.</p> <p>Legislative changes were introduced to the OFP in the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2010, which will come into effect on 27 April, 2011.</p> <p>Under the amended scheme, for <u>new customers</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment is made until the youngest child reaches age 14;</li> <li>• There are special provisions for those in receipt of a Domiciliary Care Allowance – payable until the child reaches age 16, and for those who are recently bereaved.</li> <li>• It is recognised that a changing labour market has resulted in a move away from the more traditional work patterns, with a consequent increase in the number of atypical workers. In response the Department conducted a 'Review of the Application of the Unemployment Benefit &amp; Assistance Schemes Conditions to workers who are not employed on a full-time basis' which examined the application of the Jobseekers Benefit/ Allowance schemes conditions to workers who are not employed on a full-time basis, i.e. part-time, casual and systematic short-time workers.</li> <li>• The review made a number of recommendations including broadened Jobseeker's Benefit conditions to provide compensation for loss of employment in the case of part-time and other atypical workers. These considerations are under active consideration.</li> </ul>

## Rural Social Scheme

Target	Progress
<p>The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) allows low-income farmers and fishermen to earn a supplementary income while, at the same time, benefits rural communities by maintaining and improving local amenities and facilities. Expenditure of some €46.14M was provided for each year, 2009 and 2010 to benefit some 2,600 households. It is an aim of the scheme that over the medium-term all participants will be facilitated with their preferences with regard to both location and type of work.</p>	<p>During the 2-year period 2009 to 2010, the scheme provided for 2,600 participants and 130 supervisors. All available places (at both participant and supervisor level) have been allocated and quotas have been assigned to each of the Implementing Bodies, who deliver the scheme on behalf of the Department of Social Protection. All Implementing Bodies have been advised to form waiting lists of suitable eligible applicants, which can be utilised to fill vacancies as they arise.</p> <p>The scheme has become a key part of many rural communities and is very popular with both participants and local sponsors. While communities benefit from the skills and talents of local farmers and fisher persons, participants also have the opportunity to improve existing, or develop new skills and perform valuable work in their local communities. The work undertaken by RSS participants falls into the following broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining and enhancing way-marked ways, agreed walks and bog roads;</li> <li>Energy conservation work for the elderly and the less well off;</li> <li>Village and countryside enhancement projects;</li> <li>Social care and care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school groups;</li> <li>Environmental maintenance work – maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting facilities;</li> <li>Projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres;</li> <li>Community Administration/Clerical Duties (introduced 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008), and;</li> <li>Any other appropriate community project identified during the course of the Scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The number of projects supported by RSS in 2009 was 2,675, with 2,464 supported in 2010.</p>

## Part Two

### Lifecycle: Older People

#### Community /Home Care

Target	Progress
<p>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 will be additional to existing mainstream community services and will address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Capacity to provide fast-tracked non-medical care or supports for an interim period while mainstream services are being arranged for the patient on a seven day per week basis. This is achieved by providing dedicated services to ensure an immediate response for patients who are identified by the GP as requiring new or enhanced home supports;</li> <li>– The link between community services and patients being discharged from Accident and Emergency Departments, who require community supports;</li> <li>– Four pilot CITs projects were in place by the end of 2006. Based on progress, they will be rolled out in 2007 to other areas.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2006, four CITs were established in Dublin North, Dublin South, Cork and Limerick. In late 2009/early 2010, two additional CITs were established in Clare and North Tipperary. All six CITs are now fully operational and provide services to a range of recipients, including older people. Additional funding was provided to the HSE in 2010 to further develop this Primary Care/Acute Hospital initiative.</p> <p>Community Intervention Teams (CITs) are nurse led health professional teams supported by a variety of other health professionals and services which provide a rapid and integrated response to patients with an acute episode of illness. The patient must be medically stable and meet the CIT referral criteria for care in the home/community setting. The purpose of a CIT service is to facilitate the avoidance of hospital admission or attendance.</p> <p>The service works in partnership with Primary Care Teams, General Practice, Community Response Beds, Community nursing services, home support services, acute hospitals and other professional and voluntary services to deliver enhanced services and patient centred care in the most appropriate setting.</p> <p>€3M in Innovation Funding for CITs was provided in 2010.</p>

<p>Home Care Packages consisting of a mixture of grants, contracted care services, therapeutic input and equipment and other such community services will be provided following a needs assessment aimed at facilitating the older person to remain at home. Targets and actions in this regard will include: – An additional 2,000 home care packages, benefiting an estimated 4,000 people will be provided, at a cost of €30M in 2007 and €25M in 2008; – An additional 780,000 hours of home help services will be provided, at a cost of €18M in 2007; – An additional 1,100 day places in 2007 will be provided, at a cost of €3.5M.</p>	<p>The aim of Home Care Packages (HCPs) is to meet client needs through a variety of supports, which focus on a multi-disciplinary approach to deliver services to people in their own homes as far as possible. Packages are targeted particularly at older people at risk of inappropriate admission to acute hospital or long-term residential care – or those requiring discharge home from acute hospital.</p> <p>Annual investment for HCPs in 2009 was €120M. This resulted in around 8,960 recipients nationally at any one time, or 12,000 recipients over that year. Additional funding of €10M provided in 2010 increased base funding nationally to €130M per annum. This allowed for around 9,600 HCP recipients at any one time (i.e. circa. 640 increase over 2009) or some 13,200 over the course of 2010 (i.e. circa. 1,200 increase over 2009)</p> <p>The new National Guidelines for Standardised Implementation of Home Care Packages, developed by the HSE in 2010, are being rolled out across all Local Health Offices (LHOs) in 2011. This, together with the Procurement Framework for Home Care services initiated in 2010 by the HSE, governs all aspects of quality care delivery including Needs Assessment, Access, Delivery, Monitoring, etc.</p> <p>Also, in 2010, the HSE undertook a comprehensive review of Day Care services, including non-statutory organisations funded by the Executive, with a view to effecting improvements and better integration in the wider context of community-based supports to older people.</p>
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## Residential Services

Target	Progress
<p>In relation to long-term residential care, €88M has been provided for the cost of 2,300 additional public and private long-stay beds. This comprises €28M for the full-year implementation of 1,050 beds provided in 2006; €32M and €22M in 2007 and 2008 respectively for the provision of an extra 1,250 beds; and €6M to strengthen nursing home inspections</p>	<p>There has been an increase in the total number of nursing home beds over the last five years.</p> <p>The Annual Survey of Long Stay Units, published by the Department reports that in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 there were 24,253 beds (Survey response rate 80.1%);</li> <li>• 2007 there were 24,029 beds (Survey response rate 78.2%);</li> <li>• 2008 there were 25,209 beds (latest Annual Survey, published in 2010 with a Survey response rate of 81.6%);</li> </ul> <p>By 31 December 2009 the Chief Inspector of Social Services had received notification from 591 designated centres, (public and private) with a maximum capacity of 29,285 beds.</p> <p>In 2010 it is estimated that there was a total of approximately 30,000 beds in public and private nursing homes.</p> <p>The Department of Health is currently considering the future of HSE Provision of Residential Care for Older People. This review will consider the position of all HSE residential facilities for Older People in terms of meeting the National Standards and Regulations. It will also consider local demographic pressures and the extent of existing public and private provision, with a view to developing an overall strategy on how the Executive should continue to provide this service in view of current budgetary and other pressures.</p>



<p>A new Nursing Home Support Scheme will be introduced in 2008 that will make long-term residential care affordable to all who need it. It will replace the present system, in which older people generally face considerably higher costs if they use a private rather than a public nursing home. Under the new scheme, each person will make a contribution to the cost of their care, based on means, and the State will meet the balance, in both public and private nursing homes. In the interim, the basic and enhanced rates of nursing home subvention have been increased substantially pending the introduction of the Nursing Home Support Scheme in 2008.</p>	<p>The Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009 was signed into law on the 1st July 2009. The Scheme commenced on the 27th October 2009.</p> <p>The Scheme replaced the Nursing Home Subvention Scheme in respect of private nursing homes, and the system of long-stay charges in respect of public nursing homes. Under the previous systems the State met approximately 40% of the estimated average cost of care in a private facility. In contrast, in a public facility, the State met approximately 90% of the cost of care.</p> <p>The introduction of the Scheme achieved some of the principles set out in the social partnership agreement, Towards 2016, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be appropriate and equitable levels of co-payment by care recipients based on a national standardised financial assessment;</li> <li>• The level of state support for residential care should be indifferent as to whether that care is in a public or private facility; and</li> <li>• No current resident of a nursing home, public or private, should be put at a disadvantage by whatever new co-payment arrangements for residential care are introduced.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme encompasses a Care Needs Assessment which determines whether long-term nursing home care is the most appropriate option for the particular individual and a Financial Assessment which determines the level of the individual's contribution towards their care. The Financial Assessment is set out in the primary legislation and is, therefore, nationally standardised.</p> <p>At end-2010 almost 21,700 people were in receipt of financial support from the State towards the cost of long-term nursing home care. Of these, over 11,100 people were in receipt of support under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme. The balance were in nursing home care prior to the scheme commencing and were choosing to retain their existing arrangements.</p>
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<p>The Health Bill 2006 provides for the establishment of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Office of the Chief Inspector of Social Services within HIQA. The Chief Inspector will have statutory responsibility for inspecting and registering children's residential services, residential centres for people with disabilities, residential centres for older people and private nursing homes. The Chief Inspector will inspect these services against standards set by HIQA and regulations made by the Minister for Health and Children.</p>	<p>Under the Health Act 2007 statutory responsibility is given to the Chief Inspector of Social Services, part of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), for the independent inspection and registration of certain categories of designated centres. This includes residential care settings for older people.</p> <p>Since 1 July 2009 all nursing homes, public and private, are registered under the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2009, as amended, by the Chief Inspector. All nursing homes (public and private) are inspected under the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2009, as amended, and must meet the <i>National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland</i>.</p>
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## Housing

Target	Progress
<p>New protocols will be developed and implemented for inter-agency co-operation in housing and accommodation where there is a care dimension between 2007 and 2009.</p>	<p>As part of this focus, a draft protocol was developed in 2010 for inter-agency liaison at local level between housing authorities and the HSE in relation to the provision of services for older people particularly where there is a care dimension.</p> <p>Further work in this area has been deferred pending the finalisation of the new National Positive Ageing Strategy, to be completed and implemented under the Programme for Government "Government for National Recovery 2011–2016" which will set the direction for future policies and services for older people. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government is participating in the development of the Strategy which is led by the Office of Older People.</p>
<p>The Disabled Persons, Essential Repairs, and Special Housing Aid for the Elderly grant schemes have been reviewed. Proposals to improve equity and targeting have recently been announced in the new policy statement – <i>Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities</i>.</p>	<p>During 2009 and 2010 the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government provided over €150M in grant assistance under the new schemes benefiting some 24,000 households of older people and people with a disability.</p> <p>The final report on the evaluation is expected to be published shortly.</p>

Adequate central heating systems will be made available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people by the end of 2008	<p>Programme completed in 2009.</p> <p>This four year programme has seen the installation of central heating and associated thermal improvements in some 27,000 local authority units at a cost to the exchequer of €133M.</p>
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## Elder Abuse

Target	Progress
<p>A total of €2M has been allocated to the National Implementation Group on Elder Abuse to address the issue of elder abuse over 2006 and 2007. This is also being incorporated into professional training courses including gerontology courses.</p> <p>A review of <i>Protecting Our Future</i> will be carried out in 2007. It is expected that the review will consider issues not included in the original report on elder abuse including self-neglect and institutional abuse.</p>	<p>Total funding for the HSE elder abuse service now amounts to approx. €4.5M per annum. This includes €300,000 additional funding, included for the first time in Budget 2008, to develop a public awareness campaign.</p> <p>The independent review of <i>Protecting our Future</i> was completed in 2009 and published in 2010. The Review found that progress in addressing elder abuse issues was most evident and pronounced in the health sector. It made recommendations around three priorities: – a) Strengthening existing institutional arrangements, b) accelerating progress on existing recommendations in <i>Protecting Our Future</i> and c) addressing emerging areas of concern i.e. financial and institutional abuse. The Department of Health and the HSE devise an Action Plan annually to implement the recommendations of the Review.</p> <p>Over the period 2009 and 2010 the HSE developed its elder abuse service to include a dedicated staffing structure throughout the country, unified data collection, national and regional oversight mechanisms, a research facility based in UCD and awareness and training programmes.</p>

## Education

Target	Progress
<p>Older people will be encouraged and supported in actively involving themselves in family literacy projects, as set out in the <i>DEIS Action Plan</i>. A working group has been established to identify and support specific projects that enhance family literacy and the rollout of such projects will commence in 2007.</p>	<p>Total funding of €200,000 was approved in 2008 for nineteen projects and has been maintained at similar. In 2009/10, over 1,800 parents and children engaged in family literacy activities funded under the family literacy measure.</p> <p>Family literacy guidelines were circulated in 2009. The purpose of the guidelines was to assist practitioners in developing family literacy projects.</p>

<p>Older people will be encouraged and supported to access further and higher education and appropriate targets will be set in the context of proposals on life-long learning.</p>	<p>Apart from Youthreach for early school-leavers and VTOS for people of working age, there is no upper age limit for access to Adult and Further Education programmes.</p> <p>In 2010, approximately 21% of adult literacy and 18% of BTEI participants were over 55 years of age. Older people also participate in classes funded under the Community Education programme. This programme funds classes in computer (mainly introductory), language and various hobby type courses mainly through the provision of tutor hours.</p>
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## Part Two

## Lifecycle: People with Disabilities

## Disability Sectoral Plans

Target	Progress
Progress reports will be prepared on the implementation of the Disability Sectoral Plans after 3 years (2009) and the Disability Act will be reviewed after 5 years (2010).	<p>Reports of progress on the implementation of the Sectoral Plans under the Disability Act 2005 were prepared by all relevant departments and completed within the statutory deadline. The reports were noted by Government on 2 February 2010 and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 5 February 2010.</p> <p>A review of the operation of the Disability Act 2005 was completed in July 2010 following consultation with Disability Stakeholders. The report was noted by the Minister for Justice and Equality on 4 August 2010.</p>

## Employment Strategy

Target	Progress
By 2010, a comprehensive employment strategy for people with disabilities will be developed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.	<p>The Cross Sectoral Group on an Employment Strategy for People with Disability was formed in 2009 to progress the development of the comprehensive employment strategy for people with disability. The group was initially co-chaired by the Departments of Health (DOH), and Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (DETI), and latterly, following the transfer of functions including the transfer of FÁS to the Department of Education and Skills in 2010, by the Departments of Health, and Education and Skills (DES). It currently comprises of representatives from the DOH, the Department of Social Protection, the HSE and FÁS. The purpose of this cross-agency group is to provide a mechanism for a cross-sectoral approach between Departments and agencies with responsibility for the delivery of the mainstreaming agenda in respect of the employment of people with disabilities and to progress a targeted Action Plan based on the commitments in the Sectoral Plans, including the formulation of a Comprehensive Employment Strategy. A draft outline <i>Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disability</i> has been developed and continues to be refined.</p>

## Housing Strategy

Target	Progress
<p>A national housing strategy for people with disabilities will be developed by end 2009, as recommended in the NESC <i>Housing in Ireland</i> report. This will have particular regard to adults with significant disabilities and people who experience mental illness. It will be progressed through the establishment of a national group under the aegis of the Housing Forum, headed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and involving the Department of Health and Children, the HSE, Social Partners and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability sets out a framework for the proposed delivery of housing for people with disabilities through mainstream housing policy. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with a National Advisory Group, chaired by the Department Of Environment, Community and Local Government and involving the Department of Health, the HSE, local authorities, organisations representing people with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders, including the National Disability Authority. The strategy was published on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>During the course of the development of the strategy, on-going progress has been made in effectively addressing the housing needs of people with disabilities, including through the development of a suite of protocols to improve interagency cooperation in relation to the delivery of services to people with disabilities.</p> <p>In July 2007 a protocol governing liaison between housing authorities and the HSE on the individual assessment of the accommodation needs of people with a disability was implemented. The protocol currently operates in respect of children aged under 5 years.</p> <p>In March 2011 protocols governing (a) the individual assessment of the housing needs of people with mental health disabilities and (b) the improved coordination of capital and revenue funding for health service related supports costs for projects provided for people with disabilities by approved housing bodies were implemented.</p>

## Transport

Target	Progress
<p>A key objective of transport policy is to ensure the accessibility of the public transport system by providing fully accessible city buses and enhanced access to bus and railway stations in line with the Department of Transport Sectoral Plan under the Disability Act 2005. Measures include:</p> <p>The replacement of inaccessible Bus Éireann and Private Operator coaches with coaches that are accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2015;</p> <p>Making all urban buses accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2012;</p> <p>Making practically all inter-urban passenger rail services accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2009.</p>	<p><u>Bus Éireann</u></p> <p>100% low-floor wheelchair accessible buses in Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Cork, Sligo, Athlone, Navan and Dundalk city/town services. It is company policy to only purchase wheelchair accessible coaches for the future.</p> <p><u>Dublin Bus</u></p> <p>90% of its fleet is low-floor wheelchair accessible buses.</p> <p>2,600 bus pole I.D. signs on bus poles to aid visually impaired people and is updating bus information at shelters where route numbers will be in large font.</p> <p>51% of bus stops in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) have been upgraded.</p> <p><u>Iarnród Éireann</u></p> <p>100% of its passenger fleet meets accessibility.</p> <p><u>Private Operators</u></p> <p>A number of private operators also operate low-floor buses.</p>

## Access to Higher Education

Target	Progress
<p>The National Officer for Equity of Access to Higher Education will set goals and targets and develop baseline data for the participation of students with a disability over the period 2007–2013.</p> <p>In addition to the means-tested maintenance grants schemes, there will also be continued provision of the Third Level Access Fund aimed at tackling under-representation. The Fund for Students with a Disability is an essential part of the Third Level Access Fund. It provides grants towards the provision of services and the purchase of equipment for students with disabilities attending courses in third-level institutions or post leaving certificate courses.</p>	<p>The Fund for Students with Disabilities is part of the Third Level Access Sub Priority Programme. The Fund provides students with supports and services to enable them to participate and to complete their course of study. A gross allocation of €13.7M was approved in 2010–11, for 6,093 approved students.</p>



## Accessibility

Target	Progress
By the end of July 2007, each local authority will have carried out an accessibility audit and developed an accessibility implementation plan for the built environment and infrastructure within its control including all roads, streets, pavements, parks, amenities and open spaces.	Accessibility audits were carried out in each Local Authority in 2008 and implementation plans based on the audits were completed by each Local Authority and submitted to the Department.
The National Disability Authority is in the process of establishing a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design within the Authority. The main aim of the Centre will be to facilitate the achievement of excellence in universal design through collaboration with relevant bodies to support the development of standards, education and awareness raising.	The NDA established a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in 2007. The Centre is working to promote the universal design of the built environment, products, services and ICT so that they can be accessed, understood and used by all persons regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. Since it was established the Centre has been engaging with national and international standards bodies towards embedding a universal design approach to guide ICT and service development. It has also been working with the third level education sector to build universal design into relevant curricula and examinations. Much of its work has involved awareness raising including through Design Challenges, seminars and conferences. The Centre is working with local authorities and the DIT in relation to specific projects as well as supporting relevant research work.

## Advocacy

Target	Progress
The Citizens Information Bill 2006, expected to be enacted in 2007, provides for the assignment of a personal advocate to a person with a disability who is unable or who has difficulty in obtaining a social service without assistance.	<p>A review was carried out of the pilot Community and Voluntary Sector Advocacy Programme which recommended that a National Advocacy Service be set up.</p> <p>The National Advocacy Service was rolled out under the CIB in January 2011. It provides independent, representative advocacy services for people with disabilities.</p> <p>As per the recommendation of review, elements of the Personal Advocacy Service (PAS) will be incorporated into the restructured service following a bedding down period.</p> <p>Mainstream advocacy continues to be provided through Citizens Information Services (CIS) focusing on access to services, welfare entitlements and employment rights to ensure that people with disabilities are encouraged and supported to use the mainstream services where possible.</p>



## Part Two

## Lifecycle: Communities

## Programme Funding for Communities

Target	Progress
The Dormant Accounts Fund uses money from unclaimed accounts in credit institutions and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings to support programmes or projects targeting social and economic disadvantage, educational disadvantage and persons with a disability. The current disbursement plan provides that RAPID, CLÁR and Drugs Task Force areas will receive particular priority in relation to disbursements from the Fund.	Since its establishment in May 2003 to the end of December 2008, the net transfers to the DAF have totalled some €306M. The value of the Fund at end December 2008, net of liabilities, was some €21.7 M. With respect to the priorities to be supported from the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2009, the Government agreed in 2008 to provide some €30M for a range of initiatives covering persons with a disability, to support projects in RAPID areas, to tackle homelessness, and for measures in the areas of suicide prevention and substance misuse. Processes are currently underway to seek and assess applications for these funds, with beneficiaries already approved for funding for some measures.
Almost €67M will be available under the RAPID Programme Leverage Fund between 2007 and 2013 to co-fund investment by departments and agencies in the designated RAPID areas. This funding will help to support new projects and initiatives, such as playgrounds and community-based CCTV, aimed at improving the quality of life and community safety for residents of RAPID areas.	5 new areas were included under RAPID in 2009 bringing the total number to 51 areas benefitting from priority projects identified by RAPID area implementation teams, for the provision of CCTV, playgrounds, schools facilities (e.g. libraries, canteens) and enhanced physical environment in housing estates. Claims from existing Schemes were processed and the total outturn for all such projects amounted to €12.8M in 2009/10.
<p>The CLÁR programme will provide some €141M over the period 2007–2013 for regeneration of areas suffering from population decline. Investment will support physical, economic and social infrastructure involving a wide range of measures, including water supply, sewage disposal, road access and broadband which reflect the priorities identified by the communities. The population currently benefiting from the programme is 727,000. Targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the number of mains and group water and sewerage schemes availing of CLÁR funding by at least 100% by 2008;</li> <li>Providing flashing lights for all national schools in CLÁR areas by 2008.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2009 / 2010, the CLÁR programme invested almost €19.3M to support physical, economic and social infrastructure across a variety of measures. The CLÁR measures cover a wide variety of developments, including water and sewerage infrastructure, bi-lingual signage, sports capital grants, minor health projects, school play facilities and coastal projects. In 2009 / 2010, CLÁR allocated funding to 191 water and sewerage schemes and 223 sports clubs. 110 schools received funding towards the cost of enhancing their outdoor play facilities and 42 health projects, 3 coastal projects, 28 facilities improvements in Gaeltacht areas, 10 bi-lingual signage projects and 2 Fibre Optic improvement projects also received funding.</p>

<p>Core funding is being provided to 8 Volunteer Bureaux totalling €1.73M over the period 2005–2007 to enable them to be placed on a sound footing, to employ a full-time development officer and develop databases matching volunteers to local community and voluntary groups. In addition funding of €150,000 has been provided over three years to Volunteer Centres Ireland for the employment of development staff to support the further development of Volunteer Bureaux.</p>	<p><i>The Task Force on Active</i> report recommended that the Department fund a network of volunteer centres across the country. The Department provided funding of approx. €7M to 22 such centres located across the country. In 2009, the volunteer centres registered over 13,000 volunteers and over 870 volunteer-involving organisations. The figures represent an increase of over 70% on the numbers registered in 2008. It may also be noted that 61% of registered volunteers had never volunteered before and 69% were aged 35 years and under.</p> <p>In 2010, these volunteer centres registered over 12,000 volunteers and over 850 volunteer-involving organisations. It should also be noted that 60% of registered volunteers had never volunteered before and almost 70% were aged 35 years and under.</p>
<p>Once-off grants will be available to local voluntary and community groups including equipment and refurbishment grants and education, training and research grants.</p>	<p>The scheme was closed to applications in February 2009. Funding for organisations approved prior to that date continued in 2009/2010. Some 287 organisations and funding of €3.87M was provided in that period.</p>

<p>The Gaeltacht and Islands Programme will invest some €457 M between 2007 and 2013 in infrastructure and enterprise development in the Gaeltacht and our island communities. This investment will provide tangible benefits across a range of projects and activities, for example: better community access and related economic spin-offs from road and pier improvements; higher quality and more sustainable job opportunities arising from investment in building and upgrading office and factory space; improved standards of living by provision of enhanced community facilities and services; preservation of the national language and culture.</p>	<p>Progress continues to be made on improving the Gaeltacht and Island infrastructure in order to enhance the economic and social fabric of the communities. Investment of €36M was made during 2009 and 2010 on capital projects such as harbour development and airstrip construction. Several major construction projects were completed during this period; these include Caladh Mór Pier on Inis Meáin and airstrips at Clifden and Inishbofin. Work is nearing completion on the largest ever infrastructural project undertaken on an island– Cill Rónáin harbour on Árainn – at a cost of €44M.</p> <p>In Gaeltacht regions improvement to the network of roads and piers has benefited communities by way of improved access, which has led to the creation of new jobs in the tourism sector and marine leisure sector.</p> <p>An annual subvention of circa. €6M is provided for subsidised passenger and cargo ferry services and air services, including connecting transport services on the mainland. There are now 23 separate transport contracts to cater for the needs of the various island communities. As a result passenger and cargo fares for islanders have been significantly reduced in recent years. In 2010, The National Concert Hall contributed to the continuing prosperity of the Gaeltacht regions by announcing a five-day music workshop residency within the Furbo Gaeltacht at Scoil Naísiúnta Na bhForbacha, An Spideal Co Na Gaillimhe. This residency was part of a nationwide schools' project Play Us a Scéal.</p>
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<p>Some €41.7M will be provided in the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme over the period 2007–2013 to support locally based social inclusion interventions. The programme will have a particular focus on supporting people and communities suffering disadvantage and exclusion through a wide spectrum of locally promoted actions.</p>	<p>The new Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) was introduced in January 2010. The Programme replaced the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP) and the Community Development Programme (CDP), both of which closed in December 2009. Some €48.8M and €19.8M was invested in the LDSIP and CDP respectively in 2009, with €67.5M allocated under the new LCDP in 2010.</p> <p>The new Programme continues to identify and address the needs of disadvantaged communities and individuals and in implementing local projects in response to those needs.</p>
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<p>A revised Community Development Programme will be prepared to cover the period 2007–2013 to support local people in improving their own communities. Local Resource Centres and Community Development Projects will support a wide range of self-help activities designed to improve quality of life for individuals and groups in disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p>The Community Development Programme and Local Development Social Inclusion Programme were closed in 2009 – they were replaced by the Local and Community Development Programme which was designed to have a strong focus on making it easier for groups to objectively demonstrate the positive impacts they are securing for their local communities. The LCDP has adopted a more integrated approach which ensures a more efficient, responsive and effective provision of services for the individuals and communities it serves. The LCDP aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>The LCDP Programme is underpinned by four high level goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services;</li> <li>• To increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources;</li> <li>• To increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects;</li> <li>• To promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.</li> </ul> <p>It is delivered at a local level by some 52 Local Development Companies. The latest phase of the Cohesion Process, the LCDP Integration Process, will see the integration of some 140 Community Development Projects with the Local Development Companies. This process is substantially complete at this point.</p>
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<p>The objective of the Community Services Programme is to support local community activity to address disadvantage, while providing employment opportunities for people from the following priority target groups: people with disabilities; the long-term unemployed; Travellers; lone parents and stabilised drug addicts. Some €48.6M will be available for organisations in 2009 and it is expected that by end 2009 the number of organisations supported and persons employed by the Programme will be 450 and 2,700 respectively.</p>	<p>In 2009, the Community Services Programme (CSP) supported in excess of 427 community-based projects, with 325 managers and 1,800 full-time equivalent posts at a cost of over €48M.</p> <p>In 2010, in excess of 440 community-based projects, were supported with 334 managers and 1,834 full-time equivalent posts at a cost of over €45M.</p> <p>Some 315 contract holders were subject to review in 2010 and those that continued to meet the programme requirements were offered new three-year contracts to the end of 2013.</p> <p>The types of services supported are distinguished by their ability to generate some level of traded income but which is insufficient to meet the running costs of the operation. The programme focuses on demand deficit operations or where services are absent in communities or where existing community assets would be under-utilised due to the absences of staff resources.</p> <p>The programme creates employment opportunities for those marginalised and most distant from the labour market, requiring a minimum 70% of CSP supported posts be recruited from the following target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment persons in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit, Assistance or One-Parent Family payment;</li> <li>• Persons in receipt of Disability Allowance, Invalidity pension or blind person's pension;</li> <li>• Travellers in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit, Assistance or One-Parent Family payment;</li> <li>• Stabilised and recovering Drug Mis-users;</li> <li>• People employed from Community Employment (CE) and Job Initiatives (JI) schemes; and</li> <li>• Ex-prisoners.</li> </ul>
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## Sports Capital Programme

Target	Progress
In 2007 over €87M is being provided for local and regional sports facilities and sporting organisations with priority being given to projects in disadvantaged areas.	<p>While no new round of the SCP has been advertised since 2008 payments of grants previously made has continued.</p> <p>While the Department has no details on exactly how much money has been distributed to projects in disadvantaged areas, typically around one third of all allocations are made to projects in or serving disadvantaged areas. Using this proportion, the Department estimates that in 2009 it paid out €19.6M to 517 projects and in 2010 €16.6M for 370 to projects in or serving disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>In 2009 and 2010 special allocations of €500,000 each year was made to provide equipment for boxing clubs which are predominately located in disadvantaged areas.</p>

## Irish Sports Council

Target	Progress
<p>The Irish Sports Council budget for 2007 has been increased by 20% to €49M for programmes and activities including initiatives in disadvantaged areas. The target for 2006–2008 is to increase the numbers of children taking part in sport by 3% and the number of adults participating by 1.5%. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the implementation of the complete national roll-out of the Local Sports Partnership (LSP) network by early 2008;</li> <li>the associated roll-out of the Buntús programme for primary schools and pre-schools through the LSP network;</li> <li>the introduction of the Lifelong Involvement in Sport and Physical Activity (LISPA) child centred model for lifelong participation in Irish sport;</li> <li>and support for national sports organisations that attract young people, particularly in disadvantaged areas.</li> </ul> <p>A new initiative, the National Awards to Volunteers in Irish Sport has been established. The first awards will be made in 2007.</p>	<p>The Irish Sports Council (ISC) budget for 2009 was €51.677M and for 2010 was €49.572M. The ISC continued to work with and invest in the Local Sports Partnership (LSP) network and the three major field sports. The Buntús programme continued to be offered to primary school and pre-schools. The Dormant Accounts funding for the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer programme ended in 2009. The ISC has continued this programme with a reduced number of development officers but it now covers the entire LSP network. In 2010 the ISC engaged with the Department of Education &amp; Skills to link the School Completion Programme to the LSP network. The 'National Awards to Volunteers in Irish Sports' were introduced in 2007 to celebrate the contribution of the 400,000 plus volunteers involved in Irish sport.</p> <p>The 2010 awards honoured eleven individuals for their voluntary commitment to sports clubs and organisations nationwide.</p>

## Rural Transport Initiative

Target	Progress
<p>The Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) has been put on a permanent footing following the end of the pilot period in 2006. Funding of €9M is being provided in 2007 to facilitate the transition of the RTI into the beginning of the mainstreaming process. Funding for rural transport services will be steadily increased thereafter; ultimately to a cash level of some €18M. Priority will be given to areas of the country which do not currently have access to public transport service.</p>	<p>Thirty-six rural community transport groups around the country are being funded under the Rural Transport Programme to address social exclusion in their rural areas arising from unmet public transport needs. €11M was provided for the RTP in 2010 (as in 2009) which led to further increases in the frequency of a number of existing services, extended area coverage, and additional groups of passengers accessing rural transport.</p> <p>During 2010, in excess of 1.42M passenger journeys were recorded on over 172,000 transport services funded under the Rural Transport Programme, a 9% increase in each case on 2009. €10.62M is being provided for the RTP in 2011.</p> <p>In line with a commitment given at the launch of the Programme in 2007, a value for money review of the RTP commenced in July 2010.</p>



## National Drugs Strategy

Target	Progress
<p>Some €319M will be available over the period 2007–2013 to support the National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008. Specific targets to be achieved by 2008 include:</p> <p>Volume of drugs seized to increase by 50% based on 2000 figures; number of seizures to increase by 20% based on 2004 figures; and number of supply detections to increase by 20% by end of 2008 based on 2004 figures;</p> <p>The 3 Source Capture–Recapture estimate of opiate misusers for 2006, to show a stabilisation in terms of overall numbers and to show a reduction of 5% of the prevalence rate based on 2001 figures published in 2003;</p> <p>The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) Drug Prevalence survey 2006/07 to show a reduction of 5% in the prevalence rate of recent and current use of illicit drugs in the overall population based on 2002/03 rate; 100% of problematic drugs users to access treatment within one month after assessment;</p> <p>Harm reduction facilities available, including needle exchange where necessary, to open during the day and at evenings and weekends, according to need, in every local health office area; and incidence of HIV in drug users to stabilise based on 2004 figures;</p> <p>To eliminate all identified gaps in drugs research by mid–2008; to publish an annual report on the nature and extent of the drug problem in Ireland, drawing on available data; and to publish a report on progress being made in achieving the objectives and aims set out in the Strategy every two years.</p>	<p>Cross–Departmental expenditure directly attributable to Drugs Programmes amounted to approximately €277M in 2009 while the 2010 allocation was approximately €264M. In 2011 it is estimated that expenditure on drugs programmes will be in the region of €250M.</p> <p>The HSE provides methadone as an opiate replacement to support those who are addressing their heroin misuse problem. Access to methadone treatment within one month after assessment is available in many areas and the HSE has prioritised the provision of additional methadone in targeted areas to reduce waiting lists and times. Over the past 18 months additional services were provided in Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny, Cork, Tralee, Limerick city, and Dundalk. Plans to provide further methadone facilities in the midlands, Drogheda and Wexford county are also progressing. There were a total of 383 clients on waiting lists for methadone treatment services as at the 31st December 2010.</p> <p>A needle exchange service is available in the Dublin area through the HSE and voluntary sector organisations and is also available in some locations outside Dublin. The provision of a needle exchange service in about 65 pharmacies in targeted locations outside Dublin where heroin injecting occurs is almost complete.</p> <p>The Health Research Board maintains the National Drugs Related Death Index and trend papers are published periodically. Statistics in relation to drug–related deaths, both poisoning and non–poisoning, up to the end of 2008 are available from the HRB website.</p> <p>The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) commissioned a study of opiate use in Ireland in 2006, reported in 2009, with the capture–recapture source indicating that use had increased since the previous survey in 2001.</p>

	<p>The trends illustrated in the study include: (i) the rate of opiate use among females and males aged 15–24 decreased; (ii) an increase in opiate use outside Dublin; (iii) a higher proportion of opiate users are in treatment in Dublin than elsewhere, reflecting the more recent spread of opiate use and the later development of treatment services outside Dublin.</p> <p>In 2010 the NACD commissioned the 3rd national drugs prevalence survey in Ireland, the findings of which will be reported in 2011 and 2012. The survey will: (i) estimate the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in the general population in 2010/2011; (ii) estimate the prevalence of alcohol and cannabis dependence in the general population; (iii) describe drug users by social, economic and drug using characteristic; (iv) describe trends in drug use over 3 time points, 2002/3, 2006/7, and 2010/11</p>
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<p>The Rehabilitation Pillar, the need for which was identified in the mid-term review of the National Drug Strategy (2005), is currently being developed within the framework of the Strategy by two committees under the aegis of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Health Service Executive. The National Drugs Strategy was reviewed in 2008/09 within the context of developing the 2009–16 strategy.</p>	<p>The HSE, as the lead agency, is overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Drug Rehabilitation (May 2007) including establishing the National Drug Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (NDRIC) and employing a National Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator. The National Rehabilitation Framework was approved in early 2010 and the NDRIC called for submissions through Drug Task Forces to inform/assist with the implementation of the framework. The NDRIC has adopted a phased approach to selecting pilot sites with three selected for the 1st stage and a further seven sites selected for the 2nd stage. An evaluation framework has been drafted and is being discussed with the ten pilot sites and the timeframe for the evaluation is to complete a report by the end of 2012. Also 1,000 Community Employment Scheme places are designated for drug misusers and those recovering from drug use.</p> <p>The National Drugs Strategy 2009–2016 was launched in September 2009. The overall strategic objective for the Strategy is to continue to tackle the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs through a concerted focus on the five pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research.</p> <p>The National Drugs Strategy was co-ordinated by the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCEGA) through the Office of the Minister for Drugs (OMD). These functions were transferred to the Department of Health from May 2011. There have been significant policy achievements under the NDS including additional opioid substitution clinics put in place in various locations throughout the country, enhanced drug treatment services in prisons, needle exchange and a greater focus on rehabilitation, particularly involving inter-agency co-operation. In addition An Garda Síochána and the Customs Service of the Revenue Commissioners continue to seize significant quantities of drugs.</p>
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## Housing

Target	Progress
<p>Investment over the period 2007–2009 will allow for the commencement or acquisition of 27,000 homes for people in need of social housing through a combination of local authority, voluntary, and co-operative housing and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) contractual arrangements. Under the NDP, progress towards this target will be reviewed after three years of activity. However, resources reflected in the Plan will allow for a broadly similar level of output beyond 2009 resulting in some 60,000 homes overall being commenced or acquired through these programmes between 2007 and 2013.</p>	<p>Overall some 7,400 social housing units were commenced/acquired in 2009 with over 5,000 social housing units acquired in 2010 through a combination of the local authority housing programme, voluntary and co-operative housing and RAS contractual arrangements.</p>
<p>The RAS will be implemented fully by 2009. Some 32,000 households which have been in receipt of rent supplement for over 18 months and which have a long-term housing need will benefit.</p>	<p>At the end of July 2011 a total of over 35,000 households had been transferred from rent supplement and provided with some form of social housing support. Over 20,000 households were provided with dwelling provided by private landlords or by approved housing bodies directly through RAS.</p>

<p>It is proposed to undertake a survey of the local authority housing stock by end 2008 which will help inform housing authorities on the physical condition of the stock and provide the basis for future programmes of improvement works;</p> <p>Rolling out a programme of other remedial works to improve local authority housing between 2007 and 2012;</p> <p>Rolling out a programme of regeneration for all run-down estates nationwide between 2007 and 2016;</p> <p>Making adequate central heating systems available in all local authority rented dwellings by end 2008.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2009 some €57.7M was recouped to local authorities around the country in respect of remedial works carried out to local authority estates.</li> <li>• In 2010 €25.2M was provided to local authorities for works undertaken under the Remedial Works Scheme.</li> <li>• Central Heating Programme completed in 2009 – This four year programme has seen installation of central heating and associated thermal improvements in some 27,000 local authority units at a cost to the exchequer of €133M.</li> <li>• To ensure that the stock of 125,000 local authority-owned dwellings is maintained at high standard, achieves an improved level of energy performance, reduces emissions and yields an important fuel poverty dividend for low income households, the Department introduced a programme, in 2009, for the retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures in vacant properties, both casual and planned, across the local authority housing stock.</li> <li>• The Department recouped almost €11M in 2009 to authorities across the country for some 900 improved units. The Department significantly increased the level of funding available for retrofitting works in 2010 to €40M. Works were carried out to some 1,800 vacant and the programme was also expanded to include occupied units.</li> </ul>
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Some 17,000 new units will be delivered between 2007 and 2009 through affordable housing measures under the NDP following which progress will be reviewed. It is expected that a broadly similar level of output will be delivered beyond 2009, resulting in the delivery of some 40,000 new units overall between 2007 and 2013.	1,506 units were delivered in 2009. The figures for 2010 are not yet available. However, reflecting the changes in the housing market and with affordability having so significantly eased, and the reduced demand for affordable housing, delivery under the 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme was restricted in 2009. Furthermore a government decision was taken to end the affordable housing initiative in January 2010. Units may still be delivered under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts but with the cessation of the other two delivery methods, the numbers of units provided in 2010 is expected to be less than in earlier years.
Minimum standards regulations for the private rented sector will be updated by mid-2007 and effectively enforced.	Following the enactment of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, a comprehensive new sanctions regime is available to local authorities and provides for the issuing of Improvement Notices and Prohibition Notices where landlords are in breach of their obligations under the Housing Standards for Rented Houses Regulations.
Long-term occupancy of emergency homeless accommodation will be eliminated by 2010. This will involve addressing the needs of up to 500 households.	Local authorities and the voluntary sector delivered in excess of 600 units of long-term accommodation for homeless persons by the end of 2010.
The Warmer Homes Scheme provides funding to community-based organisations for the installation of energy efficiency measures for those who need it most. Some €5.6M was provided for the Warmer Homes Scheme in Sustainable Energy Ireland's (SEI) 2008 budget which enabled 5,343 homes to be covered.	<p>The Warmer Homes programme was incorporated into the Better Energy Homes Programme in May 2011.</p> <p>In 2009, 16,000 homes were completed while over 24,000 were done in 2010. The projection is that in excess of 20,000 homes will be completed in 2011.</p>

### Fuel Poverty Research

Target	Progress
The Green Paper on energy policy, published in October 2006, stated the Government's commitment to reducing fuel poverty. This issue will be further addressed as the current energy policy formulation process develops through the Green Paper consultation phase and White Paper publication and implementation.	Work continued in 2009 and 2010. A sub-group was convened in 2010 to draft an Affordable Energy Strategy. This Strategy will be presented to Government in Autumn 2011.

## Broadband Programme

Target	Progress
The Broadband Programme will promote the rollout of broadband across the rural economy to ensure its availability across rural Ireland. Total indicative investment over the period 2007–2013 will be €435M. To date, 27 Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) have been completed under the NDP 2000–2006 with a further 90 towns under Phase II of the MANs 2005–2007. Under the Group Broadband Scheme, over 120 projects were operational at the end of 2006 and another 10 are expected to become operational during 2007. Under the School Broadband Scheme 96.8% of schools have had broadband installed.	<p>At the end of 2010, a total of 59 MANs, covering 65 towns, were completed under Phase II of the MANs Programme. e net was appointed Management Services Entity (MSE) on 8th July, 2009 (following a procurement process) to manage, maintain, market and operate the MANs on behalf of the State.</p> <p>Future broadband investment decisions including investment in MANs infrastructure will be guided by (i) the Next Generation Broadband (NGB) Taskforce which is due to report at the end of 2011, (ii) the Value for Money and Policy Review of Phase I of the MANs Programme, (iii) any other analysis as appropriate and (iv) the availability of resources.</p>

## Out of Hours GP Services

Target	Progress
Out-of-hours GP services will be further developed with a view to having those services available to the whole population over the course of this Plan.	<p>The HSE reports that 90% of the population have access to GP out-of-hours services in 13 centres nationally, in all HSE regions, in at least part of every county and that this service dealt with 931,305 calls in 2009 and 924,000 calls in 2010. Over 2,000 GPs provide services in the private GP co-ops.</p> <p>Approx. 60% of contacts resulted in attendance at a treatment centre and a further 10% resulted in a home visit. Attendance at a treatment centre would usually follow initial telephone triage – the HSE reports that this is a good proxy measure for hospital avoidance via Emergency Department attendance.</p> <p>Total funding of €89M was provided by the HSE in 2010 in respect of HSE &amp; private GP co-ops. This includes fees for Special Type Consultations (STCs) and out-of-hours grants and supplements but does not include fees paid by private patients to GPs.</p>

## Carers

Target	Progress
The scope for further development of income supports for carers will continue to be reviewed. In particular, the aim will be for the level of the Carer's Allowance disregard to keep pace with gross average industrial earnings so that those on average industrial earnings can continue to qualify for the payment.	From April 2008, the weekly income disregard for Carer's Allowance was increased by €12.50/€25.00 to €332.50 (single) and €665.00 (couple), thereby more than achieving the commitment. In addition the Respite Care Grant was increased by €200 bringing the rate to €1,700 per annum. The income disregard for Carer's Allowance and the rate of the Respite Care Grant has been maintained at 2008 levels

## Money Advice and Budgeting Service

Target	Progress
The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS), funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, provides an independent, free and confidential service primarily to low-income families who are in debt or at risk of getting into debt. A Loan Guarantee Fund also operates to provide 'crisis' loans as an alternative to the moneylender. The target is to continue to develop the MABS by establishing it on a statutory basis during 2007.	<p>Responsibility for MABS transferred seamlessly to the Citizens Information Board (CIB) in July 2009.</p> <p>The future role of MABS is currently under consideration in line with commitments in the Programme for Government and recommendations contained in the reports of the Law Reform Commission on Personal Debt Management and Debt Enforcement, and the Expert Group on Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt. In addition, the Department contributed to the Economic Management Council mortgage arrears working group, chaired by the Department of Finance. The Department is examining the contents of this report to identify to extent to which commitments contained therein will influence the future direction of MABS and will work closely with the Department of Finance in supporting the implementation of the recommendations.</p>



## Family Support Agency

Target	Progress
<p>The Family Support Agency (FSA) will also continue to strengthen families by supporting voluntary organisations providing marriage, relationship, child and bereavement counselling services. The recommendations of the Review of the Grant Scheme for Voluntary Organisations Providing Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services will be examined and implemented as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Family Support Agency (FSA) provides funding to voluntary and community organisations providing marriage, relationship, child and bereavement counselling services.</p> <p>In 2009 and 2010, the FSA continued to fund some 600 voluntary organisations each year to provide counselling services on a subsidised basis. Approximately 70,000 people per annum are supported under the scheme (Petrus Review of the Counselling Grants Scheme).</p> <p>The (revised) budget for the Counselling Grants Scheme in 2009 and in 2010 was €11.864M. 2009 was the first year of a three-year cycle for multi-annual funded groups. 29 of the major counselling providers were included in this scheme, which allows them to plan and deliver their work more effectively. The Scheme will be reviewed in 2011, in advance of the next funding cycle.</p>

## Community Policing

Target	Progress
<p>Community Policing will facilitate and support interaction between the Garda Síochána and local authorities and local communities to address local policing issues. Community Policing will not only assist in the State's development of its overall crime prevention response but will also act as a practical means of supporting the capacity of local communities to meaningfully participate in crime prevention.</p>	<p>The National Model of Community Policing for An Garda Síochána was launched in 2009. This model provides a structured and cohesive approach to community policing on a national basis.</p> <p>The National Model on Community Policing is built around ten core components or 'Pillars' which serve to inform everything Gardaí do in their interaction with the community.</p> <p>The ten "pillars" are partnership, enforcement, problem-solving, crime prevention and reduction, accountability, visibility, accessibility, collaborative engagement, empowerment and improved response.</p> <p>The model recognises that Community Policing is a value that must be embedded throughout the entire Garda service. An Garda Síochána has carried out a detailed analysis and has consulted widely in preparing the plan.</p> <p>The number of dedicated Community Policing service officers as at 31 July 2011 was 1,150. The Commissioner and his senior management team are responsible for the allocation of resources, including personnel, throughout the country.</p> <p>The Minister fully supports this renewed emphasis on Community Policing particularly in light of the priority given to this by the Programme for Government.</p>

## Appendices

### Detailed poverty results for 2010

#### Consistent Poverty

**Table 1** provides an analysis of consistent poverty in the population in 2010. The first column gives the rate of consistent poverty for individuals by key socio-economic characteristics. The highest rates are for children, the unemployed, single adult working age households and those in lone parent households. The second column presents the composition of the population in consistent poverty (6.2% of the population, equal to 277,000 people). Each set of figures (e.g. men + women) add up to 100%. The third column gives the profile of those in poverty in numerical format, which is only available in limited circumstances. Of the 277,000 people in consistent poverty in 2010, 99,000 (36%) were children, 174,000 (63%) were people of working age and 4,500 (2%) were older people.

**Table 1: Consistent poverty 2010**

	Risk (%)	Profile (%)	Profile (#s)
<i>Total population</i>	6.2	100	277,000
<i>Gender</i>			
· Men	5.9	46.8	
· Women	6.6	53.2	
<i>Age</i>			
· 0-17	8.2	35.6	98,500*
· 18-64	6.4	62.8	174,000
· 65+	0.9	1.6	4,500
<i>Economic status</i>			
· At Work	1.8	9.9	
· Unemployed	15.2	19.8	
· Student	9.1	11.7	
· Home Duties	7.6	15.8	
· Retired	1.1	1.3	
· Ill/Disabled	13	8.4	
<i>Household composition</i>			
· 1 adult aged 65+, no children <18	0.8	0.5	
· 1 adult aged <65, no children <18	11.2	7.8	
· 2 adults, at least 1 aged 65+, no children <18	0.5	0.6	
· 2 adults, both aged <65, no children <18	4.9	9.6	
· 3 or more adults, no children <18	3.1	6.8	
· 1 adult with children <18	9.3	11.1	
· 2 adults with 1-3 children <18	7	38.5	
· Other households with children <18	9.6	25.1	

Source: CSO SILC 2010 \*Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

20 Tables 1,2 and 3 are based on a CSO population estimate in 2010 of 4,470,667 – see <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=PEA11&PLanguage=0>

## At-Risk-of-Poverty

**Table 2** provides an analysis of at-risk-of-poverty in the population in 2010. The first column gives the rate of at-risk-of-poverty for individuals by key socio-economic characteristics. The highest rates are for children, those of working age, the unemployed, single adults aged under 65 years, and those in lone parent households. The second column presents the composition of the population in at-risk-of-poverty (15.8% of the population, equal to 706,500 people). The third column gives the profile of those in poverty in numerical format, which is only available in limited circumstances. Of the 706,500 people at-risk-of-poverty in 2010, 236,000 (33.4%) were children, 421,000 (59.6%) were adults and 49,500 (7%) were older people.

**Table 2: At-risk-of-poverty rates 2010**

	Risk (%)	Profile (%)	Profile (#s)
<i>Total population</i>	15.8	100	706,500
<i>Gender</i>			
· Men	15.7	49.3	
· Women	15.9	50.7	
<i>Age</i>			
· 0-17	19.5	33.4	236,000*
· 18-64	15.3	59.6	421,000
· 65+	9.6	7	49,500
<i>Economic status</i>			
· At Work	7.8	17.3	
· Unemployed	26.1	13.4	
· Student	24	12.1	
· Home Duties	20.3	16.7	
· Retired	9	4.2	
· Ill/Disabled	20.9	5.3	
<i>Household composition</i>			
· 1 adult aged 65+, no children <18	9.4	2.3	
· 1 adult aged <65, no children <18	19.7	5.4	
· 2 adults, at least 1 aged 65+, no children <18	9.4	4.5	
· 2 adults, both aged <65, no children <18	12.9	9.9	
· 3 or more adults, no children <18	10.3	9	
· 1 adult with children <18	20.5	9.6	
· 2 adults with 1-3 children <18	17.2	37.5	
· Other households with children <18	21.2	21.8	

Source: CSO SILC 2010

\*Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding

2010 at-risk-of-poverty threshold for single person = s10,832 pa/€207.50pw

2009 at-risk-of-poverty threshold for single person = €12,064 pa/€231.10pw

## Material Deprivation

**Table 3** provides an analysis of material deprivation in the population in 2010. The first column gives the rate of material deprivation by socio-economic characteristics. The highest rates are for children, the unemployed, those ill or disabled, single adults aged under 65 years and those in lone parent households. The second column presents the composition of the population in material deprivation (22.5% of the population, equal to 1,006,000 people). The third column gives the profile of those in material deprivation in numerical format, which is only available in limited circumstances. Of the 1,006,000 people in material deprivation in 2010, an estimated 366,000 (36.4%) were children, 590,500 (58.7%) were adults and 49,000 (4.9%) were older people.

**Table 3: Material deprivation 2010**

	Risk (%)	Profile (%)	Profile (#s)
<i>Total population</i>	22.5	100	1,006,000
<i>Gender</i>			
• Men	21.6	47.5	
• Women	23.4	52.5	
<i>Age</i>			
• 0-17	30.2	36.4	366,000*
• 18-64	21.5	58.7	590,500
• 65+	9.6	4.9	49,500
<i>Economic status</i>			
• At Work	12.5	19.5	
• Unemployed	38	13.7	
• Student	24.4	8.7	
• Home Duties	25.3	14.6	
• Retired	7.2	2.4	
• Ill/Disabled	42.8	7.6	
<i>Household composition</i>			
• 1 adult aged 65+, no children <18	15.2	2.6	
• 1 adult aged <65, no children <18	33.9	6.5	
• 2 adults, at least 1 aged 65+, no children <18	8.3	2.8	
• 2 adults, both aged <65, no children <18	15.1	8.3	
• 3 or more adults, no children <18	11.4	7	
• 1 adult with children <18	49.8	16.4	
• 2 adults with 1-3 children <18	23.6	36.1	
• Other households with children <18	28.1	20.3	

Source: CSO SILC 2010

\*Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding

In 2010, 64% of the population lacked none of the deprivation items, 13.7% lacked one item and 22.5% lacked two or more items. The deprivation rate for those at-risk-of-poverty was 39.4% in 2010. The deprivation rate for those not at-risk-of-poverty was 19.3%.

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