



Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Statement of Strategy

2016 - 2019

Foreword by the Minister

I am pleased to endorse the Department's Statement of Strategy 2016-2019.

Since the Government took office in May 2016, we have been working on a challenging and ambitious agenda of development and reform which is reflected in the actions for the Department in this Strategy Statement. The Programme for Partnership Government puts a clear emphasis on the needs of children, young people and families. In all, there are some 32 specific commitments in the Programme relating to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and I am committed to implementing these as soon as possible.

As a framework for the specific commitments, my strategic objectives are about:

- putting the right policies, legislation and resources in place to meet the particular needs of children, young people and families;
- making sure we have the right systems of support for all groups, whether they are vulnerable children in need of intervention by Tusla, child care supports for families throughout the country, or wider supports for children and families generally;
- supporting children and young people in active learning and participation in society;
- looking at policies across Government through the lens of children and young people and working effectively across Government to promote their well-being;
- addressing inequalities robustly; and
- critically evaluating our performance, and taking decisions informed by the best available evidence and research.

This Statement of Strategy sets out the priority actions that I want to advance. Central to this will be the implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* which requires close collaboration with all stakeholders, effective co-ordination across Government Departments and clear leadership from my Department.

I wish the Secretary General and all the staff of the Department every success and look forward to working with them as we work to deliver on this Strategy in the years ahead.

Katherine Zappone TD
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Introduction by Secretary General

I am pleased to introduce the Department's Statement of Strategy 2016-2019.

The Statement of Strategy was prepared following consultation with Departmental staff and input from other Government Departments and a number of external stakeholders. The Minister also engaged with the Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs. The content has been informed by the commitments in the Programme for Partnership Government, the Minister's stated priorities and our ongoing responsibilities.

The Department was set up in June 2011 with a mandate to put in place a unified framework of policy, legislation and service provision across Government for children and young people. While much has been achieved since then, we have an ambitious further agenda of work in the years ahead as set out in this Strategy Statement.

At the core of what we do will be protecting children and young people, and helping them achieve their full potential. Prevention and early intervention is key to promoting the best possible outcomes, and our work will lay particular emphasis on this. Our work will include developing and implementing legislation in the areas of child protection, adoption, after-care and special care. We will work to bring about significant improvements in child care/early years supports, including a new Single Affordable Childcare Scheme with both targeted and universal elements, and we will work with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency to ensure continued implementation of its Corporate Plan and annual Business Plans, with particular reference to addressing unallocated cases and safeguarding children at most risk.

The *Statement of Strategy* charts our vision for the next three years and we will use it as a benchmark against which to review progress in implementing our priority actions. We will continue to build a unified organisational system so as to deliver on our agenda as efficiently as possible.

There are many dimensions to ensuring the well-being of children and young people. We need to work across Government and with a wide range of stakeholders to help achieve a co-ordinated approach to policy and delivery of services. To do this, we need a strongly collaborative approach with all organisations, whether statutory, private or voluntary. The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* is a very important means of promoting a well organised, structured collaboration with our partners. This helps us to implement policies that are cost effective and evidence-based.

We are keenly aware of how the wider economic situation affects our capacity to deliver on our mandate. We are committed to implementing Government policy in imaginative, innovative ways within the resources available.

I look forward to working with the Minister and all staff in the Department and beyond to deliver on this *Statement of Strategy* with energy, commitment and innovation.

Fergal Lynch
Secretary General

Our Mission is to lead the effort to improve outcomes for children and young people in Ireland.

Our Vision is for Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family

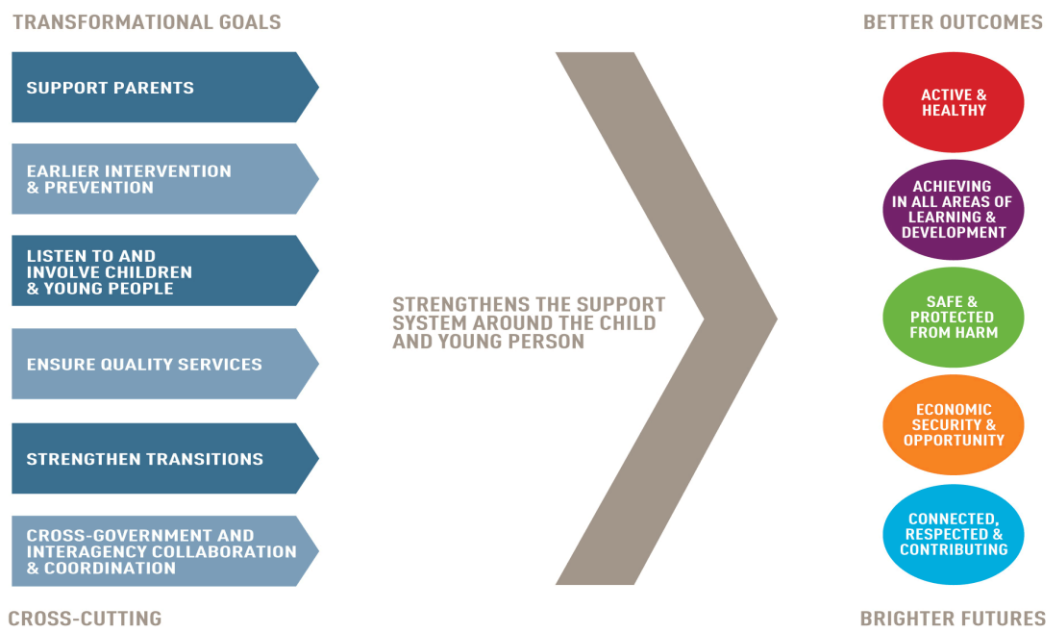
- where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled;
- where their voices are heard; and
- where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.

Our Mandate is to put in place a unified framework for policy, legislation and service provision across Government for children and young people.

In doing this, we focus on harmonising policy issues that affect children and young people in areas such as early childhood care and education, youth justice, children in care, child welfare and protection, adoption, family support, children and young people’s participation, research on children and young people, youth work and cross-cutting initiatives for children.

The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020 – *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* – provides the context for our own work as well as the agenda for our leadership of effort to improve outcomes for children and young people.

**BETTER OUTCOMES, BRIGHTER FUTURES:
THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, 2014-2020**



The Framework provides the single blueprint for the Department, its colleagues across Government and all relevant stakeholders in planning and prioritising actions to improve the lives of children, young people and their families.

We place a great emphasis on working collaboratively so as to support all Departments and agencies in their work affecting the lives of children and young people. Our unique mandate allows the Department to examine how children and young people are affected by, and their needs reflected in key cross-sectoral policies and programme initiatives. This does not diminish the authority and responsibilities of individual Departments and agencies in their role in devising and implementing policy affecting children's lives. For example, in the area of child protection, we stress the importance of each sector taking responsibility for the safety and welfare of children in that sector. This is an important principle of *Children First*, under which each Department and agency has a responsibility for safeguarding the well-being of children and young people in the context of the services they provide. It means that this Department is not responsible for all matters relating to children. Instead, we play a supportive role in helping other Departments to implement Government policy in their own areas.

Our Strategic Objectives:

- *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures* is implemented;
- High quality early years care and education is accessible and affordable;
- Child welfare and protection systems are effective and responsive;
- Evidence-based policy is promoted and supported, and children and young people participate in decisions that affect their lives;
- High standards of compliance on governance and accountability are supported and enforced; and
- Performance is improved through the effective alignment of resources.

Later in this Statement we provide more detail on these strategic objectives and what we hope to achieve with each. We set out our priority activities to achieve them and the outputs against which we will report progress in our Annual Report each year during the lifetime of this Strategy.

The Operating Environment

When the Department was first established in 2011, the focus of our mandate was on the Referendum on children's right, the establishment of Tusla and the enactment of the Children First Act 2015. Our priorities have now moved on, and are informed by the commitments in the Programme for Partnership Government with an emphasis on developments in childcare, enhancing child protection, reducing child poverty, supporting cross-Government work on child homelessness and addressing disadvantage. The commitments for which the Department has been assigned lead responsibility are at Appendix 1. In addition, we are guided by a range of cross-cutting commitments relating to employment (Action Plan for Jobs), housing, health, environment, education and reform (Public Service Reform and Civil Service Renewal).

We discharge our existing responsibilities, particularly in the governance and development of Tusla and other intermediaries and service providers. We continue to learn about the lives of children, how they see their place in this world and the challenge to meet these needs. In particular, we emphasise the importance of listening to children and young people's views, and supporting their participation in decisions affecting their lives. We operate in an

international environment which includes our membership of the European Union, Council of Europe and the United Nations.

A number of operating principles guide us in the current environment. These include:

Need for Transparency: We operate in a transparent environment. A range of independent bodies inspect, evaluate, comment and make recommendations arising from our national and international obligations for governance, quality and the rights of children. We have always been open to this scrutiny and continue to incorporate any findings into service improvements.

Accountability: We hold a significant budget (Vote). We work with the agencies under our remit and various bodies that are in receipt of Exchequer funds to monitor performance and governance, to ensure that taxpayers' money is used to the best effect.

Risk Management: As a Department we acknowledge that there will always be a level of risk inherent in what we do. The nature of risk can be strategic, financial, operational, reputational or related to compliance. We monitor all corporate and unit-level risks. We have in place a range of measures designed to reduce the likelihood of each risk occurring but we accept that the likelihood of something occurring can be affected by factors within or outside our direct control. While we are prepared to take controlled risks to capitalise on new opportunities and to find innovative ways of furthering our objectives, we will have no tolerance for risks that affect the protection, safety and welfare of children, or which infringe our operating procedures or regulatory requirements.

Civil Service Renewal and change: The Civil Service Renewal Plan outlines a vision for the Civil Service and practical changes that will create a more unified, professional, responsive and open and accountable Civil Service. It aims to provide a world-class service to the State and to the people of Ireland. We are committed to providing strong leadership and to participate in this programme of significant change.

Key Enablers:

The Department's cross-cutting remit means that in order to be effective it must build internal capacity, create the right conditions for service delivery improvements and support and lead its colleagues in delivering the whole-of-Government agenda for children. The following key enablers are critical to the work of the Department:

- visible leadership with clarity of responsibilities for actions towards defined outcomes;
- mutually supportive relationships with external partners and effective communication channels;
- effective deployment of available knowledge, human and financial resources;
- effective governance arrangements with all agencies and bodies in receipt of funds from the Department.;
- focus on quality service delivery, to achieve better outcomes for children and families;
- development of evidence-informed policies and practices;
- effective arrangements for listening to the voice of children and young people; and
- flexibility to implement change as necessary.

Values, Behaviours and Culture

We place children, young people and families at the heart of our work, aiming for better outcomes as the centre of policy development and service delivery. In doing this we:

- value our staff and create an environment where they learn, develop and contribute to the goals of the organisation;
- place outcomes for children and young people at the centre of policy and service delivery, informed by evidence;
- support prevention and early intervention approaches;
- seek to innovate and collaborate with other departments, agencies and sectors;
- are accountable, open to change, customer-focused and respectful in our dealings with the public and work colleagues; and
- recognise the positive duty to ensure a human rights and equality approach to our work.

Public Sector Duty

The Department acknowledges the positive duty imposed on it by section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 to have regard to human rights and equality in the performance of its functions.

Our work embodies proactive consideration of the rights of children and young people in the development of policy and legislation. Examples of this include the Children's Rights Referendum, the Access and Inclusion Model for children with disabilities to avail of pre-school services, and the forthcoming LGBT Youth Strategy.

We are committed to completing a full assessment of the human rights and equality issues relevant to our functions. Future reporting on this matter will take place as part of the Department's Annual Report arrangements.

Governance Framework

More detail on how our Department operates is set out in our Governance Framework published on our website under About Us <http://www.dcy.gov.ie>

Strategic Objective 1	<i>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures is implemented</i>
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead cross-Government implementation and governance of the <i>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures</i> National Policy Framework 2014-2020. • Align and harmonise policy and service delivery to secure improved outcomes for children and young people across all sectors. • Align funding provision with identified policy objectives. • Further develop structures to govern local delivery of children’s and young people’s services. • Strengthen inter-agency and inter-departmental co-ordination towards a seamless delivery of services (including mental health, disability and education). • Operate within an international framework. • Promote quality and effective youth work policy, provision and practice by improving information and knowledge base.
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-based strategies implemented and delivering on stated outcomes. 2. Estimates process, negotiations, new legislative/regulatory requirements and resultant resource allocation based on strategic priorities and outcomes. 3. Implementation and reporting of <i>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures</i> (BOBF) supported through agreed structures. 4. Enhanced inter-agency and interdisciplinary service delivery for children and families through the Children and Young People’s Services Committees programme (CYPSC). 5. Continued implementation of the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme, with learning informing policy and practice in mainstreamed settings through a new Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI). 6. Contribution made to “whole-of-Government” development of policies and legislation relevant to children and families. 7. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations on the combined Third and Fourth periodic reports of Ireland progressed through existing structures and frameworks. 8. EU and other international developments monitored and addressed. 9. National Youth Strategy and the Value for Money Review implemented to ensure an enhanced coherence and continuity between youth policy, provision, practice and funding.

Strategic Objective 2	High quality early years care and education is accessible and affordable
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the provision of quality and accessible early childhood care and education places for children aged from birth to 6 years and school-age childcare. • Work with other Government Departments to further consider options and recommendations from the Inter-Departmental Group on Future Investment in Childcare and School Age Care, including for example, enhancement of maternity / paternity / parental leave.
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. New Single Affordable Childcare Scheme with universal and targeted components designed and introduced, which will respond to the needs of children and families for affordable, accessible, high quality childcare. 11. ECCE scheme extended so that all children from age three will have access to high quality pre-school care and education. 12. Access and Inclusion Model rolled out, so that children with disabilities will be able to access and participate meaningfully in the ECCE Scheme. 13. Improvements to the quality of early years care and education through, for example, effective regulation of the sector, continued professional development and workplace supports for the workforce and collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills. 14. Efficient and effective administrative arrangements in place to support planning and delivery of all childcare programmes and appropriate management, reporting and governance. 15. Robust system in place to monitor supply and demand and to ensure appropriate capacity is available in the sector.

Strategic Objective 3	Child welfare and protection systems are effective and responsive
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive systems change to improve quality and consistency of supports to parents, safeguarding of children generally, and the quality of care and protection of children. • Provide appropriate, safe and secure custody with improved outcomes in health, well-being and education for all children in detention. • Improve structures to ensure day-to-day service quality and optimal outcomes. • Develop and implement legislative programme. • Support independent review processes in respect of child welfare, protection and youth justice. • Assess and implement independent review recommendations in line with Government policy and Government approval. • Work with the Department of Education and Skills in setting policy on educational welfare, and with Tusla on implementing evidence-based and effective interventions that are focused on the needs of individual children and their families.
Outputs	<p>16. Reform of child welfare and protection services (informed by significant reports) supported and driven through performance dialogue processes with Tusla.</p> <p>17. <i>Children First</i> Act 2015 implemented on a phased basis in line with an agreed plan.</p> <p>18. All children in detention accommodated in Oberstown Children Detention Campus and no children detained in adult prisons.</p> <p>19. Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO), Special Rapporteur and other Reports assessed with regard to service delivery improvements and policy enhancement.</p> <p>20. Legislative relationship with HIQA completed and improved communication protocols in place.</p> <p>21. Legislation enacted to reform the present Guardian <i>ad litem</i> arrangements in child care proceedings (public law).</p> <p>22. Implementation of legislation and policy in respect of the delivery of psychology services and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services in conjunction with Tusla, the Department of Health and HSE.</p>

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| | <p>23. Adoption (Amendment) Bill and Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill enacted and implemented in conjunction with the Adoption Authority of Ireland and Tusla.</p> <p>24. North/South Child Protection Work Programme implemented.</p> <p>25. Review of Child Care Act 1991 completed.</p> <p>26. Area Based Childhood Programme implemented as part of a whole-of-Government approach to addressing child poverty.</p> <p>27. The Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and certain related matters) supported to deliver on its terms of reference.</p> <p>28. Relevant actions implemented to provide support to homeless families and children, as identified in <i>Rebuilding Ireland</i>.</p> <p>29. Recommendations of the ESRI <i>Review of the Schools Completion Programme</i> implemented and a new strategy for the programme developed, taking account of the DEIS review.</p> |
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Strategic Objective 4	Evidence-based policy is promoted and supported, and children and young people participate in decisions that affect their lives
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with key partners to support research and research capacity building, and to improve knowledge and data, in areas relating to children’s lives • Develop and deliver a programme of policy evaluation relevant to the work of the Department. • Develop and manage appropriate data and information systems to enhance planning, monitoring, evaluation and oversight. • Promote the translation and application of knowledge to support the development of evidence-based policy development and service delivery. • Oversee and develop national and local structures for participation by children and young people in decision-making.
Outputs	<p>30. Management and Oversight of <i>Growing Up in Ireland</i> including implementation of a range of knowledge transfer activities.</p> <p>31. Delivery of evaluation requirements under the public spending code and engagement in activities which support the objectives of the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service.</p> <p>32. A national set of indicators for Children and Young People aligned with BOBF developed and reported on.</p> <p>33. A statistical data reporting system developed to support the work of the Department and its stakeholders.</p> <p>34. The <i>State of the Nation’s Children</i> reports published periodically as they become available.</p> <p>35. Implementation of the <i>National Strategy for Research and Data on Children’s Lives 2011-2016</i>, and provision of support for research and research activities relating to children and young people.</p> <p>36. Progress on implementation of commitments in the <i>National Strategy on the participation of children and young people in decision making 2015-2020</i> monitored and reported annually.</p> <p>37. LGBT Youth Strategy developed and published.</p> <p>38. Comhairle na nÓg supported and developed locally and nationally.</p> <p>39. Children and Young People’s Participation Hub established and developed.</p> <p>40. Government Departments and State agencies supported to consult</p>

with children and young people on policy, legislation, services and research issues relevant to their lives.

41. Research Evidence into Policy and Practice Project on youth justice implemented and Bail Supervision Scheme rolled out and evaluated.

Strategic Objective 5	High standards of compliance on governance and accountability are supported and enforced
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee performance of Tusla, its compliance with relevant governance and accountability provisions, and its delivery of an agreed programme of service reform. • Ensure that best practice governance, risk management and accountability arrangements are in place in respect of the Department, its agencies, intermediaries and other service delivery providers. • Continue development of programme evaluation and integration of evaluation into reporting and performance reporting, including the development of outcome indicators across all service delivery programmes.
Outputs	<p>42. Strong governance, oversight and reporting arrangements in place and engagement with Tusla Board and management team providing timely and comprehensive reporting, early warning, appropriate controls and performance and risk assessment.</p> <p>43. Strong governance and oversight arrangements in place with bodies under the Department’s remit, and configured in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016.</p> <p>44. Governance and monitoring framework in place for services delivered by intermediaries and service providers in receipt of funds from the Department’s Vote – including risk management arrangements, defined metrics and reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>45. Performance indicator suite developed for Tusla and other agencies and large scale sectoral supports (e.g. youth and childcare) as appropriate.</p> <p>46. Value for Money reviews carried out and implemented in key spending areas.</p> <p>47. Information and financial management systems in place to support enhanced planning, delivery and assessment of quality youth provision.</p> <p>48. Options to engage with robust Department of Social Protection client registration and identity management services explored in the context of child care schemes.</p>

Strategic Objective 6	Performance is improved through the effective alignment of resources
Priority Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Department is resourced to meet its objectives. • Promote a results-oriented work environment that attracts, engages and retains a motivated and diverse workforce, including leaders who provide strategic direction. • Develop a skilled and technically proficient workforce. • Encourage a collaborative environment across divisions and units and use technology and data to fulfil its mission more effectively and efficiently. • Strengthen workforce development through engagement with Agencies, regulatory bodies and third level institutions.
Outputs	<p>49. A robust system for analysing resource needs and utilisation.</p> <p>50. Continued Departmental support for implementation of the Civil Service Renewal Plan.</p> <p>51. Workforce development strengthened across all funded services through engagement with employers, regulatory bodies and relevant third level institutions.</p> <p>52. A Department that attracts and retains suitably qualified persons wanting to work here.</p> <p>53. An engaged and dynamic workforce that is flexible and clear about what is expected of them.</p> <p>54. A continuous professional development culture embedded in the Department.</p>

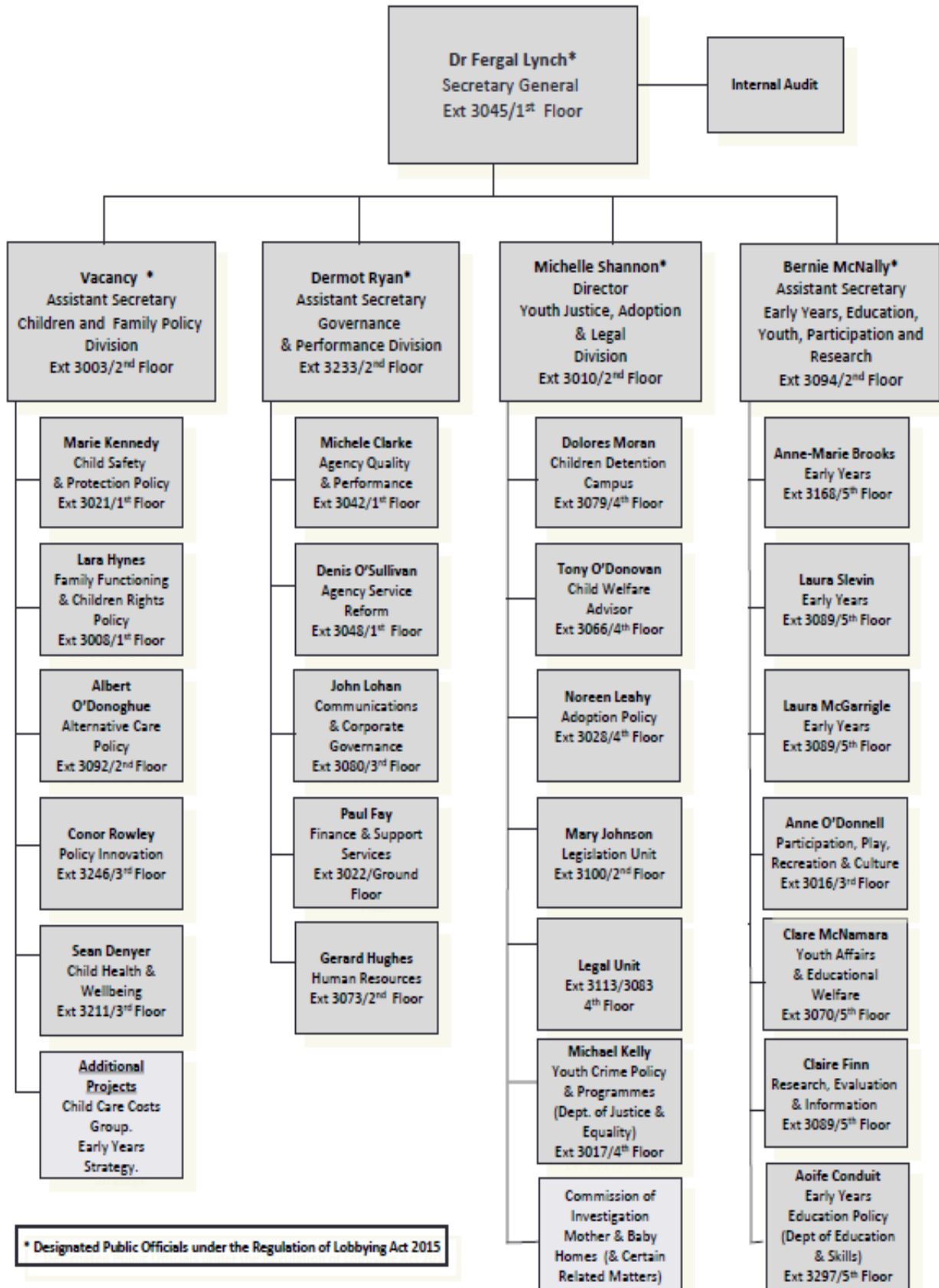
Appendix 1

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is the Lead Department in the 32 Programme for Government commitments below.

Commitment Description
A new scheme to ensure access to the Early Childhood Care and Education programmes for young children with disabilities is commencing this year. We will ensure the further development of this initiative.
Review and assess the quality of the first pre-school year and the application of the Aistear curriculum and also include a review to ensure children can avail of a full two years.
Conduct and publish an independent review of the cost of providing quality childcare in private and community settings, consistent with the principle of ongoing professionalisation of the sector. We will continue to support quality and professionalisation initiatives and reforms such as Better Start, Síolta and the Learner Fund
Monitor the implementation of new quality regulations and standards and work towards further paediatric first aid training for staff
Review and reform the inspection regime, and withdraw funding from providers that do not meet quality standards
We will look to publish a National Parenting Support Plan with a range of practical and supportive measures for all parents.
We will tackle child poverty by increasing community based early intervention programmes.
We support the introduction of a robust model for subsidised high quality childcare for children aged 9-36 months in order for children and families to truly reap the benefits of greater investment, in line with the OECD recommendation that this approach is the best way to achieve affordability and quality at the same time is through subsidised childcare places.
We will develop targeted supports to reduce childcare costs, broaden parental choice and increase supports for stay at home parents.
We will introduce a new system to support and expand quality afterschool care for school-aged children.
We will continue to support subsidised childcare places for low income families.
While recognising the need for additional childcare subsidisation as proposed above, we will seek to streamline the existing schemes to make them more accessible for both parents and providers.
We will drive quality throughout the sector by investing in the professionalisation of the workforce, through continuous professional development within programmes of further and higher education.
We recognise the value of informal childcare for families and support the development of a phased programme of reforms for childminders making it easier to support both families and childminders.
We will fund an expansion of Youth Services that support, in particular, Early School Leavers into employment and in recognising the value of such services and groups; we will examine the potential for greater linkages between agencies for development of wider opportunities (e.g. new and planned apprenticeships).
We support the potential opportunity for young people to benefit from supportive mentors and role models to build meaningful connections in their lives. We will fund a pilot scheme where guidance and mentoring relationships can be built at community and regional level

with a focus on better outcomes and more active citizenship.
We will also implement Child Safeguarding Statements as part of Children First legislation. Robust and efficient vetting procedures for all positions where there is substantial access to children and vulnerable adults will be enforced.
We will review the operation of Guardian <i>ad Litem</i> (GAL) to ensure that a child's view is always effectively represented in court proceedings.
Support voluntary organisations that contribute to our young people's future direction.
We will also provide ongoing support to Tusla in delivering targeted intervention services.
We will also support the increased use of therapeutic intervention services for children in detention within Oberstown, including psychology, speech and language therapy and where appropriate referral to addiction services to children.
We will support and continue programmes in disadvantaged areas similar to those currently supported by Atlantic Philanthropies.
We will reform the monitoring of child benefit payments by amalgamating the two existing school attendance monitoring systems, currently run by the Department of Education and Tusla, to address poor attendance within some families.
We support the potential opportunity for young people to benefit from supportive and experienced mentors and role models to build meaningful connections in their lives. We will fund a pilot scheme where guidance and mentoring relationships can be built at community and regional level with a focus on better outcomes and more active citizenship.
Introducing a second preschool year which will help prepare young children further for starting school, raising the school starting age to 5 years.
We will also publish a new School Completion Strategy to further improve school completion rates, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
We will develop an LGBT Youth Strategy that will encompass education, youth services, mental health and other issues.
We will fund and expand existing schemes such as the Area-Based Childhood Programme, which have been successfully developing innovative services and programmes for children in areas such as Ballymun, the north inner city and Tallaght West. We will ensure the sharing and implementation of learning from such programmes to other initiatives as they expand their reach.
Cut the cost of childcare, increase the number of subsidised childcare places to low income families and introduce a second free pre-school year
We will implement Ireland's first ever National Youth Strategy and fund schemes such as the Youth Employability Initiative which provides grants to voluntary youth services that target disadvantaged young people and improve their employability
We recognise the need to support youth education programmes across Ireland, which assist young people in accessing education and employment opportunities.
Support voluntary organisations that contribute to our young people's future direction

Organisational Chart - Management Board & Unit Responsibilities





Ráiteas Straitéise

na Roinne Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige

2016 – 2019

Brollach leis an Aire

Is cúis áthais dom chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do Ráiteas Straitéise na Roinne idir na blianta 2016 agus 2019.

Is amhlaidh ó tháinig an Rialtas chun oifige i mí na Bealtaine 2016 atáimid tar éis bheith ag obair ar chlár forbartha agus athchóirithe dúshlánach agus uailmhianach, a léirítear sna gníomhartha don Roinn sa Ráiteas Straitéise seo. Leagtar béim shoiléir sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta ar éilimh na leanaí, na ndaoine óga agus na dteaghlach. Tá 32 tiomantas sonracha sa Chlár ina n-iomláine a bhaineann leis an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige, agus tá gealltanais agam chun iad a chur chun feidhme chomh luath agus is féidir.

Mar chreatlach do na tiomantais sonracha, is iad mo chuspóirí straitéiseacha:

- cur i bhfeidhm na mbeartas, na reachtaíochta agus na n-acmhainní cearta chun éilimh shonrach leanaí, daoine óga agus teaghlach a shásamh;
- a chinntiú go mbíonn na córais chearta tacaíochta againn i leith gach grúpa, bíds ina leanaí leochaileacha óna dteastaíonn idirghabháil ag Tusla, ina dtacaíochtaí cúraim leanaí do theaghlaigh ar fud na tíre, nó ina dtacaíochtaí níos forleithne do leanaí agus teaghlaigh trí chéile;
- tacú le leanaí agus le daoine óga san fhoghlaim ghníomhach agus sa rannpháirtíocht sa tsochaí;
- breathnú ar bheartais ar fud an Rialtais trí shúile leanaí agus daoine óga, agus saothrú go héifeachtach ar fud an Rialtais chun a bhfolláine a chur chun cinn;
- aghaidh a thabhairt go daingean i gcoinne neamhionannas; agus
- ár bhfeidhmíocht a bhreithmheas go criticiúil, agus glacadh le cinntí arna múnú ag an bhfianaise agus ag an taighde is fearr dá bhfuil ar fáil.

Is sa Ráiteas Straitéise seo a leagtar amach na bearta tosaíochta a dteastaíonn uaim a gcur ar aghaidh. Beidh forfheidhmiú *Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile* mar bheart lárnach de sin óna dteastóidh comhoibriú dlúth le gach geallsealbhóir, comhordú éifeachtach ar fud na Ranna Rialtais agus ceannaireacht neamhbhalbh ó mo Roinnse.

Guím gach rath ar an Ard-Rúnaí agus ar fhoireann go léir na Roinne, agus táim ag súil le bheith ag obair leo agus muid ag saothrú chun an Straitéis seo a sheachadadh sna blianta amach romhainn.

Katherine Zappone TD
An tAire Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige

Réamhrá leis an Ard-Rúnaí

Is cúis áthais dom chun Ráiteas Straitéise na Roinne idir na blianta 2016 agus 2019 a chur os bhur gcomhair.

Ullmhaíodh an Ráiteas Straitéise tar éis comhairliúcháin le foireann na Roinne agus ionchur ó Ranna Rialtais eile agus ó roinnt geallsealbhóirí seachtracha. Rinne an tAire comhphlé freisin le Coiste an Oireachtais do Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige. Tá na tiomantais sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta, tosaíochtaí sonraithe an Aire agus ár bhfreagrachtaí leanúnacha tar éis tionchar a fheidhmiú ar an ábhar.

Bunaíodh an Roinn thiar i mí an Mheithimh 2011 leis an sainordú chun creatlach aontaithe beartais, reachtaíochta agus soláthair sheirbhíse a chur i dtoll a chéile ar fud an Rialtais do leanaí agus daoine óga. Cé gur gnóthaíodh go leor ó shin i leith, is amhlaidh atá clár saothair bhreise uailmhianach romhainn sna blianta le teacht, faoi mar a leagtar amach sa Ráiteas Straitéise seo.

Is mar chroí dár mbeart a bheidh cosaint leanaí agus daoine óga, agus cuidiú leo chun a lánchumas a ghnóthú. Is eochairbhearta iad an cosc agus idirghabháil luath chun na torthaí is fearr agus is féidir a chur chun cinn, agus leagfar béim faoi leith orthusan inár saothar. Áireofar lenár saothar forbairt agus forfheidhmiú na reachtaíochta i limistéir na cosanta leanaí, na huchtála, an iarchúraim agus an chúraim speisialta. Saothróimid chun feabhsuithe suntasacha a réadú sna tacaíochtaí don chúram leanaí/do na luathbhlianta, lena n-áireofar Scéim Cúraim Leanaí Inacmhainne Amháin nua le gnéithe spriocdhírithé agus uilíocha inti araon, agus saothróimid le Tusla, An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach chun forfheidhmiú leanúnach a Plean Chorpáraidigh agus a Pleananna Gnó bliantúla a chinntiú, le tagairt faoi leith d'aghaidh a thabhairt ar chásanna neamh-leithdháilte agus ar chumhdach na leanaí sa bhaol is mó.

Is sa *Ráiteas Straitéise* a thásctar ár bhfís do na chéad trí bliana eile, agus bainfidimid leas as mar thagarmharc a mbreithneoidimid dul chun cinn ina choinne agus ár mbearta tosaíochta á bhforfheidhmiú. Coinneoidimid orainn ag tógáil córais eagrúcháin aontaithe ionas go seachadfaimid ár gclár chomh héifeachtúil agus is féidir.

Baineann go léir gnéithe le cinntiú leas leanaí agus daoine óga. Caithfidimid saothrú ar fud an Rialtais agus le réimse leathan geallsealbhóirí chun cuidiú le cur chuige comhordaithe a ghnóthú don bheartas agus do sheachadadh seirbhísí. Teastaíonn cur chuige comhoibritheach láidir uainn chuige sin le gach eagrais, bídís ina n-eagrais reachtúla, príobháideacha nó saorálacha. Is bealach fíorthábhachtach í an Chreatlach Beartais Náisiúnta do Leanaí agus Daoine Óga 2014-2020, *Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile* chun comhshaothrú dea-eagraithe struchtúraithe lenár gcomhpháirtithe a chur chun cinn. Cuidíonn sí sin linn chun beartais a fhorfheidhmiú ar costéifeachtach agus fianaise-bhunaithe iad.

Is maith is feasach dúinn an chaoi ina bhfeidhmíonn cúrsaí eacnamaíochta i gcoitinne tionchar ar ár gcumas chun ár sainordú a sheachadadh. Táimid tiomanta chun beartas an Rialtais a chur chun feidhme ar bhealaí samhlaíochta nuálaíochta laistigh de na hacmhainní infhaighte.

Táimse ag súil le bheith ag saothrú leis an Aire agus le gach ball foirne sa Roinn agus thairsti chun an *Ráiteas Straitéise* seo a sheachadadh le fuinneamh, tiomantas agus nuálaíocht.

Fergal Lynch
Ard-Rúnaí

Is é Ár Misean ná chun bheith i gceannas ar na hiarrachtaí chun torthaí do leanaí agus daoine óga in Éirinn a fheabhsú.

Is í Ár bhFís ná go mbeidh Éire ar cheann de na tíortha beaga is fearr ar domhan chun fás suas agus chun clann a thógáil inti

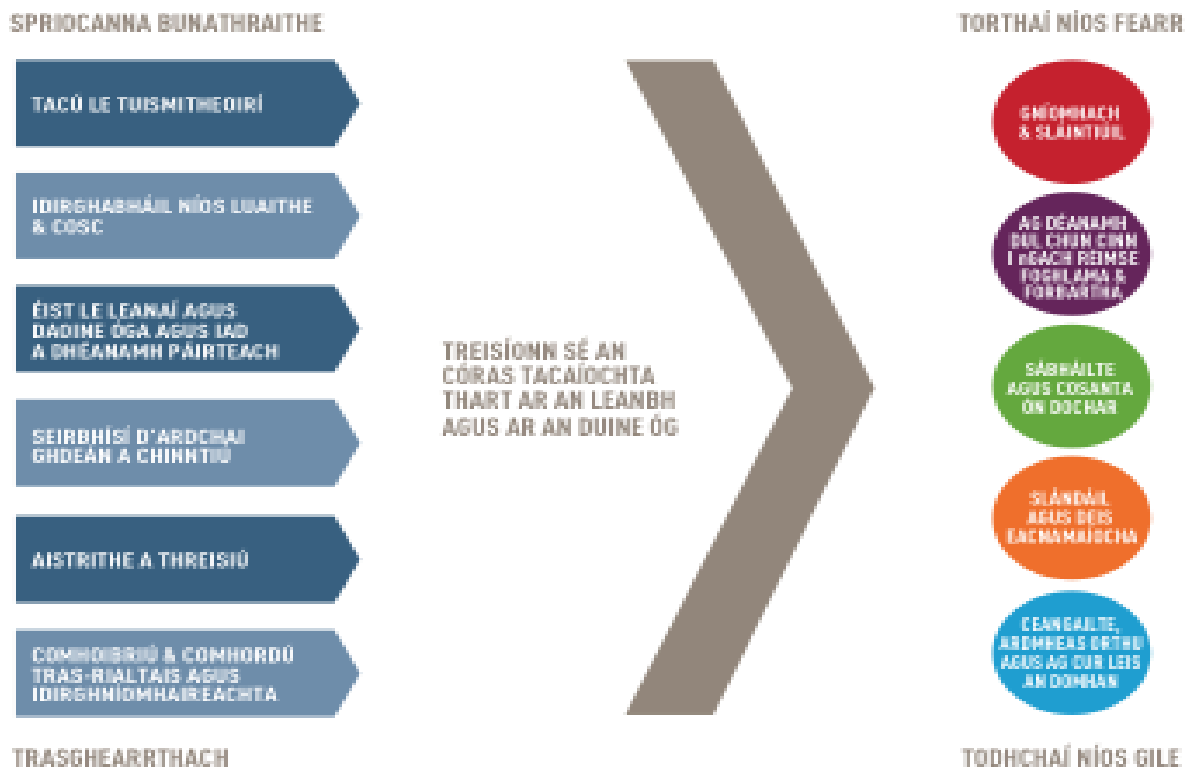
- mar a léirítear urraim do chearta, a dtugtar cosaint dóibh, agus a ngnóthaítear cearta gach leanbh agus duine óg;
- mar a gcloistear a nglórtha; agus
- mar a dtugtar tacaíocht dóibh chun a n-uaschumas a bhaint amach anois agus amach anseo.

Is é Ár Sainordú ná chun creatlach aontaithe beartais, reachtaíochta agus soláthair sheirbhíse a chur i dtoll a chéile ar fud an Rialtais do leanaí agus daoine óga.

Díreimid sa mhéid sin ar chomhchuibhiú saincheisteanna beartais a fheidhmíonn tionchar ar leanaí agus ar dhaoine óga i limistéir ar nós an chúraim agus an oideachais luathóige, an cheartais don óige, leanaí faoi chúram, leas agus cosaint leanaí, na huchtála, na tacaíochta do theaghlaigh, rannpháirtíochta leanaí agus daoine óga, taighde sna leanaí agus daoine óga, na hoibre don ógra agus tionscnamh trasghearrthach do leanaí.

Is sa Chreatlach Beartais Náisiúnta do Leanaí agus Daoine Óga do na blianta 2014-2020 – *Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile* – a sholáthraítear an comhthéacs dár saothar féin chomh maith leis an gclár dár gceannaireacht san iarracht chun torthaí a fheabhsú do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga.

TORTHAÍ NÍOS FEARR, TODHCHAÍ NÍOS GILE: CREATLACH AN PHOLASAÍ NÁISIÚNTA DO LEANAÍ AGUS DO DHAOINE ÓGA, 2014-2020



Is sa Chreatlach a sholáthraítear an gormchló aonair don Roinn, dá comhghleacaithe ar fud an Rialtais agus do gach geallsealbhóir ábhartha chun bearta a phleanáil agus chun beartú tosaíochta le beatha leanaí, daoine óga agus a gcuid teaghlach a fheabhsú.

Leagaimid béim mhór ar an gcomhshaothrú ionas go dtacaímid le gach Roinn agus gníomhaireacht ina saothar a théann i bhfeidhm ar bheatha leanaí agus daoine óga. Is é ár sainordú uathúil a ligeann don Roinn chun an chaoi ina dtéann beartais agus tionscnaimh chláir thras-earnálacha i bhfeidhm ar leanaí agus daoine óga, agus ina léirítear a n-éilimh iontu a iniúchadh. Ní laghdaítear leis sin údarás ná freagrachtaí na Ranna agus na ngníomhaireachtaí aonair ina ról chun beartas a cheapadh agus a fhorfheidhmiú chun dul i bhfeidhm ar bheatha leanaí. Mar shampla, i limistéar na cosanta leanaí, leagaimid béim ar thábhacht gach earnáil chun freagracht a ghlacadh as sábháilteacht agus leas leanaí san earnáil sin. Is prionsabal tábhachtach é sin *Tús Áite do Leanaí*, faoina mbíonn cúram ag gach Roinn agus gníomhaireacht as cumhdach leas na leanaí agus na ndaoine óga i gcomhthéacs na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn siad. Ciallaíonn sé sin nach mbíonn an Roinn seo freagrach as gach cúrsa a bhaineann le leanaí. Ina ionad sin, is amhlaidh a fheidhmímid ról tacúil chun cuidiú le Ranna eile chun beartas an Rialtais ina gcuid limistéar féin a fhorfheidhmiú.

Ár gCuspóirí Straitéiseacha:

- Forfheidhmítear *Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile*;
- Bíonn cúram agus oideachas sna luathbhlianta den scoth ar fáil ar bhealach inrochtana agus inacmhainne;
- Bíonn córais leasa agus cosanta leanaí ag feidhmiú go héifeachtach agus go sofhreagrach;
- Cuirtear chun cinn agus tacaítear leis an mbeartas fianaise-bhunaithe, agus glacann leanaí agus daoine óga rannpháirt i gcinntí a fheidhmíonn tionchar ar a mbeatha féin;
- Tacaítear le caighdeán arda comhlíonta um rialachas agus freagracht, agus cuirtear i bhfeidhm iad; agus
- Feabhsaítear an fheidhmíocht trí ailíniú éifeachtach na n-acmhainní.

Is faide amach sa Ráiteas seo a sholáthróimid níos mó mionsonraí i leith na gcuspóirí straitéiseacha úd agus i leith na ngnóthachan a bhfuilimid ag súil leo do gach ceann acu. Is inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil gach bliain i rith shaolré na Straitéise seo a shocraímid ár ngníomhaíochtaí tosaíochta chun iad a ghnóthú agus na torthaí a dtuairisceoidimid dul chun cinn ina leith.

An Comhshaol Oibriúcháin:

Ba í aird ár sainordaithe ná an Reifreann um cheart linbh, bunú Tusla agus achtachán an tAcht um Thús Áite do Leanaí 2015 nuair a céadbhunaíodh an Roinn thiar sa bhliain 2011. Táimid tar éis bogadh ar aghaidh maidir lenár dtosaíochtaí anois, agus múnlaítear iad trí na tiomantais sa Chlár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíocht le béim ar fhorbairtí sa chúram leanaí, feabhsú na cosanta leanaí, laghdú an bhochtanaís i measc leanaí, tacú le saothar tras-Rialtais i leith na heaspa dídine agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar an mí-bhuntaíste. Is ag Aguisín 1 a fhaightear na tiomantais dár sannadh freagracht ceannais leis an Roinn. Ina theannta sin is amhlaidh a fhaighimid treoir ó réimse gealltanais trasghearrthach i leith na fostaíochta (An Plean Gníomhaíochta do Phoist), na tithíochta, na sláinte, an chomhshaoil, an oideachais agus an athchóirithe (Athchóirití na Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Athnuachan na Státseirbhíse).

Comhlíonaimid ár bhfreagrachtaí reatha, go háirithe i rialachas agus forbairt Tusla agus idirghabhálaithe agus soláthraithe seirbhíse eile nach iad. Leanaimid orainn ag foghlaim faoi bheatha leanaí, faoin gcaoi ina bhfeiceann siad a stádas sa saol seo agus faoin dúshlán chun na héilimh sin a shásamh. Leagaimid béim shonrach ar an tábhacht a bhaineann leis an éisteacht le leanaí agus le tuairimí daoine óga, agus le tacaíocht a thabhairt dá rannpháirtíocht sna cinní a théann i bhfeidhm ar a gcuid beatha. Oibrímid i gcomhshaol idirnáisiúnta lena n-áirítear ár mballraíocht den Aontas Eorpach, de Chomhairle na hEorpa agus de na Náisiúin Aontaithe.

Tugtar treoir dúinn le roinnt prionsabal oibriúcháin sa chomhshaol reatha. Áirítear leo siúd:

Éileamh na Trédhearcachta: Is i gcomhshaol trédhearcach a oibrímidne. Is ann do réimse eagraíochtaí a dhéanann iniúchadh, breithmheas, trácht agus moltaí ag éirí as ár n-oibleagáidí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta don rialachas, don cháilíocht agus do chearta na leanaí. Táimid tar éis bheith oscailte ón tús don scrúdú sin, agus coinnímid orainn ag áireamh torthaí ar bith leis na feabhsuithe seirbhíse.

Freagracht: Bíonn buiséad suntasach againn (Vóta). Oibrímid leis na gníomhaireachtaí faoinár sainchúram agus le comhlachtaí éagsúla a fhaigheann cistí ón Státchiste chun feidhmíocht agus rialachas a mhonatóireacht, chun a chinntiú go mbaintear an leas is éifeachtaí as airgead na gcáiníocóirí.

Bainistiú Riosca: Aithnímid mar Roinn go mbainfidh leibhéal riosca bunúsach lenár gcineál saothair i gcónaí. Féadann cineál an riosca bheith straitéiseach, ina riosca airgeadais, oibriúcháin, cáilmheasa, nó bheith bainteach leis an gcomhlíonadh. Déanaimid monatóireacht ar gach riosca corparáideach agus ag leibhéal an aonaid. Tá réimse beart curtha i dtoll a chéile againn atá deartha chun an dóchúlacht go dtarlóidh gach riosca a laghdú, ach glacaimid leis gur féidir le fachtóirí laistigh nó lasmuigh dár smacht díreach tionchar a fheidhmiú ar an dóchúlacht go dtarlóidh rud éigin. Cé go mbímid réidh chun glacadh le rioscaí rialaithe chun cur le deiseanna nua agus chun bealaí nuálaíoch a aimsiú chun ár gcuspóirí a chur chun cinn, ní sheasfaimid aon lamháltas do rioscaí a théann i bhfeidhm ar chosaint, sábháilteacht agus leas leanaí, ná a sháraíonn ár nósanna imeachta oibriúcháin ná na ceangaltas rialaitheacha.

Athnuachan agus athrú sa Státseirbhís: Is i bPlean Athnuachana na Státseirbhíse a thugtar fíis don Státseirbhís agus athruithe praiticiúla lena gcruthófar Státseirbhís a bheidh níos aontaithe, gairmiúla, sofhreagraí agus oscailte agus freagraí. Is éard is aidhm leis ná chun seirbhís de scoth domhanda a sholáthar don Stát agus do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta chun ceannaireacht láidir a sholáthar agus chun bheith rannpháirteach sa chlár athruithe móra sin.

Cumasóirí Bunriachtanacha:

Ciallaíonn sainchúram trasghearrthach na Roinne go gcaithfidh sí cumas inmheánach a thógáil chun bheith éifeachtach, na coinníollacha cearta a chruthú d'fheabhsuithe um sheachadadh seirbhíse agus chun tacaíocht agus ceannaireacht a thabhairt dá comhghleacaithe chun clár lán-Rialtais a sheachadadh do leanaí. Baineann ríthábhacht leis na cumasóirí bunriachtanacha seo a leanas do shaothar na Roinne:

- ceannaireacht shofheicthe le soiléireacht freagrachtaí i leith gníomhartha do thorthaí sainithe;

- caidrimh ina bhfaightear tacaíocht fhrithpháirteach le comhpháirtithe seachtracha agus cainéil chumarsáid éifeachtacha;
- imlonnú éifeacht an eolais agus na n-acmhainní daonna agus airgeadais infhaighte;
- socruithe rialachais éifeachtacha le gach gníomhaireacht agus comhlacht a fhaigheann cistí ón Roinn;
- aird dírithe ar sheachadadh seirbhíse den scoth, chun torthaí níos fearr a ghnóthú do leanaí agus teaghlaigh;
- forbairt beartas agus cleachtas arna múnú le fianaise;
- socruithe éifeachtacha chun éisteacht le glór leanaí agus daoine óga; agus
- solúbthacht chun athrú a chur i bhfeidhm de réir mar is cuí.

Luachanna, Iompraíocht agus Béascna

Is ag croílár ár saothair a chuirimid leanaí, daoine óga agus teaghlaigh, leis an aidhm chun torthaí níos fearr a fháil mar lárchuid na forbartha beartais agus an tseachadta seirbhíse. Agus an méid sin ar bun againn:

- cuirimid luach lenár bhfoireann agus cruthaímid timpeallacht ina bhfoghlaímíonn, ina bhforbraíonn agus ina rannchuireann siad le spriocanna an eagrais;
- cuirimid torthaí do leanaí agus daoine óga ag croílár an tseachadta beartais agus seirbhís, arna mhúnú le fianaise;
- tacaímid le cur chuige coiscitheach agus luath-idirghabhála;
- féachaimid chun bheith nuálaíocht agus ag comhshaothrú le ranna, gníomhaireachtaí agus earnálacha eile;
- bímid freagrach, oscailte don athrú, dírithe ar chustaiméirí agus urramach inár bplé leis an bpobal agus le comhghleacaithe ón obair; agus
- aithnímid an dualgas dearfach chun cur chuige chearta an duine agus an chomhionannais a chinntiú dár saothar.

Dualgas Seirbhíse Poiblí

Aithníonn an Roinn an dualgas dearfach a chuirtear uirthi le halt 42 den Acht um Choimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas 2014, chun féachaint do chearta an duine agus don chomhionannas i gcleachtadh a feidhmeanna.

Cuimsítear lenár saothar machnamh onnghníomhach do chearta leanaí agus daoine óga um fhorbairt an bheartais agus na reachtaíochta. Áirítear leis na samplaí de sin an Reifreann um Chearta an Linbh, Samhail na Rochtana agus na Cuimsitheachta do leanaí le míchumais chun seirbhísí réamhscoile a fháil, agus an Straitéis Óige LADT a bheidh ag teacht aníos.

Táimid tiomanta chun measúnú iomlán a dhéanamh ar chearta an duine agus ar shaincheisteanna comhionannais arb ábhartha dár bhfeidhmeanna iad. Tarlóidh an tuairisciú amach anseo i leith an ábhair seo mar chuid de shocruithe na Roinne um Thuarascáil Bhliantúil.

Creatlach Rialachais

Is inár gCreatlach Rialachais a leagtar amach le níos mó mionsonraí an chaoi ina n-oibríonn ár Roinn, a fhoilsítear ar ár láithreán gréasáin faoi Maidir Linne <http://www.dcy.gov.ie>

<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 1</p>	<p>Forfheidhmítear <i>Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile</i></p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bheith i gceannas ar fhorfheidhmiú agus rialachas tras-Rialtais na Crealtaí Beartais Náisiúnta <i>Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile</i> 2014-2020. • Beartas agus seachadadh seirbhíse a ailíniú agus a chomhchuibhiú chun torthaí feabhsaithe a shlánú do leanaí agus daoine óga ar fud gach earnáil. • Soláthar cistí a ailíniú le cuspóirí beartais aitheanta. • Struchtúir a fhorbairt a thuilleadh chun seachadadh áitiúil seirbhísí leanaí agus daoine óga a rialú. • An comhordú idirghníomhaireachta agus idir-rannach a neartú chun seachadadh seirbhísí gan uaim a ghnóthú (lena n-áirítear meabhairshláinte, míchumas agus oideachas). • Oibriú laistigh de chreatlach idirnáisiúnta. • Cáilíocht agus beartas, soláthar agus cleachtas oibre don ógra arb éifeachtach iad a chur chun cinn ach bonn eolais agus feasa a fheabhsú.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>55. Straitéisí fianaise-bhunaithe curtha i bhfeidhm agus seachadadh torthaí sonraithe.</p> <p>56. Próiseas meastachán, idirbheartaíochtaí, ceangaltais reachtaíochta/rialacháin nua agus leithdháileadh acmhainn dá dtoradh bheith bunaithe ar thosaíochtaí agus torthaí straitéiseacha.</p> <p>57. Forfheidhmiú agus tuairisciú <i>Torthaí níos Fearr, Todhchaí níos Gile (TFTG)</i> le tacaíocht trí struchtúir chomhaontaithe.</p> <p>58. Seachadadh seirbhíse idirghníomhaireachta agus idirdhisciplíneach do leanaí agus teaghlaigh trí chlár na gCoistí do Sheirbhísí Leanaí agus Daoine Óga (CSLDÓ).</p> <p>59. Forfheidhmiú leanúnach an Chláir Leanbhaoise Limistéar-Bhunaithe (CLLB), leis an bhfoghlaim ag múnlú beartais agus cleachtais sna suíomhanna príomhshruthaithe trí Thionscnamh Cáilíochta agus Forbartha Acmhainne nua (TCFA).</p> <p>60. Rannchur tugtha d'fhorbairt beartas agus reachtaíochta "lán-Rialtais" arb ábhartha do leanaí agus teaghlaigh iad.</p> <p>61. Tuairimí Deiridh Choiste na NA um Chearta an Linbh i leith na dTríú agus na gCeathrú comhthuaiscísí tréimhsiúla ar Éirinn bheith curtha ar aghaidh trí na struchtúir agus creatlacha dá bhfuil ann.</p> <p>62. Monatóireacht déanta agus aghaidh tugtha ar fhorbairtí idirnáisiúnta de chuid an AE agus araile.</p> <p>63. An Straitéis Náisiúnta don Óige agus an tAthbhreithniú um Luach ar Airgead bheith curtha i bhfeidhm chun comhtháiteacht agus leanúnachas feabhsaithe idir beartas óige, soláthar, cleachtas agus cistiú a chinntiú.</p>

<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 2</p>	<p>Bíonn cúram agus oideachas sna luathbhlianta den scoth ar fáil ar bhealach inrochtana agus inacmhainne</p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soláthar cúraim leanaí scoilaoise agus ionad cúraim agus oideachais luathóige lena mbaineann scoth agus inrochtaineacht a fheabhsú do leanaí idir breith agus 6 bliana. • Saothrú le Ranna Rialtais eile chun roghanna agus moltaí a bhreithniú a thuilleadh ón nGrúpa Idir-Rannach um Infheistíocht na Todhchaí sa Chúram Leanaí agus sa Chúram Scoilaoise, lena n-áirítear mar shampla, feabhsú saoire máithreachais / aithreachais / tuismitheoireachta.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>64. Scéim Cúraim Leanaí Aonair Nua Inacmhainne le comhchodáin uilíocha agus spriocdhírithé tar éis bheith deartha agus tugtha isteach, a fhreagróidh d'éilimh leanaí agus teaghlach ar chúram leanaí inacmhainne, inrochtana d'ardchaighdeán.</p> <p>65. Síneadh curtha leis an scéim SCOLÓ ionas gur féidir le gach leanbh idir trí bliana d'aois rochtain a fháil ar chúram agus oideachas réamhscoile den scoth.</p> <p>66. An tSamhail Rochtana agus Chuimsithe tar éis bheith rollta amach, ionas gur féidir le leanaí le míchumais rochtain a fháil agus bheith rannpháirteach go bríomhar sa Scéim SCOLÓ.</p> <p>67. Feabhsuithe do cháilíocht an chúraim agus an oideachais luathóige trí mar shampla rialúchán éifeachtach na hearnála, forbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach agus tacaíochtaí sa láthair oibre don lucht saothair agus comhshaothrú leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.</p> <p>68. Socruithe éifeachtúla agus éifeachtacha riaracháin bheith curtha i dtoll a chéile chun tacú le pleanáil agus le seachadadh clár cúraim leanaí agus le bainistiú, tuairisciú agus rialachas iomchuí.</p> <p>69. Córas daingean bheith i bhfeidhm chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar sholáthar agus éileamh agus chun a chinntiú go mbíonn toilleadh iomchuí ar fáil san earnáil.</p>

<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 3</p>	<p>Bíonn córais leasa agus cosanta leanaí ag feidhmiú go héifeachtach agus go sofhreagrach</p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athrú sna córais a stiúradh chun cáilíocht agus comhleanúnachas na dtacaíochtaí le tuismitheoirí a fheabhsú, chun cumhdach leanaí i gcoitinne a fheabhsú, agus chun cáilíocht an chúraim agus na cosanta leanaí a fheabhsú. • Caomhnóireacht iomchuí, shábháilte agus shlán a sholáthar le torthaí feabhsaithe um shláinte, leas agus oideachas do gach leanbh faoi choinneáil. • Struchtúir a fheabhsú chun cáilíocht seirbhíse laethúla agus torthaí optamacha a chinntiú. • Clár reachtaíochta a fhorbairt agus a fhorfheidhmiú. • Tacú le próisis athbhreithnithe neamhspleácha i leith leas agus chosaint leanaí, agus i leith an cheartais don óige. • Moltaí athbhreithnithe neamhspleácha a mheasúnú agus a fhorfheidhmiú i gcomhréir le beartas an Rialtais agus le faomhadh an Rialtais. • Saothrú leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna chun beartas a shocrú i leith leasa oideachasúil, agus le Tusla chun idirghabhálacha fianaise-bhunaithe agus éifeachtacha a chur chun feidhme a bhíonn dírithe ar éilimh leanaí aonair agus a gcuid teaghlach.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>70. Tacaíocht tugtha d’athchóiriú seirbhísí leasa agus cosanta leanaí (arna múnlú le tuairiscí suntasacha) agus stiúradh próiseas comhphlé feidhmíochta le Tusla.</p> <p>71. <i>An tAcht um Thús Áite do Leanaí 2015</i> curtha i bhfeidhm ar bhonn céimnithe i gcomhréir le plean comhaontaithe.</p> <p>72. Gach leanbh faoi choinneáil bheith faoi dhíon Champais Choinneála Leanaí Bhaile an Oibricigh agus leanbh ar bith faoina gcoinneáil sna príosúin d’aoisigh.</p> <p>73. Measúnú déanta ar Thuarascálacha an Údaráis um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte (HIQA), Oifig an Ombudsman do Leanaí (OOL), an Rapóirtéara Speisialta agus cinn eile nach iad maidir le feabhsuithe um sheachadadh seirbhíse agus um fheabhsú beartais.</p> <p>74. An caidreamh reachtaíochta le HIQA bheith tugtha chun críche agus prótacail chumarsáide feabhsaithe bheith ann.</p> <p>75. Reachtaíocht bheith achtaithe chun na socruithe reatha Chaomhnóir <i>ad litem</i> a athchóiriú sna himeachtaí cúraim leanaí (an dlí poiblí).</p>

	<p>76. Forfheidhmiú reachtaíochta agus beartais i ndáil le seachadadh seirbhísí síceolaíochta agus seirbhísí bunaithe ar fhoréigean baile, gnéasach agus inscne-bhunaithe i gcomhar le Tusla, leis an Roinn Sláinte agus le FSS.</p> <p>77. An Bille Uchtála (Leasú) agus an Bille Uchtála (Faisnéis agus Rianú) bheith achtaithe agus churtha chun feidhme i gcomhar le hÚdarás Uchtála na hÉireann agus le Tusla.</p> <p>78. Clár Oibre Thuaidh/Theas um Chosaint Leanaí bheith curtha i bhfeidhm.</p> <p>79. Athbhreithniú den Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 bheith tugtha chun críche.</p> <p>80. Clár Leanbhaoise Bunaithe ar Limistéir bheith forfheidhmithe mar chuid de chur chuige lán-Rialtais chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an mbochtanas óige.</p> <p>81. Tacaíocht bheith tugtha don Choimisiún Imscrúdúcháin (Árais Mháithreacha agus Naíonán agus ábhair ghaolmhara faoi leith) chun seachadadh i leith a théarmaí tagartha.</p> <p>82. Beartha ábhartha bheith curtha i bhfeidhm chun tacaíocht a sholáthar do theaghlaigh agus leanaí gan dídean, faoi mar a aithníodh in <i>Éire a Atógáil</i>.</p> <p>83. Na moltaí in <i>Athbhreithniú an ESRI den Chlár Críochnaithe Scolaíochta</i> bheith curtha chun feidhme agus straitéis nua don chlá bheith forbartha, ag tabhairt an athbhreithnithe DEIS san áireamh.</p>
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<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 4</p>	<p>Cuirtear chun cinn agus tacaítear leis an mbeartas fianaise-bhunaithe, agus glacann leanaí agus daoine óga rannpháirt i gcinntí a fheidhmióinn tionchar ar a mbeatha féin</p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saothrú le heochair-pháirtithe chun tacú le taighde agus le tógáil acmhainne taighde, agus chun eolas agus sonraí a fheabhsú, i limistéir a bhaineann le beatha leanaí • Clár breithmheasa beartais a fhorbairt agus a sheachadadh arb ábhartha do shaothar na Roinne é. • Córais sonraí agus faisnéise iomchuí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú chun pleanáil, monatóireacht, breithmheas agus maoirsiú a fheabhsú. • Aistriú agus feidhmiú na faisnéise a chur chun cinn chun tacú le forbairt fhorbairt beartais agus sheachadadh seirbhíse ar fianaise-bhunaithe iad. • Struchtúir náisiúnta agus áitiúla do rannpháirteachas ag leanaí agus daoine óg sa chinnteoireacht a mhaoirsiú agus a fhorbairt.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>84. Bainistiú agus Maoirsiú <i>Ag Fás Aníos in Éirinn</i> lena n-áirítear forfheidhmiú réimse gníomhaíochtaí aistrithe eolais.</p> <p>85. Seachadadh cheangaltais bhreithmheasa faoin gcód caiteachais phoiblí agus rannpháirtíocht le gníomhaíochtaí a thacaíonn le cuspóirí Sheirbhís Luachála Eacnamaíche Rialtas na hÉireann.</p> <p>86. Tacar náisiúnta táscairí do Leanaí agus Daoine Óga arna n-ailíniú le BOBF bheith forbartha agus tuairisciú tugtha ina leith.</p> <p>87. Córas tuairiscithe sonraí staitistiúla bheith forbartha chun tacú le saothar na Roinne agus a cuid geallsealbhóirí.</p> <p>88. Foilsítear na tuarascálacha um <i>Staid Leanaí an Náisiúin</i> go tréimhsiúil de réir mar a thagann siad ar fáil.</p> <p>89. Forfheidhmiú na <i>Straitéise Náisiúnta Taighde agus Sonraí maidir le Saol Leanaí 2011-2016</i>, agus soláthar tacaíochta don taighde agus do ghníomhaíochtaí taighde a bhaineann le leanaí agus daoine óga.</p> <p>90. Dul chun cinn i leith fhorfheidhmiú na dtiomantas sa <i>Straitéis Náisiúnta um rannpháirteachas leanaí agus daoine óga sa chinnteoireacht 2015-2020</i> le monatóireacht agus tuairisciú déanta orthu go bliantúil.</p> <p>91. Straitéis Óige LADT bheith forbartha agus foilsithe.</p> <p>92. Tacaíocht bheith tugtha do Chomhairle na nÓg agus forbairt déanta uirthi go háitiúil agus go náisiúnta.</p>

93. Mol Rannpháirteachais Leanaí agus Daoine Óga bheith bunaithe agus forbartha.

94. Tacaíocht tugtha do Ranna Rialtais agus do ghníomhaireachtaí Stáit chun dul i gcomhairliúchán le daoine óga faoin mbeartas, reachtaíocht, seirbhísí agus saincheisteanna taighde arb ábhartha dá saol iad.

95. An Tionscadal um Fhianaise an Taighde sa Bheartas agus sa Chleachtadh i leith an cheartais óige bheith curtha i bhfeidhm agus an Scéim Maoirseachta Bannaí bheith rollta amach agus meastóireacht déanta uirthi.

<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 5</p>	<p>Tacaítear le caighdeáin arda comhlíonta um rialachas agus freagracht, agus cuirtear i bhfeidhm iad</p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feidhmíocht Tusla, a comhlíonadh leis na forálacha rialachais agus cuntasachta ábhartha, agus a seachadadh de chlár athchóirithe seirbhíse comhaontaithe a mhaoirsiú. • A chinntiú go mbíonn socruithe dea-chleachtais um rialachas, bainistiú riosca agus freagracht ann i ndáil leis an Roinn, a cuid gníomhaireachtaí, idirghabhálaithe agus soláthraithe seirbhíse eile. • Leanúint ar aghaidh le forbairt na breithmheasacláir agus le chomhtháthú na breithmheasa leis an tuairisciú agus leis an tuairisciú feidhmíochta, lena n-áirítear forbairt táscairí torthaí ar fud gach clár seachadtha seirbhíse.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>96. Socruithe láidre rialachais, maoirsithe agus tuairiscithe bheith ann agus dlúthpháirtíocht le Bord agus le foireann bhainistíochta Tusla chun tuairisciú tráthúil agus cuimsitheach, rabhadh luath, rialuithe iomchuí agus measúnú feidhmíochta agus riosca a sholáthar.</p> <p>97. Socruithe láidre rialachais agus maoirsithe bheith i bhfeidhm le comhlachtaí faoi shainchúram na Roinne, agus iad cumraithe i gcomhréir leis an gCód Cleachtais do Rialachas na gComhlachtaí Stáit 2016.</p> <p>98. Creatlach rialachais agus monatóireachta bheith i bhfeidhm do sheirbhísí arna seachadadh ag idirghabhálaithe agus soláthraithe seirbhíse ag fáil cistí ó Vóta na Roinne – lena n-áirítear socruithe bainistithe riosca, méadraigh shainithe agus meicníochtaí tuairiscithe.</p> <p>99. Sraith táscairí feidhmíochta arna forbairt do Tusla agus do ghníomhaireachtaí eile agus tacaíochtaí earnálacha ar scála mór (m.sh. cúram óige agus leanaí) de réir mar is cuí.</p> <p>100. Athbhreithnithe Luach ar Airgead curtha i gcrích agus curtha chun feidhme sna heochairlimistéir chaiteachais.</p> <p>101. Córais faisnéise agus bainistithe airgeadais bheith i bhfeidhm chun tacú le pleanáil, seachadadh agus measúnú feabhsaithe an tsoláthair óige den scoth.</p> <p>102. Taiscéaladh ar na roghanna chun dul i ngleic le seirbhísí daingne de chuid na Roinne Coimirce Sóisialaí um chlárúchán cliant agus bainistiú aitheantais, i gcomhthéacs na scéimeanna cúraim leanaí.</p>

<p>Cuspóir Straitéiseach 6</p>	<p>Feabhsaítear an fheidhmíocht trí ailíniú éifeachtach na n-acmhainní</p>
<p>Gníomhaíochtaí Tosaíochta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chinntiú go mbíonn dóthain acmhainní ag an Roinn chun a cuid cuspóirí a shásamh. • Comhshaol oibre ina ndírítear ar thorthaí a chur chun cinn, chun lucht saothair inspreagtha agus éagsúil a mhealladh chuige, a bheith gafa leis agus a choinneáil, lena n-áirítear ceannairí a sholáthraíonn stiúradh straitéiseach dó. • Lucht saothair arb oilte agus inniúil go teicniúil iad a fhorbairt. • Spreagadh a thabhairt do chomhshaol comhoibritheach ar fud na rannán agus na n-aonad, agus leas a bhaint as an teicneolaíocht agus sonraí chun a mhisean a chomhlíonadh níos éifeachtaí agus níos éifeachtúla. • Forbairt an lucht saothair a neartú trí dhlúthpháirtíocht le Gníomhaireachtaí, comhlachtaí rialaitheacha agus le hinstitiúidí tríú leibhéal.
<p>Torthaí</p>	<p>103. Córas daingean d'anailísiú éilimh agus úsáid acmhainní.</p> <p>104. Tacaíocht Rannach leanúnach d'fhorfheidhmiú Phlean Athnuachana na Státseirbhíse.</p> <p>105. Forbairt an lucht saothair a neartú thar gach seirbhís chistithe trí dhlúthpháirtíocht le fostóirí, comhlachtaí rialaitheacha agus le hinstitiúidí tríú leibhéal.</p> <p>106. Roinn chuig a mealltar agus a gcoinnítear daoine cáilithe cuí a dteastaíonn uathu chun bheith ag obair inti.</p> <p>107. Lucht saothair dhlúthpháirteach agus dinimiciúil ar solúbtha agus soiléir iad faoi na hionchais uathu.</p> <p>108. Cultúr den fhorbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach bheith leabaithe sa Roinn.</p>

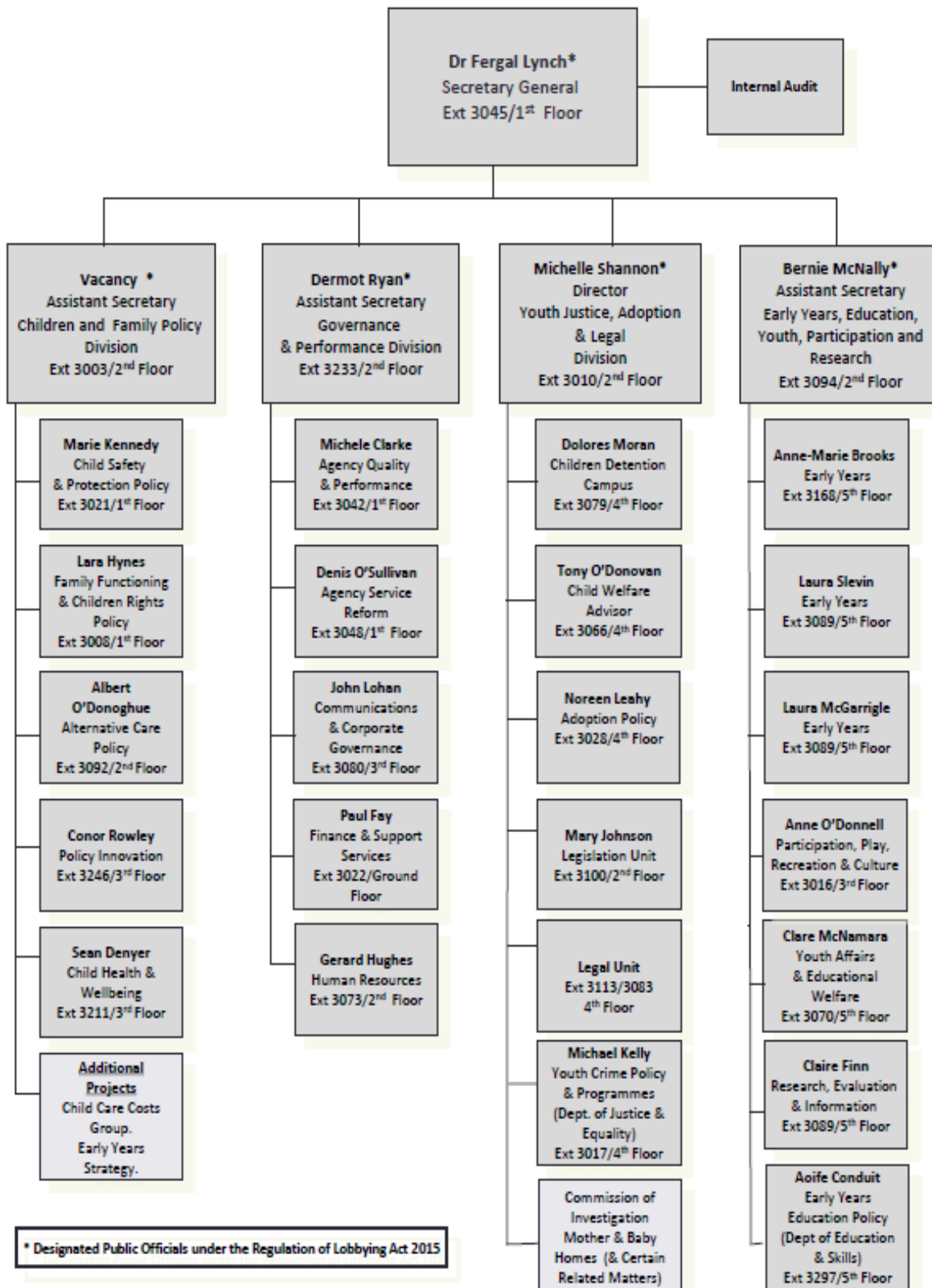
Aguisín 1

Is í an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige an Treoir-Roinn i leith na 32 tiomantas thíos sa Chlár don Rialtas.

Tuairisc i leith na dTiomantas
Scéim nua chun rochtain ar na cláir Chúraim agus Oideachais Luathóige a chinntiú do leanaí óga le míchumais a bheidh ag tosú i mbliana. Cinnteoidimid a thuilleadh forbartha i leith an tionscnaimh úd.
Athbhreithniú agus measúnú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an chéad bhliain den réamhscolaíocht agus ar chur chun feidhme an churaclaim Aistear, agus athbhreithniú a áireamh freisin chun a chinntiú gur féidir le leanaí an dá bhliain iomlána a thapú.
Athbhreithniú neamhspleách ar an gcostas a bhaineann le soláthar cúraim leanaí den scoth i suíomhanna príobháideacha agus pobail a stiúradh agus a fhoilsiú, i gcomhréir le prionsabal proifisiúnú leanúnach na hearnála. Coinneoidimid orainn ag tacú le tionscnaimh agus athchóirithe cáilíochta agus proifisiúnaithe ar nós Tús níos Fearr, Síolta agus an Ciste Foghlaimora
Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorfheidhmiú rialacháin agus chaighdeáin cháilíochta nua, agus oibriú i dtreo oiliúna breise sa gharchabhair phéidiatraice don fhoireann
Athbhreithniú agus athchóiriú ar an réimeas cigireachta, agus cistiú a tharraingt siar ó sholáthraithe nach sásaíonn caighdeáin cháilíochta
Féachfaimid le Plean Tacaíochta Náisiúnta don Tuismitheoireacht a fhoilsiú, le réimse beart praiticiúil agus tacúil ann do gach tuismitheoir.
Rachaimid i ngleic leis an mbochtanas i measc leanaí ach cláir luath-idirghabhála bunaithe sa phobal a mhéadú.
Tacaímid le tabhairt isteach samhla daingne don chúram leanaí fóirdheontais ardchaighdeáin do leanaí idir 9 agus 36 mí d'aois chun is go mbainfidh leanaí agus teaghlaigh fíorthairbhe as na sochair ón infheistíocht níos mó, i gcomhréir le moladh na ECFE gurb é an chur chuige sin an bealach is fearr chun inacmhainneacht agus cáilíocht a ghnóthú in éineacht ná trí ionaid chúraim leanaí fóirdheontais.
Forbróimid tacaíochtaí spriocdhírthe chun costais chúraim leanaí a laghdú, chun rogha thuismitheoireachta a leathnú agus chun tacaíochtaí a mhéadú do thuismitheoirí a fhanann sa bhaile.
Tabharfaimid isteach córas nua chun tacú le cúram iarscoile den scoth do leanaí scoilaoise agus chun é a fhormhéadú.
Leanfaimid ar aghaidh ag tacú le hionaid chúraim leanaí fóirdheontais do theaghlaigh ar ioncam íseal.
Agus aitheantas á thabhairt don éileamh ar fhóirdheontais bhreise don chúram leanaí faoi mar a mholtar thuas, féachfaimid chun na scéimeanna reatha a chuíchóiriú chun is go mbeidh siad níos inrochtana do thuismitheoirí agus soláthraithe araon.
Stiúrfaimid an cháilíocht chun cinn ar fud na hearnála ach infheistíocht a dhéanamh i bproifisiúnú an lucht saothair, tríd an bhforbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach laistigh de chlár bhreisoideachais agus ardoideachais.
Aithnímid an luach a bhaineann leis an gcúram leanaí neamhfhoirmiúil do theaghlaigh, agus tacaímid le forbairt de chlár céimnithe athchóirithe d'fheighlithe leanaí, ag éascú don tacaíocht do theaghlaigh agus feighlithe leanaí araon.
Maoineoidimid formhéadú na Seirbhísí Óige a thacaíonn go sonrath le Luathfhágáilithe Scoile chun fostaíocht a fháil; agus is amhlaidh leis an aitheantas a thugaimid do luach na seirbhísí agus na ngrúpaí úd a dhéanfaimid iniúchadh ar an gcumas do nascálacha níos mó idir gníomhaireachtaí d'fhorbairt deiseanna níos iomadúla (m.sh. printíseachtaí nua agus pleanáilte).

Tacaímid leis an deis fhéideartha do dhaoine óga chun tairbhe a bhaint as meantóirí tacúla agus as eiseamláirí chun naisc bhríomhara a thógáil ina gcuid beatha. Maoineoimid scéim phíolótach inar féidir caidrimh threorach agus meantóireachta a thógáil ag leibhéal pobail agus réigiúnach, le béim ar thorthaí níos fearr agus ar shaoránacht níos gníomhaí.
Cuirfimid i bhfeidhm freisin na Ráiteas um Chumhdach Leanaí mar chuid den reachtaíocht Tús Áite do Leanaí. Forghníomhófar nósanna imeachta grinnfhiosrúcháin daingne agus éifeachtúla do gach post mar a mbaineann rochtain shuntasach do leanaí agus d'aoisigh leochaileacha.
Athbhreithneoidimid oibriú Chaomhnóir <i>ad litem</i> (CAL) chun a chinntiú go bhfaigheann tuairim an linbh ionadaíocht éifeachtach i gcónaí sna himeachtaí cúirte.
Tacóimid le heagrais deonacha a rannchuireann le treoir ár ndaoine óga amach anseo.
Soláthróimid tacaíocht leanúnach freisin do Tusla chun seirbhísí idirghabhála spriocdhírthe a sheachadadh.
Tacóimid freisin le húsáid mhéadaithe na seirbhísí idirghabhála teiripeacha do leanaí faoi choinneáil laistigh de Bhaile an Oibricigh, lena n-áireofar an tsíceolaíocht, an teiripe urlabhra agus teanga agus atreorú de réir mar is cuí do sheirbhísí andúile i gcomhair leanaí.
Tacóimid agus coinneoidimid ar siúl na cláir sna ceantair faoi mhí-bhuntaíste cosúil leo siúd a fhaigheann tacaíocht i láthair na huairé ó <i>Atlantic Philanthropies</i> .
Athchóireoidimid monatóireacht na n-íocaíochtaí sochair linbh ach an dá chóras monatóireachta tinreamh scoile reatha a chónascadh, arna reáchtáil i láthair na huairé ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Tusla, chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar drochthinreamh laistigh de roinnt teaghlach.
Tacaímid leis an deis fhéideartha do dhaoine óga chun tairbhe a bhaint as meantóirí tacúla agus le taithí agus as eiseamláirí chun naisc bhríomhara a thógáil ina gcuid beatha. Maoineoimid scéim phíolótach inar féidir caidrimh threorach agus meantóireachta a thógáil ag leibhéal pobail agus réigiúnach, le béim ar thorthaí níos fearr agus ar shaoránacht níos gníomhaí.
Cabhróidh tabhairt isteach an dara bliain réamhscoile chun leanaí óga a ullmhú a thuilleadh chun freastal ar an scoil den chéad uair, ag ardú na haoise ag a dtosaítear an scoil chuig 5 bliana d'aois.
Foilseoidimid freisin Straitéis Chríochnaithe Scoile nua chun rátaí críochnaithe scoile a fheabhsú a thuilleadh, go háirithe sna ceantair faoi mhí-bhuntaíste.
Forbróimid Straitéis Óige LADT ina gcuimseofar an t-oideachas, seirbhísí óige, an mheabhairshláinte agus saincheistanna nach iad.
Maoineoimid agus formhéadóimid scéimeanna reatha ar nós an Chláir Leanbhaoise de réir Ceantair, atá tar éis bheith ag forbairt seirbhísí agus clár nuálaíoch do leanaí sna ceantair ar nós Bhaile Munna, lár na cathrach thuaidh, agus Thamhlacht Thiar. Cinnteoidimid comhroinnt agus forfheidhmiú na foghlama ó na cláir sin le tionscnaimh eile de réir mar a fhormhéadaíonn siad a bhfor-rochtain.
Costas an chúraim leanaí a ghiorrú, líon na n-ionad cúraim leanaí fóirdheontais a mhéadú le teaghlaigh ar ioncam íseal a mhéadú agus an dara bliain réamhscoile saor in aisce a thabhairt isteach.
Forfheidhmeoidimid an chéad Straitéis Óige Náisiúnta riamh d'Éirinn, agus maoineoimid scéimeanna cosúil leis an Tionscnamh Infhostaitheachta Óige lena soláthraítear deontais do sheirbhísí óige deonacha a spriocdhírítear ar dhaoine óga faoi mhí-bhuntaíste agus lena bhfeabhsaítear a n-infhostaitheacht.
Athnímid an gá chun tacú le cláir oideachais óige ar fud na hÉireann, ina dtugtar cúnaimh do dhaoine óga chun rochtain a fháil ar an oideachas agus ar dheiseanna fostaíochta.
Tacú le heagrais deonacha a rannchuireann le treoir ár ndaoine óga amach anseo.

Cairt Eagraíochta - Bord Bainistíochta & Freagrachtaí Anad



* Designated Public Officials under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015