



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

# **Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 Ambition, Goals, Commitments**

**Second Report Card  
October 2021 to June 2022**

## **Introduction**

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 commits to the production of a progress report and report card for each year of the Roadmap. This Report Card sets out the status for each of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion commitments for the period October 2021 to June 2022.

**Department of Social Protection**

**19 October 2022**

## Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2021 Report Card

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*Each Roadmap commitment is mapped against the relevant Programme for Government commitment; UN Sustainable Development Goal(s) and action under the EU Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, where appropriate.*

*See Appendix 1 for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Appendix 2 for the 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.*

\*Programme for Government 2020: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e05d-programme-for-government-our-shared-future/>

\*\*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

\*\*\*European Pillar for Social Rights Action Plan: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights_en)

## Government Departments

Due to the formation of a new Government in June 2020 there was a change in Departmental structures. This resulted in a realignment of Roadmap commitment responsibilities to reflect these new Departmental structures.

DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth <i>(formerly Department of Children and Youth Affairs)</i>
DoD	Department of Defence
DoE	Department of Education <i>(formerly Department of Education and Skills)</i>
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment <i>(formerly Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation)</i>
DoF	Department of Finance
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs <i>(formerly Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)</i>
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (new)
DoH	Department of Health
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage <i>(formerly Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)</i>
DoJ	Department of Justice <i>(formerly Department of Justice and Equality)</i>
DPER	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DSP	Department of Social Protection <i>(formerly Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)</i>



DECC Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications  
*(formerly Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)*

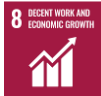
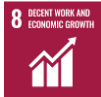
Department of the Taoiseach

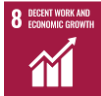

DTCAGSM Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
*(formerly Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)*

DoT Department of Transport *(formerly Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)*



This report card should be read in conjunction with the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025: Second Progress Report*, which can be found on [www.gov.ie/dsp](http://www.gov.ie/dsp).


Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
1	Ensure that progress in respect of Future Jobs Ireland; Enterprise 2025; the Apprenticeship Action Plan; and the Further Education and Training Strategy is monitored and reported as part of the Roadmap monitoring programme.	DSP (lead) DETE; DFHERIS	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery	Reigniting and Renewing the Economy		1
<p>The <a href="#">Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021 to 2025</a> was published in April 2021 and delivery of actions is underway. A steering group continues to monitor implementation of the Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024, <a href="#">Future FET: Transforming Learning</a>. The <a href="#">Economic Recovery Plan</a>, which largely replaced the Future Jobs Ireland agenda, was published in July 2021 and is now being implemented. <a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021–2025</a>, published in July 2021, will support those seeking employment to return to work and support the delivery of the Action Plan for Apprenticeships, the Economic Recovery Plan and the Further Education and Training Strategy. A draft of the Labour Market Advisory Council’s first Annual Report on progress in the implementation of Pathways to Work commitments was discussed at its meeting in June 2022.</p>								
2	Develop and publish a new Further Education and Training Strategy for the next five-year period from 2020, ensuring that it includes specific provisions to support socially excluded groups access training and education support.	DFHERIS	Q1 2020	Q3 2020	Achieved	A New Social Contract		1 3



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	The Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024, <a href="#">Future FET: Transforming Learning</a> was published in July 2020, with implementation monitored by a steering group. New 3-year Strategic Performance Agreements (SPAs) are being developed between SOLAS and the Education and Training Boards, which will reflect the needs of marginalised groups/socially excluded people. Consistency of Learner Supports is one of four key priorities under the Inclusion Pillar within the FET Strategy. The Consistency of Learner Supports in FET Position Paper and Framework for Delivering Consistent Learner Supports in FET, developed with oversight of the ETBI-SOLAS Learner Support Programme Board, is in development and is expected to be published in the second half of 2022.							
3	Develop and publish a successor employment services strategy to <i>Pathways to Work</i> , with a focus on increasing labour market participation and improving employment transitions.	DSP	Q1 2020	Q3 2021	Achieved	Reigniting and Renewing the Economy		4
	The <a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021–2025</a> Strategy was launched on 12 July 2021. The strategy contains 83 specific commitments across five themes to assist people who lost their job during the pandemic, and those who experienced disadvantage in accessing the labour market prior to the pandemic.							
4	Review existing programmes as part of the new employment services strategy, to cater for the needs of marginalised groups/ socially excluded people.	DSP (lead) DFHERIS	Q1 2020	Q3 2021	Achieved	Reigniting and Renewing the Economy A New Social Contract		3 4


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	<p><a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021–2025</a> includes a strand specifically focusing on marginalised groups, providing targeted employment supports to disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, lone parents and minority groups, including members of the Traveller and Roma communities. In December 2021 the report and case studies on the <a href="#">Implementation of the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Learners with an Intellectual Disability</a>, and the Research Report, Guidelines and Toolkit for the Initial and Ongoing Assessment of English Language Competency of Migrant Learners in Further Education and Training were launched.</p>							
5	Convene the Labour Market Advisory Council to advise on the development of a successor plan to PathWays to Work	DSP	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Achieved			4
	<p>The Labour Market Advisory Council was established in 2019, comprising an independent group of industry leaders and labour market experts, including the social partners. It reviewed early drafts of the <a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021-2025</a> strategy and published a response containing recommendations for an early draft in November 2020. Ongoing responsibilities of the Council in relation to <a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021-2025</a> include: monitoring its implementation and reporting to the Minister for Social Protection on progress, including suggesting remedial actions where appropriate; advising on the approach to the evaluation of Community Employment; and contributing to a mid-term review of the strategy in 2023.</p>							
6	Develop a communications campaign to highlight the ability of people to retain key welfare benefits when taking up employment.	DSP	Q4 2019	Ongoing	In Progress			12 14








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	A focused social media campaign directed at those arriving from Ukraine provided information on how key income supports could be retained while taking up employment was undertaken in early 2022. Planning for a campaign directed at a broader cohort of DSP customers will take place in the second half of 2022.							
7	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years ( <i>see also commitment 29 below</i> ).	DCEDIY (lead) DSP	Q4 2019	2022	Achieved	A New Social Contract Reforming and Reimagining our Public Life		9
	An additional 3 weeks, bringing the total to 5 weeks, leave and benefit were introduced in April 2021. Budget 2022 provided for an additional 2 weeks of paid parent's leave and benefit, bringing the total to 7 weeks from July 2022, implemented as part of the transposition of the EU Work-Life Balance Directive.							
8	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 ( <i>see also commitment 30 below</i> ).	DCEDIY	Q4 2019	Q4 2019	Achieved	A New Social Contract		11


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	<p>In the 2020/2021 cycle approximately 66,000 children participated in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Legacy Targeted Schemes. Expenditure in 2021 was €174m. Participation in Early Learning Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC), and by extension the NCS, across 2020/2021 was impacted by COVID-19. Budget 2022 announced two major changes to the NCS: discontinuing the practice of deducting hours spent in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) or school from the entitlement of NCS subsidised hours; and extending eligibility for universal (unassessed) subsidies to under 15s (from end August 2022). The change to the practice in deduction of hours will be of most benefit to families of school or ECCE-aged children in low-income households where at least one parent is not in work or study and took effect in May 2022. A review of the first year of operation of NCS was published in December 2021 and will inform future developments around the NCS.</p>							
	Undertake a Carers Needs Assessment within a community healthcare organisation to assess the needs of family carers across all care groups.	DoH	To commence in 2020	Q3 2023	In Progress	A New Social Contract		18
9	<p>The HSE began piloting a Family Carer Needs Assessment (FCNA) pilot programme (interRAI – International Resident Assessment Instrument) in Community Healthcare West in September 2021 to identify the unmet needs of family carers. Work focused on preparatory work for the pilot including establishing a steering group, developing key project documents, applying for ethics approval and ensuring IT infrastructure is in place. By the end of June 2022, 65 of 100 the initial FCNAs have been completed along with additional feedback questionnaires and data inputted to Qualtrics online survey system to input into the multi-national study, led by InterRAI Canada in 10 countries. Outcomes will allow for further refinement of the FCNA form and assist in designing care plans which consider family carers.</p>							

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10	Introduce a new statutory scheme of regulation for home care designed to support family carers and integrate with other health and social care services.	DoH	To commence in 2019	Q3 2023	In Progress			18
	A statutory scheme for the regulation and financing of home-support services underwent development. This work included the development of the regulatory framework for the new scheme; the examination of the options for the financing model for the scheme; and the development of a reformed model of service-delivery. A public consultation process on the draft national standards was launched in September 2021, with targeted stakeholder consultation on the regulations taking place in January 2022.							
11	Examine options to further support carers who wish to increase their level of engagement with or transition into full time employment, education or training.	DSP	Q2 2020	Q4 2020	Achieved with ongoing delivery			4, 9

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	<p>In October 2021 additional funding of €380,000 was allocated to Care Alliance Ireland and Family Carers Ireland under the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF), using unspent allocations under the 2020 and 2017 DAF Action Plans. This supplementary funding will allow both organisations to build on existing work under the 2020 Dormant Accounts Action Plan, aimed at increasing the employment (including self-employment) and education/training opportunities for carers, including young carers and people with a disability. Under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022, published in November 2021, funding of €5m was secured for 2022.</p> <p>Budget 2022 increased the Carer's Allowance earnings disregard to €350 (for a single person) and to €750 (for a couple) allowing those in receipt of Carer's Allowance to earn more while caring and for more carers who previously would not have qualified to become eligible.</p> <p>The fourth strand of <i>Pathways to Work</i>, 'Working for All - Leaving No One Behind', seeks to improve labour market outcomes for all, including those wishing to enter/re-enter the workforce such as carers.</p>							
12	Establish a statutory code of conduct for the determination of the employment status of workers.	DSP	Q1 2020	2022	In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery			5; 7
	<p>DSP, Revenue Commissioners and Workplace Relations Commission worked with the social partners to agree the text of the <a href="#">Code of Practice on Determining Employment Status</a>, which was published in July 2021. Legislation to place this code on a statutory basis will be brought forward in 2022.</p>							



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13	Build and expand the focused inspection team established to investigate, and prosecute as appropriate, instances of false declaration of workers as self-employed for social insurance purposes.	DSP	Ongoing	Q4 2020	Achieved			7
	A dedicated unit of Social Welfare Inspectors was established with a special focus on targeting and reducing false self-employment nationwide for the purpose of supporting employment rights and the integrity of the Social Insurance Fund. The unit has engaged in a wide array of employment status investigations, resulting in 49 employee determinations and over €400,000 being assessed as underpaid PRSI arising from these reclassifications. The expansion of the Employment Status Investigation Unit was approved, and the number of investigators will be increased to facilitate an increase in the number of employer investigations conducted with particular focus on high-risk sectors.							
14	Enforce legislation providing for the application of interest charges on late payments of social insurance contributions where a worker was incorrectly declared as 'self-employed'.	DSP	Ongoing	2022	In Progress			7
	DSP worked with relevant stakeholders (including the Workplace Relations Commission, DETE, and the Revenue Commissioners) to develop a procedure for Social Welfare Inspectors. A Working Group was established to examine how this commitment could be implemented, with recommendations expected in late 2022.							


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15	Commission, with the support of the Labour Market Advisory Council, a study of trends in employment arrangements in Ireland.	DSP	Q2 2020	Ongoing	In Progress			8
	A preliminary scoping paper on employment arrangements in Ireland was developed by DSP with input from the DETE and the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit in SOLAS. This topic was examined by the Labour Market Advisory Council (LMAC) in September 2021, where it was agreed that an initial literature review on non-standard employment arrangements and an examination of existing data on trends would be produced prior to commissioning research. The Skills and Labour Market Research Unit in SOLAS and the LMAC Secretariat in DSP undertook this analysis, and a combined paper was discussed at the June 2022 meeting of the LMAC. It was agreed that research would be commissioned on transitions in non-standard employment arrangements.							
16	Develop and run a communications campaign to increase awareness of in-work income support payments for families on low-incomes.	DSP	Q4 2019	Ongoing	Deferred			14
	In Q3 2019 DSP undertook an extensive campaign to promote the Working Family Payment. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 on employment levels, communication campaigns were realigned to focus on COVID-19 related income supports and services. Communications strategies in the second half of 2022 will refocus on this area following the normalisation of the economy and labour market.							
17	Institute a biennial review of the earnings thresholds used to qualify for in-work income supports for families on low incomes.	DSP	Q3 2020	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery			12, 14

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	Analysis of the impact of earnings disregards and the earnings patterns of lone parents in receipt of One Parent Family Payment or Jobseeker's Transitional payment were examined in the context of preparations for Budget 2022. The Working Family Payment income limit has been increased by €10 per week for all family sizes. Further analysis was carried out and presented in a paper to the Tax Strategy Group in Quarter 3 2022.							
18	Continue to target a reduction in poverty among children and families on low incomes as part of the annual budget process.	DSP (lead) DPER	Ongoing	Annual	Achieved with ongoing delivery	A New Social Contract Building Stronger and Safer Communities Better Opportunities through Education and Research		11



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	<p>Poverty reduction measures were examined in the context of preparations for the Budget. Budget 2022 measures targeting families and children included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase of €5 to all core weekly payments, including One-Parent Family Payment, Jobseeker's Transitional Payment, Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent's Benefit from January 2022;</li> <li>• Increases to the Qualified Child payment in all weekly payments, by €3 to €48 children aged 12 and over and €2 to €40 for children up to age 12;</li> <li>• Hot School Meals Programme extended from January 2022, benefiting 55,650 students;</li> <li>• An extra 2 weeks Parent's Benefit, to be taken during the first two years of a child's life, or in the case of adoption, within two years of the placement of the child with family from July 2022;</li> <li>• The weekly income threshold for the Working Family Payment increased by €10 regardless of family size;</li> <li>• Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance increases by €10 for each qualifying child from July 2022; and</li> <li>• The maximum income threshold to qualify for the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance for single parent households increased to equal that of two parent households.</li> </ul>							
19	Establish and report on a new target in respect of Child Poverty, to improve Ireland's ranking from 20th to at least 5th for the EU SILC reporting year of 2025. This will be equivalent to reducing the percentage of children under 18 years of age at risk of poverty and social exclusion from 23.9% to 16%.	DSP	Q1 2020 – Q4 2025	Q4 2025	In Progress	A New Social Contract Building Stronger and Safer Communities Better Opportunities through Education and Research		11






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	<p>The most recently available data from the 2021 EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) shows an At-Risk-of-Poverty and Social Exclusion (AROPE) rate for children under 18 years of age at 22.8%, down from 23.5% in 2020, and an EU ranking of 15, down from 20 in 2018.*</p> <p>The EU’s headline poverty target, as set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, is to reduce the number of people At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion by 15 million people by 2030. Ireland’s contribution to this target, approved by Government in May 2022, is based on the Roadmap’s AROPE target of 16%. Accordingly, Ireland has committed to a reduction in the number of people At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion (AROPE) of 90,000, with 50% (45,000) of these to be children. This target is more ambitious than the proposal for Ireland from the European Commission.</p>							
20	Set and report on a new target to further improve Ireland’s EU ranking for ‘in-work poverty’ from 3rd to 2nd by reducing the rate of in-work poverty’ to 2%.	DSP	Q1 2020 – Q4 2025	Q4 2025	In Progress			6; 14
	The most recently available data from the 2021 EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) shows that Ireland’s ‘in-work’ at-risk-of-poverty rate was 4.3%, compared with 6.1% in 2020 (Eurostat, EU-SILC 2021), and an EU ranking of 2.*							
21	Review options for improving the financial management competence and literacy/ access to financial management for people on low incomes and report to Government with a proposed approach.	DSP (lead) DoE; DFHERIS; DRCDD	Q2 2020	Ongoing	In Progress			1; 20


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	<p>The 10-year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy: <a href="#">Adult Literacy for Life</a> (ALL) was published in September 2021. It identifies financial literacy as a critical aspect of day-to-day life and includes actions that target improvements in this. €3m was allocated for the implementation of the strategy in Budget 2022. The inaugural meeting of the ALL implementation Cross Government Group chaired by the Minister for Further and Higher Education Research, Innovation and Science, took place in January 2022. SOLAS and DFHERIS have conducted a national awareness-raising campaign.</p> <p>MABS Support, a company funded by CIB, recruited a Financial Education and Financial Inclusion Executive in November 2021. MABS Support continued to provide money management resources to local MABS services for community education delivery. It developed resources for MABS services to deliver budgeting sessions to the Youthreach programme on the costs of going back to school, and for a money management session for delivery in a learning disability training centre. An eLearning module for all MABS Staff has been developed which focuses on supporting clients and communities with electricity and energy costs. MABS Support also provides online money management education presentations to public bodies on how staff can maintain financial wellbeing in the context of increases in the cost of living.</p>							
22	Finalise an approach for benchmarking pension payments for Government decision.	DSP	Q1 2020	2022	In Progress	A New Social Contract		15
	<p>The Pensions Commission report endorsed the approach to benchmarking and indexation of State Pensions outlined in the Roadmap and recommended its implementation. The Government is considering the Commission's report and will respond to the recommendations in due course.</p>							


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23	Subject to Government decision, develop and prepare any necessary changes to legislation to give effect to a benchmarking approach.	DSP	Q1 2020		To Commence			12; 14
	Delivery of this commitment is awaiting the outcome of commitment 22.							
24	Apply the benchmark in adjusting Pension changes for Budget 2021.	DSP (lead) DPER	Q4 2020		To Commence			15
	Delivery of this commitment is awaiting the outcome of commitment 22.							
25	Consider and prepare a report for Government on the potential application of the benchmarking approach to other welfare payments.	DSP	Q3 2020		To Commence			12; 13; 14
	Delivery of this commitment is awaiting the outcome of commitment 22.							

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26	Continue to train GPs and primary care teams in the management of dementia under the Primary Care Education, Pathways and Research in Dementia (PREPARED) project.	DoH	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery			16
	Online resources and education materials developed under PREPARED continue to be provided to GPs, primary care teams and other health and social care practitioners working with people with dementia through the dementiathrough.ie website, managed by the HSE's National Dementia Office. The HSE's National Dementia Office is developing a Model of Care for Dementia Care. Education and training for health and social care practitioners in primary, acute and social care will be a key enabler of the Model of Care and will include GPs and primary care teams.							
27	Provide 4,500 additional short-term and long-term residential care beds across the public system in Community Nursing Units and other step-down facilities.	DoH	2027	Ongoing	In Progress			16; 18


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	<p>Strategic reform in the model of delivery of care for older people is underway to support older people to remain living independently in their own homes and communities for longer. In this context the profile of public provision between in-patient intermediate care and public long-term residential care began to be re-configured in 2021, with an investment of €125m to fund over 1,250 beds in the community.</p> <p>The National Development Plan 2021-2030, published in October 2021, commits to the continued progress of the existing Community Nursing Unit (CNU) programme, a major capital programme involving work on 88 CNUs across the country. DoH and HSE are working on a programme of reform which will include revised forecasting not least due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also examine developing policy on the design and build for nursing homes, as well as other models of delivery of long-term care for older people, which may include small scale independent living facilities and housing with care.</p>							
28	Continue the refurbishment or replacement of 90 public community nursing units and long-term residential care facilities for older people across the country.	DoH	Ongoing	Ongoing	In Progress			18
	<p>In January 2016, Government announced a comprehensive programme of investment in public residential care Community Nursing Units to replace, upgrade and refurbish care facilities at 90 locations (following the amalgamation of some projects the number of locations now stands at 88). At the end of June 2022 38 projects had been completed, with a further 6 projects anticipated to be completed by the end 2022. Construction is underway on 14 projects while the remainder are at various stages of appraisal, planning and/or design.</p>							



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29	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years ( <i>see also commitment 7 above</i> ).	DCEDIY (lead) DSP	Q4 2019	2022	Achieved	A New Social Contract; Reforming and Reimagining our Public Life		9
	An additional 3 weeks, bringing the total to 5 weeks, leave and benefit were introduced in April 2021. Budget 2022 provided for an additional 2 weeks of paid parent's leave and benefit, implemented as part of the transposition of the EU Work-Life Balance Directive, bringing the total to 7 weeks from July 2022.							
30	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 ( <i>see also commitment 8 above</i> ).	DCEDIY	Q4 2019	Q4 2019	Achieved	A New Social Contract		11
	In the 2020/2021 cycle approximately 66,000 children participated in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Legacy Targeted Schemes. Expenditure in 2021 was €174m. Participation in Early Learning Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC), and by extension the NCS, across 2020/2021 was impacted by COVID-19. See Commitment 8 in relation to changes announced under Budget 2022.							



Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
31	Introduce a range of measures to improve the quality of early learning and care services to better contribute to positive experiences and outcomes for babies and young children, including increasing qualifications for those working in Early Learning and Care and developing the infrastructure of Continued Professional Development (CPD) supports and mentoring.	DCEDIY (lead) DoE	2021	Ongoing	In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery	A New Social Contract		11
<p>Work has commenced on implementation of <a href="#">Nurturing Skills: The Workforce Plan for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare 2022-2028</a> which was published in December 2021. It sets out a pathway to raise qualification levels, create professional development pathways, and promote careers in the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) sector up to the year 2028.</p> <p>The Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) continues to support the development and upskilling of the ELC workforce, with 26 Higher Education Institutions approved to provide 35 Level 7 and 8 programmes for the ELC Sector at the end of June 2022.</p>								



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32	As part of the reform of the early learning and care funding model, develop an appropriate mechanism to control fees charged to parents in return for increased State investment in affordability, quality and sustainability.	DCEDIY	2021	Q3 2022	In Progress	A New Social Contract		11
<p>An Expert Group to develop a new funding model for Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare published a report, <a href="#">Partnership for the Public Good: A New Funding Model for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare</a>, in December 2021. Government approved the 25 recommendations of the group. €73.5m was allocated to this new funding model in Budget 2022, equivalent to €221m full year costs. A Transition Fund was introduced for ELC providers in May 2022 until September 2022, when the new Core Funding scheme will be introduced. Both of these schemes will require providers to keep their fees at or below September 2021 levels. The introduction of this fee freeze will mean that parents using participating services will pay no more than September 2021 fee rates and feel the full affordability effects of other schemes. Further information available at: <a href="https://first5fundingmodel.gov.ie/">https://first5fundingmodel.gov.ie/</a></p>								




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33	Develop mechanisms to provide additional supports to Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings where there are high proportions of children who are at risk of poverty to mitigate the impacts of early disadvantage. Specifically, informed by the DEIS model, develop a programme for the delivery of ELC in the context of concentrated disadvantage.	DCEDIY	2021	Q4 2022	In Progress	A New Social Contract		11
	<p>The Expert Group's report, <a href="#">Partnership for the Public Good: A New Funding Model for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare</a>, published in December 2021, proposed a new funding model to deliver increased State investment to the sector. Providing additional supports to services that are working with high proportions of children who are at risk of poverty and/or disadvantage was central to the work of the Expert Group. Included in the group's recommendations is Universal and targeted Tackling Disadvantage funding and support, building on Core Funding. The report made specific recommendations on promoting social inclusion and tackling disadvantage in ELC through the targeted strand which is informed by the DEIS model in schools, as well as the continued provision of the universal Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and the National Childcare Scheme with enhancements. A change to National Childcare Scheme (in the context of how wrap-around of school/ECCE hours operate) took effect in May 2022 which has brought about increased hours of ELC/SAC for many children and services in areas of disadvantage.</p>							

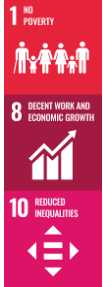
Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
34	Assess outcomes from the 2019/2020 hot school meals pilot and bring forward a proposal to Government on the feasibility and desirability of extending the pilot to all schools ( <i>see also commitment 63 below</i> ).	DSP (lead) DPER	Q2 2021	2022	In progress	Better Opportunities through Education and Research		11
	<p>Following an evaluation of the hot school meals pilot in 2020 and an initial extension of the hot school meals programme under Budget 2021, a further extension was announced under Budget 2022 for the provision of hot school meals to 81 DEIS primary schools which had submitted an expression of interest to avail of hot meals in 2021 but were not selected. By the end of June 2022, 76 of the 81 schools had commenced providing hot schools meals, while 5 schools decided not to participate. There were 54,266 children in receipt of the hot school meal at the end of June 2022. In July 2022, it was announced that 310 newly designated DEIS schools can avail of the school meals programme this year, including over 270 additional primary schools who may provide hot school meals.</p> <p>Following a Request for Tender competition, RSM Ireland were appointed to undertake an evaluation of the School Meals Programme, which commenced in April 2022.</p>							
35	Extend GP care without fees to children aged between 6 and 12 years in a phased basis starting in 2020.	DoH	Q4 2020	Ongoing	In Progress			16
	<p>The Health (General Practitioner Service and Alteration of Criteria for Eligibility) Act 2020, enacted in August 2020, provides for the phased expansion of GP care without fees to all children aged 12 years and under. Budget 2022 provided resources to implement GP care without charges for children aged 6 and 7, with implementation expected in 2022.</p>							




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No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
36	Review the current system of classifying second adults in households as 'dependant adults' with a view to individualising welfare payments and supports.	DSP	Q2 2020	2022	In Progress			12; 13
	Progress on this commitment will be made in conjunction with work ongoing on the development of a single working age payment and a pay-related benefit system.							
37	Use up-to-date research and data to inform decisions with respect to the level of income disregards to ensure lone parents are not disadvantaged in taking up part time work.	DSP	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery	A New Social Contract		9; 13; 14
	Relevant research and data informed the development of associated measures which were introduced in Budget 2022. These included analysis of the impact of the earnings disregards and the earnings patterns of lone parents in receipt of One Parent Family Payment or Jobseeker's Transitional payment. Budget 2022 provided for a €10 weekly increase in the income limits for Working Family Payment.							

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38	Identify specific measures and actions which can increase employment rates among lone parents as part of the new employment services strategy.	DSP	Q4 2020	Q3 2021	Achieved			4; 9; 14
	<p>The <a href="#">Pathways to Work</a> Strategy includes a number of actions to improve employment outcomes for lone parents. Under Strand 4, <i>Working For All - Leaving No One Behind</i>, the Government commits to developing and operating 'Returner' programmes to encourage and support people who left the workforce and have been outside of the workforce for some time to take up employment, including lone parents. Additionally, all activation programmes outlined in <a href="#">Pathways to Work</a> are available to eligible lone parents. To increase participation of lone parents in these supports, the Government has also committed to increase the number of children in receipt of State supports provided under Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare Funding Programmes.</p> <p>A pilot project, Lone Parents Digital Activation, commenced in November 2021 in the North-East region. The project is led by DSP, with One Family as the NGO delivery partner in Ireland. This is an EU-funded project in conjunction with two other Member States, Greece and Finland.</p>							
39	Continue with the implementation of the DEIS Plan 2017.	DoE	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery			1


Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
	<p>The DEIS plan continues to be implemented by DoE. Budget 2022 provided an additional allocation of €18m in 2022 (full year allocation of €32m), an increase of over 20% in funding for the DEIS programme.</p> <p>In March an expansion of the DEIS programme was announced that has allowed for the inclusion of 322 additional schools in the DEIS programme from September 2022. This means that the DEIS programme now supports over 240,000 students in over 1,200 schools.</p> <p>The Department's investment in DEIS in the 2022/23 school year includes providing for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCL supports to all DEIS Urban Primary and DEIS Post Primary schools.</li> <li>• Additional posts for DEIS Band 1 primary schools to allow for a reduced pupil teacher ratio.</li> <li>• Curriculum supports</li> <li>• Priority access to continuing professional development</li> <li>• DEIS grants and enhanced book grants.</li> </ul>							
40	Continue to report on progress against the national target for reducing the number of children experiencing consistent poverty by the end of 2020 and set a new target for the period to the end of 2025 consistent with any revised EU targets for the period.	DSP (lead) DCEDIY; DoE; DoH	Ongoing	Ongoing	In Progress	A New Social Contract Building Stronger and Safer Communities Better Opportunities through Education and Research		11


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No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
	<p>The 2021 Survey on Income &amp; Living Conditions (SILC) data shows that the consistent poverty rate for children aged 0-17 years was 5.2%, down from 7.2% in 2020.*</p> <p>Initial work on the development of a new national child poverty target took place in the first half of 2022 by DSP and DCEDIY. This takes place within the context of the <a href="#">European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan</a>, the development of an EU-wide Child Guarantee and the development of a successor to the <a href="#">Better Outcomes Brighter Future: National Framework for Children and Young People</a> which ended in 2020.</p>							
41	The Government commits to the continued implementation of the National Disability Inclusion and Comprehensive Employment Strategies and to their review in 2021.	DCEDIY	Q4 2021	Q4 2024	In Progress			3; 4; 17
	<p>The NDIS has been extended to the end of 2022 due to delays caused by COVID-19 in implementing the strategy. Work continued to finalise the third action plan of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities to cover the period 2022-2024.</p> <p>Funding was provided in Budget 2022 to continue the Employers for Change initiative which provides a helpdesk to support employers to recruit people with disabilities. The Disability Participation and Awareness Fund, aimed at supporting people with disabilities to participate in activities at local level was launched in October 2021, with funding of €2.5m provided 39 projects, through local authorities.</p>							



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No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
42	Specific poverty reduction and employment targets will be set for people with disabilities: Reduce the AROPE rate from 36.9% first to 28.7% (2025) and then to 22.7% (2030); and increase the employment rate from 22.3% first to 25% (2021) and then to 33% (2027).	DSP	Ongoing	Ongoing	In Progress	A New Social Contract		17
	<p>The 2021 At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE) rate for People with Disabilities is 38.9%, an increase from 34.0% in 2020.* Under Budget 2022 targeted measures at reducing the AROPE rate included increases to the upper earnings disregard for both Disability Allowance and Blind Pensions by €25 per week and a €5.10 increase to the general weekly disregard for Disability Allowance. This is in addition to a €5 increase in the maximum weekly rate of Illness Benefit, Disability Allowance, Blind Pension and Invalidity Pension, with proportionate increases for people receiving a reduced rate.</p> <p><a href="#">Pathways to Work 2021-2025</a> reaffirmed the Roadmap's commitment to increase the employment rate for people with disabilities from 22% to 33%. Tailored employment services are delivered to people with disabilities, and working with contractors under the Employability and Ability programme banners to deliver specialist Case Officers to work with people with disabilities. These interventions are designed to help people with disabilities access supports, training and employment opportunities. Under the fourth strand of <a href="#">Pathways to Work</a>, 'Working For All - Leaving No One Behind', there is an additional commitment to deliver an Early Engagement Roadmap for young people with disabilities; and to review the current long-term disability payment schemes with a view to removing inconsistencies and anomalies and ensure that they recognise the continuum of disabilities and support employment. In terms of implementation, an early engagement invitation letter was finalised via consultation with the Disability Consultative Forum and accessible formats created. A national network of Designated Employment Service Officers has been established (a list is available on gov.ie), and a national roll out commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</p>							



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43	Develop and consult on a 'strawman' proposal for the restructuring of long-term disability payments to simplify the system and take account of the concerns expressed in the <i>Make Work Pay</i> report.	DSP	Q4 2020	Q4 2022	In Progress			17
	Work on the draft 'strawman' proposal has continued. It was presented to the DSP Policy Committee in November 2021 and it is expected that the strawman will be published by the end of 2022.							
44	Commission a study on the cost of disability and publish a final report with recommendations.	DSP (lead) DPER	Commission Q2 2019 Report Q1 2020	Q4 2021	Achieved	A New Social Contract		17
	The report, carried out by Indecon International Economic Consultants, was published on 7 December 2021. The Government has referred the report to the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Steering Group (NDISSG). This Group has oversight of monitoring the key frameworks for policy and action to address the needs of persons with disabilities in Ireland. Indecon presented the findings in the Report to the NDISSG in December 2021 and the group will consider the actions required by the various Government Departments on foot of recommendations contained in the report.							
45	Develop an implementation plan to deliver on the objectives of tackling loneliness and isolation.	DoH	Commenced in 2019 continuing in 2020	Ongoing	In Progress	Universal Health Care		16






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	<p>Healthy Ireland is supporting Social Prescribing, sometimes referred to as community referral, which is a way of linking patients in primary care with sources of support within the community including; Arts and creativity, Bibliotherapy, Exercise, Peer and group support, Green activity, Men's sheds and Computerised therapy. Social Prescribing targets people over 18 years of age who have vague or unexplained symptoms, experience depression or anxiety, are frequent attendees to GPs, have poor social supports, feel isolated or lonely, experience psychological difficulties and longer-term mental health problems. Social Prescribing is aligned with the overall vision and goals in Connecting For Life. The Sláintecare Integration Fund supports seven Social Prescribing programmes, based in Dublin, Waterford, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim, Wicklow, Cork and Kerry. Healthy Ireland also supports the Irish Men's Shed Association's Sheds for Life 10-week Health Promotion programme, which is aimed at engaging men to successfully facilitate more open and meaningful discussions around their physical and mental wellbeing while encouraging men to maintain healthier lifestyle choices and increase their awareness in areas such as physical activity, healthy eating and mental wellbeing.</p>							
46	Set specific new targets which can inform the development of relevant Government policies and strategies: increase the rate of Active Citizenship to 17% and Participation in Voluntary Work to 34%.	DRCD (lead) All Departments	Ongoing	Ongoing	In Progress			



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	<p>Under the first National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (2014 – 2020), ESD themes and principles (including Active Citizenship) have been integrated across the curriculum, into the assessment and inspection processes and into the requirements for Initial Teacher Education programmes. <a href="#">The Second National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development</a> to 2030 was launched in June 2022. It is based on 5 key priority areas including Empowering and Mobilising Youth and Accelerating Local and Community Level Action. Implementation will be co-sponsored by DoE, DFHERIS and DCEDIY. The Implementation Plan to 2026 aims to promote awareness of and participation in volunteering activities related to ESD and the SDG's. It also commits to encouraging education providers to establish links in their local communities on ESD related issues including Creative Youth Partnerships, sustainable development, anti-racism and social justice initiatives.</p> <p>The National Volunteering Strategy (launched December 2020) has the overarching objective to facilitate, develop and support the Volunteering Environment. An implementation plan has been developed and the Roadmap commitment in relation to volunteering is being considered in that context. Work on this commitment paused due to a refocusing of work priorities relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, however it is expected to recommence in the second half of 2022.</p>							
47	Finalise and publish the successor to the Action Plan for Rural Development.	DRCDD	Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Achieved			20
	<p><a href="#">Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</a>, published in March 2021, contains 152 commitments to be implemented across a range of Government Departments and agencies. The 2021 Work Programme outlined measures for delivery and the First Progress Report was published in February 2022, providing updates on all 216 actions in 2021. The 2021 Work Programme contained actions which advanced the delivery of more than 80 per cent of those commitments and substantial progress was also recorded across ongoing and delayed actions. Key achievements from 2021 include: the establishment of the National Connected Hubs Network, currently comprising more than 200 hubs; and the launch of the Town Centre First Policy, €106m in funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The 2022 Work Programme has been published, with many of the actions already well underway.</p>							



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48	Finalise and publish a National Volunteering Strategy.	DRCDC	Q1 2020	Q4 2020	Achieved			
	The <a href="#">National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025</a> was launched in December 2020. Since the launch of the strategy a number of actions have been initiated or completed. The first <a href="#">Annual Update</a> was published in July 2022, detailing progress over 2021.							
49	Complete the review of Social Inclusion through Community Employment and implement any recommendations arising.	DSP	Q2 2020	Q4 2021	Achieved with ongoing delivery	Building Stronger and Safer Communities		4; 13
	The <a href="#">Report of the Inter-Departmental Group to explore the most appropriate organisation arrangements, including which Department should host the Social Inclusion schemes</a> was published in December 2021, and changes to scheme eligibility were introduced from January 2022. The impact of these changes will be kept under review in 2022.							
50	Implement the actions in the National Sports Policy, 2018-2027 (which contains a particular focus on addressing specific inequalities in participation (i.e. ethnic minority groups, people with a disability, etc.)).	DTCAGSM	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery			

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	<p>In December 2021 Sport Ireland announced an additional investment package of €4.1m in Dormant Accounts Funding for a wide range of sport and physical activity measures countrywide. The investment aims to engage with communities across the country, focusing on people with disabilities, people who are educationally disadvantaged and from disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Sport Ireland launched its <a href="#">Diversity and Inclusion Policy</a> in May 2022. This will support the implementation of relevant actions in the <a href="#">National Sports Policy 2018-2027</a> aimed at increasing participation.</p>							
51	Award contract for the implementation of the National Broadband Plan.	DECC	Q4 2019	Q4 2019	Achieved			20
	<p>The contract for the delivery of the State-led intervention under the <a href="#">National Broadband Plan</a> was signed with National Broadband Ireland (NBI) in November 2019. NBI commenced connections to the new fibre network in January 2021. Broadband is available for order and pre order at over 54,000 premises across 21 counties. NBI made progress on delivery (constructed or under-construction) of the new high-speed fibre broadband network at over 150,000 premises across all counties by the end of 2021.</p> <p>By the end of 2021 449 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) sites have been installed by NBI and 245 of the publicly available sites are now connected with high-speed broadband service through a service provider contract with Vodafone. Primary school BCPs are also being provided with high-speed broadband, for educational use only, through service provider contracts managed by DoE, with installation in 182 schools (out of the 449 BCP sites) and 99 schools connected by the end of 2021.</p>							
52	Renew and refresh the system and level of engagement between Government bodies and the community and voluntary sector.	DRCD (lead) All Departments	Ongoing	Ongoing	In Progress	A New Social Contract		


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	<p>As part of the implementation of Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities, DRCD, working with the Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development, agreed a set of Values and Principles for collaboration and partnership working with the Community and Voluntary sector which will be brought to Cabinet in the second half of 2022.</p> <p>DoE's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Advisory Committee includes representatives of a number of NGOs and the community pillar. Under a second joint National Strategy for ESD to 2030 published in 2022, one of the five pillars as set out by the UNESCO Framework for ESD for 2030 is "Accelerate local and community level actions".</p> <p>DSP continue to engage with the community and voluntary sector through regular meetings, including the return to in-person meetings at the Social Inclusion Forum in Balbriggan and the Pre-Budget Forum in Farmleigh.</p> <p>Ireland is an active member of the Open Government Partnership process, in which the Public Sector and Civil Society work together to co-develop the Open Government National Action Plan to further enhance transparency; civic participation and public accountability which is independently reviewed. Following a public call for expression of interest, the Open Government Round Table, multi-stakeholder forum with a Civil Society Co-Chair and members had its in-augural meeting in November 2021. Together the public sector and Civil Society submitted Ireland's amended 3rd National Action Plan to Government in July 2022.</p>							
53	Ensure that reciprocal north-south entitlements to welfare benefits, the all Island free travel scheme and access to education and healthcare are maintained following the implementation of Brexit.	DFA (lead) DSP; DoE; DFHERIS; DoH	Ongoing	Ongoing	Achieved			1; 12; 16; 20


Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
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	The implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Withdrawal Agreement and the Convention on Social Security ensures the maintenance of the status quo in social security matters between Ireland and the United Kingdom post Brexit. The European Commission has adopted an adequacy decision for the United Kingdom that ensures GDPR compliance in respect of the All Ireland Free Travel Scheme for the next four years.							
54	Implement Sláintecare through the delivery of annual action plans and report on progress with respect to the delivery of the Sláintecare strategy and other health policies such as Smile agus Sláinte.	DoH	Ongoing to 2026	Ongoing	In Progress			16
	The <a href="#">Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023</a> was published in 2021, with the Progress Report for 2021 published in February 2022. Key achievements included: putting in place the structures and processes to support the shift of care to the community; progressing plans for new elective hospitals in Cork, Galway and Dublin; establishing the Regional Health Areas Advisory Group to support the alignment of community and hospital services; mainstreaming innovation through the Sláintecare Integration Fund; and major enhancements in use of digital technologies during COVID-19 to bring patients and clinicians together.							
55	Develop an Inclusion Health policy to address the healthcare needs of socially excluded groups who experience greater levels of health inequalities.	DoH	Work to commence in 2019	Ongoing	In Progress			16



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	<p>DoH provided €15m in the <a href="#">HSE National Service Plan 2021</a> to provide inclusion health initiatives for people who are homeless and living with addiction. This includes €11m under the winter plan to continue the protective public health measures for the medically vulnerable homeless population and to expand GP services for people living in emergency accommodation and to provide continuity of care for people who are homeless and may require emergency hospital treatment during the winter months.</p> <p>€10m was provided under Covid-19 funding for 2022, to maintain public health measures and to consolidate improvements in health services for people who are homeless. In addition, funding of €0.5m was secured in Budget 2022 to increase access to and provision of community-based drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and LGBTI+.</p>							
56	Review the feasibility of adapting the Smile agus Sláinte approach to other primary care services, including ophthalmic services.	DoH	Q2 2021	Ongoing	In Progress			16
	Some initial work was undertaken on contracting private optometrists to provide eye-care services for children over 8 years of age, in line with the recommendations of the Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report. This work was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the project team has been reconvened and the first meeting of the new project team took place in April 2022. The HSE are committed to bringing the project to conclusion over a 6-to-9-month time frame in 2022.							
57	Review operation of the Treatment Benefit scheme and consider options to improve its impact in reducing deprivation and poverty.	DSP	Q3 2020	Q4 2021	Achieved			12; 16
	The <a href="#">Report on Review of the Operation of the Treatment Benefit Scheme and Consideration of Options to Improve its Impact in Reducing Deprivation and Poverty</a> was published in December 2021.							

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58	As part of Rebuilding Ireland, complete the migration of long-term rent supplement claimants to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.	DHLGH (lead) DSP	Q4 2020	Q4 2023	In Progress			19
The transfer of long-term rent supplement recipients to HAP and other forms of social housing is continuing. By end June 2022 the number of recipients of Rent Supplement fell to 11,093, down from 13,401 at the end of December 2021. At the end of 2021, over 18,500 transfers had occurred since the HAP scheme commenced (of which over 1,000 occurred in 2021), and over 473 transfers occurred up to the end of June 2022.								
59	Under Rebuilding Ireland, deliver 50,000 new social homes through construction, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing, with the delivery of 12,000 additional social housing homes annually, through construction, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing programmes.	DHLGH	50,000 by end 2021; 12,000 annually thereafter	Ongoing	In Progress on schedule with ongoing delivery	Housing for All		19
The new <a href="#">Housing for All</a> strategy, published in September 2021, aims to increase the supply of housing to an average of 33,000 per year over the next decade, including an average of 10,000 social homes per annum from 2022-2030. Housing for All is supported by an investment package of over €4bn per annum. The targets are for the delivery of a total of 88,400 new build social homes, 53,800 new affordable homes and 170,000 private homes in the period 2022-2030.								




	Commitment Details		Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
	As part of the Climate Action Plan, review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need.	DECC	Q4 2019	Q1 2022	Achieved	Reigniting and Renewing the Economy A New Green Deal Universal Health Care		20
60	<p>Measures to support those in or at risk of energy poverty were included in the <a href="#">National Retrofit Plan</a>. Budget 2022 allocated €109m to the SEAI to provide free energy efficiency upgrades to households that are in, or at risk of, energy poverty under the Warmer Homes Scheme, which is an increase of €9m over the 2021 allocation of €100m.</p> <p>In February 2022, Government approved a package of supports to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to undertake home energy upgrades, for warmer, healthier and more comfortable homes, with lower energy bills. This included changes to the Warmer Homes scheme following a review of the scheme to improve how it could target those most in need. Among the changes made were: targeting the worst performing homes first by prioritising homes built and occupied before January 1993 with a BER rating of E, F or G on the waiting list for new applications; re-opening the scheme to homeowners who previously received works under the scheme but could benefit from the deeper measures now available; and extending eligibility to encompass people in receipt of the Disability Allowance for over 6 months and have a child under 7 years. At the end of June, there were over 9,000 homes on the scheme work programme, including: homes that were at this time undergoing works; had been allocated to contractors for works; had completed an initial home survey and were awaiting allocation to a contractor or were awaiting the initial survey of their home.</p> <p>A special enhanced grant rate, equivalent to 80% of the typical cost, for attic and cavity wall insulation was also announced for all households, to reduce energy use as part of the Government's response to exceptionally high energy prices.</p>							

Commitment Details			Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
61	Develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions.	DSP (lead) DoH; DRCD; DPER; DoE; DFHERIS; DCEDIY	Q2 2021	Q2 2022	In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery	A New Social Contract  Better Opportunities through Education and Research		20
<p>In March 2021, the Minister of State with responsibility for social inclusion, Joe O'Brien T.D. announced the establishment of a Food Poverty Working Group. The group consists of relevant Government Departments and representatives from the community and voluntary sector. Departments contributed to a high-level mapping exercise, <a href="#">Food Poverty: Government programmes, schemes and supports</a>, published in July 2022, and had tendered for and appointed a provider to undertake research examining how food poverty is addressed at local and community level.</p> <p>Students in third-level institutions experiencing exceptional financial need can apply for support under the Student Assistance Fund (SAF). The Fund provides financial support to students experiencing financial difficulties while attending college. Students can apply for SAF to help with either temporary or ongoing financial difficulties and can be assisted towards their rent, food, childcare costs, transport costs, medical costs and books/class materials.</p> <p>The expansion of the DEIS programme to over 300 additional schools will see extra resources going to schools in the most disadvantaged areas. Inclusion in the DEIS programme also gives those schools priority access to the School Meals Programme.</p> <p>The Slaintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) initiative identifies specific areas in which high risk factors to the health and wellbeing of the population are particularly prevalent due to deprivation, with a view to implementing targeted initiatives to tackle these challenges. A key health problem in disadvantaged communities is the high level of childhood and adult overweight and obesity, and food and nutrition plays a major role in the development of obesity. The provision of the dedicated services of a Food and Nutrition Worker in each of the 19 communities currently in the SHC will help address poor nutrition, recognised to be the major risk factor for chronic disease.</p>								

	Commitment Details		Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
62	Pilot a meals programme in early learning and care settings to address food poverty for young children.	DCEDIY	Q4 2020	Q1 2023	In Progress			11
	A survey of Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings in receipt of DSP funding under the School Meals Local Projects Scheme has been undertaken. The focus of the survey was children participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme and School Age Childcare and examined what provision currently exists, and recommendations for improvement and extension of the programme with costings. A pilot is being devised to test provision is wider amount of ELC services and consider incorporation of new nutrition standards for ELC.							
63	Introduce a hot school meals pilot. Review the pilot (DSP with input from DES) and report to Government with proposals ( <i>see also commitment 34 above</i> ).	DSP (lead) DoE; DPER	Q3 2019 Q2 2021	Q4 2020	Achieved	Better Opportunities through Education and Research		11
	The hot school meals pilot was completed, with an evaluation report published in July 2020. Following a Request for Tender competition, RSM Ireland were appointed to undertake an evaluation of the Schools Meals Programme, which has commenced. The evaluation is to be completed by the end of 2022.							
64	Establish a Social Inclusion Roadmap Steering Group to be chaired by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.	DSP	Q1 2020	Q1 2020	Achieved	A New Social Contract		

	Commitment Details		Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
	The Social Inclusion Steering Group, chaired by Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for social inclusion, met 5 times until the end of June 2022, with meetings in November 2021 and April 2022.							
65	Nominate a senior manager at Assistant Secretary as a Social Inclusion Responsible Officer to participate in the Steering Group.	Departments with Roadmap commitments	Q1 2020	Q3 2020	Achieved			
	Social Inclusion Responsible Officers have continued to attend Steering Group meetings throughout 2021 and into 2022.							
66	Work with the CSO and other relevant bodies to ensure that the data required to track progress and assess impact are available.	DSP	Q1 2020	Ongoing	In Progress			
	As part of the Mid-Term Review of the Roadmap, the range of indicators used to track progress and assess impact will be reviewed by the ESRI as part of the Department's 2022 poverty and social inclusion research programme.							
67	Publish an annual report on progress against each commitment and key metric.	DSP	Annually	Annually	Achieved with ongoing delivery			
	The first Progress Report was published in January 2022, covering the period January 2020 to September 2021. This is the second Progress Report covering the period October 2021 to June 2022.							

	Commitment Details		Delivery Details			National & International Links		
No	Commitment	Responsible Depts.	Timeline from Roadmap	Expected Date of Completion	Status at end of June 2022	PfG Mission(s)*	UN SDG**	EPSR Action Plan***
68	Present the report to and discuss progress with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection.	DSP	Annually	Annually	In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery			
	The first Progress Report was published in January 2022 with presentation to the Joint Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands expected during 2022.							
69	Publish an annual report card on progress against each commitment and ambition.	DSP (lead) Departments with Roadmap commitments	Annually	Annually	Achieved with ongoing delivery			
	The publication of this report card delivers on this commitment for the period October 2021 to June 2022.							

*\*Note: There was a break in the time series in SILC data in 2020 which means the data from 2020 and 2021 is not directly comparable with SILC data from previous years. However, it is broadly in line with the trend in data over the past number of years.*

**Commitment Status Key:**

Achieved/ Achieved with ongoing delivery
In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery
In Progress
Deferred
To Commence

## Appendix 1

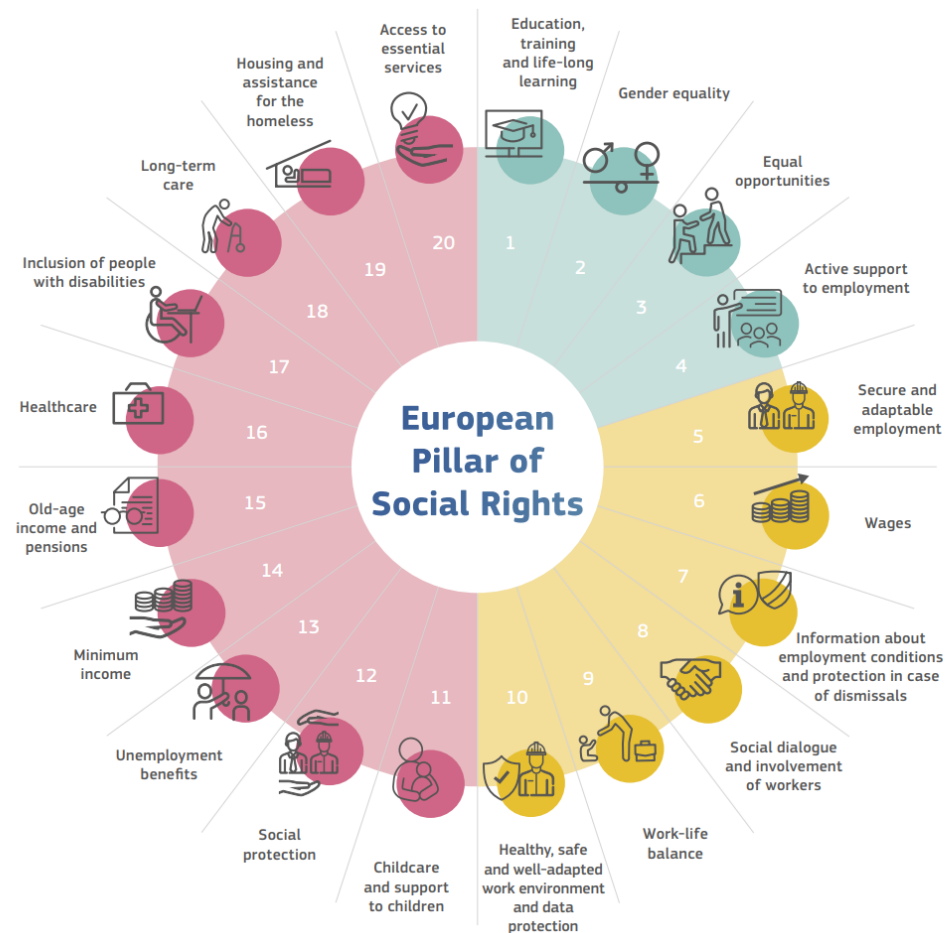
### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



For more information see: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

## Appendix 2

### 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:



For more information see: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights_en)