



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Annual Report 2012

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER

I am delighted to have the opportunity to welcome the publication of the first Annual Report of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Department brings together a number of key areas of policy and provision for children and young people. The decision to establish the Department of Children and Youth Affairs demonstrates the vision of government: that growing up in Ireland means you have the best start in life available anywhere in the world.

The Report outlines the progress made in 2012 across all areas of the Department's responsibilities.

It is a privilege for me as Minister to lead the Department in this work in these challenging times. In the last year, we have made good progress in implementing the commitments in the Programme for Government which are allocated to this Department and in also delivering a range of other priorities.

We will continue to work to ensure that this new Department does its utmost to serve the needs of children and young people.

I wish to especially thank all the staff of the Department for their continued support in the Government's endeavour to make Ireland a better place for children and young people.

Frances Fitzgerald, TD
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

October 2013

INTRODUCTION BY SECRETARY GENERAL

This Annual Report is in respect of 2012, the first full year of the new Department of Children and Youth Affairs' operations. There was also important further development in the Department's statutory remit during 2012 with the transfer of responsibility for Children Detention Schools to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs under Part 10 of the Children Act, 2001. As a result of this transfer of responsibility we welcomed a number of staff who formerly served in the Department of Justice and Equality into the formal employment of the Department from 1 January 2012.

In March 2012 we published our first Strategy Statement (available at www.dcy.a.ie) setting out our strategy objectives over the period to 2014. Amongst the six values set out in our Strategy Statement is a commitment to:

“Be individually and collectively accountable, open to change, customer-focused and respectful in our dealings with the public and work colleagues.”

It is in this spirit that we have prepared this Annual Report and submitted it to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs under section 4 of the Public Service Management Act 1997. Publication of this Annual Report provides an opportunity to be accountable for the outputs we committed to deliver over the three year life of the Strategy Statement. We hope that the format we have adopted in Part 2 of this Annual Report provides a transparent statement of the extent of progress during 2012 in respect of each strategic objective, associated activity and output set out in the Strategy Statement.

Overall some significant work is complete while, in recognition that two further years remain for full implementation of the Strategy Statement, work is ongoing in other areas. As a new Department with an ambitious programme of work there is a sizeable amount still to do but we are proud of our achievements to date. During 2012 these included:

- Child and Family Agency (CFA): Task Force report published. National Education Welfare Board reviewed and decision taken to merge it into the CFA. General Scheme and Heads of Child and Family Agency Bill approved by Government and drafting commenced.
- Children's Referendum: wording finalised and 31st Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill approved by Oireachtas in advance of referendum which was held on Saturday 10th November, 2012. Adoption (Amendment) Bill published in association with referendum.
- Children First: Implementation process for revised Guidance developed and led by DCYA. General Scheme and Heads of Children First Bill published and hearings held by Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children.
- Children Detention Schools, Oberstown: Responsibility for 16 year old boys transferred to Oberstown from St.Patrick's Institution. Planning permission received and tenders issued for major development of Oberstown facilities. Remit of Ombudsman for Children extended to include remaining 17 year old boys in St.Patrick's Institution.
- Area Based Response to Child Poverty: Budget 2013 approval for implementation of evidence based intervention in three existing sites and extension to a range of new locations.
- Comprehensive Review of Expenditure: All spending targets delivered in tandem with progress in implementing the associated reforms set out in the Review.

In delivering these and other priorities we do so with the cooperation and support of colleagues in other Government departments, departmental agencies and the wider children's sector. As a small Government department with an ambitious programme of reform we are heavily dependent on the commitment and goodwill of the staff of the Department who everyday in many different and varied ways work to improve

outcomes for children in Ireland. I want to record my appreciation for their work during 2012 and, in doing so, undertake that improved organisational effectiveness and support for their efforts will be a priority for the remainder of this first Strategy Statement.

I hope that you will find the information presented in this Annual Report of interest and welcome your comments and feedback.

Jim Breslin
Secretary General

October, 2013

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Part 1 - Introduction

1. Mission Statement

The overall purpose of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs is to lead the effort to improve the outcomes for children and young people in Ireland.

In June 2012 the Government established, for the first time, a dedicated Department to drive delivery of key commitments in relation to children and young people. The responsibilities of the Department encompass a wide range of policy and service activity, both direct and indirect, for children and young people in Ireland. It has a complex mandate, comprised of a number of separate, but interrelated strands:

- the direct provision of a range of universal and targeted services;
- ensuring high-quality arrangements are in place for focused interventions dealing with child welfare and protection, family support, adoption, school attendance and reducing youth crime;
- the harmonisation of policy and provision across Government, and with a wide range of stakeholders, to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

2. 2012 in Review

On foot of the Programme for Government Department of Children and Youth Affairs has been given responsibility for delivering a number of commitments including: holding a referendum to amend the Constitution to ensure that children's rights are strengthened, along the lines recommended by the All-Party Oireachtas Committee; fundamentally reforming the delivery of child protection services by removing child welfare and protection from the Health Service Executive and creating a dedicated child and family agency, reforming the model of service delivery and improving accountability to the Dáil; maintaining the free pre-school year and improving its quality as resources allow; enacting legislation to consolidate and reform the law on adoption; investing in a targeted early childhood education programme for disadvantaged children, building on existing targeted pre-school supports for families most in need of assistance such as the youngballymun project, and ending the practice of sending children to St. Patrick's Institution.

Among the steps taken in 2012 were the holding of the referendum to amend the Constitution and the publication of detailed legislation proposals for the reform of adoption. Work in preparation for the establishment of the new Child and Family Agency, including legislative drafting and organisational preparations. Work continued on the implementation of the revised Children First Guidance and, building on the work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children, the development of legislation to place this Guidance on a statutory basis. The Department was also successful in ending the practice of sending 16 year old boys to St. Patrick's Institution on route to the further transfer of responsibility for 17 year old boys as soon as the approved capital development at Oberstown bring the additional facilities that are required on stream..

Funding was provided to maintain the universal free pre-school year, benefiting 68,000 children at an annual cost of €175m. In addition, the Department continued to fund programmes supporting childcare, youth services, school completion and family support.

Funding approval was received in Budget 2013 to a proposal to implement an Area Based Response to Child Poverty through the extension of successful interventions in Tallaght, Ballymun and Darndale/Northside to further additional locations subject to high levels of child poverty.

Preparations were also undertaken for the Department's role in presiding over youth affairs at EU level during the first half of 2013.

As a new organisation the Department worked throughout 2012 to develop its corporate functions and processes to support its mandate. Important initiatives in the areas of workforce planning and organisational development were initiated.

Increased parliamentary requirements have been a very significant workload for the Department since it was established. In 2012 the Department supported the Minister in answering the following:

335 Oral Parliamentary Questions
1,076 Written Parliamentary Questions
1,411 Parliamentary Questions in Total.

By way of comparison in the year prior to the Department's establishment the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) assisted in answering:

26 Oral Parliamentary Questions
556 Written Parliamentary Questions
585 Parliamentary Questions in Total

Further questions would have been answered by other units which have transferred to the Department other than from the OMCYA but to a much lesser degree. In addition there has been a very significant increase in workload associated with the full responsibilities of a Government Department in areas such as media and communications, Government business, supporting and meeting the needs of other Government departments and financial accountability to the Oireachtas.

The next part of the Annual Report provides a full listing of the progress achieved in respect of each of the outputs set out in the Strategy Statement. Subsequent to the Strategy Statement, for internal purposes, these outputs were assigned to staff of the Department and incorporated into the annual business plans of relevant units. The reporting in the next section provides a stock-take on progress one-third of the way through implementation of the Strategy Statement: identifying outputs which have been achieved (green), those where work is underway (orange) and those where work is due to be initiated in 2013 or 2014.

Strategic Objective 1 (2012-2014):

Develop, strengthen and align policies, legislation and resources in order to achieve better outcomes for children and young people and provide support for parents and families

Priority Activity 1.1	Prepare and publish an integrated policy framework to coordinate activities and underpin the achievement of improved outcomes for children and young people
Outputs 1.1.1 Evidence based strategy published in respect of: 1.Early Childhood 2.Children 3Young People supported by a)Youth Justice Strategy developed and implemented b)Youth Homelessness Policy reviewed (PfG) c)Publication and implementation of a national policy on children and young people's participation in decision-making	Progress Achieved 2012 Strategy development process, encompassing an overall National Children and Young People's Policy Framework and three age specific, more detailed strategies underway including: <u>Consultation with children and Young People:</u> Publication in November 2012 of "Life as a Child and Young Person in Ireland, report of a National Consultation". Represents the output from consultation with 67,000 children and young people. <u>Consultation with the general public:</u> Over 1,000 submissions received with completion and publication of analysis scheduled for 2013. <u>Ongoing consultations with National Children's Advisory Council:</u> representing stakeholders including the voluntary sector. <u>Expert Advisory Group on National Early Years Strategy</u> established with Prof Eilis Hennessy as Chair. Review of <u>Youth Justice Strategy</u> 2008 – 2010 completed. Substantial progress identified under each of the Strategy's five High Level Goals with over 90% of the objectives completed. Consultations undertaken with stakeholders regarding the drafting of a Youth Justice Action Plan 2013-2018. <u>Review of the Youth Homelessness Strategy</u> by the Centre for Effective Services underway. Literature review commissioned to inform the development of the first <u>national policy on children and young people's participation in decision-making</u> .

Priority Activity 1.2	Develop and put in place a comprehensive programme of legislation
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Outputs 1.2.1 Children's Referendum held (PfG)	Progress Achieved 2012 The Children's Referendum was held on 10th November 2012. While turnout was low, the majority of voters voted in favour of the referendum
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proposal (58% voted yes and 42% voted no). A challenge to the validity of the Provisional Referendum Certificate was made by a petitioner based upon the Supreme Court's findings in the McCrystal case concerning the Government's information campaign. This challenge is before the Courts.

1.2.2 Legislative implications of the Children's Referendum (if carried) brought forward and enacted(PfG)

The General Scheme and Heads of Bill of the proposed Adoption (Amendment) Bill were published in September 2012 in conjunction with the publication of the referendum proposal so as to inform the public's consideration.

1.2.3 Legislation developed and enacted in respect of:

- Children First (PfG)
- Adoption (Information and Tracing) (PfG)
- Child and Family Support Agency (PfG)

Children First: Draft Heads of Bill published in April 2012 and subsequently considered by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children. Consideration of Committee Report and associated policy issues underway.

Adoption (Information and Tracing): Initial Heads of Bill were drafted and policy issues are under consideration with a view to seeking Government approval to draft the Bill in 2013.

Child and Family Agency: Government approved the General Scheme and Heads of the Child and Family Agency Bill in November 2012 and drafting of the Bill commenced.

1.2.4 Child Care (Amendment) Act fully commenced

Development of regulations (relating to both the Registration of Special Care Units and the Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) have been advanced, in consultation with key stakeholders, in advance of full commencement of the Act.

1.2.5 Regulations for Special Care developed and promulgated

As above, finalisation of regulations underway.

1.2.6 Review the Children Act 2001 and appropriate follow up

Work commenced on a draft General Scheme of the Children Act (Amendment) Bill. The main purpose is to provide a statutory basis (amending part 10 of the Children Act 2001) for the amalgamation of the Children Detention Schools, as well as a number of technical amendments.

Priority Activity 1.3

Put in place the processes and procedures which will re-orientate funding provision to align with identified policy objectives set out in the Department's estimates and output statement

1.3.1 Evaluate programmes and reconfigure the funding streams for early childhood, children and young people in order to maximise outcomes.

A more streamlined approach to the way youth organisations and services are funded under a range of grant schemes was introduced. This has provided more flexibility to services at local level to identify and respond to local needs. A Value for Money and Policy Review of the schemes was also initiated.

Following a review, the basis on which funding is provided to the City and County Childcare Committees was reconfigured to ensure greater

alignment with current population levels and service needs.

1.3.2 Implement the Comprehensive Expenditure Review and funding decisions

Savings and associated measures were introduced to reflect the requirements of the Comprehensive Expenditure Review 2012-2014. Of the overall efficiencies of €41.4m identified for the period 2012 – 2014, €16.5m was achieved in 2012.

1.3.3 Oversee and report on financial management and identified performance indicators for the Department and key statutory agencies

The Department's Revised Estimates were restructured to take account of Performance Budgeting which now aligns subhead allocations with the High Level Objectives of the Department. In 2012, the Vote was broken down into three programme areas each of which has identified performance outputs, context and impact indicators.

Programme A	Children and Family Support Programme
Programme B	Sectoral Programmes for Children & Young People
Programme C	Policy and Legislation Programme

Expenditure is reported to MAC on a monthly basis and Children and Family services provided by the HSE are monitored against Performance Indicators. Net total expenditure for 2012 was €410m which was within the overall allocation.

Priority Activity 1.4

Ensure that arrangements are in place to support the Department to meet its external obligations in relation to Children and Youth

1.4.1 Preparation and submission of Ireland's 3rd and 4th combined reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and other international commitments met including on adoption

Preparation of Ireland's UNCRC report continued in 2012. The draft report was presented to the NGO sector in December 2012 with a view to incorporating any feedback or amendments as appropriate.

1.4.2 Active participation in International fora/networks relating to Children

The DCYA assisted the Adoption Authority of Ireland in its work to formulate administrative arrangements on intercountry adoption with Hague Convention countries. To this end, an administrative arrangement with Vietnam was signed in September 2012. Work continued in the Department in relation to a bilateral agreement on adoption with Russia. DCYA participated in the following during 2012:

- EU Youth Council
- Council of Europe Ad Hoc Working Group on Child Participation
- EU Youth Groups
- EU TWG group on Early Childhood Care and Education
- North South Youth Justice Project Advisory Group
- North South Health Ministerial Council
- Causeway Programme Management Committee (East/West, North/South Youth Exchange programme)
- European Steering Committee for Structured Dialogue with young people
- EU Trio Presidency Planning Group
- ChildONEurope
- Europe de l'Enfance

- European Social Network Conference on Youth & Transition, Unemployment & Aftercare.

1.4.3 Active role in the development of EU youth policy, including participation in Council of European Union Youth Working Group Party meetings, participation in “Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013” and preparation for the advancement of youth issues during Ireland’s upcoming Presidency of the EU in 2013

Through the EU Youth Working Party and the Council of Youth Ministers, in 2012 the Department actively contributed to the development of EU Youth Policy on:

- *Fostering the creative and innovative potential of young people*
- *Structured dialogue with young people on youth participation in democratic life in Europe, and*
- *Participation and social inclusion of young people with emphasis on those with a migrant background.*

As the National Authority for the EU Youth in Action Programme in Ireland, the Department oversaw the implementation of the programme in Ireland by Léargas – the Exchange Bureau. The Department also provided a Declaration of Assurance to the EU Commission in respect of the programme for 2012.

In addition, the Department liaised with the Department of Education and Skills on the youth aspects of the proposed new EU Programme for Education, Youth, Training and Sport - Erasmus + - to be implemented from 2014 which is the successor to the EU Youth in Action Programme 2007 – 2013.

1.4.4 Prepare for and undertake Department’s role in EU Presidency 2013

Preparations for Ireland’s Presidency of the EU Youth Council were undertaken including agreement of a Trio Presidency theme of Social Inclusion with partners Lithuania and Greece and in consultation with the European Commission, the European Youth Forum and the National Youth Council of Ireland.

1.4.5 Promote North/South Co-operation in the area of child and family services and Youth Justice Services through:-

- Completion of existing work programme
- Identification of new areas of co-operation

The priority of Ireland’s EU Youth Presidency was agreed as the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people and on maximising the potential of youth policy in addressing the goals of Europe 2020. Detailed policy development and planning of youth programme of events undertaken in advance of presidency Commencement on 1 January 2013.

The existing Child and Family Work Programme was completed in July 2012. A new Work Programme with 5 Work-Streams was agreed as follows:

- 1) Knowledge Exchange Forum
- 2) Quality and Effectiveness
- 3) Deaths of Children in Care
- 4) Cultural Competence in Safeguarding
- 5) Specialist Services

The Department participation in the Youth Justice Project Advisory Group to guide and support co-operative work, co-ordinate North/South youth justice services and examine and identify areas where joint working could take place. Two new areas were added to the work programme in October 2012 (1) a Cross Border Police Supervision Protocol, and (2) a Protocol

between the Oberstown Children Detention School in the South and Woodlands Children's Detention Centre in the North.

Other Relevant Developments During 2012

- The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, in consultation with the Minister for Justice and Equality, made an order (Statutory Instrument No. 210 of 2012) to extend the remit of the Ombudsman for Children to complaints in respect of boys detained in St. Patrick's Institution.
- The Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 2012 significantly expanded the remit of the Ombudsman for Children.
- Development of emergency legislation to address issues related to interim care orders which arose during 2012 and culminated in the Child Care (Amendment) Act 2013 (published in February 2013 and enacted in May 2013).
- Regulations (Statutory Instrument No 467 of 2012) introduced under the Child Care Act to allow for the examination and reporting on child care proceedings in the courts by those engaged in child law research and approved by the Minister. These regulations have facilitated the Child Care Law Reporting Project's conduct of research on child care proceedings in the courts and the publication of information on such court proceedings. The Department continues to provide support and assistance to this Project in order to improve public understanding of the child care system and inform policy.

Strategic Objective 2 (2012-2014):

Monitor and evaluate performance through strong governance and accountability systems in respect of the responsibilities of the Department and its agencies.

Priority Activity 2.1	In line with Public Service Reform Objectives, ensure that best practice governance and accountability arrangements are in place in respect of the Department, its agencies and other service delivery providers
Outputs	Progress Achieved 2012
2.1.1 Reconfigure agencies and governance arrangements in line with Comprehensive Review of Expenditure and the Public Service Reform Programme.	Establishment of Agency Governance Unit in January 2012 to bring consistency to Department's relationship with directly funded agencies. Review of National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) completed in August 2012 with recommendation to merge into new Child and Family Agency.
2.1.2 Guide service planning/business planning processes for the Department, HSE (Children's Services), FSA, NEWB and AAI services and identify and analyse key performance indicators	Heads of Child and Family Agency Bill provide for incorporation of both Family Support Agency and NEWB into new Agency. A checklist was developed for each of the Department's agencies to assess their compliance with governance requirements and standards with reference to the Code of Practice and relevant legislation. Improved performance indicators were developed to monitor implementation by the HSE of Service and Business Plans. Input was provided to the Department of Health in relation to HIQA Business Plan.
2.1.3 Identify and put in place requisite arrangements for governance in advance of the establishment of standalone Child and Family Support Agency	Close liaison took place with the Department of Health and the Board and management of the HSE in respect of Children and Family services in advance of the establishment of the CFA. This included regular meetings between the National Director, Children and Families and his team and the Minister and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
2.1.4 Govern day to day service quality through improved structures, processes and culture to ensure front line professionals can deliver to the best of their capacity	Practice level reform of front line youth work professionals was supported by the Youth Work Quality Standards Framework. Structural reform of the City and County Childcare Committees was made with the establishment of Childcare Committees Ireland, as a representative body to provide greater consistency nationally and protocols governing their work with the Department.
2.1.5 Promote commitment to evaluation and feedback amongst service providers and stakeholders	National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children were approved in July 2012. HIQA commenced inspection of these services in November 2012. Inspection reports are published at www.hiqa.ie . Research projects commissioned and published by the Family Support

Agency in 2012:

- Narratives of mobility, Difference, Belonging and Home: Young Girl's Experiences of Migration to Ireland
- Family Relationships and Family Wellbeing: A Study of the Families of Nine Year Olds in Ireland
- Review of Family Resource Centre Programme Funding.

2.1.6 Identify and put in place requisite arrangements for Minister's relationship with HIQA

Regular meetings with HIQA took place at Ministerial and official level during 2012.

2.1.7 Put in place revised arrangements for Internal Audit function including establishment of Audit Committee

The Department's Audit & Risk Management Committee was established in early 2012 with 3 external, expert members (including Chair) and one Departmental official. The Committee has its own Charter and Terms of Reference and met on three occasions during the year.

The Department's Internal Audit function was established, with some sharing of specialist expertise with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

2.1.8 Continue to develop internal systems and procedures in key areas

Co-ordination mechanisms for Government and parliamentary business continued to be a priority activity in the area of business support. Progress was made in relation to risk management, customer services, freedom of information, the Department's Irish language scheme, as well as EU and international co-ordination.

Work continued on developing comprehensive internal financial and non-financial procedures with specific focus on internal financial systems and other corporate non-pay procedures.

Priority Activity 2.2

Put in place revised institutional structures to govern the Child and Family Agency and local delivery of children's services

Outputs

2.2.1 Oversee and support the Task Force for the establishment of a new Child and Family Agency (PfG)

Progress Achieved 2012

The Task Force held a total of 18 plenary meetings. Two sub-groups in the areas of (i) organisational design and (ii) service model and governance, assisted the Task Force in advancing its work. Following a Government Decision, the Final Report of the Task Force was published in July 2012. The findings and recommendations in the report informed subsequent policy decisions with regard to the remit and organisational design of the Agency.

2.2.2 Develop and implement a transition plan in conjunction with the relevant agencies for the establishment of the new Child and Family Agency (PfG)

The CEO designate and 5 of 6 senior management team positions were filled.

An Oversight Group, chaired by the Secretary General of the Department and comprising representatives of the Departments of Health and Public Expenditure and Reform, the HSE and the management team of the new Agency was established.

A Project Team to drive the overall project plan was established. The Department, the HSE Children and Families Services and IMPACT worked under the auspices of an independent facilitator on industrial relations matters relating to the establishment of the new Agency. A Framework Agreement is being developed to reflect the various issues discussed and agreed through the facilitated process. Separate discussions were initiated with a number of other unions, specifically the INMO, PSEU and CPSU.

Individual letters of notification were prepared for issuance in January 2013 to some 4,000 staff that have been confirmed as transferring to the new Agency.

2.2.3 Put revised arrangements in place at local level through the Children's Services Committees to improve services at local level.

A Children's Services Committee (CSCs) Steering Group was established in June 2012 with an Independent Chair. Agreement was also reached on the recruitment of a National Coordinator for CSCs to support the continued development of the existing 16 CSCs prior to consideration of a national roll-out. The 2nd edition of the 2009 "Toolkit for the Development of a CSC" was produced in May 2012.

Other Relevant Developments During 2012

- Independent Child Death Review Group report was launched.
- HIQA National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children and HIQA National Standards for Foster Care were approved by the Minister and launched.
- HIQA commenced monitoring of child welfare and protection services.

Strategic Objective 3 (2012-2014):

Support the Department and key stakeholders in accessing better evidence and facilitating the active participation of children and young people in decisions that affect their individual and collective lives

Priority Activity 3.1

Data and Research

(a) Build on existing infrastructure to ensure that data and research on children's lives is available, accessible, robust and timely

(b) Improve transfer of knowledge from data and research on children's and young people's lives so that their lives are better understood and services improved.

Outputs

3.1.1 Implementation and oversight of the National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives, 2011-2016

Progress Achieved 2012

Implementation of the National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives was overseen and development of its first Implementation Report commenced.

3.1.2 Continued governance of the National Longitudinal Study of Children, Growing Up in Ireland

Governance and oversight of study continued to be led by the Department. The fourth annual Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference was held in November 2012. Key Findings and Reports from GUI published in 2012, were as follows:

- 'Growing Up in Ireland: National Longitudinal Study of Children. Child Cohort Report 3. Influences on 9-year-olds' learning: Home, School and Community'.
- 'Growing Up in Ireland: National Longitudinal Study of Children. Child Cohort Report 4. How Families Matter for Social and Emotional Outcomes of 9-Year-Old Children'.
- 'Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort – 13 Year Olds - Key Findings No. 4: The lives of 13 year olds: Their relationships, feelings and behaviours'
- 'Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort – 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 3: The family and financial circumstances of 13 year olds'
- 'Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort - 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 2: Physical activity and obesity among 13 year olds'
- 'Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort - 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 1: School experiences among 13 year olds'

3.1.3 Publication of the State of the Nation's Children's Report

The fourth State of the Nations Children report was prepared in 2012, presenting new data for most of the indicators.

3.1.4 Completion and dissemination of ethics guidance on children's research

National Guidance for Developing Ethical Research Projects Involving Children was published and disseminated in April 2012.

3.1.5 Support increased utilisation of both survey and administrative data sources to inform policy and Departmental functions

The Department's Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives, developed from both internal and external administrative and survey-based datasets, was updated in 2012 and launched on the Department's website, as a series of searchable meta-data summaries presented in tabular form.

Pobal expanded its annual survey to include all early years services in receipt of funding from the Department (ECCE, CCS, CETS and capital). The response rate was in excess of 78%, and the data proved extremely valuable in providing robust data to underpin policy decisions in childcare. The sector will continue to be surveyed annually to allow year on year comparisons and developments to be tracked.

3.1.6 Develop internal information management processes and technology platforms in order to support integrated working and evidence based service development

In 2012 a review of www.childrensdatebase.ie was carried out in order to improve and develop its potential as a research and information dissemination tool. This report is now being considered for implementation.

More generally, improved information management and ICT processes to support the work of the Department has been identified as a priority for 2013 as part of the further development of the organisation.

Priority Activity 3.2

Children's Voices - Oversight and development of national and local structures for participation by children and young people in decision-making

Outputs

3.2.1 Develop improved structures for participation by children and young people in decision-making

Progress Achieved 2012

The first Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase was held in November 2012 and the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive 2012/2013 and Children and Young People's Participation Support Service 2012/2015 were established.

The Department initiated a partnership with NUIG to involve children and young people in the development of the Health Behaviour of School-Aged Children Survey (HBSC).

3.2.2 Publication and dissemination of the report of consultations with children and young people on the Children and Young People's Strategy (2012-2017)

Life as a Child and Young Person in Ireland – a report of the national consultation with 67,000 children and young people in Ireland was published and launched.

Child and youth friendly versions of *Life as a Child* and *Life as a Young Person* were developed and published.

3.2.3 Utilisation of findings and

Draft reports for IRCHSS/DCYA research were completed, projects for

data from the IRCHSS/DCYA research on children and young people's participation in decision-making

its Research Programme were selected and Steering Committees were established.

3.2.4 Establishment of the Voice of Children in Care Implementation Group

The Voice of Children in Care (VOC) Implementation Group was established, facilitated by the Department and HSE, and met with the Minister, the National Director of Children's Services and other and key policy makers.

Other Relevant Developments During 2012

- A decision was taken in April 2012 to proceed with a third wave of Growing Up in Ireland data collection for the infant cohort (at age 5). The pilot study for the third wave data collection was undertaken in November 2012 and fieldwork is due to commence in 2013.

Strategic Objective 4 (2012-2014):

Improve systems for supporting families, safeguarding and protecting children, providing alternative care and assisting those young people whose behaviour poses a risk to themselves or others.

Priority Activity 4.1

Drive systems change to improve quality and consistency of supports to parents; safeguarding of children generally; and the quality of care of children in the care system.

Outputs

4.1.1 Oversee the reform of child welfare and protection services including review of the implementation of the following key items (PfG):

- Standardised Business Processes
- Stated operational policy improvements identified in child protection practice
- Introduction of a Child Protection Register
- Introduction of the National Child Care Information System
- Introduction of stated workforce development priorities
- Design and implementation of a family support network model

Progress Achieved 2012

A primary focus for the Department has been development and implementation of priority setting and performance reporting arrangements with the HSE Child and Family Services team including:

- Liaison with HSE managers regarding 2013 HSE service plan commitments in respect of Children and Families
- Analysis and feedback of quarterly and monthly performance reports
- Regular meetings with HSE managers in the areas of quality and operations to discuss performance issues arising from performance monitoring reports.
- Analysis of data in relation to children in care in the international context.
- Liaison with the HSE in numerous settings to progress the implementation by Child and Family Services of ongoing reforms at operational level which respond to identified gaps and the changes needed to ensure a more consistent, effective and quality delivery of service.

The Department identified areas where data needed to be enhanced and was involved in the National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Project Board. This project is closely associated with the standardisation of processes and its advancement is a key enabler for the development of a Child Protection Register. Phase 1 of Standardised Business Processes (Referral and Assessment) was completed and phase 2 (Children in care) has commenced.

Family Support model: The Department participated in a multi-agency National Family Support Advisory Group and engaged with the development of a service delivery model, arising from the work of the Taskforce on the Establishment of the Child and Family Agency.

4.1.2 Develop implementation framework and drive implementation of Children First (PfG)

Departmental Children First Sectoral Implementation Plans were finalised.

Six meetings of Children First Implementation Inter-departmental (CFIDG), chaired by the Department, were held.

The Department's own Children First Oversight Group was established and meetings commenced.

The Department liaised with the HSE in relation to Children First implementation including the model for provision of Children First information and advice to other organisations.

4.1.3 Review and report on the implementation of the Ryan Commission Report(PfG)

The Third Progress Report on the Implementation Plan of the Ryan Report was laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in November 2012.

4.1.4 Review and report on historical reviews relating to the provision of children's services

The Department commissioned Trinity College Dublin School of Social Work and Social Policy to undertake 'An examination of recommendations from inquiries into events in families and their interactions with State services, and their impact on policy and practice'.

4.1.5 Liaison with HIQA and HSE on the implementation of the regulatory framework for child and family services

The Department provided policy input and support to HIQA in the development of National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children and National Standards for Residential Services for Children with a Disability.

The Department reviewed 60 HIQA inspection reports (children's residential services, foster care and child protection services) in the context of implementation and development of national policies for alternative care and addressed relevant issues with HIQA and the HSE.

Priority Activity 4.2

Ensure implementation of the Adoption Act, 2010 in conjunction with the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the HSE

Output

Implementation of the Adoption Act, 2010

Progress Achieved 2012

Adoption Act, 2010 and the Adoption Authority of Ireland's Corporate Plan were implemented with:

- Policy guidance provided as required.
- Structured liaison arrangements established.

Priority Activity 4.3

Strengthened policy framework and implementation arrangements to support a reduction in youth crime and reduced demand for children's detention

Output

4.3.1 Clear youth crime outcomes set for interventions with children and young adults in terms of reduced offending and behavioural changes (PfG)

Progress Achieved 2012

Work commenced on the drafting of the Youth Justice Action Plan 2013-2017 which will focus on diversion from crime and have a greater focus on the implementation of evidence-based policies, and restorative justice leading to a further reduction in detention trends.

4.3.2 Effective public communications tools developed on issues regarding youth

Access provided to the IYJS web-based on-line forum for Garda Youth Diversion Project (GYDP) staff and Gardaí. Work underway with colleagues in Department of Justice & Equality and other criminal justice agencies in developing/ analysing youth crime. The

offending and IYJS performance to key audiences

implementation of the Youth Justice Action Plan 2013-2018 will facilitate the sharing of best practice and information on youth justice services.

Priority Activity 4.4

Provide appropriate, safe and secure custody with improved outcomes in health, wellbeing and education for all children in detention

Output

4.4.1 Implementation Plan to integrate services, management and policies in children detention schools developed and implemented in accordance with the programme of Public Service Reform

Progress Achieved 2012

Common policies are being developed for the Children Detention Schools. All agreed care policies in place were published on the website of the Irish Youth Justice Service (www.iyjs.ie). IYJS continued to work with the Board of Management and the management of the 3 children detention schools towards a number of improvements in their operation including measures to integrate and standardise procedures. In particular, there was ongoing engagement between management, staff and the IYJS on the development of a common campus staffing roster under the Croke Park Agreement.

4.4.2 Assessment, Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) and Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service established, available to children in special care or in detention and appropriately resourced

Development of the specialist multi disciplinary service was advanced in 2012 with the HSE commencing the recruitment process.

4.4.3 Protocol for working together agreed by Children & Family Services, HSE and the children detention schools

A protocol for working together was agreed by Child and Family Services, HSE and the Children Detention School and implemented in October 2012.

4.4.4 Detention school model extended to all children in detention up to the age of 18 years, subject to Government financial decision (PfG)

In April, 2012 the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs announced that some €50m in capital funding over three years had been secured to undertake the National Children Detention Facility Project at Oberstown. The project will deliver sufficient new detention facilities to extend the child care model of detention to all under 18 year olds ordered to be detained by the courts. In advance of completion of the project responsibility for the detention of 16 year old boys transferred from St.Patrick's Institution to Oberstown on 1 May, 2012.

4.4.5 Protocol developed and agreed between IYJS and Irish Prison Service on exchange of best practice for children in detention

The acceleration of the transfer of all remaining under 18 year olds from St.Patrick's to Oberstown has seen the focus on the transfer of 16 year old males – successfully achieved with effect from May 2012 – and the capital development to transfer 17 year old boys from mid 2014.

All care policies in use on the Oberstown campus were shared with the

Irish Prison Service for consideration as part of the management of young offenders in St Patrick's Institution.

Other Relevant Developments During 2012

- A new Board of Management for the Children Detention Schools was appointed by the Minister from March 2012 for a period of 2 years.
- Child Care Court Proceedings: The Department supported the establishment of the Child Care Law Reporting Project (including making the necessary Regulations) to inform policy-making and provide greater public information on court proceedings in child care cases.
- Aftercare: The Department identified the need for a national operational policy in relation to lodgings and Section 5 of the Child Care Act 1991. The Department supported the HSE to prepare policies in these areas.
- A policy review of the organisation and delivery of the Guardian ad Litem service was commenced
- Child Protection Rapporteur Report for 2011 received, replies from across sectors compiled and presented to Government.
- Missing Children: A cross-departmental Project Team chaired by the Department was established and the 116 Hotline Service was allocated to ISPCC and became operational, on a phased basis, in December.

Strategic Objective 5 (2012-2014):

Support children and young people so that they can fully engage in active learning, including through the provision of high quality early childhood care and education and youth services and addressing issues of school attendance and participation.

Priority Activity 5.1

Implement a comprehensive programme of work to secure the provision of quality and accessible early childhood care and education places for children aged birth to six years

Output

5.1.1 The implementation of funded childcare/early childhood education programmes that deliver quality early childhood experiences for children and sustain the viability of the service provision (PfG)

Progress Achieved 2012

The Department continued to implement a range of programmes to support early years services, including the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) and Childcare Education and Training (CETS) programmes; the free Pre-School Year in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and a scheme for capital improvements. The CCS and CETS programmes support low income parents with the cost of childcare to enable them to access training, education and employment. The ECCE programme provides universal access to pre-school education for all children in the year before starting primary school and had an estimated take up rate of 94% based upon enrolment of 67,000 children.

5.1.2 Streamlined and coordinated administration and delivery of funded childcare/early childhood education programmes (PfG)

The Department continued to support more collaborative working arrangements between the City and County Childcare Committees and Voluntary Childcare Organisations, both of which assist it in delivering its early years programmes.

5.1.3 Integration of national standards of quality in practice in early childhood care and education into oversight protocols for early childhood settings (PfG)

Work on standardising the inspection of pre-school services, carried out by the Pre-School Inspectorate of the HSE, continued in 2012 to enable National Quality Standards to be introduced as part of the inspection system. The Department of Education and Skills worked with the HSE to test a new joint approach to the assessment of quality provision in services delivering the free Pre-School Year.

5.1.4 Review of existing regulations, tools and processes pertinent to the early childhood care and education sector and development and implementation of supportive regulatory framework (PfG)

Review of the regulatory framework was scheduled to follow completion of the standardisation process within the HSE Pre-School Inspectorate, including the development of Standard Operating Procedures.

5.1.5 A range of practical support for the Department of Education and Skills(DES) in the implementation of the Workforce

The Department continued to support DES in implementing its Workforce Development Plan for the early childhood care and education workforce, through its requirements under the ECCE programme for staff to hold minimum levels of qualifications and the payment of a higher capitation fee to services with more highly qualified staff. In

Development Plan for the early childhood care and education workforce.

2012, this included providing funding to support the training of staff who did not hold the minimum qualifications levels required.

Priority Activity 5.2

Work with a range of stakeholders to support delivery of the Government's priority of achieving improved standards of literacy and numeracy

Outputs

5.2.1 Implementation of DCYA commitments in National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (PfG)

5.2.2 A range of practical support for the DES in the implementation of national practice guidelines as expressed in Síolta, the national quality framework and Aistear, the early childhood curriculum framework

5.2.3 National Quality Standards Initiatives implemented and adhered to by national voluntary youth organisations, staff-led services and projects and local volunteer led youth groups

Progress Achieved 2012

Increased qualification requirements in the ECCE programme were implemented in September 2012.

The Department continued to fund a number of voluntary childcare organisations to support the implementation of Síolta and Aistear in early years services. This support work was undertaken as a field test which facilitated DES and the NCCA in evaluating and refining tools for implementing Síolta and Aistear in early years services.

Implementation of National Quality Standards Framework for staff-led youth work advanced with 90 youth services/projects and 24 national youth organisations participating up to end 2012. Training and information sessions for youth projects and services undertaken. In addition, the development of standards for volunteer-led youth got underway in 2012 with a view to their introduction in 2013.

Priority Activity 5.3

Develop a continuum of targeted service interventions designed to maximise pupil attendance, participation and retention/ combat poor school attendance, disaffection and early school leaving

Outputs

5.3.1 Ensure integration of the existing three service streams within the National Educational Welfare Board and explore positioning of NEWB in respect of other supports for at risk children

5.3.2 Agree priority educational welfare outcome measures at national and local level

Progress Achieved 2012

Progress was achieved in the ongoing work to deliver an integrated continuum of education welfare support services under the remit of NEWB. The NEWB facilitated extensive consultations with staff and key stakeholders on the draft "One Child, One Team, One Plan" practice model. It is intended that "One Child, One Team, One Plan" will deliver a new streamlined process for recording the assessment of need, provide an intervention plan with relevant inputs from NEWB service strands and, most significantly, review and evaluate outcomes achieved against an agreed outcomes framework. Specific outcome measures for children and their parents are being developed as part of the practice model.

"One Child, One Team, One Plan" will facilitate review and evaluation of outcomes achieved against an agreed outcomes framework. Specific outcome measures for children and their parents are being developed as

5.3.3 Liaise with DES in making existing expenditure on educational disadvantage more effective (PfG)

part of the practice model.

The Department and DES built on established links during 2012 to enhance collaboration on key shared policy agendas.

Priority Activity 5.4

Promote quality and effective youth work provision and practice including by means of :

- improvements in information and knowledge base to support and enhance youth provision
- Enhanced coherence and continuity between youth policy, provision and practice

Outputs

5.4.1 Robust information and financial management systems in place to support enhanced planning, delivery and assessment of quality youth provision

5.4.2 Youth Affairs funding schemes renovated and reoriented ensuring responsive, policy and evidence informed service provision

Progress Achieved 2012

Work continued in the Department with a view to the introduction of new information and financial management systems to support enhanced planning, delivery and assessment of quality youth provision.

A Value for Money and Policy Review of youth schemes commenced in late 2012. This Review will inform the future provision of quality youth service. In addition, the grant administering agencies for the sector were given greater flexibility to propose reconfiguration of allocated funding for approval by Department.

Strategic Objective 6 (2012-2014):

Collaborate with stakeholders, including across Government, in monitoring and promoting the physical, emotional and economic well being of children and young people and reducing inequalities

Priority Activity 6.1

Develop appropriate structures to contribute to the harmonisation and alignment of policy and service delivery to secure improved outcomes for children and young people

Outputs

6.1.1 Put in place mechanisms for collaboration with Departments of Health, Social Protection, Education & Skills and Justice & Equality, to prevent vulnerable children from falling behind their peers and experiencing inequality in later life

Progress Achieved 2012

The Department initiated consultations with other Government Departments with a view to developing a new strategy for children and young people. The Children and Young People Policy Framework will be drafted in the context of the most complete consultation practicable.

The Department continued to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills in relation to early years provision; youth work matters, educational provision and other areas and with the Department of Health regarding child health, health promotion, youth work service provision, drug prevention and other areas.

The co-location in the Department of the Early Years Education Unit of the DES, and those sections of the Irish Youth Justice Service responsible for community programmes which remain under the Department of Justice and Equality, facilitates close working relationships on key issues of mutual concern and common purpose.

The appointment in late 2012 of a Child Health Specialist, working jointly across the Department and the Department of Health, has supported enhanced collaboration.

Work with the Department of Social Protection included the issues of child poverty and youth unemployment.

6.1.2 Pursue partnership approach to promoting child health and positive health behaviours

The Department made a joint appointment with the Department of Health of a Child Health specialist to help co-ordinate policy in relation to child health across the two departments.

The Department contributed to the development of Healthy Ireland - A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025 and is represented on a range of national interdepartmental and multi agency groups addressing Childhood Obesity, Addictions and sexual health amongst others.

6.1.3 Improved planning and delivery of children and young peoples' services at local level, including social, recreational and

In February 2012, the Minister for Children and Youth affairs established the Local Authority Play and Recreation Network. This national network was established to introduce a more coordinated and interagency approach to achieving the main goals of the play and recreation policies

cultural activities

6.1.4 Implement a structured approach to external relationship management with review of existing engagement mechanisms to better support

- cross departmental cooperation on the children and young people's strategy framework
- expert advisory input to support policy formulation.
- stakeholder engagement in policy and service delivery.

at both national and local level. An early achievement of the network was the development, expansion and branding of National Play Day & National Recreation Week undertaken annually in Local Authority areas across the country. Targeted grants were provided to Local Authorities by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to encourage participation across the Local Authority network.

The overall structure of the Children and Young People's Policy Framework and constituent strategies was agreed with key stakeholders in 2012. Public consultation was conducted and an analyst was contracted to review the submissions received. As a cross-departmental Framework, it is expected that it will result in the adoption by the Department of a new system for consultation and reporting purposes which will bring more coherence to the Department's existing external relationships.

National Children's Advisory Council and the National Youth Work Advisory Council continued to operate effectively and the Department liaised with a wide range of stakeholders on policy and operational issues. This included engagement with professional bodies, researchers and students with provision of information sessions on the role and work of the DCYA to the main qualifying bodies in child welfare and protection, the Institute of Public Administration, the Prevention and Early Intervention Network and others; support for and participation in the Children's Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland and engagement with CORU (the Health and Social Care Professionals Council) and provision of input to their standards.

6.1.5 Road map in place for future direction of Children's Services Committees

A Children's Services Committee (CSCs) Steering Group was established in June 2012 with an Independent Chair. Agreement was also reached on the recruitment of a National Coordinator for CSCs to support the continued development of the existing 16 CSCs prior to consideration of a national roll-out. The 2nd edition of the 2009 "Toolkit for the Development of a CSC" was produced in May 2012.

6.1.6 Contribute to the Government's policy of job creation (PfG)

The Department supported the Government's policy of job creation through a number of childcare programmes which are specifically designed to subsidise the childcare costs of low income parents to enable them to access training, education and employment. In December 2012, the Government announced the introduction of a new School Age Childcare Initiative to be implemented in 2013 with the aim of providing 6,000 after school places for parents of primary school children re-entering the workforce.

6.1.7 Contribute to implementation of Government's policy on people with disabilities

The Department worked closely with the Department of Health, the Department of Education and Skills, the HSE and the NCSE to improve access to services for children with disabilities within the preschool year.

Other Relevant Developments During 2012

- **Area Based Child Poverty Initiative:** Provision was made in Budget 2013 to build on the prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) through the introduction of a new area based response to child poverty initiative which will include the original PEIP sites and extend to a number of additional sites which will benefit from the programme during 2013-2016.

Strategic Objective 7 (2012-2014):

Be recognised as an organisation where, on an ongoing basis, high performance is achieved and personal development is supported.

Priority Activity	Put in place the corporate arrangements to support the staff of the Department to work to high professional standards. In particular, to equip them with the skills they need to achieve the Department's mandate.
<p>Outputs</p> <p>7.1.1 Develop HR policies and practices which provide employees at all levels with a sense of purpose, challenging work, and the opportunity to make a difference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive and meaningful HR Strategy in place - Effective mobility policies in place - Effective internal communication pathways developed - Positive engagement with staff representative groups - Regular reviews of organisational structure to ensure best use of human resources, and that work is devolved to the appropriate level - Well defined workforce plans and succession management initiatives in place 	<p>Progress Achieved 2012</p> <p>During 2012, staffing resources were re-aligned on an on-going basis to support the achievement of business goals and are a regular item on the management team agenda. For example, additional temporary resources were required to organise the Children's Referendum and these were allocated from within existing divisional responsibilities. The Department also re-arranged resources in order to commence work on the establishment of the Child and Family Agency (CFA).</p> <p>During 2012, the Department conducted its first workforce planning exercise which identified a number of areas for attention. This was followed by a more comprehensive review of organisational structures and resources which was initiated towards the end of 2012. This review is due to be completed in early 2013.</p> <p>Changes to the Performance Management System (PMDS) continued to be implemented during 2012.</p> <p>Both Partnership and Departmental Council meetings were held quarterly and contributed to open communication with staff.</p>
<p>7.1.2 Build an organisation that invests in and encourages learning and change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive learning and development strategy in place which focuses on capacity building in key strategic areas - Regular training needs analysis conducted - A ring fenced training and development budget in place 	<p>The Department continued to develop its people and grow skills and capacity to support business transformation and modernisation initiatives and continued embedding a strong performance management culture.</p> <p>Site visits were organised to a Child and Family Social Work duty office, Special Care Unit and Residential Care Unit to enhance staff knowledge.</p> <p>Approximately 1% of overall pay was spent providing training and development opportunities to staff. Development of Leadership and Management Skills accounted for 43% of expenditure, supporting post second level qualifications (36%) and generic training and development for civil service work and specialist training for corporate activities</p>

- each year
DCYA's technology and information platforms to be reviewed to support integrated working across the organisation

(21%). In conjunction with formal training and development, coaching and mentoring activities were supported and encouraged.

Appendix I

DCYA Legislative Programme 2012

(1) The Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012

This Bill provided for a referendum on the insertion into the Constitution of a new article relating to the rights of children. The referendum proposal was passed by a majority of voters on 10th November 2012. The making of the thirty-first amendment to the Constitution is subject to the outcome of a legal challenge to the validity of the referendum result.

(2) The Adoption (Amendment) Bill

A draft General Scheme and Heads of *the Adoption (Amendment) Bill* in respect of adoption legislation which was associated with the children's Referendum was published on 19th September 2012.

(3) The Child and Family Support Agency Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to establish a child and family support agency for the delivery of child welfare and protection services. Following Government approval to draft Heads and a General Scheme on 13 July 2012, work progressed on drafting a General Scheme and Heads to establish the Agency, including consideration of the various functions to be discharged by the agency and associated governance arrangements.

(4) The Children First Bill

This Bill will put the Children First National Guidelines on a statutory basis to implement the Programme for Government commitment in that regard. The General Scheme and Heads of Bill were published and referred to the Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children for consultation. The Committee engaged in a consultation process with organisations and individuals working in the children area and provided its report to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on 5th July 2012.

It is intended to undertake consultations with key experts in the child welfare and protection area in relation to the Children First Bill. Also the Department will liaise closely with officials in the Department of Justice and Equality, particularly those responsible for the National Vetting Bureau Act. It is intended that following these consultations to refine the proposed policy approach for submission to Government shortly and this will involve revision of the General Scheme and Heads of Bill and referral to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting.

(5) The Adoption (Tracing and Information) Bill

This Bill will provide statutorily for an Information and Tracing Service in relation to adoptions to applicants seeking such services. The initial Heads of Bill have been drafted and policy issues are under consideration. It is hoped to seek the approval of the Government to draft the Bill in 2013.

(6) The Children (Amendment) Bill

This Bill provides for the amalgamation of the children detention schools in the interests of cost/administrative efficiencies and the public interest. During 2012 the draft General Scheme and Heads of Bill were prepared and circulated to other Departments for observations and observations which have been received are under consideration. It is intended to submit the draft General Scheme and Heads of Bill to Government in 2013.

(7) Child Care (Amendment) Act 2011

As part of the legislative programme it is intended to commence the remaining sections of the Child Care (Amendment) Act 2011. These sections deal with special care and related matters. In advance of making the commencement orders Special Care Regulations and Registration Regulations under the Health Act 2007 are required and work in this regard commenced in 2012.

(8) Child Care Act 1991 (Section 29(7)) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 467 of 2012)

These Regulations were signed by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on 28th November 2012. They specify the class of persons entitled to apply to attend hearings of proceedings under Part *III*, *IV* or *VI* of the Child Care Act 1991, in respect of child care and protection cases conducted in the District Court, to prepare a report on cases for the purpose of assisting in the better operation of the Child Care Act 1991.

(9) Commencement of Remand Centres and Children Detention Schools (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2011 (S.I. No. 668/2011)

Commencement of this regulation transferred responsibility for section 88 (other than subsections (12) and (13)), and Part 10 of the Children Act 2001 from the Minister for Justice and Equality to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. As a result the Department took over responsibility for the Children Detention Schools at Oberstown from 1 January 2012.

Appendix II

Publications in 2012

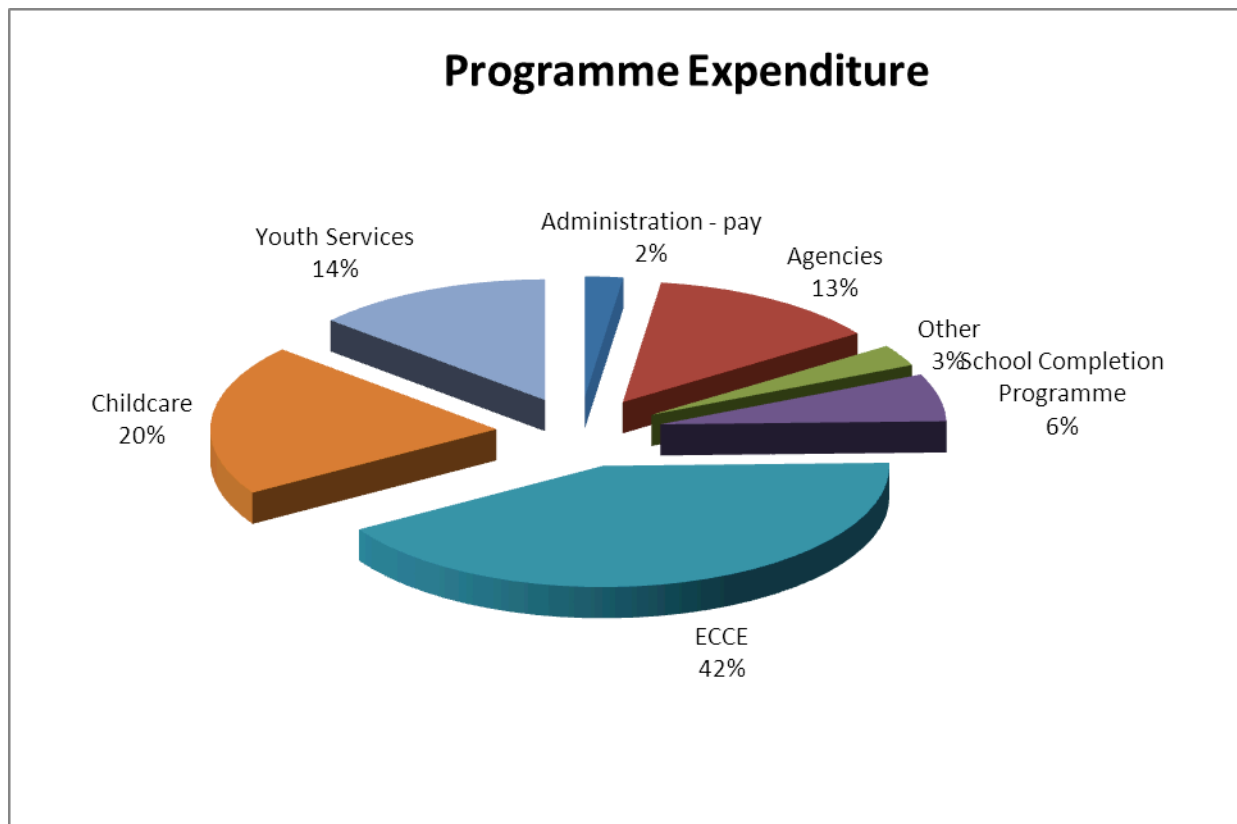
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: National Longitudinal Study of Children. Child Cohort Report 3. Influences on 9-year-olds’ learning: Home, School and Community’.
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: National Longitudinal Study of Children. Child Cohort Report 4. How Families Matter for Social and Emotional Outcomes of 9-Year –Old Children’.
- National Guidance for Developing Ethical Research Projects Involving Children
- The Ethics Journey in Children's Research: Checklist
- Overview of Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort – 13 Year Olds - Key Findings No. 4: The lives of 13 year olds: Their relationships, feelings and behaviours’
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort – 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 3: The family and financial circumstances of 13 year olds’
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort - 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 2: Physical activity and obesity among 13 year olds’
- ‘Growing Up in Ireland: Child Cohort - 13 Year Olds – Key Findings No. 1: School experiences among 13 year olds’
- Children's Stories of Domestic Violence - Briefing Note No. 19
- Second Level Student Councils - Briefing Note No. 20
- Unequal at Birth - Briefing Note No. 21
- Lives in Foster Care - Briefing Note No.22
- Dáil na nÓg 2011 Delegate Report
- How we see it: Report of Survey on Young People’s Body Image (Youth friendly version also published)
- Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase 2012 programme
- Life as a Child and Young Person in Ireland Report (Child and youth friendly versions of *Life as a Child in Ireland* and *Life as a Young Person in Ireland* also published)
- Fifth Special Rapporteur Report on Child Protection Ryan Report
- Ryan Report Implementation Plan – Third Progress Report
- 'Children's Referendum Information Booklet'

- Task Force on the Child and Family Support Agency
- Report of the Independent Child Death Review Group
- Strategy Statement, 2011-2014

Appendix III

At end December there were 132 whole time equivalent staff serving in the Department. This represents 0.4% of total civil service staffing. The Department's outturn of €410m represents 0.9% of overall net expenditure by the State.

		Outturn
		€000
Programme Expenditure		
A	Children and Family Support Programme	81,264
B	Sectoral Programmes for Children and Young People	323,050
C	Policy and Legislation Programme	18,052
Gross expenditure		422,366
Deduct		
D	Appropriations-in-aid	12,387
Net expenditure		409,979



Overview of Energy Usage in 2012

During 2012 considerable efforts were undertaken to minimise energy usage. In 2012, the Department's Headquarters in Mespil Road consumed 764,112 kWhs of energy consisting of:

- 400,990 kWhs of electricity;
- 363,122 kWhs of gas;
- 0 MWh of renewable fuels.

This compares to energy usage in 2007 when the same building consumed 896,737 kWhs of energy consisting of:

- 593,694 kWhs of electricity;
- 303,043 kWhs of gas;
- 0 MWh of renewable fuels.

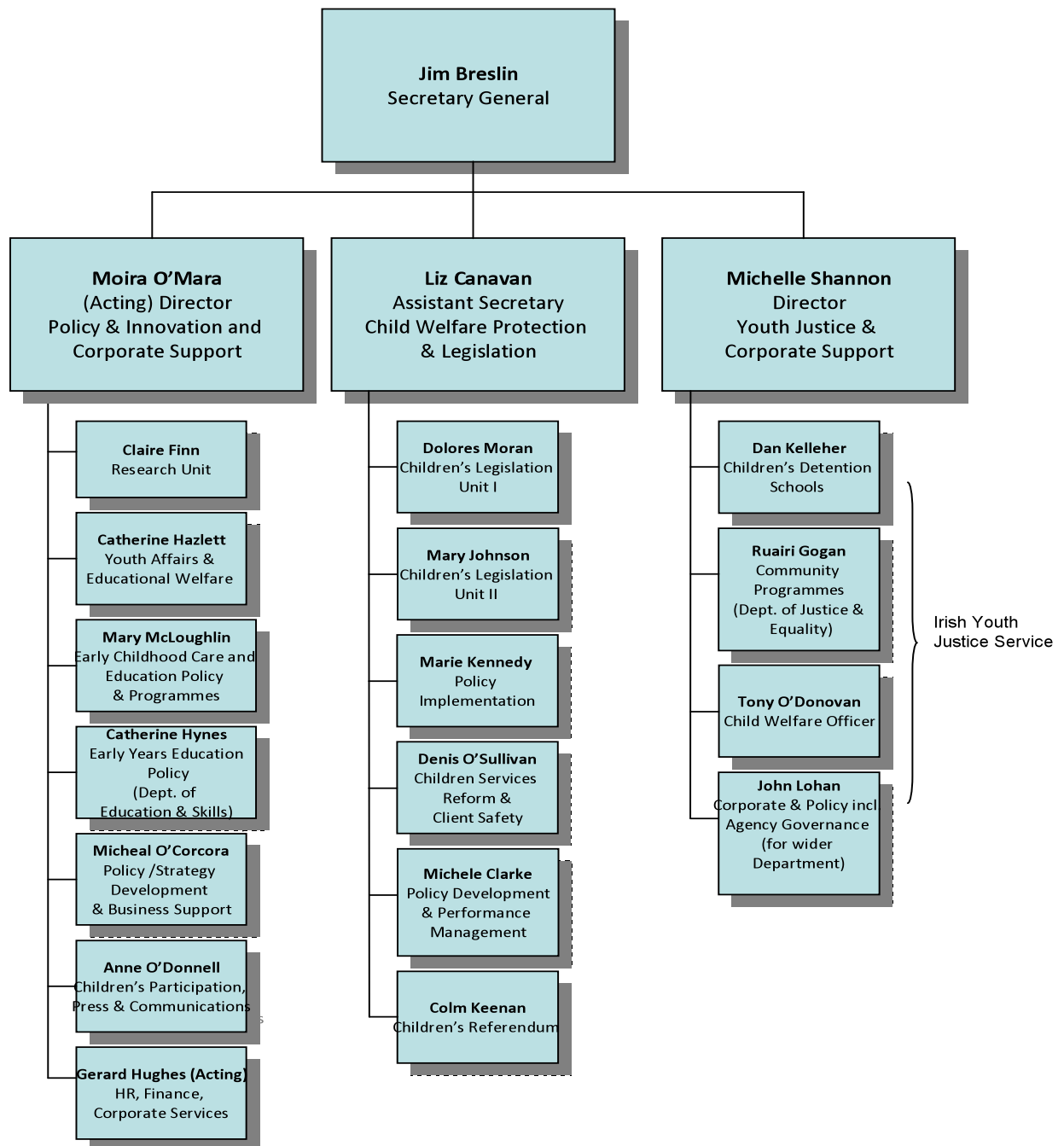
The 2012 electrical usage decreased by 32% compared to 2007, largely due to staff being more energy aware. A similar comparison for gas usage shows that it increased by 20% in 2012 compared to 2007. It is considered that this was due to the fact that 2012 was a colder year with a 10% increase in degree days recorded (2294 in 2012 compared to 2085 in 2007).

Actions Undertaken in 2012

The Department undertook a range of initiatives to improve energy performance, including:

- Improvements from “turn off” initiatives (PCs and lights).
- New Energy Officer appointed onsite.
- “Optimising power @ work” energy awareness campaign in progress.
- Presentation to educate new staff in the building.

Management Advisory Committee & Principal Officer Level Responsibilities



Bodies under the aegis of the Department

Family Support Agency
Mr Bill O'Dea Acting CEO
4th Floor, St. Stephens Green House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2.

Adoption Authority of Ireland
Vacancy, CEO
Shelbourne House
Shelbourne House
Dublin 4.

National Educational Welfare Board
Mr Pat McSitric, CEO
16-22 Green Street
Dublin 7

**Office of the
Ombudsman for Children**
Mr Frank Honan, Office Manager
Millennium House
52-56 Great Strand Street
Dublin 1.

Children Detention Schools
Mr Joe Horan
Chairperson of the Board of
Management
Oberstown Campus
Lusk
Co. Dublin