



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2023



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund

Table of Contents

1. Section 1: Introduction and Overview	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Ministerial Responsibilities	4
1.3 Accounting Procedures	4
1.4 Preparation of the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2023	5
1.5 Structure of the DAF Action Plan 2023	6
2. Section 2: DAF Action Plan 2023 – Measures approved for funding	7
2.1 Department of Rural and Community Development	7
2.2 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	14
2.3 Department of Justice	15
2.4 Department of Social Protection	23
2.5 Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	24
2.6 Department of Education	37
2.7 Department of Defence	46
2.8 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	48
2.9 Department of Further & Higher Education, Research & Innovation & Science	50
Appendix I: Summary Table of Action Plan 2023 Measures	52

1. Section 1: Introduction and Overview

1.1 Introduction

The 2023 Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan outlines measures and funding across 9 Departments. It approves funding of €54.5 million which will fund 44 measures across these Departments, in line with the relevant legislation and as detailed below. This Action Plan reflects the funding made available through the estimates process.

The Dormant Accounts Act 2001, together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003 and the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Acts 2005-2012, provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e. banks, building societies and An Post) and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings.

An account in a credit institution is considered dormant when no customer-initiated transactions have taken place for 15 years. Life assurance policies with a specified term are considered dormant 5 years after the end of that term. If attempts to contact account or policy holders are unsuccessful, the money is transferred to the Dormant Accounts Fund (which is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency). However, the ownership rights of account or policy holders, or their heirs, are not affected by the transfer to the Fund and the money can be reclaimed at any time, along with interest.

The main purpose of the legislation is to put in place the necessary legal structures to transfer dormant accounts or policies into the Dormant Accounts Fund and to allow for the account or policy holders or their representatives to claim this money at a later date. However, the legislation also introduced a scheme which would allow money in the Dormant Accounts Fund to be used by Government to fund programmes or projects which would assist:

- the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
- the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged or
- persons with a disability.

The legislation dictates that Government may only use Dormant Accounts funding for the above purposes.

To administer this funding process the legislation governing Dormant Accounts also established an administrative framework, overseen by a single Minister, within which Departments could apply for funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund to fund measures which would assist the above target groups. Since July 2017 the Minister for Rural and Community Development has responsibility for this function. Minister Heather Humphreys has delegated this function to Minister of State Joe O'Brien.

1.2 Ministerial Responsibilities

Under the Dormant Accounts legislation, the Minister is required to:

- Prepare an Action Plan, at least once a year, to give effect to a Disbursement Scheme. Action Plans contain details of programmes and projects to be funded under the Disbursement Scheme. They set out the maximum amount proposed for disbursement in relation to each programme or project during the period to which the Action Plan relates;
- Where a programme or project specified in an Action Plan is under the remit of Minister, he/she may invite applications for disbursements from the Dormant Accounts Fund; and
- The Minister is also required to prepare, no later than 30 June each year, an annual report to the Government on the operation of disbursements during the preceding year.

The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2023 has been prepared in line with the Disbursement Scheme currently in place.

1.3 Accounting Procedures

The legislation governing the Dormant Accounts Fund sets out how money is to be disbursed from the fund to Departments which have completed an approved measure. Measures approved for funding in any Action Plan must, in the first instance, be funded from the Vote of the Department or agency concerned. A dedicated section of a Department's Vote which is undertaking Dormant Accounts measures must be set aside specifically for that purpose. The expenditure incurred in implementing an approved measure is then reimbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund, rendering the measure Exchequer neutral. As such, measures which are approved for funding in this and any other Action Plans still require the relevant Department to ensure that a voted allocation is available within their budget as part of the annual estimates process. In instances where measures have been approved under the Action Plan but the necessary voted expenditure within the parent Department is ultimately not available, the funding allocated to the measure from the Dormant Accounts Fund will be decommitted and returned to the fund. However, the approach to this Action Plan, which was finalized after Budget 2023, greatly reduces this risk by ensuring greater funding certainty.

The majority of measures approved in this Action Plan will progress in 2023, subject to the voted expenditure of each Department allowing for the measure to progress as planned. It is also important to note that measures approved in an annual action plan may progress over a number of years and the allocations provided for can be disbursed from the fund over that period.

In formulating and implementing measures to be funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund, Departments must ensure that measures are administered in line with Government accounting procedures, including the Public Spending Code. Each Department is accountable for the administration of their own programmes and schemes in the same way as for any other voted expenditure.

The Dormant Accounts legislation also provides that the cost of engaging service providers (such as Pobal) to administer or deliver measures under the Action Plan (which includes monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment) can be met from the Fund. Such costs must be met from within the maximum allocation provided for a given measure. However, administration costs incurred by relevant Departments must be met from within existing Departmental budgets and not from Dormant Accounts funding.

Finally, it is important to note that the funding allocations provided for in Action Plans are maximum allocations, and administrative procedures have been put in place to manage instances where the cost of the measure proves to be less than the maximum allocation. Where expenditure incurred for any programme or scheme is less than the approved maximum allocation the excess is to be decommitted and returned to the Dormant Accounts Fund to enable the funding of other schemes. Similarly if schemes do not progress at all, due to unforeseen circumstances, the allocation must be decommitted when this becomes apparent to the relevant Department. This decommitment process is managed on an ongoing basis, in particular during the preparation of annual reports.

1.4 Preparation of the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2023

Preparation of the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2023 commenced in May 2022, with relevant Ministers/Departments requested to identify potential projects or programmes within their Department's remit, aimed at addressing economic and social disadvantage, educational disadvantage, and supporting persons with a disability.

The Dormant Accounts legislation stipulates that measures nominated for Dormant Accounts funding under the Action Plan must be put forward by Ministers. The legislation does not allow funding proposals to be put forward directly by other stakeholders. However, Departments can, and do, develop and/or implement proposed measures in conjunction with other stakeholders. This can include processes to provide funding to other bodies to progress measures approved in the Action Plan.

A provisional Dormant Account Fund Action Plan was completed and approved by Minister O'Brien in August 2022. Departments were then informed of their approved measures to ensure inclusion in the estimate process. This final Action Plan reflects the funding made available through the estimates process.

1.5 Structure of the DAF Action Plan 2023

Section 1 has provided a brief introduction and overview of the legislative basis and operation of the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Section 2 sets out the measures approved for funding under the DAF Action Plan 2023. These will be implemented in 2023 and over subsequent years. A brief description of each approved measure is provided, along with the responsible Department and the expected expenditure profile for the measure concerned. The measures approved for funding in this DAF Action Plan 2023 are in the following Departments:

- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of Justice
- Department of Social Protection
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Education
- Department of Defence
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Science

2 Section 2: DAF Action Plan 2023 – Measures approved for funding

This section details the measures which are approved for funding under the DAF Action Plan 2023. It provides a brief description of each approved measures, the responsible Department, and the expected expenditure profile for the measure concerned. Where possible a focus on the specific outcomes/impacts is provided in the description of the measure. However, it must be noted that many of these measures are new and innovative interventions which will evolve as they are developed and implemented.

In total, allocations of €54.5 million have been approved for 44 measures to be implemented across 9 Government Departments in 2023. It is envisaged that many of these measures will seek further funding in future action plans.

2.1 Department of Rural and Community Development

2.1.1 Social Enterprise Measure

The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland was published in July 2019. Its three main objectives of the policy are Building Awareness of Social Enterprise; Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise; and Achieving Better Policy Alignment.

This measure will build on the past social enterprise measures delivered in 2017 to 2022 by providing direct supports for capacity building, particularly in relation to enterprise development. The programmes to be delivered under this measure will assist in the creation of sustainable jobs with a particular focus on social enterprises supporting travellers, migrants, ex-offenders and other marginalised groups, improving the quality and delivery of services for disadvantaged communities, and increasing the capacity of social enterprises to generate funded income.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Social Enterprise	€2,300,000	Expenditure of €2,300,000 in 2023

2.1.2 Seniors Alert Scheme

The Seniors Alert Scheme enables older persons (65 years +) of limited means to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind by providing them with a free personal monitored alarm. The Scheme was relaunched in November 2017, and in addition to the provision of the alarm, it also now provides the first year monitoring free, and revised qualifying criteria. Interest in the Scheme since relaunch has been phenomenal, from 7,300 approvals in 2016 to 19,100 approvals in 2019. Installations dipped a little in 2020 due to COVID19 concerns, but demand is now returning to the levels seen in 2019.

The measure to be funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund will allow for the increased demand from our most vulnerable citizens to be met. Dormant Accounts funding will be used to meet the additional and exceptional demands of the Scheme, particularly the continued provision of free monitoring for participants of the Scheme, which is a feature of the current iteration of the Scheme. A new iteration of the scheme was launched in October 2021. The development of new technology is being considered under the new scheme, to address measures contained in the new Programme for Government.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Seniors Alert Scheme	€3,000,000	Expenditure of €3,000,000 in 2023

2.1.3 Targeted Social Inclusion Measure

This measure encompasses specific projects aimed at tackling social disadvantage and exclusion and targeted at particular areas/groups of individuals that are suffering from extreme marginalisation or disadvantage and who otherwise would not be reached by existing state services. The overall approved amount is to be utilised across a range of projects, with ultimate funding based on need. Indicative funding amounts are set out below. The measure includes:

- Carrickmines Steering Group, €30,000 - Key recommendations from the 'Report on meeting the continuing needs of the surviving members of families directly impacted by the Carrickmines fire of 10th October 2015' highlights the day to day monitoring and care for survivors. The Carrickmines Steering Committee identified the necessity for the appointment of a part-time family support worker to Bray Traveller groups to assist them in servicing the day to day family needs.
- Cumann na Daoine, Youghal, Co Cork, €70,000 - Cumann na Daoine support the main community development and social inclusion project in Youghal, a town which has high levels of deprivation in certain small population areas. The funding provided by the Dormant Accounts Fund allow the project to plan into the future, including addressing some of the more long-term complex issues facing the town.
- Funding to support LGBTI Community Groups to provide community services, €200,000 - Under this measure, €0.2m will be allocated to help provide services to LGBTI organisations nationwide targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI identities. Research shows that LGBTI individuals living in small towns or rural areas can be very isolated that is brought about by a combination of factors including LGBTI identities and difficulty coming out, age, lack of LGBTI friendly spaces, geographical gaps in community supports. There is a need

for 'safe'/LGBTI friendly spaces that don't centre on alcohol. It is accepted that it is not possible to have physical centres in every rural location and so many of the community groups are keen to do outreach work.

DRCD have responsibility for a number of actions in the National LGBTI+ Strategy, including the Action 6.3 - Take measures to ensure that existing community infrastructure is inclusive and welcoming to LGBTI+ people and consider the provision of pop-up LGBTI+ services.

Funding will be administered by the LCDCs and will be available to organisations locally for the provision of services that will include-

- extending drop-in hours, developing information and guidance tools, holding additional community events.
 - Delivering LGBTI awareness/sensitivity training in healthcare settings, businesses, schools etc.
 - Providing outreach support.
 - Providing sporting/physical activity programmes to promote inclusion, community participation, health and wellbeing.
- Tallaght Community Outreach Centres €52,000 - Tallaght Community Outreach Centres provided support for 3 outreach centres in Tallaght (Glenshane Resource Centre, Flexible Training Centre in Brookfield and Mountain Park Centre) operated by South Dublin County Partnership (SDCP), who operate a total of 19 service centres across South Dublin in areas of high disadvantage.
 - Windtown, School Transport initiative €40,000 – Windtown is an area of high disadvantage with the DEIS feeder school 4.7km away. The Department of Transport identify that the distance must be 4.8km or more to avail of the school transport scheme. Consistently, Windtown Students were experiencing difficulty with retention, attendance and punctuality. Navan SCP were aware of the causal factors for the students, which related to lack of transport, walking a distance of 4.7km, 55min, lack of adequate nutrition and motivation to get themselves out to school. The service has and continues to break the cycle of educational disadvantage and provides young people with advantage in their lives.
 - Cherry Orchard Equine Centre €123,200 - The Equine Centre has a Strategic Plan 2018-2022 with 6 Goals, including providing on-site early school leaver training programmes, supporting Garda Youth Diversion Projects, providing supports to youths who are seeking to engage in the labour market, delivering accredited and

non-accredited equine training and, collaboration with other local organisations to achieve the best outcomes for the young people and their families in Cherry Orchard. This funding will support the centre in achieving these goals.

- Foundation 4 Life – engaging with young people not in employment, €40,000 - Foundation 4 Life (F4L) is an extremely successful programme that has engaged meaningfully with some of SICAP's hardest to reach. There is great potential to replicate this programme throughout Ireland particularly with SICAP implementers and funding will enable the programme to be run and allow time to consider a more sustainable funding model. The programme is now a developed proven model of best practice for engaging young people not in employment, education or training. F4L promotes an inclusive selection process and to date participants have come from a wide range of backgrounds across a number of SICAP Target Groups that include Travellers, Refugees, Migrants, Indigenous Irish, Participants in recovery from addiction, People with intellectual disabilities, LGBTQI+ community, Young people with low educational attainment and others.
- Inner City Enterprise (ICE) €50,000 - The Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards scheme was established by the Inner City Enterprise (ICE) and Dublin City Council with the support of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Dublin City in 2015. It provides small flexible financial support to kick-start the creation and development of social enterprises in Dublin City. The programme and competition aims to celebrate and increase awareness of the important contribution made by social enterprise in addressing societal challenges and building communities and in creating employment and strengthening the sustainability of social enterprises.
- Meath Wellness Hub, €131,330 - The Meath Wellness Hub project commenced in 2020 with initial funding provided by DRCD. It will be a centre for mental health support and recovery providing a range of services to clients, and their families, with self-experience of mental ill health. The aim of the Hub is to create an accessible and integrated service working within deprived communities to provide individuals, families and groups with timely, appropriate, cost-effective, local support and care. The Hub will work collaboratively with the community, voluntary groups, the Health Service Executive and other statutory organisations with the aim of providing a recovery oriented service to people experiencing mental health difficulties.
- Building links to training and employment for the Traveller Community, €233,470 - We propose to identify 2-3 potential areas where a Traveller Link Worker would be employed to help build relationships & connections between employment supports, training & potential employers and members of the Travelling community. The purpose of the role will be to break down existing barriers & facilitate conversations & relationship building processes to assist Travellers and CE/TÚS implementers and potential employers to understand the opportunities they can offer to each other

and the mutual benefits that can arise from increased involvement of members of the Travelling community in either employment support schemes & training or standard employment

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Targeted Social Inclusion	€970,000	Expenditure of €970,000 in 2023

2.1.4 Pre-Social Cohesion Project, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick

This measure funds a contribution towards a Pre-Social Cohesion Project Officer and ancillary costs in Rathkeale, Co Limerick, to continue the pre-social cohesion project which commenced in 2013 and is administered by West Limerick Resources. Rathkeale is unique in Ireland in that approximately 80% of the population are from the Traveller community. The aims of the project is to develop momentum towards community cohesion and to enable and develop community leaders who have a shared vision for community reconciliation, mediation and community cohesion and to engage with Statutory Agencies and Limerick City & County Council, raising greater awareness of the need for social cohesion and how more participatory approaches will facilitate it.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Pre-Social Cohesion Project	€150,000	Expenditure of €150,000 in 2023

2.1.5 Public Libraries

- Reaching out to Disadvantaged, Socially excluded and Marginalised Communities €400,000 – This will build on the success of the previous four years of programming initiatives which reach out, through the public library service, to communities which are harder to reach. Projects will focus on engaging with communities and individuals who do not see the library as a space for them. It will enable the continuation of measures that were approved under the Library Supports measure of the DAF 2019 (82 projects), 2020 (96 projects), 2021 (120 projects) and 2022 (77 projects) Action Plans. These projects targeted a multiplicity of groups including Travellers, Refugees, New Irish, specific socially and economically disadvantaged communities, the deaf and blind community, and people with learning difficulties such as Autism and dyslexia. This measure will meet the commitment in the public libraries strategy ‘Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities’ which states that “The public library service must meet the needs of a diverse range of individuals and communities, facilitating inclusion and participation by all”.

- Public Libraries Digital Equity and Social Inclusion Programme (Capacity Development) €150,000 - This measure will support digital inclusion through the provision of modern equipment in public libraries for people with a disability and those with sensory needs. This will include assistive devices and headphones that will enable the visually impaired to use library resources, wheelchair-accessible shelving, customizable workstations, and wayfinding. Libraries are now evolving into Community Hubs and they are in a position to provide supports and suitable areas for those with different needs in the community, including those with autism or ASD. Sensory resources and facilities are hugely beneficial to the families and carers of people with autism, ASD and other challenges and they reach out to individuals who, to date, may not have seen the library as a space for them.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Public Libraries	€550,000	Expenditure of €550,000 in 2023

2.1.6 Participation and Engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) Process

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland contains a number of measures that look to support more comprehensive engagement and participation by communities in decision making at all levels. While this applies to all communities, those communities most marginalised are identified specifically as needing a particular focus. The Department of Rural and Community Development intends to build on the 2021 and 2022 funding measure to support research that will identify methodologies and develop strategies and resources to support the inclusion of those most marginalised in decision making processes at all levels.

This process also includes pilot implementation with a number of communities identified in the research process to assess the effectiveness of any proposed methodologies. The pilot programmes look at the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) process to determine the best ways to engage with these communities in order to support their input into that planning and decision-making process. In the pilot projects, 4 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), in collaboration with the Public Participation Networks (PPN), Local Development Companies (LDC) and local expert groups, decide on target marginalised groups with whom to meaningfully engage in the LECP process. These are groups the LCDCs traditionally have difficulty reaching, or who they have been unable to engage with. Suggested target groups include women from disadvantaged communities, the homeless, lone parents, Travellers and Roma communities.

The funding will also support the development of a set of tools to be used at national and local level to support engagement and participation by marginalised communities that are flexible and adaptable to the needs of those communities and local circumstances.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Participation and Engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) Process.	€100,000	Expenditure of €100,000 in 2023

2.1.7 Rethink Ireland

Rethink Ireland (formerly Social Innovation Fund Ireland) was established in 2013 following on the recommendations of a 2012 report of the Forum on Philanthropy and Fundraising. They partner with companies and individuals to create funds that support Ireland’s most innovative non-profits to address Ireland’s most pressing social challenges. Rethink Ireland use a venture philanthropy approach (disbursing grants and business supports) to ensure these innovations maximise their effectiveness and scale across Ireland. Their goal is to accelerate the social impact of social innovations in five crucial areas; health; social enterprise; equality; education, and; climate justice. They provide cash grants and business supports to improve their investment readiness so they make a real dent in Ireland’s most pressing social issues, often those which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rethink Ireland has invested €16.3 million in health since 2016, supporting 96 innovations in this area and reaching over 116,000 people. Over the next three years, they aim to support 50,000 people to improve their physical and mental health. Capacity-building programmes will enable awardees to prove and improve their vital impact in this area.

Rethink Ireland’s Social Enterprise Growth Fund supports proven social innovations to achieve widespread impact and transformative change in Ireland. Through their Growth Fund, Rethink Ireland will provide bespoke support to social enterprises who are ready to secure significant growth capital to grow and deepen their impact over several years. In 2021, Social Enterprise Awardees engaged with over 36,000 participants, helped 19 people into sustainable employment and supported 498 people into further education

The objective of the equality funds is to provide critical supports to social innovations that aim to strengthen equality while supporting some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities in Ireland. In 2021 over 600 people were supported into employment including 480 women through the Mná na hÉireann Fund. A further 518 people were supported into further education and 385 into further training to increase their employability.

Since 2017 Rethink Ireland has also placed significant investment in addressing educational disadvantage supporting over 100 projects in the last five years. Through their Education Funds Rethink Ireland aim to move the dial on educational disadvantage as a whole by

enabling greater participation in education, supporting learners to develop 21st-century skills, supporting learners to become leaders in their community, and advancing an equity approach to education. In 2021, Awardees supported 1,008 people to achieve a QQI qualification, including 127 leaving certificates and 181 junior certificates.

Finally, since 2016, Rethink Ireland have also invested €4.9 million in green transition projects and supported 41 innovations. In 2021 Awardees saved over 247 metric tonnes of CO2 and diverted 5,288kg of food from landfill.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Rethink Ireland	€5,500,000	Expenditure of €5,500,000 in 2023

2.2 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

2.2.1 Housing First – Transitioning people who have been long-term homeless into supported tenancies

This measure is intended to support the continued the roll out the National Implementation Plan for Housing First. A new National Implementation Plan was published in December 2021 and provides for 1,319 tenancies covering the period 2022 to 2026.

The plan recognises that many of those rough sleeping or users of long-term emergency accommodation have complex needs and require intensive supports to help them exit from homelessness into a sustainable tenancy. Housing First provides these individuals with a home and provides the intensive housing and health supports that they require.

The implementation of the Plan is a joint initiative of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive and local authorities. The main outcome will be to provide individuals with acute support needs who have been rough sleeping or long time users of emergency accommodation with a home and the ongoing supports they need to stay in that home.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Housing First	€3,000,000	Expenditure of €3,000,000 in 2023

2.2.2 Traveller Accommodation – (1) tenancy capacity building and sustainment, (2) community building and mediation services and (3) Play area facilities in Traveller-specific accommodation

These measures are intended to provide training and support to assist Travellers in tenancy sustainment and development of their community in Traveller-specific group housing schemes and Traveller Halting sites. It is also intended the projects will help raise awareness and acceptance of Traveller culture to enable development of accommodation. The measures will also seek resolutions where conflict arise. Finally the introduction of play areas in Traveller-specific accommodation will improve the environment in which children are living.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Traveller Accommodation	€620,000	Expenditure of €620,000 in 2023

2.3 Department of Justice

2.3.1 Local Community Safety pilot projects completion

In 2018, the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland delivered their report ‘The Future of Policing in Ireland’. This report made clear that policing is not the sole responsibility of An Garda Síochána and must involve other government agencies in areas like health and social services. In response to this clear imperative, the Department of Justice has developed a new, whole-of-government Community Safety Policy. The primary goal of the new policy is to provide more targeted and effective supports to the most disadvantaged communities and foster safe local areas for families, residents and businesses and that feel more secure. This policy will be supported by the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill - legislation which places a statutory obligation on Government Departments, local authorities, public bodies and agencies to have regard to harm prevention in their activities, and to cooperate with each other to deliver safer communities. The General Scheme of this Bill was published on the 27 April 2021.

Under the legislation, when enacted, the new Community Safety Policy will establish Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) supported by a national structure and statutory framework. LCSPs will bring services and the community together at local authority level, replacing the existing Joint Policing Committees, to serve as a forum for discussion and decisions on community priorities. The LCSPs will join up with similar approaches in related policy areas such as Sláintecare’s Healthy Communities initiative and the existing Local Community Development Committees.

The Partnerships will be supported by a full-time Community Safety Coordinator. The

intention is to build the capacity of local residents to enable them to engage meaningfully in the LCSPs and grow local community leadership and participation, and developing this will be a key aspect of the role of the Local Community Safety Coordinator.

This measure is strongly aligned with the funds focus on countering educational, economic and social disadvantage. The individual pilots are all implementing tailored measures to empower and strengthen communities on the ground, in conjunction with local community groups that are focussed on the target groups of dormant account funding. Additionally, by funding pilot projects which will influence the development and roll-out of national community safety policy, this measure will ensure funding in different geographic areas.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Local Community Safety pilot projects completion	€225,000	Expenditure of €225,000 in 2023

2.3.2 Drogheda Implementation Plan Year 2

The Drogheda Scoping Report was commissioned by Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee TD, in response to rising concerns regarding crime, and specifically drug-related crime, as well as feuding between organised crime groups in the Drogheda area. The scoping exercise was undertaken by former Director of the Probation Service, Vivian Geiran, and assessed the current issues in the area, exploring the relevant challenges as well as local strengths and resources, identifying measures that could be taken to improve the situation and others that could chart a path to improved community wellbeing and related outcomes in and around Drogheda.

The report made over 70 recommendations on short and long term responses to challenges the community faces, including around crime prevention, youth services, drug addiction, education, infrastructure, and community development. A previous tranche of Dormant Accounts funding granted for 2021, totalling €150,000 supported key targeted interventions including the provision of additional supports for the Red Door Project and Family Addiction Support Network, community based organisations providing assistance in response to addiction issues in Drogheda as well as other community interventions. These supports were identified as key priorities in the Geiran Report. While, an implementation plan for the Scoping Report was finalised in July 2021 with input from relevant Departments and Agencies to ensure all of the recommendations are reviewed and where appropriate, implemented.

The Recommendations within the Drogheda Scoping Report fall under two general headings (1) the need for improved interagency cooperation in the administration and delivery of services in Drogheda, and (2) the need to address gaps or other needs in individual services

themselves. In response to these recommendations the Dormant Accounts Fund 2022 provided €250,000 to fund the coordination of services in Drogheda as well as continued support to community based organisations.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Drogheda Implementation Plan Year 2	€350,000	Expenditure of €350,000 in 2023

2.3.3 Youth and Community Justice Services

The application includes two strands of activity aimed at countering the effects of criminal activity in our communities. These relate to Youth Justice, and actions to prevent and divert young people from involvement in crime and Community Services for Victims of Crime. Both of these are key aspects of the Department’s mission to promote a fairer and safer society, and support the delivery of a number of Justice Sector commitments in the Programme for Government.

In particular, the Youth Justice measures are aimed at those who are subject to multiple disadvantage, including communities such as Travellers who may be overrepresented in the Youth Justice system and with particular issues with disengagement from mainstream services. All of the proposed measures are designed to have a positive impact on the ground and to support the ongoing development of more effective community based supports and interventions. The delivery of these actions involves the community sector as essential partners in delivery and in providing ongoing feedback to assist in further development of policy and programmes.

The various Youth Justice elements of this application are located within a wider Reform and Development Programme for Youth and Community Justice Services. Key partners in much of this work are the Research Evidence into Policy Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project located in the University of Limerick, and part of the funding being sought will help to enhance an explicitly evidence-based approach to project design, implementation and measurement of effectiveness. REPPP are already supporting the development of Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs), through an ongoing Action Research Project, funded by the Department, to enhance practices within YDPs, which is working directly with local projects to identify and solidify effective practices. Therefore, the expanded Youth Justice elements will be subject to rigorous evidence-based analysis and evaluation. REPPP funding is based on an estimation of costs done by the REPPP team, with an additional amount included to allow for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy, similar to the budget for the Action Research Project.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Youth and Community Justice Services	€5,000,000	Expenditure of €5,000,000 in 2023

2.3.4 Awareness Campaigns on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Victim Rights

The Department of Justice recognises the importance of awareness raising measures as part of our preventative work in the fight against Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (DSGBV). Well developed and executed awareness campaigns positively impact long established societal behaviours and attitudes.

In June 2022 the Department of Justice published the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. The goal of the Strategy is clear: Zero Tolerance of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and the attitudes which underpin it. The Strategy is structured around four pillars of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy coordination as the levers for change to deliver its goal.

Recognising the importance of awareness raising, the Strategy includes actions requiring a number of awareness campaigns on various DSGBV related topics as part of the Prevention and Protection Pillars. Central to this work will be the launch and development of two distinct high impact media campaigns to reach a national audience through appropriate mediums (TV, cinema, radio, outdoor, social and digital advertising).

A prevention focused campaign will raise public awareness of DSGBV in all its forms and across all groups in society and work to challenge existing myths, misconceptions, and established beliefs in relation to DSGBV with inclusivity a central feature of the campaign.

A protection focused campaign will provide victims of DSGBV information on the pathways to safety and supports that are available to them in times of need. At the core of this will be raising awareness of support services that are available throughout and of the kind of support that they offer. This will be done on both a national and local level and in collaboration with leading frontline services.

A number of other campaigns will also be launched on various topics relating to DSGBV matters such as:

- A campaign on the harm caused by Intimate Image Abuse, including the liability for prosecution of perpetrators and the takedown service for victims;

- A campaign to raise awareness of the rights provided to people as part of the Victims of Crime Act 2017. This will include practical information such as how to make a report and what to expect if you are called to be a witness in a trial;
- A campaign on the topic of sexual consent, previously developed as part of the ‘Supporting a Victims Journey’ implementation plan but now subsumed into the Third National Strategy where it has become a standalone action under the Prevention Pillar;

The commitment made by launching these campaigns from the Department of Justice, with the support of the Dormant Accounts Fund will see an unprecedented amount of resources being utilised to prevent such violence from happening and to provide victims with information on pathways to safety and supports available to them

Each of these campaigns will, thanks to funding allocated under The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2023, will be supplemented by bespoke messaging to:

- Support the work of organisations and community and voluntary groups that support victims of DSGBV, and other crime, at a local level and;
- Reach people within marginalised communities throughout Ireland by working with working with community organisations to adapt various assets and resources in culturally specific ways.

This initiative to support on the ground services and reach marginalised communities with Dormant Accounts funding will help ensure communities across the cultural spectrum in Ireland will be aware of where to go for help and support if needed. We believe every victim of crime should know that justice is available to them, and this initiative can have a significant impact in informing both marginalised and local communities that this is the case.

Finally, a continuation of funding, previously allocated in The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022, will allow for the continuation of a programme to raise awareness on consent in the Further Education & Training (FET) sector and to reach people within marginalised communities throughout Ireland through FET consent initiatives.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Awareness Campaigns on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Victim Rights	€1,889,000	Expenditure of €1,889,000 in 2023

2.3.5 Irish Prison Service: Community Based Health in Justice

The CBHFA Programme has been targeting prisoners as a disadvantaged part of Irish Society in order to improve public health, mental wellbeing, violence reduction and drug awareness as part of a strategy to create a 'safer Ireland' in line with government strategy.

The prison to community component of the programme targets those Red Cross prisoner volunteers leaving prison to become Irish Red Cross facilitator volunteers. They work with their peers through the Probation Service partnership with Irish Prison Service and Irish Red Cross, thereby with the wider community facilitating violence and drug overdose prevention. It contributes to the maintenance of an Irish Prison Service/Irish Probation Service multi-agency approach to offender management and rehabilitation. Through its focus within IPS and then the Probation Service there is a combined alignment with the National Drugs Strategy focusing on 'preventive / harm reduction' approach to prevent deaths related to drugs.

In addition, the age profile in some prisons has extended well into eight decades. The CBH in Justice programme volunteers in those prisons have shown awareness of this in their project work. It supports the government 'positive ageing strategy', engaging and improving access to supports available and designing projects specifically designed to be inclusive of the elderly.

Evaluative studies over recent years have indicated that there appears to be a 'positive personal change' occurring in many prisoners undertaking the volunteer CBH training. An early broad study in 2015 indicated that after five years of the programme, significantly less prisoners, who trained as volunteers, re-offended compared to the wider community norm.

The programme has been working with Traveller prisoners based in Castlerea prison where there is a high percentage of Traveller prisoners in custody. Trained as Irish Red Cross volunteers, Traveller prisoners in the programme have been very active in facilitating violence prevention amongst Travellers and the settled populations in the prison. Their work with mediation has led to the ability for management to utilise such volunteers amongst the Traveller community to mediate conflicts within the prison. There is evidence that there has been a reduction in actual violent incidents.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Irish Prison Service: Community Based Health in Justice	€278,912	Expenditure of €278,912 in 2023

2.3.6 Protecting Young People from the Influence of Adult Crime Networks in Ireland

The funding of two trial sites where a community based organisation, in collaboration with statutory agencies, provide intervention programmes to protect children from the influence of criminal networks and increase their chances of taking up pro-social opportunities to improve their long-term outcomes. The programme provides ‘Intensive Family Intervention’; promotes a ‘Pro-Social Opportunity Structure’; ‘Community Efficacy’ as well as achieving ‘Criminal Network Disruption’. The funding has a strong direct impact on the disadvantaged individuals and communities where the trial sites are based.

The intervention programmes represents a bespoke approach, designed for the Irish context with the assistance of international experts, so the outcome from the trial sites will be very important to develop our approaches to wrap around support. The learnings from these trials will have relevance for deployment of services in areas where children and young people are exposed to and involved in organised crime group, as well as their families, with a view to facilitating their disengagement from such criminal networks.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Protecting Young People from the Influence of Adult Crime Networks in Ireland	€1,426,000	Expenditure of €1,426,000 in 2023

2.3.7 Community Organisations – Criminal Justice Sector

There are 60 Community Based Organisations (including Young Person’s Probation projects) currently funded by the Probation Service to develop and deliver services to offenders in their communities. The Community organisations support the work of the Probation Service in working with persons who are under supervision by the Probation Service or at risk of becoming involved in crime. The Community Organisations provide a range of services to offenders in local communities, including training and education, offender management programmes, residential accommodation, and drug and alcohol treatment programmes. It is recognised that many offenders come from difficult backgrounds and have complex needs such as alcohol or drug problems, educational and literacy skills, and social skills. These people require a broad range of supports and assistance in the community if they are to make better choices and change their behaviour.

The services developed and delivered by Community Organisations enhance the work of the Probation Service in challenging offending behaviour and supporting change. They are also

often a very important step in the re-integration of an offender back into their local community.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Community Organisations – Criminal Justice Sector	€200,000	Expenditure of €200,000 in 2023

2.3.8 Community Organisations – YPP Project Expenditure

Specific funding is being provided for two individual community organisations dealing with young persons. The funding will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 namely, collaboration in the youth work sector and the local community in the development and delivery of opportunities for children and young people, to harness support in their families and communities in order to strengthen their capacities to live free from crime and harm.

The funding is broken down as follows:-

- €30, 000 to the Wexford Centre in the North Inner City, replace the project’s existing transport.
- €75,000 to enable the project to continue its support to particular vulnerable cohort of young persons in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Dublin, addressing the issues with young person’s behaviour, and helping the young person reach their potential.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
YPP Project Expenditure	€105,000	Expenditure of €105,000 in 2023

2.4 Department of Social Protection

2.4.1 Support Employment, Education and Training Outcomes for People with a Disability and Family Carers

In Ireland, around one in ten people of working age have a disability and are employed at approximately half the rate of the general working population. Unemployment puts individuals at an increased risk of poverty. In 2018 almost half of the individuals who were not at work due to illness or disability were found to be at risk of poverty. There is strong evidence that people with disabilities would like to take up work. A 2015 review of Disability Allowance (DA) revealed that 43% of recipients would like to engage in employment, given the right supports. 35% would take up part time work and 8% were seeking full time work.

The purpose of funding sought in 2023 is to continue this successful measure. The projects have been funded since September 2021 and are due to cease activities at the end of Dec 2022. The measure is designed to support people with disabilities to improve their employment skills, advance their education or start their own business. The 45 projects being funded are expected to benefit almost 2,300 participants in terms of improving their transition into employment. The 45 community-based organisations provide innovative, person-centred approaches to the target group and provide additionality to mainstream schemes and services.

Increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities is in line with commitments under the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024. It is also in line with findings from the recently published Indecon Cost of Disability Report which recommends facilitating an increase in employment opportunities for people with disabilities with a view to poverty reduction. The measure is also in line with commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure disabled people play a more active role in society and increase their level of independence.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Support Employment, Education and Training Outcomes for People with a Disability and Family Carers	€5,000,000	Expenditure of €5,000,000 in 2023

2.5 Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

2.5.1 Care Support for Vulnerable in Society

This measure will fund a range of supports for vulnerable children and youths. Indicative amounts for each area are set out below:

- Care Leavers Support Inclusion - €358,225. Many care leavers leave care with stable accommodation and enrolled in education or training. For some, additional support may be needed as they transition to life after care. The aftercare workers in Tusla, who work directly with these vulnerable care leavers, have identified key areas of need for these care leavers, including support enrolling in education, developing personal and employability skills, and securing employment. The overall approved amount is to be utilised across a range of projects, administered by Tusla, which may include:
 - Therapeutic and Health Advocate
 - Independent transport project
 - Gathering for isolated care leavers
 - IT Educational and laptop support pack
 - Aftercare forum for hard to reach group of care leavers
 - Dedicated Career Guidance Counsellor
 - Skills Set Programme
 - Driving lessons where public transport access is limited
 - Aftercare support for young people and disadvantaged care leavers for service adaption
 - Social, Emotional, Educational
- Barnahus - €400,000. Barnahus is the 'One House' Services to Children and Families Affected by Child Sexual Abuse. Funding will be used in advancing the goals of the Barnahus initiative to deliver on the proposed multi-agency approach to addressing needs of children and families in child sexual abuse cases. Barnahus coordinates essential forensic examination, specialist interviewing, medical examination, child protection assessments and therapeutic screening of children and support for families in a single location.

This approach delivers better outcomes for victims of child sexual abuse, reduces re-traumatisation and diminishes the need for repetitive interviews. One centre is fully operational in Galway, servicing the West of Ireland. Planning for the delivery of remaining national services is under way in Dublin and Cork to deliver service coverage

to the East and South of the country respectively. Project teams are in place for each location.

The project is currently under development by an Inter Departmental Group comprising representatives from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Department of Justice and Department of Health, Tusla, HSE, An Garda Síochána and Children's Hospital, Ireland. The operation of the service is being developed by the Barnahus National Agency Steering Committee. Ensuring funding is available for interagency training and site specific projects strengthens collaborative work between the agencies and allows for vital timely support services to be available to children that have been victims of sexual abuse and their families.

- Educational Champions – Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Care Experienced Young People (2023-2024) - €250,000. The bursary scheme, administered by Tusla, is available to young people who have a care experience and are aged 18 years and over. The scheme is aimed at providing funding for these young people to access education and training and to support their career development.

The scheme was developed to support young people who are not in receipt of other state funding for education and training and who would be unable to engage in same without the benefit of this additional funding. It is intended for young people who wish to engage in courses that are not covered by SUSI or when other courses have additional unexpected costs. While there are very strong supports for formal 3rd level courses, this scheme addresses the need for supports for other, often shorter courses, which are part of the incremental steps for young people building their careers. In such instances the bursary scheme is of real practical benefit and improves access to educational and training opportunities.

In previous years, successful applications included the payment of fees for young people applying for new courses or training as well as those seeking to continue on an existing course or training. Applications for financial support for the hardware, software or equipment necessary to participate in courses were also considered. Examples of such requests included tools to complete an apprenticeship, uniforms for courses or hardware such as laptops or printers. The type of courses undertaken by the applicants included driving lessons, social care, beauty, hair dressing, pre-engineering and youth work.

The bursary scheme proved to be a hugely popular initiative and was welcomed by Tusla children in care teams, aftercare support workers and young people themselves. Testimonies from those who received the support indicate the real difference that the scheme has made to these young people's lives.

- Provision of services to persons who were 'boarded out' or 'at nurse' as children - €320,792. Funding was provided in 2022 for the establishment of a therapeutic

counselling service for persons who were ‘boarded out’ or ‘at nurse’ as children. This counselling service is now established and operational. As a result of this service, more engagement has taken place with boarded out individuals and Tusla have identified a further need, in addition to counselling, for this cohort of people which is for practical supports. It is hoped to continue the counselling service in 2023 at a cost of €200,000 and to expand the service by employing 3 social care workers at a cost of €120,792 (total funding request of €320,792).

The Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation final report indicated that some children in these placements were severely disadvantaged and/or mistreated. These children suffered from social, economic and educational disadvantages and were often subject to abuse. While boarding out was essentially the precursor to foster care, there were minimal standards and minimal regulation of placements to safeguard the welfare of children. In addition, the assessments of the suitability of persons to care for the children was not as rigorous as it is for modern day foster care. The neglect experienced in childhood by some, limited education and the fact that at age 16 boarded out care ceased, has meant that the lives of some of these people has been marked from their early experiences. This means that many find accessing services very challenging.

Therefore, this funding proposes a wraparound support system, for continuing the funding of therapeutic counselling services and to expand the service to employ social care workers who can provide practical social care support to directly assist people in the community in navigating state agencies and services. These care workers will work directly with the individuals to support and provide assistance to this vulnerable group. The provision of services will be based on an assessment of need. The partnership of Tusla and Barnardos has a proven track record in using Dormant Account Funding to provide high quality services to adopted people and others.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Care Support for Vulnerable in Society	€1,329,017	Expenditure of €1,329,017 in 2023

2.5.2 Oberstown Detention Campus Training Initiatives

Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides safe secure care and education to Young People referred by the courts. Oberstown falls under the aegis of the Children Detention Schools Unit and is managed by a board appointed by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

The principal objective of Oberstown is to provide appropriate educational training programmes that facilitate children’s training needs having regard to their health, safety,

welfare and interests designed to promote rehabilitation, maximise therapeutic outcomes, growth development and enhance individual needs through the application of intellectual stimulation involving direct experience. Dormant Account Funding for 2023 is being sought for the following measures, with indicative amounts for each as below.

- Career Guidance and Employment Support for Children Detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus (€57,000) – This funding will help provide appropriate career guidance for the young people at the Oberstown Children Detention Campus. It will assist children in Oberstown in understanding their own interests, aptitudes, personality and skills to give them the knowledge to inform their career decisions and to explore the world of education, work and employment in Ireland. The funding will also help to identify the vocational training needs of children to be implemented by Oberstown, and develop the related curriculum at the Oberstown Campus and School.
- Design, Build, and Exhibit a Garden for Bord Bia Bloom by Children Detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus (€60,000) – Following the establishment of a space in 2022 for horticultural learning by children resident in Oberstown, this funding will fund design workshops, materials, and plants to facilitate an entry into Bord Bia Bloom 2023. This project will give the young people of Oberstown a real sense of achievement and will coincide with the principal objectives of Oberstown by providing appropriate educational training programmes that facilitate Children’s training needs having regard to their health, safety, welfare and interests designed to promote rehabilitation, maximise therapeutic outcomes, growth development and enhance individual needs through the application of intellectual stimulation involving direct experience.
- Catering Vocational Training for Children Detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus (€50,000) – The catering staff in Oberstown currently provide a level of training to young people resident on the Campus. The funding will help secure a dedicated tutor to educate young people and build on and develop skills and opportunities in the hospitality industry preparing them for training as a chef. Oberstown runs a fully equipped industrial kitchen which was primarily designed to prepare meals for the young people on campus. The Campus has a vision to develop what already exists into a training environment for young people to craft a trade and prepare them for a transition into catering college. This would be done on site in the evenings and after school.
- Forklift Operation Training for Children Detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus (€82,000) – This funding will support a strategy to develop a forklift training licence and power truck licence. This course will build on the current safe pass and manual handling training delivered to the young people on the campus, adding further vocational training options. The forklift and power truck licence covers, safe driving of a forklift truck and power truck, pre-use maintenance and safety checks, recognition of controls and instruments. The forklift is driven around a suitable

course with the operator moving and stacking various loads. The forklift and power truck licence will cover Industrial counter balance 1.6 tonne and power pallet truck training. It is the goal of the campus to develop this programme to mirror real life experiences off campus and provide young people with the opportunity of a placement or a business development pathway in their community. This course will give young people the ability to find employment locally in their community.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Oberstown Detention Campus Training Initiatives	€249,000	Expenditure of €249,000 in 2023

2.5.3 Traveller and/or Roma Community Initiatives

This measure will support a range of initiatives aimed at supporting the traveller and Roma communities. The indicative amounts for each initiative is set out below.

- Measure to address Conflict and Mental Health issues in the Traveller community (€180,000) – This will secure continued funding to the Traveller Counselling Service, the Traveller Mediation Service and Exchange House Ireland who are working in collaboration to address the issues of conflict and mental health in the Traveller Community and provide essential family supports. The broad aim of this initiative is to address the trauma caused by inter-family violence within the Traveller community, and to provide direct supports for families trying to move away from violence.

€180,000 in Dormant Account Funding was provided in 2022 to this initiative which enabled the three partners to engage in foundational work to provide direct services to the Traveller Communities. This involved the employment of community access workers and trauma-informed counsellors within the local community. In the initial year of this project, the demand for direct support services was high, and beyond what was initially predicted. The funding was also used to commission research on the root causes of inter-family violence and conflict. This body of research will also make recommendation on how to best address these issues (expected to be completed in Q4 2022). In addition, an evaluation of the 2022 work programme is currently underway (expected to be completed in August 2022). This evaluation alongside the research report will be used to inform the future running of the project in 2023.

- Traveller and Roma Community Education post supports to address participation, retention and progression through the education system (€400,000) – This funding will see the continuation of Dormant Account support for the posts of Traveller and Roma Education Community Development workers. This measure was originally established in the 2022 Dormant Account Action Plan, which secured €400,000 in community education supports for Traveller and Roma children. DCEDIY will now

continue this support in order to build on the work already underway and improve the educational outcomes for Traveller and Roma children. The funding will:

- support children and families to address issues impacting on the attendance, participation and progression of children through the education system.
- build engagement and relationships between education providers, children, families and communities.
- seek to achieve parity of education with the settled community.
- help address the digital divide issues highlighted by COVID 19 for the Traveller Community
- review the outcomes achieved to inform future policy and share best practice and ensure work at local community level informs an analysis of policy at national level.

- Provide educational and employment supports to members of the Roma Community (€300,000) – This will secure funding for Cairde to ensure the continuation of Roma Adult Education and Training project. The Roma Education Project is an online learning initiative which supports Roma to build their everyday reading, writing and numeracy skills and aims to empower Roma in their interactions with employers, health services and statutory bodies. It is the only dedicated education programme specifically designed for Roma and with Roma in the country at present.

The core objectives of the initiative are to:

- Bring together a group of Roma to learn new skills in a safe, comfortable and non-judgemental environment.
- Deliver a training programme that is participant informed and culturally appropriate, with a key focus on English language, literacy, and computer skills.
- Explore possibilities in establishing a Roma Social Enterprise based on participants' skills and interests.
- Develop links with relevant organisations and public services to increase Roma access to basic rights and entitlements.
- Develop links with relevant organisations to explore employment opportunities for Roma participants.

- Measure to address gender inequality issues faced by minority women, including Traveller women (€50,000) – This will secure continued funding to the National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF) in order to progress the empowerment of minority women, including Traveller women, in leadership positions in Ireland.

€75,000 in Dormant Account Funding was secured in 2021 for the NTWF to commission research which identifies the factors that shape racial and ethnic minority women's political engagement and candidacy at local levels in Ireland. The report, titled 'Different Paths, Shared Experiences: Ethnic Minority Women and Local

Politics in Ireland’, was published in March 2022 and contains a series of evidence based recommendations to further support the political inclusion of racial and ethnic minority women in Ireland.

This continued funding, to the value of €50,000, will help to ensure that a number of the recommendations of the report are now addressed and successfully implemented. This funding will be used to support the resource needs of the NTWF over the course of 2023, in terms of worker salary and administration costs.

- Tusla national programme of work in partnership with Traveller organisations to promote awareness, access and participation in Tusla services (€440,000) – Tusla National Working Group is supporting a national approach to coordinate actions under the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-21. Tusla through this forum is working in partnership with Traveller organisations Pavee Point, Irish Traveller Movement, Traveller Counselling and Mediation Service, National Traveller Women’s Forum and Exchange House Ireland. The funding will assist the working group in implementing three strands of their work programme:
 1. To plan a national work programme for regional and local implementation to promote awareness, access, and participation in Tusla services. For the Traveller and Roma community there are known barriers and stigma for contact with Tusla services.
 2. To support Traveller child and youth participation in Tusla services to give children and young people a voice in decision-making on issues that affect their lives for participation in service planning and delivery in collaboration with Traveller organisations and initiatives working with Traveller children and young people.
 3. To support learning and development needs for Tusla staff practice in the context of Traveller culture and a child’s rights-based approach to support the planning and delivery of services. Tusla has a legal obligation, internationally and nationally as a State Party to adopt a child’s right approach and commitment to action required to implement these obligations. The adoption of the child rights approach is embedded in the UNCRC’s General Principles.
- Traveller and Roma Foster Care Project - Previously part of the What Works Initiative (€275,265) – In Ireland, 91% of all children in care live with a foster family. When children are admitted to foster care, all efforts are made to ensure that children are offered the most suitable placement to meet their needs. This takes many factors into account including the location of the child, and the child’s particular needs and experiences. Tusla is seeking further funding to build on work done in the provision of a focused resource to encourage and support Traveller and Roma families to

become foster carers. This project aligns directly with strategy 4 in the first instance and with Strategy 1 and Strategy 5.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the number of Traveller and Roma foster carers available to provide a culturally appropriate foster care placement for children from the Traveller and Roma communities. The aim is to recruit a pool of general foster carers for Traveller and Roma children and to encourage social workers to look at relative care when children from either community is taken into care.

- Support for young people from the Traveller community to join and be active members of their local Comhairle na nÓg (€60,000) – This funding will continue to support a fund through which Comhairle na nÓg, on a country-wide basis, can identify and support the inclusion of young people from the Traveller community as active participants and members.

Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils operating in each of the 31 Local Authority areas across Ireland. Comhairle na nÓg gives children and young people the opportunity to be involved in, and have a voice in the development of, local and national services and policies and any issues that affect them in their local area. Since it was established in 2002 Comhairle na nÓg has developed significantly, supported by the commitment, leadership and funding provided by Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the effective delivery by Local Authorities. A Five Year Development Plan for Comhairle na nÓg is about to be launched, bringing together an ambitious programme to further develop, sustain and improve Comhairle na nÓg. One key area for action within this plan is the extension of membership and participation of Comhairle to seldom heard groups. These groups include children and young people from the Traveller and Roma communities, those living in Direct Provision, from refugee communities, homeless children, and children with disability. DCEDIY wish to develop a model to support the inclusion of children and young people from these communities, starting with a pilot phase targeted at young people from the Traveller community. Based on engagement in 2022, these supports might include:

- Identification of young people interested in joining Comhairle na nÓg
- Training and support for Comhairle na nÓg Coordinators
- Contact and information provision for organisations supporting young travellers
- Provision of a dedicated youth worker to support a young person to join Comhairle, and provide advice and support prior to and after meetings, including help with preparation for meetings.
- Provision of transport to and from meetings and consultation events

- Engagement with parents and guardians to explain purpose and duration of meetings and events
- Provision of technical equipment –laptop, phone etc
- Off-set of expenses incurred from engagement with Comhairle activities.

Using the findings from the research undertaken in 2022, a model for the delivery of appropriate resources and supports will be developed.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Traveller and/or Roma Community Initiatives	€1,705,265	Expenditure of €1,705,265 in 2023

2.5.4 Youth and/or Family Initiatives

This measure will support a range of initiatives aimed at supporting better outcomes for children and young people, with the indicative amounts for each initiative again set out below.

- What Works (€1,680,000) – What Works is an initiative designed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, which aims to take a coordinated approach to enhance capacity, knowledge and quality, primarily in prevention and early intervention for children, young people and their families. What Works builds on the 5 National Outcomes first devised in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020. The initiative spans and strengthens the system connections for children, youth and family services supporting improved outcomes. The initiative will ensure that key groups working with children, young people and families know what works, how it works and will provide an evidence supported approach to apply to this work.

It maximises the impact of prevention and early intervention measures by supporting research, innovation, learning and development, projects and programmes in collaboration with our voluntary and statutory partners. At the core of the initiative is a desire to foster persistent curiosity amongst those working to improve the lives of children and young.

- Youth Employability Initiative – Skills Summary Initiative (€100,000) – Skills Summary is an on-line tool to measure skills gained by young people in a non-formal learning setting such as youth work, volunteering or other out-of-school activities. Skills Summary provides a framework to better recognise the value and learning young people gain by participating in youth work and volunteering. Skills Summary

supports young people to articulate the competencies they have acquired both for themselves and potential future employers.

- Online Safety Programme (€36,250) – Foróige considers the safeguarding and protection from harm of children and young people to be of paramount importance and has established a number of key working groups to feed into the Online Safety Initiative; an Internal Working Group, an External Advisory Committee and a Youth Advocacy Group.

Foroige has developed an Online Safety Programme for young people aged 12-18 years that aims:

- To promote safer use of digital resources, equipping young people with the skills to safely benefit from being online.
- To empower young people to safely participate in their online communities as positive digital citizens.

The Foróige Online Safety Programme has been developed to engage young people in safe, creative, digital learning experiences where they can learn, connect, be informed and be creative. It's important that young people experience all the opportunities the internet offers and that they can do so in a way that is safe and as positive as can be.

The programme will have a national impact and will be available to all young people with a focus on disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Foróige will continue to explore and develop a curriculum and a range of training and programmatic supports and resources in relation to online safeguarding and protection from harm for young people. These will be made available to all young people, staff and volunteers across the youth sector.

- Youth Sector Equality and Inclusion Support Initiative (€51,000) – This funding will support the National Youth Council of Ireland's Equality and Inclusion Support Initiative designed to embed the inclusion and diversity actions and objectives of key government policies, focusing its work on how to engage young people furthest from the mainstream. During 2023 the following actions will be prioritised:
 - Engage with youth work organisations to reflect on how racial justice informs their youth work practice and to build their deeper understanding of racism. This will lead to meaningful changes in practice and safer spaces for minority ethnic young people
 - Connect with minority ethnic community leaders working with or concerned for

their young people and upskill them to work with young people to build resilience, support them around identity, and journey with them as they make life choices (sometimes in divergence from their community expectations)

- Work with youth workers committed to diversity and equality, connect them with minority ethnic community leaders to work in collaboration on responding to the needs of the young people

- Continue to ensure that the voice of minority young people informs policy and is heard by decision makers in their lives

- Family Support Services Counselling Programme for Children and Young People (€700,000) – Under this measure €700,000 will be allocated to community and voluntary organisations, which are existing service providers under Tusla’s FSS Counselling funding, to increase counselling/psychotherapy/therapeutic services to children and young people experiencing social/economic disadvantage in communities around Ireland. These services have existing contracts with Tusla and as such meet governance, compliance and children first guidelines.

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic these services are reporting a large increase in families seeking support for children and young people. Waiting lists to access these services have significantly increased and the complexity of the issues children and young people are presenting with has also increased. As these children and young people come from socially and economically disadvantaged families, they cannot afford to access therapeutic services privately and as such are dependent on accessing these services through voluntary and community-based organisations. Post pandemic research is showing a significant increase in depression and anxiety among children and young people. This is of particular concern as depression and anxiety are risk factors for poor school attendance and educational attainment. So that educational disadvantage is linked to poor mental health and is magnified by a lack of access to appropriate services within socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Youth and/or Family Initiatives	€2,567,250	Expenditure of €2,567,250 in 2023

2.5.5 Refugee Support Services

Aftercare support for former unaccompanied minor refugees - €800,000. This measure supports the delivery of aftercare supports to young people leaving the care of Tusla, having received a decision on their international protection application. The purpose of the supports is to facilitate these young people in their continued integration into Irish society;

to allow them to continue in education and to ensure they are supported to transition to fully independent living. Services are co-delivered by Tusla aftercare workers and voluntary and community services of Peter McVerry Trust and Don Bosco.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Refugees Support Initiatives	€800,000	Expenditure of €800,000 in 2023

2.5.6 Babies and/or Young people

First Five Little Garden Learning - €75,000. In collaboration with Bord Bia, the Early Years Division in the DCEDIY will tender for a garden designer to develop a show garden at Bloom to be called the First 5 garden. The First 5 garden will reflect the values outlined in the First 5 strategy.

The uniqueness of this garden will be that young children will be consulted during the design process and observed at play to examine what elements of the garden draw the greatest activity and curiosity. During the Bloom Garden Festival thousands of parents will experience the garden with their children, supporting their young children to play and learn. The implementation of First 5 will be supported and several building blocks of the strategy will be highlighted such as access to play, tackling childhood obesity, skin cancer prevention and inclusion of all children regardless of ability through the use of universal design principles.

Bloom receives a great deal of national airtime. The DCEDIY is planning a schedule of promotional communications activities to raise awareness of the garden including press releases, a twitter campaign and articles in magazines and on our First 5 website and our Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) website. AIM empowers pre-school providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can meaningfully participate and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education. It is expected that the appeal of the First 5 garden will attract a large footfall at Bloom and the media interested generated will inform the general public of this innovative garden.

The project will involve developing a real time learning video of the construction and design of the exemplary children's garden that will be widely disseminated to provide guidance to parents, relatives, early learning and care and healthcare providers. This video will be embedded in the First 5 and AIM websites and will be sent to City and County Childcare Committees, National Voluntary Childcare Organisations and will also be used on the National Disability Authority's website. The NDAs website is being developed for the dissemination of the Universal Design Guidelines for Early Learning and Care Settings. The learning video will also be distributed onward to the Department of Health for inclusion in

relevant websites such as mychild.ie and Healthy Ireland where the health aspects of this exemplary play garden will be further promoted.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Babies and/or Young Children	€75,000	Expenditure of €75,000 in 2023

2.5.7 Disability Awareness Initiative

Towards Work initiative - €140,000. It is intended that funding will be used to fund the continuation of the Towards Work initiative, which is run by Open Doors and funded under DAF measures by Pobal until the end of June 2022. It is DCEDIY's intention to take over funding for Open Door's Towards Work initiative, which is on-track to achieve its project targets within budget and within the relevant timeframe.

Towards Work is a person focused initiative that exists to support any person who has a disability on their journey toward employment, self-employment or further education. By providing free practical training, resources, and bespoke mentorship opportunities, Towards Work educates and empowers participants to take the next steps towards their goals. It is part of the Open Doors Initiative.

The continuation of funding would allow Open Doors to greatly increase capacity and engagement and also to ensure continuity and the further development of the Towards Work initiative.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Disability Awareness Initiative	€140,000	Expenditure of €140,000 in 2023

2.6 Department of Education

2.6.1 Foróige Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Programme

The NFTE Programme aims to engage young people (10-18 year olds) who are experiencing adversity and disadvantage to develop core skills in business and enterprise by providing them with opportunities to develop and apply entrepreneurial skills in both a school and non-school environment.

Since 2004, over 24,700 young people have been involved in the initiative across the island of Ireland. In the main, they have experienced social and/or educational disadvantage in their lives. The NFTE programme is currently delivered in 24 counties across Ireland. In the academic year 2021 - 2022 six thousand young people participated in the programme, supported by over 260 trained teachers, youth workers and volunteers. We developed the NFTE training and resources online and recruited and trained 170 new teachers in the NFTE programme during the pandemic. A total of 10,000 young people completed the NFTE programme since 2020 online during the pandemic. We have also developed the additional 'NFTE Mentoring Pilot Programme' and a 'Social Enterprise' module to offer more opportunities. This enables us to promote NFTE and connect it to employers and educators to improve employability, training and further educational prospects for young people in disadvantaged communities across Ireland.

The programme will primarily target 15 to 18 year olds in DEIS Schools but will also be available to schools that wish to engage young people from 10 upwards, and young people attending further education and training. It will also provide opportunities for young people looking to continue their business through the NFTE Alumni Programme.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Foróige Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Programme	€300,000	Expenditure of €300,000 in 2023

2.6.2 Growing Youth Participation & Innovation in Irish Communities, a project by Young Social Innovators

This funding will extend the original project: "Growing Youth Participation and Innovation in Irish Communities" carried out by YSI and supported by the Department of Education Dormant Accounts Fund and Tomar Trust for three years from 2020 to end 2022. The project aims to bring Young Social Innovators' (YSI) programmes to 50% of second level schools in Ireland by 2025 and in so doing, increase youth participation in civic and social innovation in Ireland at an unprecedented scale each year to circa 15,000 pa by 2025. This is at a scale whereby social engagement of Irish students will have a population effect, thus

nurturing and securing the social capital that drives Irish communities, building the next generation of volunteers, community leaders and socially conscious citizens.

This project pays particular attention to the policy in relation to Inclusive Education providing “a system that welcomes and meaningfully engages all learners, including those with special educational needs and learners impacted by disadvantage” by empowering young people who are disadvantaged socially, educationally, economically or with special needs by promoting civic, social and political learning and engagement in their communities and society so countering disadvantage and building essential learning and skills.

This measure supports the National Volunteer Strategy 2021-25 and its identified need to ‘deliver an educational programme in partnership with youth organisations and educational bodies and the need to change the perception and encourage participation of volunteering among younger people.’ with YSI stated as a ‘responsible body.’

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Young Social Innovators	€180,000	Expenditure of €180,000 in 2023

2.6.3 CDETB Migrant Integration Project (MIP)

The Migrant Integration Project (MIP) is part of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board’s Youth and Education Service (YES) for Refugees and Migrants. It provides additional education supports, after-school and summer time activities to unaccompanied minors and other young migrants aged 12 to 18 who are Beginner English learners and come from disadvantaged education backgrounds.

Evidence of the ongoing need for the programme includes increased referrals to the programme from Tusla, schools and self-referrals and the fact also that the 2022 census data indicates a significant level of inward migration. The programme’s main intervention is the Migrant Access Programme (MAP) with core modules of English (as an Additional Language), maths, basic IT, and life skills. Total class contact time is a minimum of 20 hours per week plus additional literacy support where needed. The programme runs from September to the end of July with ongoing intake and progression. Learners progress to mainstream post-primary provision or Further or Adult Education Provision.

Through the project, supports have also been provided to the Roma community in the area of literacy attainment. The project has also provided mental health supports following the Taliban takeover in Autumn 2021 to young people from Afghanistan. The team continue to support the boys on an individual basis as well as within their peer groups to deal with the anxiety of ongoing events.

While all the learners on the programme are Beginner English speakers, many young people are not literate in their first language, and have limited or no exposure to previous formal education.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
CDET B Migrant Integration Project	€115,000	Expenditure of €115,000 in 2023

2.6.4 North East Inner City, City Connects Pilot Project

Boston College’s City Connects Programme is in place in over 90 schools across 6 states in the US. The Programme is premised on the fact that poverty has a clear and evidenced impact on educational attainment. The City Connects Programme is underpinned by a robust evidence base which indicates positive improvements for the child, now and in the future, as well as benefits for the school community.

The City Connects Programme approach means that the strengths of each individual child within a school setting are identified and a set of supports identified which can build on these strengths, while addressing areas of need.

The overall and underlying purpose of adapting and piloting this innovative interagency approach into the Irish school system is to improve outcomes for children by addressing multiple domains of development and through the enhancement of interagency co-operation at a school and local community level. The principle of interagency co-operation can be aligned and is a key feature of DEIS Action Plan and the City Connects pilot aligns closely with the 5 objectives of the Disbursement Scheme; as it should have a direct impact on disadvantaged families and children providing wraparound supports and services. It places the child at the centre with schools being uniquely placed as the drivers of change with a view to reaching out to the community and provide linkages with the various stakeholders and agencies.

The City Connects model has been adapted to the Irish context and more specifically, due to the Department’s involvement in the North East Inner City Initiative (NEIC), to the requirements of 10 NEIC primary schools with an approximate student population of 1800 children. The planning phase began in September 2019, followed by the adaptation and development phase in January 2020 and is now in the implementation phase.

To date the NEIC Initiative has funded the pilot project in 2019, 2020 and 2021. This funding has been supplemented by the Department of Education on successful application for DAF

funding in 2021 and 2022 of €400,000 in each year. This funding is in addition to €300,000 provided via Dormant Accounts to DCEDIY in 2021 and €450,000 in 2022 in their role as co-funding partners of the pilot project. The Dormant Accounts funding will continue to fund the pilot into 2023.

The Department of Education is seeking to align the pilot with existing practices and schemes such as the Tusla Education Support Service, the School Completion Programme and the Home School Community Liaison Scheme. To date the operation of the pilot and the impact of the provision of an NEIC Multidisciplinary Team consisting of enhanced National Educational Psychological Service support, the support of dedicated HSE speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and the HSE clinical psychologist has received positive responses from schools, the Programme Implementation Board and associated service providers in the community.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
City Connects Pilot Project	€1,400,000	Expenditure of €1,400,000 in 2023

2.6.5 Travellers and Roma Education Fund

While improvements have taken place in recent years as a result of targeted initiatives focusing on the attendance, participation and retention of Traveller and Roma pupils in the education system, educational attainment among Travellers and Roma children in Ireland continues to lag significantly behind that of the general population,

Based on 2020/21 school enrolment data, there are 8,148 Travellers in Irish primary schools (circa 1.5% of overall primary student cohort) and 3,292 enrolled at post-primary level (circa 0.9% of overall post-primary student cohort).

Analysis of retention data shows that close to 90% of Traveller students progress to third year in post primary schools. Completion of Junior Certificate is significantly less than the norm, with 68% to 79% of those entering school in 2014 or 2015 completing Junior Certificate in 2018 or 2019. The percentage completing Leaving Certificate remains low averaging at 22%.

This focus of this initiative is on post primary schools as the evidence suggests that this is where the greatest need for intervention lies. Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) coordinators are generally not available to non-DEIS schools. Traveller or Roma pupils currently attending non-DEIS schools cannot avail of HSCL supports. Funding will be used for trialling of Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) coordinators for non-DEIS post-primary

schools with large numbers of Traveller and Roma students. It is envisaged that the funding will provide for 10 HSCL posts across approximately 14 schools, an overall Traveller education co-ordinator post and funding in respect of capturing outputs to inform best practice and sustainability of initiatives.

The Department proposes to liaise on this initiative with TESS and with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) who are funding Traveller and Roma Community Education workers who will be able to work with schools and HSCL coordinators in selected areas, using community development approaches to focus on community engagement, and on promotion and progression through the education system

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Travellers and Roma Education Fund	€740,000	Expenditure of €740,000 in 2023

2.6.6 Time to Count

Time to Count aims to support the Department of Education’s national strategy on literacy and numeracy. The Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020 (LNLL 2011) strategy developed by the Department launched a set of ambitious targets for literacy and numeracy in schools. Progress has included a narrowing of the gap between DEIS and non-DEIS schools in areas including standards of literacy and numeracy, retention rates and attendance patterns. The performance report on the 2014 National Assessments provides evidence of progress towards attaining the targets outlined in the strategy.

Managed and operated by Business in the Community Ireland, Time to Count is an employee engagement opportunity for business volunteers to provide numeracy support to 8-9 year old children in a local disadvantaged primary school through the medium of specially chosen numeracy games and activities. The objectives of the programme are:

- To build children's confidence around numbers
- To foster children's enjoyment of number
- To reinforce children's conceptual understanding of numbers
- To support the development of children's flexibility & perseverance in maths problem solving.

It is a 10 week programme whereby the business volunteers who have received detailed training and support and who have been Garda vetted provide 40 – 45 mins of weekly support in the classroom to groups of 3rd class children with the class teacher being an observer to provide support and guidance to achieve the programme objectives.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Time to Count	€20,000	Expenditure of €20,000 in 2023

2.6.7 Glasnevin Trust

Glasnevin Cemetery is a site steeped in history and students participate in educational programmes to further their knowledge and awareness of Irish history. They are enabled to view events from the past through multiple viewpoints, encouraging skill development and supporting the teaching and learning of history. Geographical distances often pose an obstacle to schools wishing to avail of the learning opportunities within Experience Glasnevin. This is a barrier for DEIS schools in both urban and rural areas.

The Dormant Accounts funding will remove the educational barrier posed by transportation costs for schools particularly those with socially and economically disadvantaged students travelling to Experience Glasnevin. It will cover the cost of transport for a cohort of disadvantaged students to travel to Experience Glasnevin on a national basis. Reducing the cost of visits enables increased accessibility to students, from a variety of backgrounds, to avail of the learning opportunities within a site so integral to the Decade of Centenaries and beyond. Through their participation, students will be enabled to view events from the past through multiple viewpoints, encouraging skill development and supporting the teaching and learning of history.

The funding will cover the transport cost of up to 50 schools, across the country

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Glasnevin Trust	€20,000	Expenditure of €20,000 in 2023

2.6.8 The Big Idea

This project aims to develop creative thinking skills in disadvantaged students, instilling problem solving, resilience, empathy, critical thinking, research, communication and collaboration in young people (15-19 years old) at a time when it can make the biggest difference.

Providing an injection of skills at a crucial time in their development, the 12 week creative education TY programme is provided free to Youthreach, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) and DEIS schools, students and parents, empowering disadvantaged students with the knowledge and confidence they need to think big and take on the immediate challenges they face.

With the aim of reducing the gap between industry and education, the programme matches industry professionals to mentor student teams, who then provide feedback and advice.

It supports students from marginalised backgrounds to develop a deeper understanding of the issues that are affecting them through applied creative thinking; allowing them to build the resilience to identify areas of opportunity and propose practical and grounded solutions.

All teaching and learning materials are provided together with a *Think Big* resource bag, levelling the playing field for all students involved. Content and activities are designed with equitable access and differentiation incorporated throughout; all with a view to embedding in-demand creative skills for lifelong learning and application.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
The Big Idea	€100,000	Expenditure of €100,000 in 2023

2.6.9 MTU GoalMine Transition Year

The Munster Technological University (MTU) GoalMine programme provides a two-day living-lab experience for transition year students using a design driven innovation process. GoalMine stimulates and ignites the innate problem solving, critical thinking, and innovative mind-set of the participants through applied entrepreneurial and creative learning practice.

Taking place over two days per participating school, students use the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to identify a social innovation challenge.

In 2021, GoalMine was delivered to over 220 transition year students from 8 second level schools across Kerry. Funding will be used to continue the programme, targeting it specifically to DEIS Transition Year students in Kerry & Cork.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
MTU GoalMine Transition Year	€43,956	Expenditure of €43,956 in 2023

2.6.10 Tusla Education Services (TESS)

This measure includes a series of initiatives designed to increase the impact of the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) coordinator role in their engagement with disadvantaged families, in particular in relation to Traveller and Roma families and migrant families.

Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) has responsibility for the management of Home School Community Liaison coordinators. These coordinators are a key element of TESS supports provided under the DEIS (*Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools*) Programme, which is the Government's main strategy to tackle educational disadvantage.

The Programme is undergoing a significant expansion and from September 2022, an additional 322 schools will be included in DEIS for the first time, while 39 existing DEIS

schools will benefit from increased supports. This will bring the total number of DEIS schools to 1,206.

TESS will trial a number of initiatives to provide additional support to HSCLs, in particular those working with Traveller, Roma and migrant families, HSCLs that are new to DEIS, and HSCLs that provide support under other Department of Education initiatives, including the Supporting Traveller and Roma (STAR) pilot project under the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS).

The purpose of these additional supports is to equip HSCL coordinators to better support and empower the parents of educationally disadvantaged children, including Traveller, Roma and migrant children, in engaging with their child’s education and becoming partners in their educational outcomes.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Tusla Education Services (TESS)	€104,600	Expenditure of €104,600 in 2023

2.6.11 School Completion Programme

The objective of the scheme is to enable children seeking international protection to have access to the full range of school enrichment opportunities afforded by whole-school communities via the existing School Completion Programme (SCP) structures. Additionally, this scheme will provide supplementary and targeted supports to further enhance the resilience of children seeking international protection and promote school readiness. The dual focus of this scheme is that of equity and integration and this will be achieved through the:

- Development and delivery of programmes that promote wellness in targeted children.
- Funding of extracurricular activities and equipment that will enhance the educational experience and remove barriers to participation.
- Provision of play therapy for children who have experienced trauma.
- Provision of after-school activities that provide a space for children outside of the Direct Provision environment while promoting inclusion and integration into local communities.
- Provision of out-of-school supports for children who are enrolled in non-DEIS schools

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
School Completion Programme	€280,000	Expenditure of €280,000 in 2023

2.6.12 Towards Inclusion

This measure aims to develop *Synergies in Effective Teaching Approaches for Students with Additional Educational Needs* through communities of practice involving clusters of mainstream and special Schools. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) outlines the obligations on signatory countries to establish an inclusive education system which envisions all children, including those with disabilities, being educated in inclusive settings. The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act (2004) asserts that children with special educational needs should be educated, wherever possible, in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs.

Currently staff in one type of school rarely have opportunities to learn about teaching approaches being used in other school types to support students with similar needs. Similarly students who attend special schools have limited opportunities to engage with their peers in mainstream schools and vice versa. The scheme is intended to establish closer links between the mainstream and special school systems to focus on the provision of optimal teaching and learning experiences.

The scheme will establish four regionally-based communities of practice; clusters of local mainstream and special schools collaborating to ensure the adoption of the most effective teaching methodologies and provision of learning experiences under the direction of a Project Co-ordinator. A working group from the Department, the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) will constitute detailed terms of reference for the project.

Four geographical locations will be chosen to include a range of school sizes, types, systems of patronage and disability categories. The Department will work with the NCSE to identify mainstream schools in each location where students with additional needs are enrolled. Local special schools will also be categorised according to the types of needs their students demonstrate. The terms of reference for the scheme will be published and schools within the locations will be invited to apply for participation and successful applicants will receive a small grant to cover administration and relevant running costs. The Working Group and Co-ordinator will provide CPD for each cluster, outlining the objectives of the project and encouraging the development of innovative approaches and sharing of best practice. The clusters will comprise a number of primary, post-primary and special schools. At the end of the project, each school will be expected to share evidence and outcomes from its involvement in the project.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Towards Inclusion	€500,000	Expenditure of €500,000 in 2023

2.7 Department of Defence

2.7.1 Upgrading of vehicle fleet in Civil Defence

The Department of Defence is seeking an allocation of €400,000 under Strategy 2 of the 2023-2025 Dormant Accounts Disbursement Scheme to upgrade its existing vehicle fleet, which will strengthen capacity to respond to emergency and non-emergency events.

The ongoing provision of appropriate Civil Defence vehicles is essential in enabling an efficient response to national, regional and local emergency and non-emergency events, as they arise. While such events can affect the general public at any time, their impact can be more severe on the socially and economically disadvantaged, especially the vulnerable and isolated.

The important role of Civil Defence in supporting the Principal Response Agencies and the community has again been highlighted since the beginning of March, 2022 when work commenced to make suitable accommodation available to Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland. From the outset Civil Defence volunteers have been involved in assisting with the response by supporting the Principal Response Agencies, in particular the Local Authorities and the HSE. Volunteers gave freely of their time and some of the tasks undertaken include:

Setting up Rest Centres in 21 local authority areas. A number of these Rest Centres were accommodating a total of 572 displaced persons as of early June, 2022.

Providing first-aid cover at some Rest Centres.

Transporting displaced persons from Rest Centres and temporary accommodation to B&Bs, hotels and houses, as and when required.

Also transporting displaced persons to school registration, Department of Social Protection offices and GP, hospital and dental appointments, post offices and language workshops.

While the Ukrainian displaced persons crisis is a unique emergency event that required a focused national response, Civil Defence also assists at a wide range of emergencies at national and local level including severe weather events, flooding and supporting An Garda Síochána in searches for missing persons. Also, on an ongoing basis Civil Defence is involved in assisting at community, sporting and charity events.

The Department will utilise Dormant Accounts funding to procure new vehicles in 2023 to continue to upgrade the Civil Defence fleet.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Upgrading of vehicle fleet in Civil Defence	€400,000	Expenditure of €400,000 in 2023

2.7.2 Dormant Accounts funding to Veterans Associations

The Department has previously secured total funding of €500,000 under the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2020–2022 to assist the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) with specific special projects. This funding applies to elements of both Strategy 1 and Strategy 2, as outlined in the Appendix.

To date, ONE has nominated the provision of a Veterans Support Centre (VSC) and hostel in Cobh, Co. Cork and drew down €210,000 in this regard. The building was officially opened by the Minister for Defence in October 2021. Additional refurbishment works have been nominated and approved for the organisation’s homes in Athlone, Cobh and Letterkenny. A Programme for Government commitment is to assist ONE in its plans to establish a network of VSCs nationwide. The VSC aims to prevent homelessness through early intervention and to actively address loneliness. VSCs are available to all veterans to seek support and advice, not just to ONE members.

IUNVA’s nominated special projects have to date included the organisation’s new National Museum, which was officially opened by the Secretary General of the Department of Defence in September 2021, and the development of IT infrastructure at its various posts around the country. The remainder of its 2022 DAF allocation (approx. €86,000) is currently earmarked for the development of a new national training centre at its HQ in Dublin, and the organisation is liaising with the Department of Defence in this regard.

Both organisations were contacted by the Department of Defence in June 2022 with a view to identifying projects likely to be funded from additional Dormant Accounts funding in 2023, if granted. The following areas have been identified by the organisations and notified to the Department:

- The development of additional ONE homes in locations nationwide;
- The redevelopment of ONE’s home in Athlone;
- The further development of energy saving measures in all ONE homes, in partnership with the SEAI;
- The development of additional ONE VSCs potentially in Nenagh and Drogheda;
- The redevelopment of IUNVA’s post in Cavan.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Dormant Accounts funding to Veterans Associations	€200,000	Expenditure of €200,000 in 2023

2.7.3 Sail Training Ireland

Sail Training Ireland is a charity which was established in 2011 to fill the void left following the end of the former State run Asgard sail training programme. The State scheme was disbanded following the sinking of the Asgard in 2008. President Michael D. Higgins is Patron of Sail Training Ireland.

Sail training is more about personal and social development, rather than just simply learning to sail. It involves bringing a group of professional crew, youth leaders and trainees from different backgrounds on a sailing voyage. The voyage generally lasts for between 5-15 days on a vessel that may have from 10-50 people on board. This creates a challenging and dynamic experience. Activities include keeping watch, scrubbing decks, climbing masts, cooking meals and setting the sails. It is adventurous and requires teamwork and motivation. Trainees are sure to learn new skills. No previous experience is required and various physical abilities are catered for. The measure will focus on those from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or people with disabilities.

The challenges that arise from life at sea encourage and support trainees to push their comfort zones creating a valuable opportunity for developing positive attitudes, behaviours and understanding as well as both soft and hard skills. It inspires self-confidence and personal responsibility, interpersonal skills and respect, teamwork and independence. It promotes an acceptance of others, whatever their social or cultural backgrounds, and develops a willingness to take on challenges in life.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Sail Training Ireland	€50,000	Expenditure of €50,000 in 2023

2.8 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

2.8.1 Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs

Community Sports & Physical Activity Hubs (CSPAH) are a collective of progressive sports clubs and other local organisations that work together in areas of disadvantage to improve the sport and physical activity offering in their local communities. Each hub has unique characteristics but all work in accordance with certain principles - namely the need to grow participation in disadvantaged communities, to engage with those local communities, to promote community leadership, to offer a range of sporting opportunities and to bring all appropriate (key) partners/groups/people together. The hubs provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in the disadvantaged areas concerned to get involved and be engaged in a more active and healthier lifestyle. Accordingly, the core objective of this measure is to focus on

disadvantaged areas, bringing local people together and providing a home for local clubs and sports organisations in order to generate a positive local impact on sustainable sports participation and community integration.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs	€2,070,000	Expenditure of €2,070,000 in 2023

2.8.2 National Sport Education and Training Hub

This measure will target individuals from a disadvantaged background at both a local and national level by providing a clear education pathway for those interested in volunteering or working in sport. In 2023, Sport Ireland plan to deliver a range of innovative programmes and projects. Activities planned include: (i) a Volunteer Supports Programme, which will focus on the delivery of actions to be set out in the Volunteer for Sport Strategy (due to launch in Q4 2022), and will also support programmes and projects that focus on assisting unemployed people gain employment and supports for building capacity for community clubs to grow volunteer numbers; (ii) Youth Leadership programmes addressing the drop off of young people from physical activity. It will also include a range of innovative training and capacity building initiatives. Projects are designed and aligned to the requirements of the National Sports Policy (NSP) and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP). In 2021 Sport Ireland published its Participation Plan which identifies what Sport Ireland aims to achieve in the area of Participation from 2021 to 2024, which contains a particular focus on key target groups such as those with a disability and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage such as those from the Traveller and Roma Communities.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
National Sport Education and Training Hub	€2,620,000	Expenditure of €2,620,000 in 2023

2.8.3 Sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP)

The 2016 National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP), the 2018 National Sports Policy (NSP) and the 2021 Sports Action Plan (SAP) all include a range of actions across multiple sectors to promote increased levels of participation in sport and physical activity. The overarching aim of those actions is to increase the proportion of the population, across each life stage, undertaking regular physical activity and thereby generating health, economic and social benefits. There is a particular and compelling requirement to significantly step up efforts to pursue and achieve those targets amongst disadvantaged communities and people with a disability on the basis of significantly lower levels of sports participation amongst those who are unemployed, those on lower incomes and those with no third level education etc.

The most recent policy instrument, the Sports Action Plan, accordingly places a special emphasis on promoting the “Sport for All” ethos across participation programming, a policy challenge that is directly addressed through the deployment of Dormant Accounts funding under this measure. It enables Sport Ireland to deliver a range of targeted programmes for persons who are economically, educationally or socially disadvantaged, or persons with disability. Supports for the Traveller and Roma communities will be a particular priority area for attention. Funding will respond to various SAP, NSP and NPAP Actions, including in particular Action 3.2 of the SAP, Action 6 of the NSP and Action 2 of the NPAP, all of which relate to the promotion of sport and physical activity amongst the marginalised, and also to NPAP Action 45 concerning the Get Ireland campaigns (running, cycling, swimming and walking). Funding will also be earmarked for the progressive integration of Sport for All in sports clubs, by means of events as well as small scale capital supports for other sports inclusion disability projects.

Investment under this measure will also support a number of recent Sport Ireland policies, namely its Women in Sport Policy, its Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors Policy, its Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities, and most recently a Diversity & Inclusion in Sport Policy. All such Sport Ireland policies, as well as the recently published Sport Ireland Participation Plan set out the framework for what Sport Ireland aim to achieve in the area of Participation, with particular emphasis on key target groups such as people from socio-economic disadvantage and people with a disability.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support NPAP	€7,310,000	Expenditure of €7,310,000 in 2023

2.9 Department of Further & Higher Education, Research & Innovation & Science

2.9.1 Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme

The Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025 promotes general access, diversity and inclusion in apprenticeship by offering targeted supports to encourage participation from under-represented groups such as Travellers. One of the Plan’s main objectives is “apprenticeship for all”, whereby the apprenticeship population better represents the national population.

To advance this, one of the new governing structures, the National Apprenticeship Alliance will have an Equity of Access Sub-committee. Targets and interventions for specific target groups will be developed through the subcommittee to ensure that the voice of under-

represented groups is integral to the development of the apprenticeship system.

It is envisaged that the sub-committee will include representation linked with second level education, community education, youth justice programmes, broader FET provision and higher education. Proxy indicators of disadvantage are currently being developed to inform the establishment of the sub-committee so that membership best represents groups which need to be included.

Noting that apprenticeship is a method for obtaining qualifications through work-based learning and involves a contract of employment from the start, it offers many opportunities, particularly for those who are at risk of socio-economic disadvantage. Recognising the marginalised place of Travellers within wider Irish society, it is therefore proposed to establish a pilot Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme, for deployment in key areas initially, with the potential for further expansion and a national roll-out, dependent on initial results. This proposal accords with the education, training and employment goals of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy and the National Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 27. The Programme is aimed at both increased uptake of and retention on apprenticeships.

In the context of apprenticeships, there are costs for younger Travellers in accessing pre-apprenticeship and *Access to Apprenticeship* programmes, as well as the cost of purchasing tools and personal protective equipment. They may be reliant on public transport and having some funding towards this as well as supports for learning to drive and acquiring a driving licence would help them with this.

A bursary incentivisation for access and pre-apprenticeship programmes will lessen the fear that engaging with education and training will result in the loss of social welfare benefits. This is an issue which is highlighted by the Joint Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community, and a consideration that can deter participation from the outset on programmes supporting entry into apprenticeship.

In addition, there are general cost of living increases currently affecting everyone. The payments for apprentices and pre-apprentices envisaged under the Programme are designed to help defray some of these costs for this target group.

Measure	Allocation from Dormant Accounts Fund	Expenditure Profile
Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme	€450,000	Expenditure of €450,000 in 2023

Appendix I: Summary Table of Action Plan 2023 Measures

The following table provides a summary of measures and allocated funding under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2023 to each relevant Government Department.

Lead Department/Agency	No.	Description	Max Allocation
Department of Rural & Community Development	1	Social Enterprise Measure	2,300,000
	2	Senior Alerts Scheme	3,000,000
	3	Targeted Social Inclusion	970,000
	4	Pre-social Social Cohesion	150,000
	5	Public Libraries	550,000
	6	Participation and Engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) Process.	100,000
	7	Rethink Ireland	5,500,000
Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government	8	Housing First	3,000,000
	9	Traveller Accommodation	620,000
Department of Justice	10	Local Community Safety pilot projects completion	225,000
	11	Drogheda Implementation Plan Year 2	350,000
	12	Youth and Community Justice Services	5,000,000
	13	Awareness campaigns on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Victims Rights	1,889,000
	14	Irish Prison Service: Community Based Health in Justice	278,912
	15	Protecting Young People from the Influence of Adult Crime Networks in Ireland	1,426,000
	16	Community Organisations – Criminal Justice Sector	200,000
Department of Social Protection	17	Community Organisations – YPP Project Expenditure	105,000
	18	Support Employment, Education and Training Outcomes for People with a Disability and Family Carers	5,000,000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	19	Care Support for Vulnerable in Society	1,329,017
	20	Oberstown Detention Campus Training Initiatives	249,000
	21	Traveller and/or Roma Community Initiatives	1,705,265
	22	Youth and/or Family Initiatives	2,567,250
	23	Refugees Support Initiatives	800,000
	24	Babies and/or Young Children	75,000

	25	Disability Awareness Initiative	140,000
Department of Education	26	Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)	300,000
	27	Young Social Innovators	180,000
	28	CDET B Migrant Integration	115,000
	29	City Connects Pilot Project	1,400,000
	30	Travellers and Roma Education Fund	740,000
	31	Time to Count	20,000
	32	Glasnevin Trust	20,000
	33	The Big Idea	100,000
	34	MTU GoalMine Transition Year	43,956
	35	Tusla Education Services (TESS)	104,600
	36	School Completion Programme	280,000
	37	Towards Inclusion	500,000
	Department of Defence	38	Upgrading of the Civil Defence Fleet of Vehicles
39		Dormant Accounts funding to Veterans Associations	200,000
40		Sail Training Ireland	50,000
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	41	Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs	2,070,000
	42	National Sport Education and Training Hub	2,620,000
	43	Sports Measures for Disadvantaged Communities to Support the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP)	7,310,000
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Science	44	Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme	450,000
TOTAL:			€54,433,000

