

# Mid-term Review of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025



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### **Minister's Foreword**



I welcome the opportunity to launch the mid-term review of the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025*.

Since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, we have seen the Irish economy make a remarkable recovery, with a record 2.6 million people in employment and strong tax receipts. However, we have also seen significant and persistent increases in the cost of living. This pressure highlights the importance and continued relevance of the goals and commitments made under the Roadmap and its role in protecting the most vulnerable in our society to ensure that no one is left behind in progress made.

The *Programme for Government: Our Shared Future* fully supports implementation of the Roadmap and reinforces its objectives, further strengthening Government's resolve to deliver on Roadmap goals, targets and commitments. Since the launch of the Roadmap, 39 of the 69 commitments have been achieved, with work on the remaining commitments ongoing. So, while considerable progress has been made, it is clear that there is still much work to do.

Through the mid-term review process, some existing commitments have been revised and other commitments have been added, reflecting the changed policy landscape. The role of the strategy is not to replace existing sectoral strategies, but rather to identify key commitments across Government that will work to reduce poverty and improve social inclusion and to drive their delivery. In this regard, the review also reaffirms Government's ambition to reduce the national consistent poverty rate to 2% or less and make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in Europe.

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As Minister for Rural and Community Development, as well as Social Protection, I welcome the focus of work towards delivery of the Roadmap across Government. This is highlighted by the addition of new commitments, under the mid-term review, assigned to each of my departments, as well as a range of other Departments across Government.

The Roadmap aims to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU, with ties to delivery of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), which acts as a compass for a strong social Europe. Targets set out in the EPSR are reflected in the Roadmap, with commitments linked to EPSR principles.

Delivery of Roadmap goals, targets and commitments also contributes to Ireland's implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of interlinked goals designed to transform our world and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, with commitments under the Roadmap aligned to relevant SDGs.

Through consultation with our key stakeholders, this mid-term review has updated the strategy to prioritise and focus on what we need to achieve over the next two years if we are to meet the ambitious goals originally set out in the Roadmap.

The Government remains fully committed to the implementation of the Roadmap and the findings of this mid-term review will be used to realise its goals.

Realter Amplys

Heather Humphreys, T.D. Minister for Social Protection June 2023



In the years since the launch of the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion* in January 2020, we have witnessed a series of extraordinary events and challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and the current cost of living pressures.

It is therefore timely that this mid-term review allows us an opportunity to reflect on progress made and assess what has worked well under the Roadmap since its introduction, while also allowing us the chance to update the Roadmap to reflect changed or emerging circumstances and focus on what our priorities should be for the remaining life of the strategy.

The Roadmap committed to undertake an independent mid-term review in 2022, all aspects of which were informed by engagement with stakeholders. Ipsos were appointed to undertake the stakeholder engagement element of the review, which included last year's Social Inclusion Forum, a full public consultation process open to submissions, stakeholder interviews and a survey of Government Departments. In addition, the ESRI were engaged to undertake a review of the indicators used for the EU and national targets in the Roadmap.

This mid-term review document sets out the revised strategy for the remaining years of the Roadmap, which emerged from the consultation process and review of indicators. This document is therefore one component of the mid-term review and should be read alongside the Ipsos report on the consultation process and the ESRI review of indicators, both of which have been published alongside this report and are available on gov.ie. Oversight of the implementation of the Roadmap is undertaken by a Steering Group, which I chair, comprising senior representatives of responsible departments and members from the Community and Voluntary Sector. The Steering Group has met on 8 occasions since the launch of the Roadmap, most recently in May 2023. I would like to thank colleagues across Government and the Community and Voluntary sector for their dedication in contributing to the work of the Steering Group and for participating in the consultation process that informed the mid-term review.

As Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion, the implementation of the Roadmap and its goals is a priority for me and it is my intention that, through the continued engagement with stakeholders, we will realise its ambitions and build a fairer and more equitable society for all.

Joe O'Brien

Joe O'Brien, T.D. Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion June 2023

### 1. Introduction

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025, approved by Government and published in January 2020, is a whole of Government strategy that aims to reduce consistent poverty and improve social inclusion in Ireland. The primary ambition of the Roadmap is to *"Reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU."* The Roadmap translated this ambition into 7 Goals underpinned by 66 unique commitments (actions) to help deliver these goals.

Oversight of the implementation of the strategy is undertaken by a Steering Group comprising senior representatives of responsible departments and three external members from the Community and Voluntary Sector. By the end of 2022, seven Steering Group meetings were held, chaired by Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for Social Inclusion. The first and second progress reports, and associated report cards, set out progress to date on achieving the ambition, targets, goals and commitments of the strategy. These reports cover the period January 2020 to June 2022 and have been published on gov.ie.

At the end of 2022, 39 of Roadmap commitments were either fully achieved or achieved with ongoing delivery, with a further four commitments in progress on schedule with ongoing delivery, and delivery on 26 commitments in progress.



The strategy commits to undertaking an independent mid-term review of the strategy. The remainder of this chapter outlines the approach taken for the review, and the following chapters detail its findings.

### **Overall approach to the Mid-term Review**

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion commits that "an independent mid-term review of the Roadmap will be undertaken in 2022." The scope of the review, as agreed by the Steering Group, included:

- A review of progress in implementation (based primarily on the published Progress Reports and Report Cards);
- An assessment of the existing Roadmap ambition, goals and commitments in terms of coherence with *Programme for Government* commitments, other sectoral strategies and EU-level developments, and considering the changed environment arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living increases and the war in Ukraine; and
- A review of the existing Roadmap indicators (undertaken by the ESRI under Department's joint Poverty and Social Inclusion research programme – see section 2 for details on this).

A stakeholder engagement process, undertaken by an external consultant, Ipsos, informed each of these elements of the review.

This mid-term review document should be read in conjunction with the other components of the review to provide a more detailed background to the changes that have been made. These included the:

- Ipsos Report on Stakeholder Consultation;
- ESRI Technical Paper on the Poverty Indicators for Social Inclusion in Ireland; and
- Annual Roadmap Progress Reports and Report Cards.

The stakeholder engagement consisted of:

- A public consultation process (online survey, with the option of written submissions);
- Engagement with the Roadmap Steering Group and other stakeholders (paper/online/face-to-face/group and individual interviews); and
- Facilitation of a 1-hour session at the Social Inclusion Forum 2022 to obtain feedback from participants.

A Mid-Term Review Advisory Group was established to oversee this aspect of the Mid-Term Review, consisting of representatives from the Roadmap Steering Group (including three key Departments – Health; Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science; and Children, Equality, Integration, Disability & Youth – and the Community and Voluntary sector representatives). The National Economic and Social Council (NESC) was also a member of the group as an external expert. This group met three times, discussing the best use of the Social Inclusion Forum to inform the review, and how to approach the public consultation process and consultation with the key stakeholders involved in delivery of Roadmap goals and commitments. It was noted that this was a mid-term review of the strategy, rather than the development of a new strategy and as such, the focus of the review was not to fundamentally re-work the strategy but rather to align it with developments since the publication of the strategy and to identify priorities for the remaining duration of the strategy accordingly.

The Ipsos engagement with stakeholders comprised of three main elements:

**Social Inclusion Forum:** It was agreed that the Social Inclusion Forum would inform the Mid-Term Review both from the discussions that took place at the forum workshops, and a separate forum session, led by Ipsos, specifically focusing on the review.

Priorities identified at the Social inclusion Forum 2022 included:

- Ensuring income adequacy in the face of high inflation to prevent poverty, including food and energy poverty.
- Providing access to responsive, affordable services (childcare, housing, health) which would reduce the cost of living.
- Developing an ethnic identifier to identify what services are needed for

vulnerable, ethnic groups.

- Reducing child poverty, with an annual children's budget and specific, targeted supports for the most vulnerable.
- Recognising that the housing crisis has a knock-on impact on all aspects of families and children's lives.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Cost of Disability Report and reviewing payments and benefits for people with disabilities to remove anomalies in the system.
- Improving access to digital services so, for instance, people with disabilities can access websites for information, making it easier to access services, find employment and participate in society.
- Including the lived experience of affected groups in decision making, including the voice of children.
- Improving inter-Departmental collaboration, ensuring barriers around bureaucracy are removed and allowing easier access to services.

**Public Consultation:** A full public consultation was launched by Ipsos on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and ran until 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Those wishing to make submissions were invited to either complete a short online survey hosted by Ipsos through www.gov.ie or make a submission by email directly to Ipsos. Submissions were received from 42 individuals or organisations.<sup>1</sup>

**Key Stakeholder Engagement:** A specific effort was made to engage with those involved in the delivery of the Roadmap. This included four qualitative interviews with the external representatives of the Roadmap Steering Group and Mid-term Review Advisory Group, as well as detailed questionnaires sent to relevant Government Departments, with 11 responses received.

A final report on the findings of all phases of the consultation process was returned to the Department by Ipsos in December 2022. The themes identified in the report aligned with much of the feedback received at the Social Inclusion Forum, set out above. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All submissions received during the public consultation process have been published alongside this report on gov.ie.

full lpsos report has been published on <u>gov.ie</u> alongside this report.

### Changing Circumstances

Since the publication of the *Roadmap* in January 2020 there have been a number of significant events that have changed the context for the delivery of Roadmap commitments, namely:

- the finalisation of the new Programme for Government;
- the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the war in Ukraine; and
- increases in the cost of living.

This changed context has been mentioned in the previously published Roadmap Progress Reports, as some have had an impact on delivery of commitments, while others have highlighted the importance of the Roadmap ambition and goals in protecting the most vulnerable in society.

The formation of the coalition Government in June 2020, and the agreement of a new Programme for Government, '*Our Shared Future*', resulted in significant changes in Departmental responsibilities, with some areas of work and their related Roadmap commitments transferring between Departments. The Programme for Government commits to the rigorous implementation of the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion* and reflects a number of *Roadmap* commitments.

As emphasised in the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion*, the purpose of the *Roadmap* is not to duplicate or substitute other national strategies, frameworks and sectoral plans which have been published by Government, which remain, and rightly so, key to ensuring that social inclusion is at the core of public policy and service strategy across all departments and Government services. The purpose of the Roadmap is threefold:

- to set a level of ambition for what it is we wish to achieve and to have this ambition inform and be reflected in sectoral and service plans across Government as they are renewed and updated over coming years.
- to identify specific commitments which will complement the sectoral approaches and ensure that the risk of poverty and deprivation is minimised, with priority

given to the needs of those at most risk of experiencing the poorest outcomes.

 to set up an evidence-based framework for monitoring and reporting progress in order to inform the renewal of existing, and the development of future, sectoral strategies.

Strategies and action plans, which have been published since January 2020 that include social inclusion and poverty reduction as key objectives include:

- Economic Recovery Plan: Recovery and Renewal
- Future FET: Transforming Learning 2020-2024 The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy
- Adult Literacy for Life: A 10–Year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy
- Action Plan for Apprenticeships 2021-2025
- Pathways to Work 2021-2025
- Low Pay Commission Living Wage Report 2022
- Report of the Commission on Pensions
- EU Child Guarantee: Ireland's National Action Plan
- Partnership for the Public Good: A New Funding Model for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare (2021)
- Forbairt National Action Plan 2023
- Cineáltas Action Plan on Bullying 2022
- National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027
- Sharing the Vision A Mental Health Policy for Everyone
- National Action Plan Against Racism
- National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025
- Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027
- Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025
- Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland
- Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023 to 2025
- National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 2027
- Housing First National Implementation Plan 2022-2026
- White paper on ending direct provision
- Climate Action Plan 2023

• Energy Poverty Action Plan

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth will work to align the commitments anticipated under the successor strategies to the *National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy*, the *National Strategy for Women and Girls* and the *Migrant Integration Strategy* with the objectives of the *Roadmap for Social Inclusion*.

The publication of these strategies and action plans has been considered as part of this mid-term review, resulting in the updating of some Roadmap commitments. While this is a mid-term review of the current strategy, comments and feedback received as part of this process will be also be considered in conjunction with further consultation for the development of the post-2025 strategy.

## Social Inclusion – A Key Driver of Policy and Service Development across Government

National policies and strategies related to the *Roadmap to Social Inclusion 2020-2025* commitments include:



### 2. Review of Indicators and Targets

Under the joint Poverty and Social Inclusion research programme with the Department of Social Protection, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), undertook a review of the indicators used to measure progress against Roadmap ambitions and goals for the mid-term review.

In addition to the existing national social target for poverty reduction to reduce consistent poverty in Ireland to 2% or less, the Roadmap commits to making Ireland one of the most socially inclusive societies in the European Union. In this regard, the Roadmap expanded the measures used to monitor and report on progress beyond income-related measures to include metrics covering a number of key aspects of social inclusion: housing, healthcare, early learning and care, and social integration. The targets include several European and national indicators, with the European targets – based on the European Pillar of Social Rights Social Scoreboard metrics agreed across EU member states – set to position Ireland as a top performer within Europe in promoting and achieving high levels of social inclusion.

### ESRI Technical Paper on the Poverty Indicators for Social Inclusion in Ireland<sup>2</sup>

The ESRI report, published alongside this report, presents an overview of Ireland's progress on the poverty and social inclusion goals and targets, and reviews the indicators with several suggestions for alternative or additional indicators. It also explores the relationship between the old and new AROPE measures and the Irish measure of consistent poverty.

Most of the indicators used in the Roadmap to track progress on the poverty and social inclusion targets were found to be both useful and meaningful. The report notes that most chosen indicators were convenient, regularly collected and harmonised, and designed to allow for comparisons across EU countries. Based on data available at the end of 2022, Ireland had already reached three of 22 social inclusion and poverty targets for 2025. Improvements in the absolute levels were recorded for 13 indicators, while falls were documented for five indicators and progress on four targets could not be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The full ESRI technical paper, 'Review of Poverty Indicators for Social Inclusion in Ireland', has been published on Gov.ie and is also available on <u>www.esri.ie</u>.

measured. While progress was made on the majority of EU monetary indicators, the report noted that some could be supplemented with additional measures to provide more information.

The report noted that the Roadmap paid significant attention to standard EU metrics, with one of the main aims being to place Ireland in a top-ranking position compared to other EU member states. The report recognises that the rationale behind this approach was that it would a) facilitate standardised independent and reliable reporting of policy performance, b) recognise that Ireland's ability to reduce poverty and social exclusion was strongly linked to the performance of other EU states, and c) reflect that policies are framed within the context of EU wide initiatives and rules, and that Ireland's progress is thus best demonstrated as compared with other EU states.

While the report acknowledges the advantages of setting most target levels based on EU metrics, it also highlights some limitations when using EU indicators and country rankings. One possible disadvantage stated in the report is that rankings say very little about the absolute levels of poverty and social exclusion. The report notes that rankings are also dependent on how other countries perform. For example, an increasing number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in other EU member states could improve Ireland's ranking even if absolute levels in Ireland are stable or even increase, but at a relatively lower rate. In this regard, it should be noted that the Roadmap's European-level targets include both an EU ranking target and an absolute target, which overcomes this possible disadvantage. Neither the EU ranking nor the absolute target take precedent, rather by offering different perspectives, combined, they both add value in benchmarking Ireland's performance at enhancing social inclusion.

The report further notes that a reliance on EU indicators risks missing aspects of poverty and social exclusion that are more context specific. It suggests that EU indicators should be evaluated to assess if they are suitable for the Irish context, and they should be complimented with a range of relevant national indicators. In this regard, it should be noted that the Roadmap already contains both EU-level and national targets.

The report notes that the Roadmap includes five targets for 2025 specific to Ireland, which are accompanied by five national indicators to track progress. These represent

important policy areas and allow for monitoring Ireland's progress in these areas. However, the report suggests that some national indicators could be refined to better capture inequalities and others need to be measured more regularly to be able to monitor progress more consistently, while more indicators could be added to follow developments in other important areas.

### **Revised Targets**

Based on feedback from the mid-term review consultation process and the ESRI technical paper, the following amendments and additions to the Roadmap's EU-level and national targets are proposed:

### EU-level targets (Table 1A)

- The Gini Coefficient will be added to Table 1A as recommended by the ESRI, to complement the income quintile share ratio measure under Income Distribution. This measure provides an overview of the entire income distribution, adding insight to the existing measure which focuses on the relationship between the top and bottom income quintiles.
- The share of people who are at risk at poverty anchored in 2017 (EU measure), which is no longer published by Eurostat, will be removed from Table 1A and will be replaced with the share of people at risk of poverty anchored in 2020 (national measure) in Table 1B, as recommended by the ESRI.
- The Social Participation and Integration measures in Table 1A will be reviewed to use relevant data from the European Social Survey, which will be available every two years, in place of the current measure, the data for which were based on an ad-hoc module in 2015.

### National Targets (Table 1B)

- The Child Poverty target in Table 1B will be revised to reflect the new post-2020 child poverty target which will be set following a public consultation process in 2023. This will then be reported on in the annual Progress Report. The importance of setting this target was raised in the public consultation process.
- Progress towards the newly established Irish contribution to the European Pillar of Social Rights 2030 headline poverty reduction target will be added to Table 1B, as highlighted in the public consultation process.

- The Employment Target for People with a Disability in Table 1B will be revised to reflect the working age population (20 to 64 years) based on feedback received as part of the mid-term review public consultation. As this data is only available every five years, as highlighted in the ESRI report, interim data available every two years from Q2 2023 in the CSO Labour Force Survey on employment rates of people with a disability will be reported in the Social Inclusion Monitor.
- **Retention rates** for non-DEIS schools will be added to the Education target in Table 1B to provide a comparison with DEIS levels, as recommended by the ESRI.
- The target for **Social Housing** in Table 1B will be updated to reflect the current housing strategy, *Housing for All*, which replaced *Rebuilding Ireland* in September 2021.

### **Social Inclusion Monitor Indicators**

It is important to recognise the distinction between targets and indicators. The approach taken in this mid-term review has been to include new targets primarily where these have already been agreed by Government and are reflected in existing strategies. However, the ESRI report and the public consultation process emphasised the need to report on a wider range of indicators to provide visibility on the differences that can exist for various at-risk groups. In this regard, reporting on a range of indicators will be included in the Social Inclusion Monitor, which will be published at the same time as the annual Progress Report and Report Card. This will ensure that these indicators are considered in the context of progress in delivering Roadmap commitments.

Some indicators to be incorporated into the Social Inclusion Monitor include:

- The share of people who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion before and after social transfers in Table 1A will be further disaggregated for lone parents and adults over 65 years of age, to illustrate the effectiveness of social transfers in protecting vulnerable groups.
- As suggested in the ESRI report, the existing EU health indicators will be complemented by additional measures, such as healthy life years<sup>3</sup>, and social and cultural participation (age 50+).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Eurostat code: HLTH\_HLYE

- Other indicators relating to housing (e.g., social housing waiting lists, homelessness) and childcare (e.g., affordability and participation) will be considered, as suggested by the ESRI and the public consultation process.
- Other measures suggested in the ESRI report will be reviewed and included, where available, including measures on food poverty, energy poverty, and data trends for vulnerable groups (e.g., lone-parents, older people).

A key issue in the consultation process was to incorporate qualitative data on the **lived experience** of vulnerable groups, in considering progress in meeting Roadmap targets and goals. It is proposed to include feedback from the Social Inclusion Forum in the annual progress reports. In addition, future iterations of the poverty and social inclusion research programme will explore integrating qualitative research elements, reflecting the lived experience of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, it was noted that the existing official statistics, based on survey data, cannot report on the experience of poverty and social exclusion for a number of marginalised groups. Progress in the development, delivery and implementation of the forthcoming Equality Data Strategy will be critical in this regard. Further work should be undertaken by relevant Departments on how best to disaggregate existing targets and indicators.

### Table 1A: Revised EU Measures and Targets - progress in 2021

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target				
	(2018)	(2019)	(2020)	(2021)	(2025)				
Aim	Risk of Poverty a	and Social Exclus	sion - Become a t	top 5 country					
Measure	The share of peop Measure	ole who are at risk	of poverty or socia	al exclusion (AROI	PE) - Headline				
Goals	3,4,5	3,4,5							
Absolute Level         20.8%         20.4%         20.1% <sup>b</sup> 20.0%         16									
EU Ranking	17	16	16	14	5				
EuroStat Data Code: ILC	C_PEPS01N]								
Aim	Income Distribut	tion - Become a t	op 5 country						
Measure	The income quint	ile share ratio							
Goals	2, 4, 5								
Absolute Level	4.2:1	4.0:1	4.1:1 <sup>b</sup>	3.8:1	3.8:1				
EU Ranking	10	7	7	6	5				
[EuroStat Data Code: IL0	DI11]			I					
Measure	NEW MEASURE	: Gini Coefficient of	of equivalised disp	osable income					
Goals	2, 4, 5								
Absolute Level	28.9	28.3%	28.3%	26.9%	25.9%				
EU Ranking	14	12	12	9	5				
[EuroStat Data Code: TE	SSI190]								
Aim	Income Poverty countries	- Become a top 5	country or impro	ove rank within th	e top 5				
Measure	The share of peop	ple who are at risk	of poverty before	social transfers (in	cl. pensions)				
Goals	3, 4, 5								
Absolute Level	41.0%	41.2%	41.1% <sup>b</sup>	43.3%	37.9%				
EU Ranking	10	11	13	13	5				
[EuroStat Data Code: IL0	 LI09B]			I					
Measure	The share of peop	ple who are at risk	of poverty after so	ocial transfers					
	3, 4, 5								
Goals	5, 4, 5								
	14.9%	13.1%	13.8% <sup>b</sup>	12.9%	12.8%				
Absolute Level		13.1% 7	13.8% <sup>b</sup> 8	12.9% 7	12.8% 5				
Absolute Level EU Ranking	14.9% 11								
Absolute Level EU Ranking [EuroStat Data Code: ILC	14.9% 11 C_LI02]	7		7					
EU Ranking [EuroStat Data Code: IL0 Measure	14.9% 11 C_LI02]	7	8	7					
Goals Absolute Level EU Ranking [EuroStat Data Code: ILC Measure Goals Absolute Level	14.9% 11 C_LI02] The share of peop	7	8	7					

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target			
	(2018)	(2019)	(2020)	(2021)	(2025)			
Measure	The in-work at ris	k of poverty rate (	age 18 to 64 years	)				
Goals	1, 2, 3, 4, 5							
Absolute Level	4.8%	4.4%	6.1% <sup>b</sup>	4.3%	3.5%			
EU Ranking	3	3	8	4	2			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_IW01]				I			
Measure	The AROPE rate for children under 18 years of age							
Goals	1, 2, 4, 5							
Absolute Level	24.7%	23.9%	23.5% <sup>b</sup>	22.8%	16%			
EU Ranking	20	18	20	16	5			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_PEPS01N]							
Measure	The AROPE rate	for people with di	sabilities (over 16 y	vears old) ^				
Goals	3, 4, 5							
Absolute Level	38.2%	38.1%	35.0%	39.3%	28.7%			
EU Ranking	22	22	20	24	10			
[EuroStat Data Code: HL	TH_DPE010]							
Aim	Housing Quality	<sup>·</sup> - Maintain rank <sup>·</sup>	within the top 5 co	ountries				
Measure	The housing cost	overburden rate						
Goals	4, 5							
Absolute Level	3.4%	4.2%	4.5% <sup>b</sup>	2.5%	2%			
EU Ranking	3	5	10	1	Top 5			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_LVHO07A]				I			
Measure	The overcrowding	g rate						
Goals	4, 5							
Absolute Level	2.7%	3.2%	3.2% <sup>b</sup>	3.4%	2.5%			
EU Ranking	2	2	2	3	Top 5			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_LVHO05A]							
Aim			ng Conditions - Be	ecome a top 5 co	untry or			
			e top 5 countries	oith on sea of the	u acod			
Measure		population who re	port their health as	either good or Ver	y good			
Goals	3, 4, 5, 7	00.00/	00 70/h	04.40/	04.00/			
Absolute Level	84.1%	83.9%	83.7% <sup>b</sup>	81.1%	84.2%			
EU Ranking		1	1	1	1			
[EuroStat Data Code: HL]	-	population report	ng unmot boolth oo	ro poode due te er	otlovnonco			
Measure		ρορυιατιοτι τεροπι	ng unmet health ca		bstrexpense			
Goals	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	0.00%	0.00(h	0.40/	0.40/			
Absolute Level	0.9%	0.9%	0.6% <sup>b</sup>	0.1%	0.1%			
EU Ranking	18	19	18	7	5			
[EuroStat Data Code: HL	IH_SILC_08J							

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target			
	(2018)	(2019)	(2020)	(2021)	(2025)			
Measure	The share of the	population living ir	households with	very low work inter	nsity ^			
Goals	1, 2, 4, 5	, 2, 4, 5						
Absolute Level	13.2%	13.8%	11.5% <sup>b</sup>	13.0%	5.5%			
EU Ranking	26	26	25	27	5			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_LVHL13n]							
Measure	The share of child	dren receiving forn	nal childcare*					
Goals	1, 2, 4, 5, 7							
Absolute Level	69.2%	62.1%	77.4% <sup>b</sup>	74.6%	69.4%			
EU Ranking	2	4	1	1	1			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC	_CAINDFORMAL]							
Measure	The share of the	population sufferin	g severe material	deprivation ^^				
Goals	4, 5							
Absolute Level	4.9%	5.4%	4.1% <sup>b</sup>	N/A	3.1%			
EU Ranking	14	15	13	N/A	5			
[EuroStat Data Code: ILC								
Aim	Social Participa	tion and Integrati	on - Become a to	p 5 country				
Measure	REVISED: Active	citizenship rate**						
Goals	1, 2, 4, 5, 6							
Absolute Level	13%	-	-	-	17.2%			
EU Ranking	7	-	-	-	5			
	l							
Measure	REVISED: Partic	ipation in formal vo	oluntary work**					
Goals	1, 2, 4, 5, 6							
Absolute Level	29%	-	-	-	34.1%			
EU Ranking	7	-	-	-	5			
	1				1			

### Note: Rankings are based upon the EU-27 (EU-28 excluding the UK). Eurostat/CSO data is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change.

<sup>b</sup> Break in time series

^ 2018 baseline data was updated by Eurostat after the publication of the Roadmap.

^ Data for 2018 was not available at time of publication of the Roadmap and 2017 data used. This has been updated to reflect 2018 data. Data for 2021 was not available at time of publication of this report.

\*From 3 years to minimum compulsory school age (duration: 1-29 hours)

\*\*This target was based on an ad-hoc module (2015 only). See revised targets for proposed new data source.

### Table 1B: Revised National Measures and Targets - progress in 2022

Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Target
National Social T	arget for Poverty F	Reduction			
The share of the p	oopulation in consist	ent poverty			
Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	i, 6, 7				
5.6%	5.5%	4.7% <sup>4</sup>	4.0%	5.3%	2% (2025)
Child Poverty Ta	rget (BOBF) - TO E	BE REVIEWED			
	tion to lift over 70,00 ds on the 2011 leve	00 children (aged 0-1 I (107,000 children)	17 years) out of con	sistent poverty by 2	2020, a reduction
Goals: 4, 5, 7					
92,000	97,000	86,000	62,000	90,000	37,000 (2020)
(7.7%)	(8.1%)	(7.2%)	(5.2%)	(7.5%)	(3%)
NEW MEASURE: Poverty Reductic		to the European Pi	Ilar of Social Right	ts Action Plan 203	0 Headline
		ty or social exclusior 00 for Ireland (50% c			ast 15m (at least 5
Goals: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	,				
		Total: 1,002,00	Total: 1,005,000 (+3000)		Total: -90,000
-	-	Children:	Children:	TBC	Children: -45,000
		289,000	276,000 (-13,000)		(2030)
REVISED: At risk	of poverty (AROP	) anchored in 2020			
	le at risk of poverty	(AROP) anchored in	ם 2020		
The share of peop		(AROP) anchored ir	ו 2020		
The share of peop		(AROP) anchored ir 13.2%	9.0%	9.1%	5.6%
The share of peop Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 -	5, 6, 7	· · ·	9.0%	9.1%	5.6%
The share of peop Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - REVISED: Emplo Increase the empl over two census p	5, 6, 7 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	13.2%	9.0% ility aged 20-64 years o	ld) as measured by	v Census data,
The share of peop Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - REVISED: Emplo ncrease the empl over two census p Disabilities	5, 6, 7 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	13.2% People with a Disab ple with a disability (	9.0% ility aged 20-64 years o	ld) as measured by	v Census data,
The share of peop Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - REVISED: Emplo Increase the empl over two census p Disabilities	5, 6, 7 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	13.2% People with a Disab ple with a disability (	9.0% ility aged 20-64 years o	ld) as measured by	Census data, People with
The share of peop Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - REVISED: Emplo Increase the empl over two census p Disabilities Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5	5, 6, 7 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	13.2% People with a Disab ple with a disability (	9.0% ility aged 20-64 years o	ld) as measured by	Census data, People with

<sup>4</sup> Break in time series

Actual (2018)	Actual (2019)	Actual (2020)	Actual (2021)	Actual (2022)	Target			
Education								
Continue to improve retention rates to the Leaving Certificate at second level in DEIS schools in order to reach the national norm (currently 91.6 %)								
• •	retention rates to th	ne Leaving Certifica	te at second level b	etween DEIS and n	on-DEIS schools.			
Goals:1, 2, 4, 5, 6,	7							
DEIS: 83.8% 9.3 percentage points <sup>5</sup>	DEIS: 84.8% 8.6 percentage points <sup>6</sup>	DEIS: 86.1% 7.6 percentage points <sup>7</sup>	TBC (2016 Cohort)	TBC (2017 Cohort)	DEIS: 91.6% or national- norm 0 percentage			
(2013 Cohort)	(2014 Cohort)	(2015 Cohort)			points (2019 Cohort)			
Social Housing Under Rebuilding Ireland, deliver 50,000 new social homes through build, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing, with the delivery of 12,000 additional social housing homes annually, through build, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing programmes Housing for All is the Government's plan to increase the supply of housing to an average of 33,000 per year over the next decade. This includes the delivery of almost 12,000 social homes annually with an average 10,000 new build social homes out to 2030. Goals:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7								
<del>27,086</del> 8,405 <sup>8</sup>	<del>28,072</del> 10,004 <sup>8</sup>	<del>24,622</del> 7,824 <sup>8</sup>	<del>23,312</del> 9,169 <sup>8</sup>	10,263 <sup>8</sup>	50,000 by 2021; 12,000 annually post 2021 12,000 annually			

https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/retention/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This measures the percentage of pupils who entered the first year of post-primary schools in **2013** and who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in **2018** or **2019**. See: <u>https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/retention/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> This measures the percentage of pupils who entered the first year of post-primary schools in **2014** and who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in **2019** or **2020** (Calculated grades) See:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This measures the percentage of pupils who entered the first year of post-primary schools in **2014** and who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in **2020** (Calculated grades) or **2021** See: <u>https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/retention/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Figures for 2018 to 2021 have been revised to remove those on HAP and RAS. See:

https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/6060e-overall-social-housing-provision/

### 3. Goal 1: Expanding the Opportunity of Employment

## Give everyone who can work the opportunity of employment as a means to improve their well-being

The focus of this goal is the successful, continued implementation of policies, strategies and commitments to support and improve the capacity of people to take up employment, education and training opportunities.

### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements up to the end of 2022 include:

- The publication of the Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2020-2024 *'Transforming Learning'* in July 2020.
- The publication of *Pathways to Work 2021-2025* in July 2021.
- The establishment of the Labour Market Advisory Council, which plays a key role in advising the Minister and the Government on public policy responses to support the labour market recovery. The Council considered and provided advice on the development of the *Pathways to Work 2021-2025* strategy, and submitted a progress report on its implementation to the Minster for Social Protection, which is available on <u>www.gov.ie</u>.
- The implementation and roll out of the National Childcare Scheme, with a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in place to allow for ongoing and periodic assessment of the scheme's success in meeting its objectives, with a review of the first year of operation of the scheme published in December 2021.
- The Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021 to 2025 was published in April 2021.
- The announcement in Budget 2022 of the extension to Parent's Leave and Benefit by 2 weeks for each parent to 7 weeks in total.
- Under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan, the Department of Social Protection has provided funding to support and improve employment opportunities for carers and people with a disability.

In addition, the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migrant Scheme, which allowed people with no immigration status in Ireland to apply for legal residence, with a separate scheme for international protection applicants, opened for applications in 2022. Over 5,000 people have been granted status under the scheme.

### Focus for 2023 to 2025

The findings from the consultation process for Goal 1 indicates that while there has been a welcome return to a very low unemployment rate following the lifting of public health restrictions introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important that this does not result in a loss of focus on pre-pandemic labour issues that remain for those most distant from the labour market.

During the remaining period of the Roadmap access to employment and training for employment will continue to be targeted under the *Pathways to Work* strategy, the *Future FET: Further Education and Training Strategy* and the *Apprenticeship Action Plan.* Further supports for those returning to work will be provided via increased parent's leave, the expansion of the *National Childcare Scheme*, promoting awareness of social welfare supports for those returning to work and supports to help carers who wish to continue working or return to the workforce. Targeted employment supports will also be provided to groups facing additional challenges such as people with disabilities, lone parents and minority groups, including the Traveller and Roma communities, under the *Pathways to Work* strategy. Promoting access to employment for Travellers and Roma is expected to be a priority area under the successor strategy to the *National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy*.

### **Goal 1 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
1	Ensure that progress in respect of Future Jobs Ireland; Enterprise 2025; the Apprenticeship Action Plan; and the Further Education and Training Strategy is monitored and reported as part of the Roadmap monitoring programme.	Ensure that progress in respect the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030, Future FET: Further Education and Training Strategy, the Apprenticeship Action Plan, and the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy are monitored and reported as part of the Roadmap monitoring programme.	<del>DSP;</del> DETE; DFHERIS	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery
2	Develop and publish a new Further Education and Training Strategy for the next five year period from 2020, ensuring that it includes specific provisions to support socially excluded groups access training and education support.		DFHERIS	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q3 2020	Achieved
3	Develop and publish a successor employment services strategy to Pathways to Work, with a focus on increasing labour market participation and improving employment transitions.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q3 2021	Achieved
4	Review existing programmes as part of the new employment services strategy, to cater for the needs of marginalised groups/ socially excluded people.		DSP (Lead); <del>DFHERIS</del>	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q3 2021	Achieved

5	Convene the Labour Market Advisory Council to advise on the development of a successor plan to Pathways to Work.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q2 2020	Achieved
6	Develop a communications campaign to highlight the ability of people to retain key welfare benefits when taking up employment.		DSP	<del>Q4 2019</del> Q1 2023	In progress
7	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years (see also commitment 29 below).	Implement an additional two weeks paid parent's leave and extend this from seven weeks in 2022 to nine weeks by August 2024 (see also commitment 29).	DCEDIY (Lead); DSP	<del>Q3 2019</del> Q3 2024	Achieved with ongoing delivery
8	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 (see also commitment 30 below).	Expand participation in the National Childcare Scheme through awareness raising measures in partnership with other key stakeholders and adjusting the scheme to respond to future investment and evidence informed policy adjustments (see also commitment 30 below).	DCEDIY	<del>Q4-2019</del> Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery
9	Undertake a Carers Needs Assessment within a community healthcare organisation to assess the needs of family carers across all care groups.		D/Health	Work to- commence- in 2020 Q3 2023	Achieved with ongoing delivery

10	Introduce a new statutory scheme of regulation for home care designed to support family carers and integrate with other health and social care services.	Progress a new statutory scheme of regulation for home care designed to support family carers and integrate with other health and social care services	D/Health	Work to- commence- in 2019 Q3 2023	In progress
11	Examine options to further support carers who wish to increase their level of engagement with or transition into full time employment, education or training.		DSP	<del>Q2 2020</del> Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery
70	<b>NEW</b> : Monitor progress against actions in the National Access Plan 2022-2028 to support students who are socio- economically disadvantaged, students with a disability (including an intellectual disability) and students from the Traveller & Roma communities to access, participate and succeed in Higher Education.		DFHERIS	Ongoing to 2028	
71	<b>NEW:</b> Publish and implement the Equality Data Strategy.		DCEDIY and all Departments	Ongoing	
72	<b>NEW:</b> Continue the rollout of new and enhanced services under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan to assist employment opportunities in rural and regional areas nationwide.		D/Transport	Ongoing	

73	<b>NEW:</b> Continue implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Action Programme (2018-2023) and develop its successor to continue to provide employment supports/opportunities for SICAP target groups in marginalised communities.	DRCD	Ongoing	
74	<b>NEW:</b> Continue implementation of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022, which includes Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) who provide employment and training opportunities for marginalised groups, and develop its successor.	DRCD	Ongoing	

### 4. Goal 2: Supporting Workers and Families - Ensuring Work Pays

### To ensure that workers are treated fairly and paid fairly and that work continues to be the best route to social inclusion

The Roadmap recognises that one of the single biggest indicators of whether a person is likely to experience poverty or deprivation is whether or not they are employed. The focus of this goal is to protect and enhance the level of in-work income and to ensure that work pays.

### Progress to Date

Key achievements up to the end of 2022 include

- The development of a statutory code of conduct for the determination of the employment status of workers.
- The establishment of a dedicated unit of Social Welfare Inspectors in the Department of Social Protection, with a special focus on targeting and reducing so-called "false self-employment" nationwide for the purpose of supporting employment rights and the integrity of the Social Insurance Fund.
- The inclusion in Budgets 2021, 2022 and 2023 of specific measures to support working families on low incomes including:
  - Increases to the Working Family Payment income thresholds of €10 for families with one, two or three children in January 2021, a further €10 per week increase for all families (which was brought forward to April from June 2022 as part of the cost-of-living measures) and a further increase of €40 per week for all families from January 2023;
  - the removal of the €425 earnings threshold for the One Parent Family Payment from April 2021;
  - o increases to the weekly rates of the Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC), bringing them to €50 for those aged 12 and over and €42 for under 12s from January 2023; and
  - a €500 cost of living lump sum payment paid to all families receiving the Working Family Payment in November 2022.
- The extension of Parent's Leave to seven weeks in July 2022.
- The introduction, from January 2023, of up to 3 days of employer-paid sick leave in a year, paid at 70% of gross salary up to a cap of €110 per day.

- Increases in the National Minimum Wage, from €9.8 in January 2020 to €11.30 from January 2023.
- The enactment of the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2022 in April 2023, which includes:
  - five days unpaid leave for medical care purposes for parents of children under 12, and carers;
  - o five days paid leave for victims of domestic violence;
  - o the right to request flexible working for parents and carers;
  - $\circ$  the right to request remote working for all employees; and
  - two years breastfeeding breaks.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

Work will continue to ensure that income levels from employment are sufficient to enable people to support an acceptable standard of living. This will be achieved through the continued work of the Low Pay Commission, the promotion of in-work income supports available to families on low-incomes, and ongoing reviews of in-work social welfare thresholds as part of the annual budget process. Progress in the implementation of the Government's commitment to the introduction of a Living Wage by 2026, set at 60 per cent of hourly median wages, will also be a priority action under this goal.<sup>9</sup> Trends in relation to in-work poverty and the Irish contribution to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan 2030 headline poverty reduction target will be reported on as an indicator of the success of these measures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Low Pay Commission further recommended that "after the 60% of the median wage target has been reached, subject to an assessment of the impact of the progression to the 60%, the Commission should assess the economic practicality of gradually increasing the targeted threshold rate towards 66% of the median wage."

### **Goal 2 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
12	Establish a statutory code of conduct for the determination of the employment status of workers.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q2 2023	In Progress on schedule with ongoing delivery
13	Build and expand the focused inspection team established to investigate, and prosecute as appropriate, instances of false declaration of workers as self-employed for social insurance purposes.		DSP	Ongoing Q4 2020	Achieved with ongoing delivery
14	Enforce legislation providing for the application of interest charges on late payments of social insurance contributions where a worker was incorrectly declared as 'self-employed'.		DSP	Ongoing 2023	In progress
15	Commission, with the support of the Labour Market Advisory Council, a study of trends in employment arrangements in Ireland.		DSP	<del>Q2 2020</del> Q4 2023	In progress
16	Develop and run a communications campaign to increase awareness of in- work income support payments for families on low-incomes.		DSP	<del>Q4 2019</del> Q1 2023	In progress

17	Institute a biennial review of the earnings thresholds used to qualify for in-work income supports for families on low incomes. Continue to target a reduction in	Institute a review of the earnings thresholds used to qualify for in-work income supports for families on low incomes every two years.	DSP DSP (Lead);	<del>Q3 2020</del> Ongoing Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery Achieved with
	poverty among children and families on low incomes as part of the annual budget process.		DPENDR		ongoing delivery
19	Establish and report on a new target in respect of Child Poverty, to improve Ireland's ranking from 20 <sup>th</sup> to at least 5 <sup>th</sup> for the EU SILC reporting year of 2025. This will be equivalent to reducing the percentage of children under 18 years of age at risk of poverty and social exclusion from 23.9% to 16%. [Note: relevant EU-SILC data for 2025 is likely to be available in 2026/27]	Establish and report on a new target in respect of Child Poverty, to improve Ireland's ranking from 20 <sup>th</sup> to at least 5 <sup>th</sup> for the EU SILC reporting year of 2025. This will be equivalent to reducing the percentage of children under 18 years of age at risk of poverty and social exclusion from 23.9% to 16%.	DSP	<del>Q1 2020 –</del> <del>Q4 2025</del> Annually in Progress Report	<del>In progress</del> Achieved
20	Set and report on a new target to further improve Ireland's EU ranking for 'in-work poverty' from 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> by reducing the rate of in-work poverty' to 2%. [Note: relevant EU-SILC data for 2025 is likely to be available in 2026/27]	Set and report on a new target to further improve Ireland's EU ranking for 'in-work poverty' from 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> by reducing the rate of in-work poverty' to 2%.	DSP	<del>Q1 2020 —</del> <del>Q4 2025</del> Annually in Progress Report	In progress Achieved
21	Review options for improving the financial management competence and literacy / access to financial management for people on low incomes and report to Government with a proposed approach.		DSP; DFHERIS; DRCD; <mark>DFin</mark>	<del>Q2 2020</del> Ongoing	In progress

75	NEW: Report on progress in the	DETE	2026	
	introduction of a Living Wage, set at 60			
	per cent of hourly median wages.			

## 5. Goal 3: Supporting Older People – Assuring Their Income

# To protect the incomes of older people through the delivery of the commitment to benchmark State pension payments

The focus of this goal includes the protection and enhancement of State pension payments and the provision of long-term care supports to allow older people to live and age with dignity in their own homes.

#### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements to the end of 2022 include:

- The continued provision of online resources and education materials to GPs, primary care teams and other health and social care practitioners working with people with dementia.
- The Commission on Pensions published a report in September 2021 which endorsed the approach to benchmarking and indexation of State pensions outlined in the Roadmap and recommended its implementation. Government responded to the recommendations in 2022, with the introduction of a smoothed earnings method to calculate a benchmarked/indexed rate of State Pension payments as an input to the annual budget process each year to commence in 2023.
- Other reforms arising from the Commission on Pensions Report and being progressed by Government include; the introduction of options to defer access to the State pension, enhanced entitlements to pensions for long-term carers, and the migration to a Total Contributions Approach.
- The continued refurbishment or replacement of public community nursing units and long-term residential care facilities for older people with 43 units completed by the end of 2022.
- Budget 2022 provided an increase of €5 in the weekly fuel allowance payment, and an increase in the living alone allowance to €22 per week.
- Additional lump sum payments of €125 on the fuel allowance paid in March 2022, with a further lump sum payment of €100 paid in May 2022 for all households in receipt of Fuel Allowance to assist with increases in the cost of living.
- Budget 2023 saw additional measures to help older people, including:

- o a €12 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all State pensions from January 2023, with proportionate increases for qualified adults and for people getting a reduced rate;
- a new Fuel Allowance means threshold for people aged 70 years and over of €500 per week for a single person and €1,000 per week for a couple; while the threshold for those aged under 70 increased from €120 to €200 a week above the appropriate weekly rate of State Pension Contributory;
- an Autumn cost of living double pension payment paid to all pensioners in October 2022; and
- a €200 cost of living lump sum payment to people getting the Living Alone
   Allowance in November 2022.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

Feedback from the mid-term review consultation called for the introduction of benchmarking the State pension, especially in the context of increases in the cost-of living.

For the remaining period of the Roadmap, this goal will focus on the inclusion of the smoothed earnings approach of benchmarking and indexing the State pension rate as an input in the annual Budget process; the completion of a report for Government on the potential application of benchmarking to other social welfare payments, the continued training of GPs and primary care teams in the management of dementia and the addition of residential care beds, with the refurbishment of public community nursing units and long term residential care facilities for older people.

#### **Goal 3 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
22	Finalise an approach for benchmarking pension payments for Government decision.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q3 2022	Achieved
23	Subject to Government decision, develop and prepare any necessary changes to legislation to give effect to a benchmarking approach.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Q3 2022	Achieved
24	Apply the benchmark in adjusting Pension changes for Budget 2021.	Use the smoothed earnings approach to benchmarking and indexation as an input in the annual Budget process for adjusting Pension changes, from Budget 2024.	DSP (Lead); DPENDR	<del>Q4 2020</del> Annually	In progress
25	Consider and prepare a report for Government on the potential application of the benchmarking approach to other welfare payments.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> 2023	In progress
26	Continue to train GPs and primary care teams in the management of dementia under the Primary Care Education, Pathways and Research in Dementia (PREPARED) project.		D/Health	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery

27	Provide 4,500 additional short-term and long-term residential care beds across the public system in Community Nursing Units and other step-down facilities. <sup>10</sup>	D/Health	<del>2027</del> Ongoing	In progress
28	Continue the refurbishment or replacement of 90 public community nursing units and long term residential care facilities for older people across the country.	D/Health	Ongoing	In progress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> To be provided for under the National Development Plan published as part of the Project Ireland 2040 policy initiative

## 6. Goal 4: Supporting Families and Children

## To reduce child poverty in Ireland and to ensure that all families have the opportunity to participate fully in society

The focus of this goal is the continued provision of supports and services to families to allow them to fully participate in society and to continue reducing the level of child poverty.

#### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements by the end of 2022 include:

- Under Budget 2021 funding was provided to extend the provision of hot school meals to the 35,000 children then receiving the cold lunch option in both DEIS and non-DEIS primary schools, with a €20 million increase under Budget 2023 in School Meals budget to allow for continued expansion of the scheme.
- Under the school meals programme, funding continued to be available to pupils and schools for the period of school closures relating to pandemic restriction measures in 2020 and was extended to cover the summer period that year to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and families.
- A review of the School Meals Programme was undertaken in 2022, with a report published on <u>gov.ie</u> which will help form the future policy direction of the programme.
- The Health (General Practitioner Service and Alteration of Criteria for Eligibility) Act 2020, enacted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, provides for the phased expansion of GP care without fees to all children aged 12 years and under.
- Nurturing Skills: The Workforce Plan for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare 2022-2028, published in December 2021, set out a pathway to raise qualification levels, create professional development pathways, and promote careers in the Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare sectors up to the year 2028.
- The single largest expansion of the Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) programme to include an additional 322 schools. The programme now includes over 1,200 schools and supports approximately 240,000 students. This means 1 in 4 of all students are now supported in the programme.

- Partnership for the Public Good: A New Funding Model for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare was published in December 2021. It contained 25 recommendations which were approved Government, including:
  - A new additional funding stream for the sector, Core Funding, to support quality of provision, improved pay and conditions for staff, management of parental fees and sustainability of services.
  - Funding for new universal and targeted measures to address socioeconomic disadvantage, building on Core Funding.
  - Continued provision of the universal Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) with enhancements.
  - An expanded role for the State in managing and supporting supply, quality, accessibility, and affordability, including the introduction of fee controls.
- A 30-month pilot project, Lone Parents Digital Activation, commenced in November 2021 in the North-East region led by the Department of Social Protection partnering with One Family, with funding from the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).
- In July 2022, additional measures to assist families with back-to-school costs were announced. These included a once-off increase of €100 to the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance for each eligible child, and the extension of the school meals programme to 310 additional schools. In addition, students availing of the school transport scheme will not be charged fees for the academic year 2022/23.
- Budget 2023 saw measure targets children and families, including:
  - o A double payment of Child Benefit for all families in November 2022;
  - With a €500 cost of living lump sum payment paid to all families getting the Working Family Payment, also in November 2022;
  - An increase of €40 per week, regardless of family size, in income thresholds for the Working Family Payment from January 2023 so that more families qualify for this payment;
  - An increase of €2 for weekly qualified child payments in January 2023
     bringing them to €50 for over 12s and €42 for under 12s;

- A €12 increase in Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent's Benefit from January 2023; and
- The means assessment threshold for Fuel Allowance increased from €120 to €200 from January 2023.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

Feedback on goal four in the mid-term review consultation process highlighted the importance of affordable early learning and childcare for all children and called for the expansion of the school meals programme. During the remaining term of the Roadmap, both issues will be targeted under commitments in relation to funding of and supports for Early Learning and Care settings, as well as commencing the roll out of hot school meals to non-DEIS primary schools. Additionally, work is ongoing on the extension of free GP care to all children under 12 years of age, as well as reviews of income disregards for lone-parents who wish to take up work. Additionally, a new national child poverty target will be set, following a public consultation process, and be reported on in the annual Roadmap progress reports. Progress in relation to the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 will be monitored and reported on. The establishment of the Child Poverty and Well-Being Programme Office in the Department of the Taoiseach reflects the Government's prioritisation of child poverty as a key issue facing Ireland. The establishment of the Programme Office will enhance co-ordination across Government, provide strategic leadership from the centre of government, and bring enhanced accountability to the child poverty agenda in order to make a tangible difference to the lives of children and their families.

#### **Goal 4 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
29	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years <i>(see also commitment 7 above)</i> .	See commitment 7.	DCEDIY (Lead); DEASP	<del>Q4 2019</del> Q3 2022	Achieved
30	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 (see also commitment 8 above).	See commitment 8.	DCEDIY	Q4 2019	Achieved
31	Introduce a range of measures to improve the quality of early learning and care services to better contribute to positive experiences and outcomes for babies and young children, including increasing qualifications for those working in Early Learning and Care and developing the infrastructure of Continued Professional Development (CPD) supports and mentoring.		DCEDIY (Lead); D/Education; DFHERIS	<del>2021</del> Ongoing	In Progress on schedule with ongoing delivery
32	As part of the reform of the early learning and care funding model, develop an appropriate mechanism to control fees charged to parents in return for increased State investment in affordability, quality and sustainability.		DCEDIY	<del>2021</del> Q3 2022	Achieved

33	Develop mechanisms to provide additional supports to Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings where there are high proportions of children who are at risk of poverty to mitigate the impacts of early disadvantage. Specifically, informed by the DEIS model, develop a programme for the delivery of ELC in the context of concentrated disadvantage.	DCEDIY	<del>2021</del> Q4 2023	In progress
34	Assess outcomes from the 2019/2020 hot school meals pilot and bring forward a proposal to Government on the feasibility and desirability of extending the pilot to all schools (see also commitment 63 below).	DSP (Lead); DPENDR	<del>Q2 2021</del> Q2 2023	In progress
35	Extend GP care without fees to children aged between 6 and 12 years in a phased basis starting in 2020.	D/Health	<del>Q4-2020</del> Ongoing	In progress
36	Review the current system of classifying second adults in households as 'dependent adults' with a view to individualising welfare payments and supports.	DSP	<del>Q2 2020</del> Q1 2023	In progress
37	Use up-to-date research and data to inform decisions with respect to the level of income disregards to ensure lone-parents are not disadvantaged in taking up part time work.	DSP	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery

38	Identify specific measures and actions which can increase employment rates among lone parents as part of the new employment services strategy.	Identify and implement specific measures and actions which can increase employment rates among lone parents in the context of Pathways to Work.	DSP	<del>Q4 2020</del> Q3 2021	Achieved with ongoing delivery
39	Continue with the implementation of the DEIS Plan 2017.	Continue with the implementation of the DEIS Plan 2017 in order to improve educational outcomes for children from disadvantaged communities by providing additional supports and resources to schools in these areas.	D/Education	Ongoing	Achieved with ongoing delivery
40	Continue to report on progress against the national target for reducing the number of children experiencing consistent poverty by the end of 2020 and set a new target for the period to the end of 2025 consistent with any revised EU targets for the period.	Set a new target in the context of the development of the new national children and young people framework policy and continue to report on progress against the national target for reducing the number of children experiencing consistent poverty.	DSP; DCEDIY; <del>DoE; DoH;</del> D/Taoiseach	Ongoing Reporting: Annually New Target: Q1 2024	In Progress
76	<b>NEW</b> : Implement the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 to provide children and young people with more opportunities for creative engagement in every aspect of their lives.		DTCAGSM	Ongoing to 2027	

## 7. Goal 5: Supporting People with Disabilities

Improve social inclusion of people with disabilities by reducing poverty rates, improving employment outcomes and delivering better services

This goal aims to support and enhance the work already underway to improve the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

#### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements to the end of 2022 include:

- An increase in Budget 2022 in the earnings disregard for the Disability Allowance (from €120 to €140 per week), and the introduction of a €1,000 support grant for the provision of supported employment services for jobseekers with a disability.
- The inclusion in Budget 2022 of targeted measures including:
  - Improvements to the means assessment of Disability Allowance to benefit those on a reduced rate of payment, and those who take up work.
  - The Wage Subsidy Scheme, paid to employers who employ people with a disability, increased from €5.30 to €6.30 per hour from January 2022.
  - The EmployAbility Service will now provide grants directly to people with disabilities in employment.
  - €10m of Covid-19 funding for 2022 was provided to maintain public health measures and to also consolidate improvements in health services for people with disabilities.
- The establishment of a Disability Participation and Consultation Network which enables people with disabilities to have a stronger voice in policy development.
- Reforms to Community Employment (CE) schemes to promote more referrals from people most distant from the labour market, including people with disabilities.
- The cost of disability research, which included a survey issued to over 34,000 people with disabilities, was published in December 2021 and was referred to the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Steering Group to consider the actions required based on the recommendations contained in the report.
- Budget 2023 included a cost-of-living double payment paid to people getting Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension, Disablement Benefit and

Partial Capacity Benefit, as well as a  $\in$ 500 cost of living lump sum disability support grant paid in November 2022 for those on long term Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension. Also included in these measures was a  $\in$ 200 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a disability payment and who receive the Living Alone Increase and a  $\in$ 400 cost of living lump sum for those receiving the Fuel Allowance payment.

- Budget 2023 also included:
  - o an increase in Domiciliary Care Allowance of €20.50 to €330 per month from January 2023;
  - o an increase of €12 in maximum personal rate of weekly disability payments from January 2023, with proportionate increases for qualified adults and for people getting a reduced rate;
  - Domiciliary Care Allowance in respect of children with severe illness or disability who remain in hospital for up to six months after birth;
  - a disregard for Disablement Benefit in the means assessment for Fuel Allowance from January 2023;
  - €1 million expansion of the Reasonable Accommodation Fund to support
     people with disabilities in the workplace; and
  - the earnings disregard for Disability Allowance and Blind Pension increased from €140 to €165 from January 2023.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

Feedback from the mid-term review consultation highlighted the need to implement the recommendations from the cost of disability research.

During the remaining term of the Roadmap actions based on this research will be considered by the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Steering Group for action by relevant Government Departments. A 'strawman' proposal for the restructuring of long-term disability payments to recognise that the impact of a disability on a person's ability to work is not binary but exists on a continuum, that the cost of disability also vary along this continuum of impact and to simplify the system will be published. As per the findings from the public consultation process, the employment targets for people with disabilities will be revised to reflect the working age population (20 to 64 years).

#### **Goal 5 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline <sup>^</sup>	Status at the end of 2022
41	The Government commits to the continued implementation of the National Disability Inclusion and Comprehensive Employment Strategies and to their review in 2021.		DCEDIY	<del>Q4 2021</del> Q4 2024	In progress
42	Specific poverty reduction and employment targets will be set for people with disabilities: Reduce the AROPE rate from 36.9% first to 28.7% (2025) and then to 22.7% (2030); and increase the employment rate from 22.3% first to 25% (2021) and then to 33% (2027).	Specific poverty reduction and employment targets will be set for people with disabilities: Reduce the AROPE rate from 36.9% first to 28.7% (2025) and then to 22.7% (2030); and increase the employment rate in (for those aged 20-64) line with the Comprehensive Employment Strategy from 33.6% (in 2016 Census) to 38% by 2024.	DSP	Ongoing	In progress
43	Develop and consult on a 'strawman' proposal for the restructuring of long term disability payments to simplify the system and take account of the concerns expressed in the <i>Make Work</i> <i>Pay</i> report.		DSP	Q4 2020 Q2 2023	In progress
44	Commission a study on the cost of disability and publish a final report with recommendations.	Consider the actions required by Government Departments on foot of recommendations contained in the Cost of Disability report	DCEDIY; <del>DSP;</del> DPENDR;	Commission Q2 2019 Report Q1 2020 TBC	Achieved

## 8. Goal 6: Supporting Communities

#### Empower communities to address social exclusion

This goal recognises the strong partnership between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector in the delivery of supports at local level.

#### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements to the end of 2022 include:

- The publication of the National Volunteering Strategy in December 2020.
- The publication in April 2021 of *Our Rural Future*, the rural development policy.
- The use of social prescribing, supported by Healthy Ireland, to tackle the issues of loneliness and isolation.
- The expansion of the high-speed broadband network and Broadband Connection Points by National Broadband Ireland under the *National Broadband Plan*.
- The implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Withdrawal Agreement and the Convention on Social Security ensuring the maintenance of reciprocal north-south entitlements to welfare benefits between Ireland and the United Kingdom post Brexit. In addition, bilateral engagement on oversight and implementation of the structures for the implementation of the Education Memorandum of Understanding under the overarching Common Travel Agreement Memorandum of Understanding between Ireland and the UK has taken place in 2022.
- The publication of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Community Employment in December 2021, with consequent changes to scheme eligibility introduced from January 2022.
- The Sport Ireland Diversity and Inclusion Policy was launched in May 2022.
- The first Community & Voluntary National Civic Forum took place in November 2022.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

The mid-term review consultation process highlighted the impact of COVID-19 restrictions in increasing rates of loneliness and isolation among certain groups. To address this there will be a continued focus on the delivery of objectives to tackle loneliness and isolation for the remaining period of the Roadmap.

There will also be a renewed level of engagement between Government bodies and the community and voluntary sector, as set out in the *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities* strategy. The Local Authorities will implement the *Culture and Creativity Strategies* to broaden access to and participation in cultural and creative activities locally. There will be an expansion of Transport for Ireland Local Link services and their further integration with other existing public transport services. The successor to the *National Social Enterprise Policy* will be developed, which will support social enterprises to empower communities to address social exclusion.

#### **Goal 6 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
45	Develop an implementation plan to deliver on the objectives of tackling loneliness and isolation.		D/Health	Commenced in 2019; continuing in 2020 Ongoing - TBC	In progress
46	Set specific new targets which can inform the development of relevant Government policies and strategies: increase the rate of Active Citizenship to 17% and Participation in Voluntary Work to 34%.		DRCD, and All Departments	Ongoing	In progress
47	Finalise and publish the successor to the Action Plan for Rural Development.		DRCD	Q1 2020	Achieved
48	Finalise and publish a National Volunteering Strategy.		DRCD	Q1 2020	Achieved
49	Complete the review of Social Inclusion through Community Employment and implement any recommendations arising.	Continue to deliver social inclusion through the Community Employment programme.	DSP	Ongoing	Achieved

50	Implement the actions in the National Sports Policy, 2018-2027 (which contains a particular focus on addressing specific inequalities in participation (i.e., ethnic minority groups, people with a disability, etc.)).	DTCAGSM Ongoin	g Achieved with ongoing delivery
51	Award contract for the implementation of the National Broadband Plan.	DECC Q4 201	9 Achieved
52	Renew and refresh the system and level of engagement between Government bodies and the community and voluntary sector.	DRCD, and All Ongoin Departments	g In progress
53	Ensure that reciprocal north-south entitlements to welfare benefits, the all Island free travel scheme and access to education and healthcare are maintained following the implementation of Brexit.	DFA; DSP; Ongoin D/Education; Q4 202 D/Health; DFHERIS	•
77	<b>NEW</b> : The Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027 will be implemented by all 31 Local Authorities to broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.	DTACGSM Ongoin 2027	g to
78	<b>NEW</b> : Deliver expanded Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local Link services and further integrate TFI Local Link service with other existing public transport services.	D/Transport Ongoin	g

79	<b>NEW:</b> Develop a successor to the	DRCD	Ongoing	
	National Social Enterprise Policy for			
	Ireland 2019-2022, which will support			
	social enterprises to empower			
	communities to address social			
	exclusion.			

## 9. Goal 7: Core Essentials: Healthcare, Housing, Energy and Food

To ensure that all people can live with confidence that they have access to good quality healthcare, housing, energy and food

This goal recognises that access to basic essential services on a free or subsidised basis to people on low incomes can reduce costs to be covered from within that low income.

#### **Progress to Date**

Key achievements to the end of 2022 include:

- A Food Poverty Working Group was established in April 2021, chaired by Minister Joe O'Brien, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion, with cross-departmental membership and representation from the Community & Voluntary sector, to consider options for addressing food poverty. The group published a report, *Food Poverty: Government programmes, schemes and supports*, in July 2022, which was the result of the high-level mapping exercise of food poverty-related programmes and services across Government, which found that €89m was spent across Government on measures directly impacting food poverty in 2021.
- Under Budget 2023 funding of €400,000 was secured to develop and implement a pilot scheme to support people experiencing food poverty, based on a case work model.
- The publication of the Housing for All: a New Housing Plan for Ireland in September 2021.
- Increases in Budgets 2021 and 2022 to the Fuel Allowance rate bringing it to €33 per week for the duration of the 2022/23 fuel season.
- Addressing the healthcare needs of socially excluded groups who experience greater levels of health inequalities:
  - €10m of Covid-19 funding for 2022 was provided to maintain public health
     measures and to also consolidate improvements in health services for people
     who are homeless; and
  - Budget 2022 provided for €0.5m to increase access to and provision of community-based drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTI+ community.

- Additional one-off measures were introduced in 2022 and under Budget 2023 to alleviate the cost-of-living increases. Post Budget analysis from the ESRI found that these measures were effective in protecting most households from rising prices over the winter period, and that targeted welfare measures combined with electricity credits, were more effective at protecting most lower income households than increasing welfare rates in line with inflation in 2022 and 2023. The ESRI analysis showed the measures left households across the income distribution better off, with the lowest income deciles households experiencing the largest gain. Measures included:
  - o electricity credits of €200 paid in April and November 2022, with further payments in January and March 2023, to over 2.1 million domestic electricity accounts;
  - o a 20% reduction in public transport fares;
  - o a lump sum payment of €125 on the fuel allowance in March 2022, with further lump sum payments of €100 in May 2022 and €400 in November 2022 for all households in receipt of the Fuel Allowance;
  - o a reduction of the Drug Payment Scheme threshold to €80 in one month;
  - the removal of the fee for the school transport scheme for the academic year 2022/23; and
  - an Autumn cost of living double payment to most people in receipt of a weekly social welfare payment, including all pensioners, carers and people on disability payments.
- A review of the Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty including a public consultation was undertaken and a new Energy Poverty Action Plan was published in December 2022. The Plan sets out near and medium-term measures with income, social protection and consumer protection supports to help consumers manage increased costs, and increased funding for energy efficiency upgrades in 2023 and beyond to tackle the root causes of energy poverty.
- Over the period 2020-2022 almost 10,000 energy upgrades were provided through SEAI schemes, for homeowners at risk of energy poverty and for Approved Housing Body owned homes.
- Additionally, over 5,400 Local Authority owned homes had their energy efficiency

upgraded over the same period.

- A new National Retrofit Plan was published, with a commitment to support those least able to afford to retrofit, and to stimulate retrofit activity among households vulnerable to energy poverty, homes owned by Approved Housing Bodies, and homes in the private rented sector.
- In February 2022 a number of changes were announced, to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to undertake home energy upgrades, for warmer, healthier and more comfortable homes, with lower energy bills. These included a new enhanced grant rate, equivalent to 80% of the typical cost, for attic and cavity wall insulation for all households and an expansion of the Warmer Homes scheme to include more groups, and increase output under the scheme.
- A new tax incentive for private landlords to retrofit their rented properties was announced in November 2022.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

Feedback from the mid-term review indicated that the current challenges in relation to housing represent a challenge to reducing poverty and improving social inclusion in Ireland. In addition, concerns in relation to energy poverty, particularly in relation to energy efficiency and low-income households, and food poverty were highlighted. Finally, implementation of Sláintecare was seen as key to enhancing social inclusion.

During the remaining timeframe of the Roadmap there will be a focus on the delivery of commitments in relation to the provision of social housing, measures to reduce both energy poverty and food poverty, including a pilot scheme to support people experiencing food poverty based on a case work model, and the pilot meals programme in early learning and care settings. There will also be a focus on the implementation of the Sláintecare strategy and other health care services.

#### **Goal 7 Revised Commitments**

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
54	Implement Sláintecare through the delivery of annual action plans and report on progress with respect to the delivery of the Sláintecare strategy and other health policies such as Smile agus Sláinte.		D/Health	Ongoing to 2026.	In progress
55	Develop an Inclusion Health policy to address the healthcare needs of socially excluded groups who experience greater levels of health inequalities.		D/Health	Work to- commence- in 2019 Consultation: Q2 2023	In progress
56	Review the feasibility of adapting the Smile agus Sláinte approach to other primary care services, including ophthalmic services.		D/Health	<del>Q2 2021</del> Ongoing	In progress
57	Review operation of the Treatment Benefit scheme and consider options to improve its impact in reducing deprivation and poverty.		DSP	<del>Q3 2020</del> Q4 2021	Achieved
58	As part of Rebuilding Ireland, complete the migration of long-term rent supplement claimants to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.	Complete the migration of long-term rent supplement claimants to Housing Assistance Payment scheme.	DHLGH (Lead); DSP	<del>Q4 2020</del> Q4 2023	In progress

59	Under Rebuilding Ireland, deliver 50,000 new social homes through construction, refurbishment, acquisition, and leasing, with the delivery of 12,000 additional social housing homes annually, through construction, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing programmes.	Under Housing for All, provide more than 12,000 social homes each year, with an average 10,000 new-build social housing homes to 2030.	DHLGH	50,000 by end 2021; 12,000- annually- thereafter 12,000 annually	In Progress on schedule with ongoing delivery
60	As part of the Climate Action Plan, review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need.		DECC	Q4 2019	Achieved
61	Develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions.	Publish the findings of the Food Poverty research and implement the pilot food poverty programme to identify mitigating actions to address the drivers of food poverty.	DSP (Lead); D/Health; DRCD; DPENDR; D/Education; DFHERIS; DCEDIY	<del>Q2 2021</del> Q2 2023	Achieved with ongoing delivery
62	Pilot a meals programme in early learning and care settings to address food poverty for young children.		DCEDIY	Q4 2020 Q1 2023	In progress
63	Introduce a hot school meals pilot. Review the pilot (DEASP with input from DES) and report to Government with proposals (see also commitment 34 above).		DSP DSP (Lead); DES; DPENDR	Q3 2019 Q2 2021	Achieved

80	<b>NEW</b> : Publish a digital inclusion roadmap which sets out Government's approach to addressing barriers to digital inclusion, such as access, affordability and ability, and which aims to empower and support everyone to use digital services, in particular digital public services, in a meaningful way.	DPENDR	Q2 2023	
81	<b>NEW</b> : Deliver on the actions set out in the Energy Poverty Action Plan and report on these annually to Government.	DECC	2023	

#### **10. Implementation and Governance**

#### **Progress to Date**

Progress in relation to implementation and governance of the Roadmap includes the establishment in 2020 of the Social Inclusion Roadmap Steering Group, which includes senior representatives of responsible departments at Assistant Secretary and Principal Officer Level, who are designated as Social Inclusion Responsibility Officers (SIROs), and three external members from the Community and Voluntary Sector representing the Vincentian MESL Research Centre, the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland. The group, chaired by Minister Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion, met eight times to May 2023. Departmental representatives provided updates on progress their Departments had made towards the delivery of Roadmap commitments, and presentations from other related areas of interest.

The Steering Group signed off on two progress reports and associated report cards which measure progress made against each Roadmap goal, commitment, and target. The first, covering the period January 2020 to September 2021, was published on Gov.ie in January 2022. The second, covering progress from October 2021 to June 2022, was published in October 2022 and was submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands.

#### Focus for 2023 to 2025

For the remaining period of the Roadmap the Steering Group will continue to focus on the delivery of the remaining Roadmap commitments. Feedback in relation to the format of and attendance at the Steering Group meetings will be considered in order to improve oversight of the group. The Steering Group will continue to meet to discuss how delivery of the remaining commitments will be achieved within the timeframe of the Roadmap, in particular cross-Departmental commitments. Departments will continue to provide relevant updates on outstanding commitments to the Steering Group, which will focus discussions at meetings.

The Steering Group will also continue to produce annual progress reports and report

cards tracking progress against commitments and targets. New commitments set out in this mid-term review will be reported on from the next (third) Progress Report, covering the period to the end of June 2023.

## Implementation and Governance Revised Commitments

No.	Original Commitment	Revised Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline^	Status at the end of 2022
64	Establish a Social Inclusion Roadmap Steering Group to be chaired by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.		DSP	Q1 2020	Achieved
65	Nominate a senior manager at Assistant Secretary as a Social Inclusion Responsible Officer to participate in the Steering Group.		Departments with Roadmap commitments	Q1 2020	Achieved
66	Work with the CSO and other relevant bodies to ensure that the data required to track progress and assess impact are available.		DSP	<del>Q1 2020</del> Ongoing	In progress on schedule with ongoing delivery
67	Publish an annual report on progress against each commitment and key metric.	Publish an annual progress report and a report card, including progress against each commitment and key metric.	DSP and Departments with Roadmap commitments	Annually	Achieved with ongoing delivery
68	Present the report to and discuss progress with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection.	Present the report to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands.	DSP	Annually	Achieved with ongoing delivery
<del>69</del>	Publish an annual report card on- progress against each commitment and- ambition.	Combine with commitment 67	DEASP and Departments with Roadmap- commitments	Annually	Achieved with ongoing delivery

## Appendices

- A. Table 1A measures mapped against Roadmap Goals
- B. Table 1B measures mapped against Roadmap Goals
- C. Government Departments Acronyms

## A. Table 1A measures mapped against Roadmap Goals

	Maaauua		Goal							
	Measure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion	Headline measure - the share of people who are AROPE [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_PEPS01N]			x	x	x				
Income	The income quintile share ratio [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_DI11]		х		х	х				
Distribution	Gini Coefficient of equivalised disposable income after social transfers [EuroStat Data Code: TESSI190] – <b>NEW</b>		x		x	x				
Income Poverty	The share of people who are at risk of poverty before social transfers (incl. pensions) [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_LI09B]			x	x	x				
	The share of people who are at risk of poverty after social transfers [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_LI02]			x	x	x				
	The in-work at risk of poverty rate [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_IW01]	x	х	х	х	х				
	The AROPE rate for children under 18 years of age [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_PEPS01N]	x	х		x	x				
	The AROPE rate for people with disabilities (over 16 years old) [EuroStat Data Code: HLTH_DPE010]			x	x	x				
Housing Quality	The housing cost overburden rate [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_LVHO07A]				х	х		х		
	The overcrowding rate [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_LVHO05A]				х	х		х		
Socio-Economic Aspects of Living	The share of the population who report their health as either good or very good [EuroStat Data Code: HLTH_SILC_01]			x	x	x		x		
Conditions	The share of the population reporting unmet health care needs due to cost/expense [EuroStat Data Code: HLTH_SILC_08]	x		x	x	x		x		
	The share of the population living in households with very low work intensity [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_LVHL13n]	x	x		x	x				
	The share of children receiving formal childcare [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_CAINDFORMAL]	x	x		x	x		x		
	The share of the population suffering severe material deprivation [EuroStat Data Code: ILC_MDDD11]				x	x				
Social Participation	Active citizenship rate	х	х		х	х	х			
and Integration	Participation informal voluntary work	х	х		х	х	х			

## **B.** Table 1B measures mapped against Roadmap Goals

Measure		Goal							
		2	3	4	5	6	7		
National Social Target for Poverty Reduction	~	v	v	v	v	v			
To reduce the share of the population in consistent poverty	x	X	X	х	X	X	x		
Child Poverty Target (BOBF)									
To lift over 70,000 children (aged 0-17 years) out of consistent poverty by 2020, a reduction of at				х	х		x		
least two thirds on the 2011 level (107,000 children)									
(NEW) Irish contribution to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan 2030 Headline									
Poverty Reduction Target		x	x	x	x		x		
The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU should be reduced by at least		×	×	×	×		~		
15m (at least 5 m of these to be children) – 90,000 for Ireland (50% of which should be children).									
REVISED: At risk of poverty (AROP) anchored in 2020	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
The share of people at risk of poverty (AROP) anchored in 2020									
Employment Target for People with a Disability         Increase the employment level of people with a disability (aged 20-64 years old) as measured by         x       x									
		x		х	x				
Census data, over two census periods in line with targets set in the Comprehensive Employment									
Strategy for People with Disabilities							ļ		
Education									
Reduce the gap in retention rates to the Leaving Certificate at second level between DEIS and non-	х	х		х	х	х	х		
DEIS schools.									
REVISED: Social Housing									
Housing for All is the Government's plan to increase the supply of housing to an average of 33,000			x	x	x	x			
per year over the next decade. This includes the delivery of almost 12,000 social homes annually		^		^	^	^			
with an average 10,000 new build social homes out to 2030.									

#### C. Government Departments Acronyms

Due to the formation of a new Government in June 2020 there was a change in Departmental structures, with a further name change to one Department in December 2022. This resulted in a realignment of Roadmap commitment responsibilities to reflect these new Departmental structures.

DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (formerly Department of Children and Youth Affairs)
D/Defence	Department of Defence
D/Education	Department of Education (formerly Department of Education and Skills)
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (formerly Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation)
DFin	Department of Finance
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs (formerly Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (new)
D/Health	Department of Health
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (formerly Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
D/Justice	Department of Justice (formerly Department of Justice and Equality)
DPENDR	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (formerly Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DSP	Department of Social Protection (formerly Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (formerly Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
D/Taoiseach	Department of the Taoiseach
DTCAGSM	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (formerly Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht)
D/Transport	Department of Transport (formerly Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)