



Minister Zappone with members of the Advisory Council

## 1. National Advisory Council for Children and Young People

On 6th February, Minister Zappone met with the Children and Young People's Advisory Council to discuss their work plan for 2019. Priorities include:

- Child Poverty
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Housing, Homelessness and Community
- Learning and Development
- Rights and Equality

Several appointments were made to the Council to cover vacancies and add expertise on specific areas (art/culture, homelessness and LGBTI+) and include: John Church, Chief Executive, ISPCC, Catherine Cosgrave, Senior Solicitor, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Aideen Howard, Chief Executive, the Ark, Catherine Maher, former Head of Services, Focus Ireland and Olivia McEvoy, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Services, Ernst and Young. Two Vice Chairs were also appointed by the Minister: Mary Cunningham, Chief Executive, National Youth Council of Ireland, and Teresa Heeney, Chief Executive, Early Childhood Ireland.

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For further information/full reports on the above, please see: [www.dcyv.gov.ie](http://www.dcyv.gov.ie)

## National Advisory Council for Children and Young People (*continued*)

The Council with the support of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs commissioned Professor Ursula Kilkelly and Professor Laura Lundy to conduct a review of commitments under Outcome 5 (connected, respected, contributing to their world) in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and their implementation. A seminar to discuss the findings of this report was held in April, including a panel discussion from the following: Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner, IHREC; Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children; Carol Baxter, Assistant Secretary,

Department of Justice and Equality; Saoirse Brady, Legal and Policy Director, Children's Rights Alliance; Catherine Cosgrave, Immigrant Council of Ireland; and Ian Power, National Youth Council of Ireland.



## 2. Launch of the First 5 Implementation Plan

[First 5](#), the 10-year whole of Government strategy for babies, young children and their families was published in November 2018. A key initial action in First 5 was to develop a detailed three-year implementation plan within six months of the date of publication including a timetable for delivery and the assignment of responsibility for actions.

[The First 5 Implementation Plan](#) covers the first phase of implementation in the initial three years of this ten-year strategy from 2019 to 2021 and was published on May 22nd.

The First 5 Strategy identifies 166 initial actions across 11 Government Departments which will be substantially progressed in the initial implementation phase, a number of which are very ambitious. The First 5 Implementation Plan (2019-2021) lists each action and identifies the lead implementer, normally a Government Department or State Agency, along with the key implementation partners. The lead implementer will take responsibility for driving the action to ensure implementation in line with the plan

and to report on developments. The Actions and Milestones tables also articulate the key output to be achieved by 2021 for each action, alongside a clear schedule of associated annual milestones in order to track progress.

The Implementation Plan outlines the structures that will support implementation and describes the processes and mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on implementation as well as summarising implementation challenges, risks and mitigations.

The development of the First 5 Implementation Plan (2019-2021) has been supported by the work of an Interdepartmental Group as well as detailed engagement with the relevant lead implementers to agree milestones and outputs. The *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* structures, particularly the Advisory Council, have also significantly contributed to this process. The Implementation Plan will form the basis of an annual monitoring review to ensure that the vision of First 5 is delivered.



### 3. Youth Affairs Spotlight



#### Skills Summary Launch

On 7th March, 2019, The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone T.D. launched Skills Summary at the The Dock, Accenture's new Global Centre for Innovation, in Dublin.

Skills Summary is an online tool that helps young people measure the skills they gain when participating in youth work and volunteering. Such skills include leadership, problem solving, teamwork and adaptability. This tool also helps young people to communicate the value of these skills to future employers. It is the result of collaboration between the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), Accenture, SpunOut.ie and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Dormant Account funding is used to support the Skills Summary project. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs supported the funding and up to a maximum of €94,835 was allocated to NYCI for the Skills Summary project for the period October 2018 to December 2019.

The Skills Summary project team aim to reach 1,500 young people in the first year.

NYCI will make Skills Summary available to projects which are successful in accessing funding under the Department's Youth Employability Initiative.

#### Youth Employability Initiative 2019

This Initiative aims to increase young people's employability, enhance their acquisition of employability skills and aid their preparedness and progression to employment, education or training through engagement with youth work programmes provided by the voluntary youth work sector.

The funding available for this Initiative is in the region of €1 million.

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) were invited to submit proposals for funding under this Initiative in 2018. This Initiative is needs focused and each ETB will identify the target group to be supported within its area. The aim of the Initiative will be to target 15 to 24 year olds, specifically 16 to 18 year olds, who are not currently in employment, education or training to assist them on their progression to employment.

Funding will be made available for the delivery of projects using youth work methodologies that increase young people's employability skills and competencies. The Initiative will be administered locally by the ETBs.





## 4. North East Inner City Initiative

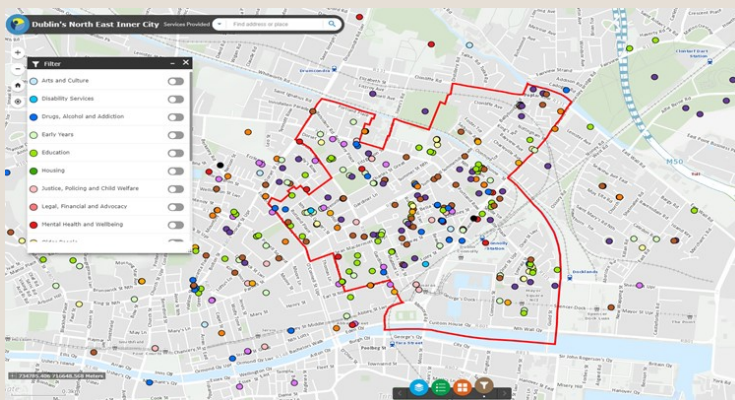
The North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative arose from the Kieran Mulvey Report published in February 2017.

The Report identifies four priority areas: tackling crime and drugs, maximising educational/training opportunities and creating local employment, creating an integrated system of social services and improving the physical landscape in the area. A fifth area of addiction was identified in late 2018.

These five priority areas make up the five subgroups. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs chairs subgroup 3 – ‘Creating an Integrated System of Social Services.’

In 2017, subgroup 3 commissioned Centre for Effective Services to complete a mapping exercise of the NEIC. The map of the NEIC can be found on the website: <http://www.neic.ie/map>

This was completed in 2018 following surveys and consultations with services in the area. An approximate number of 460 services and facilities were identified within the area or slightly outside the area but servicing the NEIC community.



Mapping exercise of the North East Inner City

A paper was drafted in late 2018, outlining the development of an integrated service delivery framework (ISDF) in the NEIC as outlined in the Mulvey Report.

The framework will be built on a shared common goal, parity of esteem between service providers and a collaborative and innovative approach to building and sharing resources and facilities for the good of the community.

The principles of the ISDF:

- **Evidence-based:** Plans and practices applied in the delivery of this Framework holds as central the commitment to provide quality and timely responses to the needs and aspirations of existing and prospective service users in the NEIC. Support the best responses in the social services domain, focusing on an assets model of delivery, adopting a developmental approach to services or supports.
- **Accountable:** Accountability to the community, peer-accountability and parity of accountability.
- **Constructive:** Participants act to both anticipate and address obstacles to effective, quality service provision.
- **Open:** Move from restricted models of top-down or bottom-up approaches to one where multi-directional and dimensional input that is central.
- **Learning:** The most effective, value added responses and learning are identified and shared-conversely, where duplication or under-performances exists, there will be an ability to engage in negotiated processes to address reorientation of provision.

## North East Inner City Initiative (*continued*)

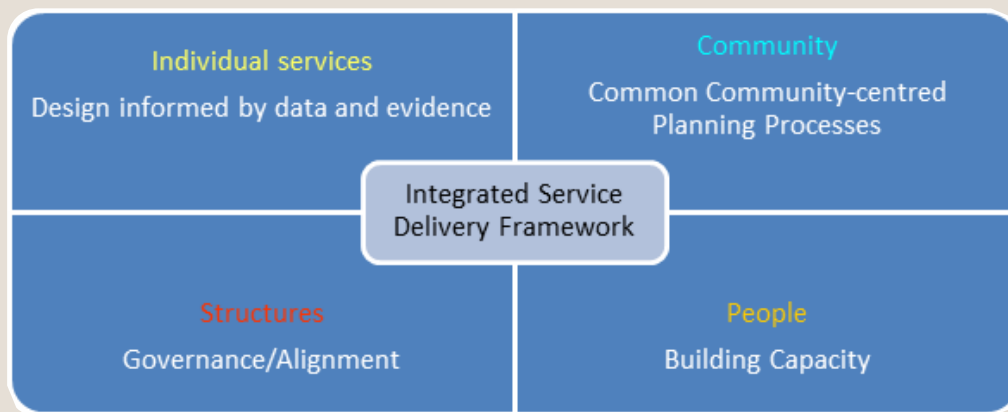
The key output of the ISDF will be a single plan for the area, with consolidated view of funding, the assignment of responsibilities to identified lead agencies and anchor services which would drive provision in their respective sectors. Both the personnel in the relevant funding agency and the lead sectoral service will work closely and collaboratively to advance developments and address issues, should they arise.

A common, data driven, community-oriented approach to planning under the single plan would

ensure ongoing 'problems' are identified and addressed, and emerging issues anticipated.

This would also provide the platform to identify service duplication, service gaps or underperformance and create a space for constructive dialogue around reorientation or consolidation of services.

Additional developments in the NEIC being progressed by DCYA in conjunction with relevant stakeholders are Community Case Management and piloting a similar programme to Boston Colleges' City Connects model.



Key Components of the ISDF

## 5. Recent and upcoming events

**10th June** - Consultation event on the development of Educational Welfare Services in Tusla

**19th June** - Launch of *What Works*: [whatworks.gov.ie](https://whatworks.gov.ie) (formerly the Quality and Capacity Building Initiative)

**27th June** - *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* Sponsors Group

**27th June** - Children and Young People's Policy Consortium

Further details on these and other related initiatives will be included in the next issue of this e-zine.

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