



# Strengthening governance frameworks to implement child and youth policies and monitor outcomes in Ireland

## Consultation workshop for policy stakeholders

30 January 2024, Town Hall, Block 1, Miesian Plaza, Dublin

10:00-12:30: OECD Recommendations and Proposed Action Plan

13:15-15:15: Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Capacity

### Background

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are providing technical support to Ireland's Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to review and implement measures to strengthen policy and governance arrangements for tackling child poverty and improving outcomes for children and young people.

In the context of this project, three sessions will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The morning session will take the form of a workshop to consult Irish authorities on the Proposed Action Plan, which will drive selected OECD recommendations to address findings of the OECD Diagnostic Report (forthcoming) *Towards a New Governance Framework for Children and Young People in Ireland*. In preparation of this workshop, the OECD and DCEDIY have selected two recommendations from an OECD Good Practices and Recommendations Note, informed by the diagnostic report assessment, OECD standards and expertise, and relevant practices from Finland, New Zealand and Spain.

The second and third sessions will focus on presenting general assessment undertaken by the OECD on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) elements that were part of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF), the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020, as well as overall recommendations for building a robust results-based M&E system for policy monitoring. In particular, the second session will present the key findings of this assessment. The third and final session will focus on improving capacity to support current data M&E needs of *Young Ireland*, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028, and with the outcomes prioritised in the Child Poverty and Well-being Office Programme of Work.

### Objective

The workshop will provide an opportunity for policy makers to respond to and discuss the selected recommendations and action plan, with a focus on stakeholder roles and accountability for implementation; the required human, financial and technical capacities; relevant progress and outcome indicators, implementation timelines and risks and risk mitigation. Stakeholders attending this meeting include members of the interdepartmental project Advisory Group, and key policy makers from DCEDIY, Tusla and the Department of an Taoiseach. The discussions will feed into the refinement and finalisation of the Proposed Action Plan.

The objective of the second session will be to highlight the strengths of the system that was set in place for BOBF, to identify any gaps that may have existed, and to suggest areas that could be considered for potential improvement of the monitoring of child and youth policies and outcomes in the future. The objective of the third session will be to explore the challenges and possibilities for developing indicators and building data capacity in the Irish context and to consider options for improving data capacity.

## Format

The workshop will take place in the Town Hall, Block 1, Miesian Plaza at the DCEDIY building in Dublin.

# OECD Recommendations on Governance Frameworks to Implement Child and Youth Policies in Ireland

## Presentation and consultation of Proposed Action Plan

10:00 – 12:30

**Moderator:** Bryan Patten, Principal Officer and Head of the EU and International Unit, DCEDIY

10:00 – 10:30	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
10:30 – 10:45	<p><b>Introductory remarks</b></p> <p><i>Representatives from DCEDIY and DG Reform will deliver brief opening remarks to recall the strategic objectives of this project and work conducted since September 2022 to set the scene for the presentation of Proposed Action Plan (Activity 2.3).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carol Baxter</b>, Assistant Secretary, DCEDIY</li> <li>• <b>Elisa Gómez Alemán</b>, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), European Commission</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:30	<p><b>Recommendation 1: Establishing a robust framework for interdepartmental and interagency cooperation in relation to planning, provision and delivery of services and programmes, as well as sharing of information</b></p> <p><i>The OECD will present draft elements of a proposed plan for Recommendation 1, which builds on findings showing barriers to effective coordination across departments and service providers to deliver responses to complex policy challenges children and young people in Ireland are facing. Following the presentation, and a response from DCEDIY, a roundtable discussion will gather feedback and insights from participants to inform the plan and create consensus on the specific action to be taken by all stakeholders involved to implement this recommendation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moritz Ader</b>, Policy Analyst / Programme Manager, and <b>Ollin Pérez-Raynaud</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> <li>• <b>Bridget Wilson</b>, Principal Officer, Child Rights Policy Unit, DCEDIY</li> </ul> <p>Roundtable discussion.</p>
11:30 – 12:15	<b>Recommendation 2: Introducing reporting requirements for departments involved in planning and delivery of child and youth policies and services,</b>

	<p><b>and providing training and guidance for policymakers to report on outcomes and impact of the implementation of <i>Young Ireland</i> and related strategies.</b></p> <p><i>The OECD will present draft elements of a proposed plan for Recommendation 2, which builds on findings pointing to a need to strengthen accountability across departments to report on the impact of policies and services for children and youth in Ireland. Following the logic of the first session, the second session will present and discuss draft elements of a proposed plan for Recommendation 2, as well as the specific action to be taken by all stakeholders involved.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Giulia Morando</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> <li>• <b>Bridget Wilson</b>, Principal Officer, Child Rights Policy Unit, DCEDIY</li> </ul> <p>Roundtable discussion.</p>
12:15 – 12:30	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><i>The session will conclude the workshop with a summary of the main outcomes of the discussion that will inform the update of the Proposed Action Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moritz Ader</b>, Policy Analyst / Programme Manager, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> <li>• <b>Bryan Patten</b>, Principal Officer and Head of the EU and International Unit, DCEDIY</li> </ul>

12:30 – 13:15	<b>Lunch Break</b>
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## Monitoring of child and youth policies and outcomes

### OECD assessment and guidance

*13:15-15:15*

13:15-14:15	<p><b>Analysis of the Monitoring System for Child Policies and Outcomes</b></p> <p><i>The OECD will present its analysis of the monitoring system for child policies and outcomes in Ireland. In addition to a general assessment of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) elements that were part of BOBF, the presentation will provide guidance and an overview of the sequential steps that should be considered when building a robust results-based M&amp;E system, building on good practice examples. The discussion and Q&amp;A session will gather feedback from participants and discuss areas that could be considered for potential improvement in the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Veerle Miranda</b>, Head of Youth and Diversity Policies Unit, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Martina Garcia Aisa</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Shauna Allen</b>, Statistician, Data and Analytics Unit, DECIDY</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
14:15-15:15	<p><b>Improving capacity to support the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for child policies and outcomes</b></p>

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*The OECD will facilitate a discussion on improving capacity to support the development of a data M&E system relevant to the M&E needs of the Young Ireland National Policy Framework and the Child Poverty and Well-being Office Programme. This discussion will be framed around the general principles of indicator development and the challenges and possibilities for developing indicators and building data capacity in the Irish context. Options for improving data capacity for the M&E system will be presented for consideration. The discussion presents an important opportunity to gather feedback from participants and to discuss areas of data capacity and development that could be prioritised to meet M&E needs.*

- **Olivier Thévenon**, Head of Unit, Child Well-Being Unit, OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunities (WISE)
- **Gráinne Dirwan**, Policy Analyst, Child Well-Being Unit, OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunities (WISE)
- **Anna Visser**, Principal Officer, Child Poverty and Well Being Unit, Department of an Taoiseach

Discussion and Q&A

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