



## Together for Children and Young People in Ireland

### High-level launch of OECD report and peer learning workshop

*9 April 2024, Town Hall, Block 1, Miesian Plaza, Dublin*

#### 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, the OECD report *Together for Children and Young People in Ireland – Towards a new governance framework* will be launched in a high-level event on Tuesday 9 April. The report findings and recommendations draw on 40+ interviews conducted by the OECD with government departments, agencies, sub-national government bodies, oversight institutions, experts, and non-governmental organisations. It also benefited from the outcomes of consultation and peer-learning workshops conducted with relevant stakeholders in Ireland in 2023 and 2024, and good practices and insights shared by peers from ministries working on youth and child outcomes in Finland, New Zealand and Spain.

The launch will be followed by a panel discussion to discuss key findings and priorities to support their implementation across relevant departments and agencies. In the afternoon, two capacity building workshops will be organised to support Ireland in the implementation of OECD recommendations in relation to strengthening inter-departmental and inter-agency coordination in the implementation of *Young Ireland* and developing capacities for monitoring Young Ireland through data and indicators.

#### Objective

The high-level launch and panel discussion will provide an opportunity to present key findings and recommendations from the OECD report together with child and youth policymakers, relevant service providers and the wider public. It aims at building political commitment for the implementation of legal, institutional and policy reform efforts and build a shared understanding of priority areas to be addressed based on a cross-sectoral approach to deliver more integrated support to children and youth, in particular for groups from marginalised backgrounds. The panel session will discuss ongoing efforts to build a new governance framework in Ireland and bring forth good practices and lessons learnt.

A capacity-building workshop "Fostering a culture of cooperation to implement Young Ireland" will follow the high-level launch of the OECD report and speaker panel. It will target a technical audience of department and agency representatives to discuss challenges and opportunities to establishing a robust framework for interdepartmental and interagency cooperation with a focus on establishing a culture of cooperation across key stakeholders.

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## High-level launch of the OECD report and peer discussion

10:00 – 12:30

09:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
10:00 – 10:45	<b>High-level launch of the OECD report</b> <p><i>This session will launch the OECD report “Together for children and young people in Ireland – Towards new governance framework” with high-level speakers from DCEDIY, the Department of the Taoiseach, the OECD, and the European Commission’s DG REFORM.</i></p> <p><i>The report assesses recent policy, institutional and legislative developments in Ireland and compares outcomes for children and young people with those in other EU and OECD countries. It finds that despite progress, Ireland still has room for improvement on child poverty reduction, and more can be done to address the trust gap between young people in Ireland and their government. The report recommends Ireland to adopt measures to enhance inter-departmental and inter-agency co-operation, strengthen evidence-informed approaches, reinforce policy monitoring tools, and improve accountability mechanisms. It also recommends measures to support the effective implementation of Young Ireland (2023-28), and to ensure policy coherence with constituent strategies.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Carol Baxter</b>, Assistant Secretary General, DCEDIY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recorded video by <b>Mr. Roderic O’Gorman</b>, Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Ireland</li><li>• <b>Mr. Kevin McCarthy</b>, Secretary General, DCEDIY</li><li>• <b>Ms. Liz Canavan</b>, Assistant Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach</li><li>• <b>Ms. Miriam Allam</b>, Deputy Head of Division, Governance Reviews and Partnerships Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD</li><li>• Recorded video by <b>Mr. Mario Nava</b>, Director General, DG Reform, European Commission</li></ul>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Family picture</b>
11:00 – 12:20	<b>Panel discussion</b> <p><i>The panel discussion will delve into key findings and recommendations of the OECD report. Against the backdrop of ongoing institutional, legal, and administrative reforms in the child and youth policy in Ireland, speakers will identify and discuss priorities to achieving the vision of making Ireland “the best country in Europe to be a child” and improve policy outcomes for children and young people.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Bryan Patten</b>, Principal Officer, EU &amp; International Unit, DCEDIY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Moritz Ader</b>, Policy Analyst / Project Lead, Youth Empowerment and Intergenerational Justice Unit, Public Governance Directorate, OECD</li><li>• <b>Ms. Bridget Wilson</b>, Principal Officer, Child Rights Policy Unit, DCEDIY</li><li>• <b>Ms. Anna Visser</b>, Principal Officer, Child Poverty and Wellbeing Programme Office, Department of the Taoiseach</li><li>• <b>Ms. Emmi Pakkala</b>, Senior Specialist, National Strategy for Children, Finland</li></ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
12:20-12:30	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Elisa Gómez Alemán</b>, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), European Commission</li></ul>

- **Ms. Carol Baxter**, Assistant Secretary General, DCEDIY

12:30 – 13:30

**Lunch Break**

**Peer learning workshop: Fostering a culture of cooperation to implement *Young Ireland***

13:30 – 13:35

**OECD Presentation**

- Understanding the importance of cooperation and components to building a culture of cooperation
- Summary of findings from the OECD Report on barriers and opportunities to building a culture of cooperation across departments and agencies
- Discussion of comparative evidence across OECD countries on strategies, mechanisms and tools for fostering a culture of cooperation

13:35 – 13:45

**Peer Presentation from Ms. Emmi Pakkala, Specialist, National Strategy for Children, Finland**

- Presentation of example of reform related to building a culture of cooperation in Finland.

13:45 -15:30

**Group Activity: Simulation Exercise and Action Planning**

- Collaboration simulation: Group exercise where participants simulate a realistic scenario (e.g. cross-cutting policy challenge facing children and young people) where a strong culture of cooperation across departments and agencies is needed for the successful implementation of actions under Young Ireland.
- Action planning: Concrete actions to be identified by group to implement, promote and take ownership over building a culture of cooperation.
- Group discussion to summarise outcomes of the group activity including learnings/outcomes and possible next steps.