



# Social Inclusion Report

## Ireland 2006-2007



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# Contents

**4**

**Minister's Foreword**

**8**

**Director's Statement**

**12**

**Part 1**

**Chapter 1** Introduction

**15**

**Chapter 2** Children

**21**

**Chapter 3** People of Working Age

**27**

**Chapter 4** Older People

**33**

**Chapter 5** People with Disabilities

**39**

**Chapter 6** Communities

**46**

**Chapter 7**

Implementing and Monitoring

**51**

**Part 2**

Progress on NAPinclusion Targets

**81**

**Appendix 1**

Developments in the Office for  
Social Inclusion

**86**

**Appendix 2**

Map of Institutional Structures

**88**

**Appendix 3**

Poverty Measurement for  
Monitoring Progress

## Minister's Foreword



One of our main aims in Government is to make a decisive impact on poverty and social exclusion.

Building on the achievements under the original ten year National Anti-Poverty Strategy and on a renewed consensus arrived at in the social partnership agreement, *Towards 2016*, the new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion) was published in February of this year. The partnership agreement and the NAPinclusion, together with measures contained in a special chapter on Social Inclusion in the National Development Plan 2007-2013, constitute a comprehensive strategy for social inclusion for the next ten years.

The overall goal of the NAPinclusion is to reduce consistent poverty to between 2% and 4% by 2012 and to aim to eliminate it by 2016. A further 12 high level goals have been set across relevant policy areas and some 150 targets identified.

Achieving these goals and meeting the targets requires action across a wide range of policy areas, together with effective coordination and integration between them. To facilitate and promote this, a lifecycle approach has been adopted in the strategies which focuses policy and its implementation on children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and communities. The appointment of Ministers of State with specific responsibilities in this area will greatly facilitate the achievement of a more integrated approach to policy and its implementation.

This first report on implementation, covering the period from June 2006, details progress on relevant measures being taken under the

Government's social inclusion strategies. Progress in relation to targets is outlined specifically in Part 2. The report is designed to ensure that there is clear awareness of the plans in place to meet the major challenges involved in reducing poverty and social exclusion. It will be followed in future years by more detailed reports on the process, as implementation of the strategies progresses.

I consider that these reports in themselves, drawn up in consultation with the social partners, will, through regular reporting on the progress being made, build support for and confidence in our major national project to combat poverty and social exclusion in a decisive way. It should also greatly assist in tracking and promoting effective implementation.

Meeting the goals of the NAPinclusion will be an ambitious task. At a minimum it may be a challenge in itself to maintain, in real terms, the progress that has been achieved over the past 10 years, as we face the need to maintain and enhance economic competitiveness during periods of economic difficulty that may lie ahead. We must maintain a strong economy that will continue to deliver the jobs and the resources needed to continue to make a decisive impact on poverty. We also must face the challenges posed by a rapidly changing society in relation to employment patterns, family structures, increasing immigration, and ageing, to name just a few.

We need to ensure in meeting these challenges that our social and other related policies are modernised, adequately resourced and effectively implemented to achieve the best outcomes. These include, in particular, removing

barriers to employment and real incentives for those who can work, and a secure income and the necessary quality services for those who cannot. The strategy is designed to ensure that these overall objectives are met and that they deliver real and sustainable improvements in the standard of living and quality of life of the more vulnerable in our society.

I wish to thank the officials from the relevant Departments and agencies, representatives of the social partners, and the Director and staff of the Office for Social Inclusion for their work and cooperation in producing this report.



**Martin Cullen, T.D.**  
**Minister for Social and Family Affairs**

## Brollach an Aire

Is é ceann dár bpríomhaidhmeanna sa Rialtas ná iarmhairt chinntitheach a dhéanamh ar bhochtaineacht agus ar eisiaim sóisialta.

Rinneadh forbairt ar na mórghníomhartha faoin mbun-Straitéis Náisiúnta in aghaidh na Bochtaineachta de dheich mbliana agus ar chomhdhearcadh athnuaite i gcomhaontú na gcomhpháirtíochtaí sóisialta, *I dTreo 2016*, an Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta úr um Chuimsiú Sóisialta a fhoilsiú i mí Feabhra na bliana seo. Comhdhéanann an comhaontú comhpháirtíochta agus an Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta chomh maith le bearta atá i gcaibidil speisialta ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta sa Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007-2013 straitéis chuimsitheach ar chuimsiú sóisialta ar feadh an chéad deich mbliana eile.

Is í sprioc fhoriomlán an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta ná bochtaineacht chomhsheasmhach a laghdú go dtí idir 2% agus 4% faoi 2012 agus tá sí mar aidhm aige deireadh a chur leis faoi 2016. Tá 12 sprioc ardleibhéil eile leagtha síos ar fud na réimsí polasaí ábhartha agus rinneadh thart ar 150 sprioc eile a shainaitheint.

Chun na cuspóirí seo a bhaint amach agus chun dul i ngleic leis na spriocanna tá gníomhaíocht de dhíth ar fud raon leathan de réimsí polasaí, chomh maith le comhordú agus comhtháthú éifeachtúil eadarthu. D'fhonn é seo a éascú agus a chur chun cinn, glacadh leis an cur chuige saolré sna straitéisí a dhíríonn polasaí agus a gcur i bhfeidhm ar pháistí, ar dhaoine in aois fostaíochta, dhaoine scothaosta, dhaoine le míchumas agus ar phobail. Déanfaidh an ceapachán d'Airí Stáit le freagrachtaí sainiúla sa réimse seo mórghníomh de chur chuige níos

comhtháite ar pholasaí agus a chur i bhfeidhm a éascú go mór.

Déanann an chéad tuarascáil ar chur i bhfeidhm, a chlúdaíonn an tréimhse ó mhí Mheithimh 2006, dul chun cinn ar na bearta ábhartha atá á nglacadh faoi straitéisí cuimsithe sóisialta an Rialtais a mhionsonrú. Tugtar breac-chuntas sonrach ar an dul chun cinn a bhaineann le spriocanna i gCuid 2. Tá an tuarascáil deartha lena chinntiú go bhfuil feasacht shoiléir ann faoi na pleananna atá i bhfeidhm d'fhonn dul i ngleic leis na mórdhúshláin a bhaineann le bochtaineacht agus eisiaim sóisialta a laghdú. Déanfar tuarascálacha níos mionsonraithe ar an bpróiseas a sholáthar amach anseo, de réir mar a rachfaidh cur i bhfeidhm na straitéisí chun cinn.

Measaim go ndéanfaidh na tuarascálacha seo, a dréachtaíodh i gcomhchomhairle leis na comhpháirtithe sóisialta, trí thuairisciú rialta ar an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh, tacaíocht a fhorbairt dár mórtionscadal náisiúnta agus muinín a fhorbairt ann maidir le dul i ngleic le bochtaineacht agus eisiaim sóisialta ar bhealach cinntitheach.

Is tasc ardaidhmeannach a bheidh ann spriocanna an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta a bhaint amach. D'fhéadfadh sé go mbeidh sé ina dhúshláin ann féin an dul chun cinn atá bainte amach le 10 mbliana anuas, i dtéarmaí réadacha a choinneáil, agus an gá atá os ár gcomhair le hiomaíochas eacnamaíoch a choinneáil agus a threisiú le linn tréimhsí de dheacracht eacnamaíoch a d'fhéadfadh tarlú. Caithfidh geilleagar láidir a choinneáil a leanfaidh de na jabanna agus na hacmhainní atá de dhíth a sheachadadh d'fhonn leanúint d'iarmhairt chinntitheach a dhéanamh

ar bhochtaineacht. Caithfidh dul i ngleic leis na dúshlán a thagann as sochaí atá ag athrú go gasta maidir le patrúin fostaíochta, struchtúir teaghlaigh, inimirce ag méadú agus daoine ag dul in aois, gan ach cúpla ceann a lua.

Agus muid ag dul i ngleic leis na dúshlán seo caithfidh a chinntiú go ndéantar ár bpolasaithe sóisialta agus polasaithe bainteacha eile a nuachóiriú, acmhainní leordhóthanacha a sholáthar dóibh agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhealach éifeachtúil d'fhonn na torthaí is fearr a bhaint amach. Áirítear orthu seo, go sonrach, deireadh a chur le bacainní ar fhostaíocht agus ar sheirbhísí agus fíordhreasachtaí do dhaoine atá ábalta oibriú, agus ioncam daingean agus seirbhísí riachtanacha cáilíochta dóibh siúd nach bhfuil ábalta oibriú. Tá an straitéis seo deartha lena chinntiú go mbaintear na cuspóirí foriomlána seo amach agus go ndéanann siad fíorfheabhsuithe inbhuanaithe a sheachadadh i gcaighdeán maireachtála agus i gcáilíocht saoil na ndaoine is soghonta inár sochaí.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis na hoifigigh as na Ranna agus na gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha, ionadaithe na gcomhpháirtithe sóisialta, agus le Stiúrthóir agus foireann na hOifige um Chuimsiú Sóisialta as a gcuid oibre agus a gcuid comhoibrithe i ndéanamh na tuarascála seo.



**Martin Cullen, T.D.**  
**An tAire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh**

## Director's Statement



This is the first in the series of annual reports on the progress being made in realising the aim of making a decisive impact on poverty in Ireland over the 10 year period to 2016. This aim is not a vague aspiration, but is provided for in detailed strategies incorporated in the social partnership agreement, *Towards 2016*, the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion and in a specific chapter on social inclusion in the National Development Plan.

The Office for Social Inclusion has been given an expanded role under *Towards 2016* to coordinate a streamlined approach to the monitoring and reporting of progress on implementation of the above strategies. In virtually all strategies there is a danger of a gap opening up between the goals and objectives set down and what is being delivered through implementation. There is a determination in this strategic process, as previously, to avoid this through the provision for regular monitoring and reporting of progress. This will be evaluated and acted on by the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration, the Social Partnership Steering Group and the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion. The reports will also be available to other key stakeholders and the general public both in published form and on the website of the Office for Social Inclusion [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie). As an initial step in this process, this report is being launched at the 2007 Social Inclusion Forum.

The strategies are based on today's economic and social realities and on those anticipated at this stage. Over the next 10 years, almost inevitably, the nature and pace of implementation will be affected by emerging economic and social developments, some of which may not even be foreseen at this stage. However, while the overall goals of the plan will not alter, new developments may require

adapting policies, administrative practices and timeframes, to ensure that the goals of the plan are met in sustainable ways.

The monitoring and reporting process is also designed to assist with this.

This process must focus not just on implementation from the perspective of inputs but, even more importantly, from that of outcomes. The lifecycle approach will greatly facilitate this through the focus it will bring on the situation of - children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and on the communities that support them. This approach will serve to achieve both more effective implementation through greater coordination and integration of policies across the board, but also in monitoring and evaluating their impact in terms of the outcomes achieved. Future reports will draw together material on outcomes from relevant sources including the reports on the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and other reports produced by the Central Statistics Office, and emerging data from the longitudinal surveys in respect of children and older people that are underway. The Technical Advisory Group of the Office for Social Inclusion will have a key role in advising on this. EU reports under the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) process on Ireland's progress on social inclusion in an EU context will also be of significant assistance. Effectively evaluating outcomes requires above all that we consult with people experiencing poverty and those who work with and support them on the impact the strategies are having on their standards of living and quality of life. The Social Inclusion Forum and other consultative processes being planned should greatly assist with this.

Achieving effective implementation requires coordinated and integrated action, not only at national level, but just as importantly at local level and between national and local levels. A separate chapter of the report details progress achieved to date in achieving more joined up implementation and progress on the strengthened institutional structures provided for in *Towards 2016*.

**Part I** of this report focuses primarily on the high level social inclusion goals identified for each lifecycle as well as other significant developments. This is supported by more extensive material set out in **Part 2**, which I would urge the reader to examine.

The work of the Office for Social Inclusion in relation to research, communications, poverty impact assessment and other key support functions is outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

I would like to thank all with whom we work both in Government and in the non-Governmental sector for their continuing support, not least in compiling this report.

I would particularly like to thank all the staff of the Office for their dedication, commitment and hard work during the year.



**Gerry Mangan**  
Director, Office for Social Inclusion

## Ráiteas an Stiúrthóra

Is í seo an chéad tuarascáil i sraith de thuarascálacha bliantúla ar an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh maidir leis an aidhm iarmhairt chinntitheach a dhéanamh ar bhochtaineacht in Éirinn thar an tréimhse deich mbliana go dtí 2016 a réadú. Ní ardmhian éiginnte atá san aidhm seo, ach foráiltear di i straitéisí mionsonraithe a ionchorpraíodh sa chomhaontú compháirtíochta sóisialta, *I dTreó 2016*, an Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus i gcaibidil faoi leith ar chuimsiú sóisialta sa Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta.

Tugadh ról leathnaithe don Oifig um Chuimsiú Sóisialta faoi *I dTreó 2016* d'fhonn cur chuige sruthlínithe ar mhonatóireacht agus ar thuairisciú ar dhul chun cinn chur i bhfeidhm na straitéisí thuasluaite a chomhordú. I mbeagnach gach straitéis tá an chontúirt ann go n-osclódh bearna idir na spriocanna agus na cuspóirí atá leagtha síos agus an méid atá á sheachadadh trí chur i bhfeidhm. Tá diombháilteacht sa phróiseas straitéiseach seo, mar a bhí roimhe seo, é seo a sheachaint trí sholáthar de mhonatóireacht agus thuairisciú rialta ar dhul chun cinn. Déanfaidh an Coiste Comh-Aireachta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta, Leanaí agus Imeascadh, an Grúpa Stiúrtha na Comhpháirtíochta Sóisialta um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus an Grúpa um Oifigh Shinsearach a seo a mheas agus gníomhóidh siad air. Beidh na tuarascálacha ar fáil do pháirtithe leasmhara eile agus don phobal i bhfoirm fhoilsithe agus ar láithreán gréasáin na hOifige um Chuimsiú Sóisialta [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie) chomh maith. Mar chéim tosaigh sa phróiseas seo, táthar ag lainseáil na tuarascála seo ag an bhFóram ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta 2007.

Tá na straitéisí bunaithe ar réadúlachtaí eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta an lae inniu agus ar na cinn atá réamh-mheasta ag an gcéim seo. Thar an gcéad deich mbliana eile, agus é beagnach dosheachanta, rachfaidh na forbairtí eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta atá ag teacht chun cinn agus b'fhéidir cuid acu nach féidir a réamh-mheas ag an gcéim seo, i bhfeidhm ar nádúr agus luas an chuir i bhfeidhm. Cé nach n-athrófar cuspóirí foriomlána an phlean, áfach, b'fhéidir go mbeadh polasaithe oiriúnaitheacha, cleachtais agus frámaí ama riaracháin de dhíth d'fhorbairtí úra, lena chinntiú go mbainfear spriocanna an phlean amach ar bhealaí inbhuanaithe. Tá an próiseas monatóireachta agus tuairiscithe deartha chun cuidiú leis seo chomh maith.

Ní ar chur i bhfeidhm ó pheirspictíochtaí d'ionchuir amháin a chaithfidh an próiseas seo díriú air ach, níos tábhachtaí arís, ba chóir go ndíreodh sé ar pheirspictíocht torthaí chomh maith. Déanfaidh an cur chuige saolré é seo a éascú go mór tríd an mbéim a chuirfidh sé ar chás – páistí, daoine in aois fostaíochta, daoine scothaosta, daoine le míchumais agus na pobail a thacaíonn leo. Feidhmeoidh an cur chuige seo maidir le cur i bhfeidhm níos éifeachtúla a bhaint amach trí pholasaithe níos comhordaithe agus níos comhtháite ar fud an bhoird, agus trí mhonatóireacht agus measúnú a dhéanamh ar a n-éifeacht i gcomhthéacs na torthaí a mbainfear amach.

Tabharfaidh tuarascálacha amach anseo ábhar ar thorthaí le chéile ó fhoinsí ábhartha lena n-áirítear na tuarascálacha Shuirbhé Ioncam agus Dálaí Maireachála an AE (EU-SILC) agus tuarascálacha eile a dhéanann an Príomh-Oifig Staidrimh, agus sonraí a thagann as na suirbhéanna fadaimseartha maidir le páistí agus

daoine scothaosta atá ar bun. Beidh príomhról ag Grúpa Comhairleach Teicniúil na hOifige um Chuimsiú Sóisialta maidir le comhairle a thabhairt air seo. Cuideoidh na tuarascálacha AE faoi phróiseas an Mhoda Oscailte um Chomhordú (OMC) ar dhul chun cinn na hÉireann ar chuimsiú sóisialta i gcomhthéacs AE go mór chomh maith.

D'fhonn torthaí a mheas go héifeachtúil caithfimid os cionn gach ní uile dul i gcomhchomhairle le daoine bochta agus leo súid a oibríonn leo agus a thacaíonn leo maidir leis an iarmhairt atá ag na straitéisí ar a gcaighdeáin mhaireachtála agus a gcáilíocht saoil. Ba chóir go gcuideoidh an Fóram ar Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus próisis chomhairleacha eile atá á mbeartú go mór leis seo.

Éilítear gníomhaíocht chomhordaithe agus chomhtháite d'fhonn cur i bhfeidhm éifeachtúil a bhaint amach, ní ag leibhéal náisiúnta amháin, ach tá sé lán chomh tábhachtach ag leibhéal áitiúil agus idir leibhéal náisiúnta agus áitiúil. Mionsonraíonn caibidil faoi leith den tuarascáil an dul chun cinn atá bainte amach go dtí seo maidir le cur i bhfeidhm agus dul chun cinn níos comhcheangailte ar na struchtúir institiúideacha neartaithe a fhoráiltear dóibh i *I dTreo 2016*.

Díríonn **Cuid 1** den tuarascáil seo go príomha ar na spriocanna ardleibhéil de chuimsiú sóisialta a shaináithnítear do gach saolré chomh maith le forbairtí suntasacha eile. Faigheann sé seo tacú ó ábhar níos cuimsithí a leagtar amach i **gCuid 2**, agus mholfainn don léitheoir é a scrúdú.

Déantar breac-chuntas ar obair na hOifige um Chuimsiú Sóisialta maidir le taighde, cumarsáid, measúnú iarmhartha ar bhochtaineacht, agus

príomhfheidhmeanna tacaíochta eile in Aguisín 1 den tuarascáil seo.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis na daoine uile a n-oibrímid leo sa Rialtas agus san earnáil neamh-Rialtais as a dtacaíocht leanúnach, go háirithe i dtiomsú na tuarascála seo. Ba mhaith liom buíochas faoi leith a ghabháil le foireann uile na hOifige as a ndílseacht, a dtiomantas agus a n-obair chrua le linn na bliana.



**Gerry Mangan**  
Stiúrthóir, An Oifig um Chuimsiú Sóisialta

**Part 1** Chapter 1

# Introduction

This is the first annual Social Inclusion Report produced in accordance with the streamlined approach agreed in the social partnership agreement, *Towards 2016*<sup>1</sup> (T2016). This new approach requires that monitoring and reporting on progress within social partnership be coordinated and streamlined across key national strategies including the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion)<sup>2</sup>, the social inclusion commitments of the *National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP)*.<sup>3</sup> and T2016 itself. The report covers the period from June 2006 to June 2007. However, significant developments between June 2007 and the date of going to print have been reflected where possible.

The NAPinclusion sets out an ambitious programme for implementation over the period 2007-2016 which is designed to make a decisive impact on poverty and social exclusion. It adopts a lifecycle framework as agreed by the social partners in T2016 designed to promote a

1 Department of an Taoiseach 2006, *Towards 2016* Ten Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006-2015, p.75  
 2 National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016 (Feb 2007)  
 3 National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 *Transforming Ireland A Better Quality of Life for All* (January 2007)

coordinated, integrated approach across relevant policy areas to effectively meet the key social challenges which Ireland will be facing over the next decade. The lifecycle approach is also designed to more effectively equip individuals - children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and their communities - to meet the challenges that can arise at each stage of life. The lifecycle approach further underpins the social policy elements of the NDP which contains a specific chapter on social inclusion priorities and details expenditure of some €49.6 billion committed to these priorities over the period 2007 to 2013.

The overall goal of the NAPinclusion is to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 4% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016. The Plan prioritises 12 high level goals and identifies some 150 targets across all policy areas, which are at the core of the strategic approach, aimed at making a decisive impact on poverty and building a more inclusive society over the coming years.

The strategic approach in the NAPinclusion recognises the need to address the multi-

dimensional nature of poverty and social exclusion through a range of interventions across key policy areas, including, income support, employment, education, health, housing, social participation and community care.

## Layout of report

This report contains chapters covering each lifecycle stage and includes a chapter on the social inclusion priorities for communities. Each chapter sets out the *Towards 2016* strategic vision for the lifecycle stage and the progress made to date in this ambitious 10 year programme of work. Key elements of the new Programme for Government<sup>4</sup> are also included.

Details of progress in relation to those targets and actions contained in the NAPinclusion, which are either relevant to the timeframe of this report or where significant progress has been reported, are set out in Part 2.

## Further information is available at the following websites:

Office for Social Inclusion  
[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

National Development Plan  
[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)

Programme for Government  
[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

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4 Agreed Programme for Government 2007, A Blueprint for Ireland's Future 2007-2012.

## Chapter 2

# Children



## Vision

The vision as set out in *Towards 2016* for children in Ireland is a society where children are respected as young citizens with a valued contribution to make and a voice of their own; where all children are cherished and supported by family and the wider society; where they enjoy a fulfilling childhood and realise their potential. Ireland has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is committed to its implementation in our laws and policies.



To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners have pledged to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals for children in Ireland:

- Every child should grow up in a family with access to sufficient resources, supports and services to nurture and care for the child and foster the child's development and full and equal participation in society;
- Every family should be able to access childcare services which are appropriate to the circumstances and needs of their children;
- Every child should leave primary school literate and numerate;
- Every student should complete a senior cycle or equivalent programme, (including ICT ) appropriate to their capacity and interests;
- Every child should have access to world-class health, personal social services and suitable accommodation;
- Every child should have access to quality play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood, and;
- Every child and young person will have access to appropriate participation in local and national decision-making.

## Recent Developments

### National Development Plan 2007-2013

The NDP commits to investment of €12.3 billion in the Children Programme over the period 2007 - 2013. This investment will provide childcare services, child protection and recreational facilities and educational help for children from disadvantaged communities and those with special needs.

### Programme for Government

The Programme for Government 2007 contains commitments relating to childcare, children's health and well-being, income supports, education, recreation, child protection, youth justice and foster care. It also commits to the establishment of an all party Oireachtas committee to build consensus on a constitutional amendment to acknowledge and affirm the natural rights of all children.

### Office of the Minister for Children

The Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) has made progress in promoting innovative and integrated service delivery, including the establishment of the National Children's Strategy Implementation Group in November 2006 and

the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme. More details are provided in Chapter 7.

- The model of intervention is now being further developed.

## Progress on High Level Goals

Four of the twelve high level goals in the NAPinclusion relate to children, emphasising education and income support as priority areas. In addition, the Plan contains forty-two targets for children, covering issues such as early childhood development and care, nutrition, homelessness, youth justice and children's participation in decision making.

### Goal 1: Education

**Ensure that targeted pre-school education is provided to children from urban primary school communities covered by the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) action plan.**

The Department of Education and Science has reported that:

- The Office of the Minister for Children has agreed that for capital applications under the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP), one of the criteria used in assessing applications is whether a childcare facility can demonstrate that it will support pre-school services for schools designated as disadvantaged under DEIS;
- Existing pre-schools associated with DEIS Urban Band 1 schools have been identified. An analysis of how these pre-schools could be clustered for early years intervention and the type of intervention model that could be used has taken place;

### Goal 2: Education

**Reduce the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. The target is to halve the proportion from the current 27%-30% to less than 15% by 2016.**

The Department of Education and Science has reported that under the DEIS Action Plan:

- Additional literacy and numeracy tutors are being recruited to provide in-school support and guidance to all teachers in these schools;
- Training in Reading Recovery and First Steps is being rolled out to all urban/town primary schools;
  - Reading Recovery is a school based early intervention programme designed to reduce literacy problems in schools. Two new Reading Recovery Teacher leaders have completed their training and they, along with the existing cohort of trained teachers, will roll the programme out to a further 84 schools in 2007/2008;
  - First Steps targets the whole school or a specific school group on a particular strand/unit of the curriculum with the emphasis on a holistic approach to the teaching of literacy. The First Steps programme is being extended to a further 80 schools in 2007/2008;
- A new Family Literacy Project is being implemented;

- The School Development Planning service continues to support schools in developing their plans and policies for teaching literacy and numeracy and in setting measurable targets for the reduction of serious literacy and numeracy difficulties.

### Goal 3: Education

Work to ensure that the proportion of the population aged 20-24 completing upper second-level education or equivalent will exceed 90% by 2013.

The Department of Education and Science has reported that:

- Fifteen additional posts have been allocated to the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) for 2007 under the first phase of the provision in *Towards 2016*. A recruitment process to fill these posts is underway. The increase in staff will facilitate the Board to respond to more children with attendance difficulties;
- The NEWB has deployed staff in areas of greatest disadvantage and in areas designated under the Government's RAPID programme;
- An increase of €8m for Youthreach was provided for in 2007 for the expansion of the number of places by 400, bringing the total to over 3,600. This will rise by a further 600 by the end of 2009;
- A group comprising representatives of the NEWB, the School Completion Programme and the Home School Community Liaison has identified a number of regions where the three teams will work together to identify particular issues that contribute to absenteeism and to develop operational guidelines. This work will

commence in the 2007-2008 school year with the aim of agreeing operational guidelines by the end of the year.

### Goal 4: Income Support

Maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate over the course of this Plan and review child income supports aimed at assisting children in families on low income.

The Department of Social and Family Affairs has reported that:

- In Budget 2007, the three weekly rates of child dependant increases (€16.80, €19.30 and €21.60) were increased and consolidated at €22.00;
- Child Benefit was increased by €10 per month from April 2007 bringing rates to €160 per month in respect of each of the first two children and €195 per month for the third and subsequent children;
- The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, which is paid to the poorest families with children, was increased to €180 for children aged 2 to 11 years and €285 for children from 12 years of age, increases of €60 and €95 respectively;
- Table 1 overleaf shows that, following implementation of the above increases, combined child income support will range from 34% to almost 44% of the lowest personal social welfare rate.

**Table 1: Child income support as a percentage of lowest personal social welfare rate post Budget 2007 improvements**

Income support (Lowest rates: weekly equivalent)	Age of child			
	To 2nd birthday	2 to 6 yrs	7 to 11 yrs	12 yrs +
<b>Child Benefit (€)</b>	36.92	36.92	36.92	36.92
<b>Qualified Child Increase (€)</b>	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
<b>Lowest personal SW rate (€)</b>	185.80	185.80	185.80	185.80
<b>CB+QCI as % of personal rate (one child family)</b>	31.71%	31.71%	31.71%	31.71%
<b>Early Childcare Supplement (€)</b>	19.23	19.23	0	0
<b>Back to School Clothing ... (€)</b>	0	3.46	3.46	5.48
<b>Total child income support (€)</b>	<b>78.15</b>	<b>81.61</b>	<b>62.38</b>	<b>64.40</b>
<b>Total child income support as % of lowest personal rate</b>	<b>42.06%</b>	<b>43.92%</b>	<b>33.57%</b>	<b>34.66%</b>

Progress on other targets specific to children can be found in Part 2.

Further information is available from the following websites

Department of Education and Science  
[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Department of Social and Family Affairs  
[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Office for Social Inclusion  
[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

National Development Plan  
[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)

Programme for Government  
[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

Office of the Minister for Children  
[www.omc.gov.ie](http://www.omc.gov.ie)

## Chapter 3

# People of Working Age



## **Vision**

The vision as set out in *Towards 2016* for people of working age is of an Ireland where all people of working age have sufficient income and opportunity to participate as fully as possible in economic and social life and where all individuals and their families are supported by a range of quality public services to enhance their quality of life and well-being.



To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners have pledged to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals for people of working age:

- Every person of working age should be encouraged and supported to participate fully in social, civic and economic life;
- Every person of working age would have access to lifelong learning, a sense of personal security in a changing work environment and an opportunity to balance work and family commitments consistent with business needs;
- Every person of working age would have an income level to sustain an acceptable standard of living and to enable them to provide for an adequate income in retirement;
- Every person of working age on welfare will have access to supports towards progression and inclusion, access to quality work and learning opportunities, encouraging a greater degree of self-reliance and self-sufficiency;
- Every person, irrespective of background or gender, would enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination;
- Every family would have access to health and social care, affordable accommodation appropriate to their needs and a well functioning public transport system;
- Every person with caring responsibilities would have access to appropriate supports to enable them to meet these responsibilities alongside employment and other commitments.

## Recent Developments

### National Development Plan 2007-2013

The NDP commits to investment of some €5.7 billion in the people of working age programmes over the period 2007 - 2013, which will be directed towards education, training and justice programmes for this group. In addition to this investment under the Social Inclusion Priority of the NDP, some €7.7 billion has been allocated under the Human Capital Priority for training and supports to groups outside the labour market and training and upskilling for people in employment.

## Programme for Government

The Programme for Government contains commitments which will benefit people of working age including PRSI reform, upskilling of low-skilled workers, adult education, improved opportunities in further and higher education with a special focus on disadvantaged areas, a range of reforms for lone parents and improvements in GP and Medical Card eligibility.

## National Women's Strategy 2007 – 2016

The National Women's Strategy was launched by An Taoiseach in April, 2007. This 'all of Government' strategy aims to achieve "an Ireland where all women enjoy equality with men and can achieve their full potential, while enjoying a safe and fulfilling life".

In fostering the achievement of this vision, the strategy aims to be comprehensive and contains twenty key objectives and over two hundred planned actions. These objectives and actions have been clustered together under the following three key themes:

- Equalising socio-economic opportunity for women;
- Ensuring the well-being of women; and
- Engaging women as equal and active citizens.

The NDP is making available a funding package of €128 million to implement the National Women's Strategy and fund a second programme of positive actions under the Equality for Women Measure. Some of the funding under the Equality for Women Measure will focus on women from disadvantaged backgrounds and communities.

## Progress on High Level Goals

Two of the twelve high level goals in the NAPinclusion relate to people of working age. These emphasise employment, participation and income support as priority issues. In addition the Plan contains twenty-eight further targets and actions, covering issues such as literacy, second chance education and equality.

**Goal 5: Employment and Participation**  
**Introduce an active case management approach that will support those on long-term social welfare into education, training and employment. The target is to support 50,000 such people, including lone parents and the long-term unemployed, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long-term social welfare payments by 2016. This target will be reviewed in the light of experience.**

This goal is being pursued on a cross-departmental basis and progress has been reported as follows:

- The Department of Social and Family Affairs is completing a customer profiling project with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). The objective of the project is to identify characteristics other than duration of unemployment in order to target additional supports for people at risk of becoming long-term unemployed;
- A review of work disincentives within social welfare means test provisions has been initiated with the social partners. The review

will include recommendations for actions to address any barriers identified and to achieve more effective welfare to work transitions;

- A new social assistance payment for lone parents and parents on low income, informed by the Government Discussion Paper *Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents*, is currently being developed by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Work on the development of a cross-departmental implementation plan to progress the non-income recommendations is also continuing;
- A programme of investment under the NDP will be introduced to promote participation through activation measures aimed at people of working age. A group will be set up in September 2007 to facilitate consultation with the social partners on how this will be implemented;
- FÁS has undertaken an initiative involving pro-active engagement with lone parents. The target was women on the FÁS Register, in receipt of One Parent Family Payment, who are not on a FÁS training or employment programme and who are residing in Dublin and Cork city. The overall participation rate was approximately 10% in all locations. A follow-up survey to find out why individuals chose not to respond or participate in the initiative commenced in May 2007. This evaluation will be completed in September 2007;
- A group, comprising representatives from the Departments of the Taoiseach, Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Social and Family Affairs and FÁS has been established to progress the extension of the existing activation process for Employment Action Plan (EAP) clients to other groups, in

particular, lone parents and people with disabilities.

**Goal 6: Income Support**  
**Maintain the relative value of the lowest social welfare rate at least at €185.80, in 2007 terms, over the course of this Plan, subject to available resources.**

The Department of Social and Family Affairs has reported that:

- The lowest rate of welfare payments was increased by €20 per week (12.1%) in Budget 2007 to €185.80 per week.
- As a result of improvements announced in Budget 2007, new arrangements were put in place from September 2007 whereby people in receipt of a social welfare payment, other than carer's allowance or benefit, who are also providing someone with full time care and attention, will be able to retain their main welfare payment and receive another payment. Depending on their means, the maximum amount payable will be equivalent to a half rate carer's allowance.

**Progress on other targets specific to people of working age can be found in Part 2.**

**Further information is available  
at the following websites**

Department of Enterprise, Trade  
and Employment  
**[www.entemp.ie](http://www.entemp.ie)**

FÁS  
**[www.fas.ie](http://www.fas.ie)**

Office for Social Inclusion  
**[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)**

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

National Development Plan  
**[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)**

Programme for Government  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

National Women's Strategy 2007-2016  
**[www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie)**

## Chapter 4

# Older People



### **Vision**

The vision as set out in *Towards 2016* for older people is of an Ireland where supports are provided, where necessary, to enable older people to maintain their health and well-being, as well as to live active and full lives, in an independent way in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.



To achieve this vision, the Government and social partners in *Towards 2016* have undertaken to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals in the context of increased longevity and greater possibilities and expectations for quality of life of older people:

- Every older person would be encouraged and supported to participate to the greatest extent possible in social and civic life;
- Every older person would have access to an income which is sufficient to sustain an acceptable standard of living;
- Every older person would have adequate support to enable them to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible. This will involve access to good quality services in the community, including: health, education, transport, housing and security, and;
- Every older person would, in conformity with their needs and conscious of the high level of disability and disabling conditions amongst this group, have access to a spectrum of care services stretching from support for self-care through support for family and informal carers to formal care in

the home, the community or in residential settings. Such care services should ensure the person has opportunities for civic and social engagement at community level.

## Recent Developments

### National Development Plan 2007-2013

The NDP commits to investment of some €9.7 billion in the older people programme over the period 2007 - 2013. The focus of this investment will be on services which enable older people to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Funding will also be directed to residential care services.

### Minister of State for Older People

The Government has appointed a Minister of State with specific responsibility for older people. Based in the Department of Health and Children, the new Minister of State will also focus on issues relating to older people under the remit of the Departments of Social and Family Affairs and Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

## Programme for Government

The Programme for Government envisages social welfare pensions increasing to €300 per week by 2012.

## Progress on High Level Goals

Two of the twelve high level goals in the NAPinclusion relate to older people. These emphasise income support and community care as priority issues for older people. In addition the Plan contains eighteen targets covering issues such as housing, long-term care and participation.

### Goal 7: Community Care

**Continue to increase investment in community care services for older people, including home care packages and enhanced day care services, to support them to live independently in the community for as long as possible.**

The Department of Health and Children has reported that:

- Some 2,000 additional Home Care Packages are being provided in 2007, benefiting some 4,000 people at a cost of €30 million in 2007 and €25 million in 2008;
- Some 780,000 additional home help hours are being provided in 2007 at a cost of €18 million;
- A steering committee has been established to design and oversee an independent evaluation of Home Care Packages and to

examine all issues relating to the funding and delivery of this service;

- An additional 1,100 day places in 2007 will be provided at a cost of €3.5 million.

### Goal 8: Income Support

**Maintain a minimum payment rate of €200 per week, in 2007 terms, for all social welfare pensions over the course of this Plan and, if possible, having regard to available resources and the Government's commitment in *Towards 2016*, to enhance this provision. The overall pension structures and system to provide income supports for pensioners will be reviewed in the light of the forthcoming Green Paper on Pensions, to be finalised at end March 2007. This will review all the pillars of pension provision.**

The Department of Social and Family Affairs has reported that:

- From January 2007, the State Pension (Non-Contributory) personal rate of payment increased by €18 per week (9.9%), bringing the weekly rate to €200 and, thereby, achieving the Government commitment;
- The State Pension (Contributory) personal rate of payment increased by €16 per week (8.3%), bringing the weekly rate to €209.30;
- The Green Paper on Pensions was published on 17 October 2007. An extensive consultation process will now commence. The Government is committed to initiating and responding to the consultation by developing a framework that comprehensively addresses the pensions agenda over the longer-term.

**Progress on other targets and actions specific to older people can be found in Part 2.**

**Further information is available at the following websites**

Department of Health and Children  
**[www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)**

Department of Social and Family Affairs  
**[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**

Office for Social Inclusion  
**[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)**

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

National Development Plan  
**[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)**

Programme for Government  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**



## Chapter 5

# People with Disabilities



## **Vision**

The vision as set out in *Towards 2016* for people with disabilities is of an Ireland where people with disabilities have, to the greatest extent possible, the opportunity to live a full life with their families and as part of their local community, free from discrimination.



To achieve this vision, the Government and the social partners have committed to work together over the next ten years towards the following long-term goals with a view to continued improvements in the quality of life of people with disabilities:

- Every person with a disability would have access to an income which is sufficient to sustain an acceptable standard of living;
- Every person with a disability would, in conformity with their needs and abilities, have access to appropriate care, health, education, employment and training and social services;
- Every person with a disability would have access to public spaces, buildings, transport, information, advocacy and other public services and appropriate housing;
- Every person with a disability would be supported to enable them, as far as possible, to lead full and independent lives, to participate in work and in society and to maximise their potential, and;
- Carers would be acknowledged and supported in their caring role.

## Recent Developments

### ***National Disability Strategy***

The Government launched the National Disability Strategy in September 2004 to underpin the participation of people with disabilities in Irish society. The implementation of that strategy provides the framework for policy initiatives under T2016, the NDP and the NAPinclusion, for this group.

The strategy includes the Disability Act 2005, six sectoral plans, Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act, 2004 and the Citizens Information Act, 2007 and a multi-annual investment programme, in excess of €900 million, running until 2009.

Progress in the implementation of the strategy includes:

- The commencement of all parts of the Disability Act 2005;
- The Citizens Information Act 2007, which enables the Citizens Information Board to provide a personal advocacy service for people with disabilities;
- The publication by six Government

departments<sup>5</sup> in December 2006 of sectoral plans for the delivery of services to people with disabilities;

- A 'Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies', developed by the National Disability Authority (NDA) published in July 2006;
- The Disability Act 2005 provides for a statutory target for the recruitment and employment of people with disabilities in the public sector;
- A Centre of Excellence in Universal Design is being established in the National Disability Authority.

### National Development Plan

The NDP commits to investment of some €19.2 billion in the People with Disabilities programme over the period 2007 – 2013. The focus of this investment will be on services in health, education and in resolving accessibility issues for people with disabilities.

### Minister for State for Disability Issues and Mental Health

The Government appointed a Minister of State with specific responsibility for disability issues and mental health. Based in the Department of Health and Children, the new Minister of State will also focus on issues relating to people with disabilities under the remit of the departments of Education and Science, Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

5 Health and Children; Social and Family Affairs; Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Transport and Marine; Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; and Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

### Programme for Government

The Programme for Government 2007 commits to continue the prioritisation of the interests of people with disabilities, ensuring that the National Disability Strategy (NDS) is driven from a whole of Government perspective. Each year, the Government will set out the objectives and outcomes to be reached in the NDS having regard to the vision and long term goals in Towards 2016. This approach will be properly monitored and at least half of the NDS will be implemented by 2010.

### Progress on High Level Goals

In line with the National Disability Strategy to support the participation of people with disabilities in society, the NAPinclusion high level goal in relation to people with disabilities emphasises participation in education, training and employment. In addition the Plan contains eight targets covering housing, income support, education and access to buildings, infrastructure and public transport.

**Goal 9: Employment and Participation**  
Increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in retaining a job. The immediate objective is to have an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. The longer term target is to raise the employment rate of people with disabilities from 37% to 45% by 2016, as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey. The overall participation rate in education, training and employment will be increased to 50% by 2016. These targets will be reviewed in the light of experience and the availability of better data.

This goal is being pursued on a cross departmental basis and the progress has been reported as follows:

- An annual national target is set in all FÁS regions in the first quarter of the year for a number of target groups, including people with disabilities, Travellers, and other groups. For 2007 FÁS have a target of a minimum increase of 1% over the 2006 levels for all such defined target groups availing of its services. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has established a Consultative Forum on an employment strategy which includes representatives from government departments, social partners, and the National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group. It provides a channel for members to consider strategic issues that impact on the lives of people with disabilities, with regard to the delivery of vocational training and employment services. The Forum will consider issues around job retention, job supports and job preparation;
- Research will be commissioned by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on behalf of the Forum into issues relating to job retention in respect of employees who acquire a disability in the workplace;
- The Department of Social and Family Affairs is finalising proposals for a project, based on individual case management, for people on disability welfare payments and designed to increase their rate of employment;
- A High Level Group, comprising representatives from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Department of Social and Family Affairs,

the Department of the Taoiseach and FÁS, has been set up to progress the activation of certain client groups, in particular, lone parents and people with disabilities.

**Progress on other targets specific to people with disabilities can be found in Part 2.**

**Further information is available at the following websites**

Department of Health and Children  
**[www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)**

Department of Social and Family Affairs  
**[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**

Office for Social Inclusion  
**[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)**

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
**[www.entemp.ie](http://www.entemp.ie)**

Department of Education and Science  
**[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)**

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
**[www.dcmnr.gov.ie](http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie)**

Department of Transport  
**[www.transport.ie](http://www.transport.ie)**

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

National Development Plan  
**[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)**

Programme for Government  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

Department of Environment, Heritage  
& Local Government (Sectoral Plan)  
**[www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)**

## Chapter 6

# Communities



## **Vision**

The vision as set out in the NAPinclusion for community life in Ireland is centred on building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged areas and building social capital. Tackling disadvantage in urban and rural areas is a key priority. Urban poverty can take a number of forms – poor households living in urban areas, urban communities where there are high levels of unemployment and high concentrations of poverty and areas suffering from a decline in the environmental and social infrastructure.

Similarly rural disadvantage can manifest itself in a number of ways. Declining or slow-growing populations, migration of younger people from rural to urban areas, lack of services, lack of employment opportunities, low income farming households, higher dependency levels and isolation are examples. Whether in the urban or rural context, social exclusion is frequently the result of multiple disadvantage.

## Recent Developments

### National Development Plan 2007-2013

The NDP makes provision for investment of €1.9 billion in the Local and Community Development Programme as follows:

- Community Development and Services Sub-Programme: **€861 million**
- RAPID Sub-Programme: **€67 million**
- Local Development Social Inclusion Sub-Programme: **€417 million**
- Volunteers and Volunteering Supports Sub-Programme: **€197 million**
- National Drugs Strategy Sub-Programme: **€319 million**

The focus of investment is on the ongoing measures to support increasingly diverse communities, particularly those that are subject to disadvantage.

### Programme for Government

The Programme for Government contains proposals for a Community Development Plan, to deliver community facilities throughout the country with funding of €150 million over a five year period and a broad range of commitments which will benefit rural communities including transport, rural enterprise, rural tourism, recreation, sustainable housing and broadband access.

## Progress on the High Level Goals

Three of the twelve high level goals in the NAPinclusion relate to housing, health and the integration of migrants. In addition the Plan contains 57 targets covering issues such as transport, fuel poverty, the arts and cultural initiatives.

**Goal 10: Housing**

**Deliver high quality housing for those who cannot afford to meet their own housing needs and to underpin the building of sustainable communities. An important element will be the enhanced housing output reflected in Towards 2016, which will result in the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households being addressed over the period 2007 to 2009. This will embrace meeting special housing needs (the homeless, Travellers, older people and people with disabilities).**

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has, on an inter-agency basis, reported that:

- A new housing policy statement, *Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities*, was launched in February 2007. It sets out the agenda for the delivery of housing support and policy reform. This includes actions to support the building of sustainable communities, improve housing choice, address need and enhance personal autonomy and responsibility. It also includes actions to improve the effectiveness of housing delivery;
- A National Housing Strategy for people with a disability will be developed by 2009. The strategy is to be progressed through the establishment of a national group under the aegis of the Housing Forum. The group will formally convene at the end of October 2007;
- A protocol governing liaison between the HSE and the housing authorities on the assessment of the accommodation needs of people with a disability has been developed

and circulated to the local authorities and the HSE. The protocol initially applies to children under 5 years of age and will be extended to all age groups by 2011;

- A protocol governing support costs for social housing projects provided for people with a disability is currently being developed, and will be implemented later this year;
- A new needs assessment framework has been agreed with the City & County Managers' Association and approved by the Housing Forum. Work is currently underway to progress the implementation of the framework by housing authorities;
- An €8 million Sustainable Communities Fund was introduced in 2007 to enable local authorities to co-fund local authority spending on innovative projects to promote sustainable communities;
- The Building Control Act was enacted in April 2007 and introduces a statutory requirement for a Disability Access Certificate at design stage of new commercial buildings and apartment blocks;
- Following public consultation and an Expert Working Group review, the Building Regulations Advisory Body is due to provide a definitive draft amended Part M (Access to buildings for People with Disabilities) of the Building Regulations to the Minister for publication later in 2007.

**Goal 11: Health**

**Develop 500 primary care teams by 2011 which will improve access to services in the community, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards.**

The Department of Health and Children has reported that:

- New staff are being recruited by the HSE to achieve the targets set for the development of Primary Care Teams (PCTs);
- Work is proceeding to establish 87 PCTs under the 2006 phase and a further 157 teams in the 2007 phase;
- 185 new front-line professionals are in place in these teams and recruitment for the remainder (approx 415) of the additional personnel for both the 2006 and the 2007 phases is ongoing;
- Some 500 GPs have been involved in the development of PCTs. A further 700 GPs are expected to be involved in the 2007 phase;
- When the first 87 Teams are in operation some 900,000 people will have PCT coverage. Of this number, almost 28% will be of the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme population.

**Goal 12: Integration of Migrants**  
**Develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in our society. As an initial action, resources for the provision of 550 teachers for language supports in the education sector will be provided by 2009 and access to other public services through translation of information and supports will be improved.**

### Minister of State for Integration

The Government have established the Office of the Minister for Integration overseen by a Minister of State with responsibility for the development

of Integration policy, under the remit of the Departments of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Education and Science.

The Department of Education and Science has reported that:

- 200 additional Language Support Teacher posts have been allocated to schools in 2007;
- The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has distributed intercultural guidelines to support teachers and schools in developing a more inclusive learning environment and in providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to participate in a multicultural world;
- A resource book for English Language Support Teachers has been distributed to all primary schools. This will serve as the basis for induction seminars for newly appointed Language Support Teachers;
- An independent review has been commissioned to assist in the development of a national English language training policy and framework for legally-resident adult immigrants. The review will include extensive stakeholder consultation;
- Emerging education issues facing newcomers will be identified by the Department of Education and Science's Steering Committee;
- Information on the Irish education system will be provided on the Department of Education and Science's website in 6 languages.

Further initiatives planned in 2007 will include:

- The delivery to primary schools of language assessment kits in autumn 2007 to facilitate the on-going assessment of language proficiency of newcomer children;
- The delivery of a language resource book for English Language Support Teachers in all post-primary schools;
- The development of a practical toolkit for schools North and South to facilitate capacity building on a whole-school basis in relation to learning and teaching, the role of parents and community, assessment and monitoring of students' progress and promoting the concept of inclusiveness through planning and policy development;
- The development of an information pack for non-Irish national parents on a North/South basis;
- The development of proposals to address deficits in relation to initial teacher education and continuous professional development of teachers who deal with newcomer children and adults;
- Migrants were prioritised in a call to VECs for submissions on the provision of 3,000 adult literacy places in 2007.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has reported that:

- An 'Immigrant Integration Fund' of €5 million was developed. It has provided funding for integration-related projects carried out at a regional level by NGOs and at a local level by area-based partnership companies involved in the social inclusion area;
- Targeted initiatives have been developed for vulnerable groups to promote their access

to employment, with a particular focus on persons granted leave to remain under the 2005 Irish Born Child Scheme. A scheme of small grants was developed during 2006/2007 to promote interaction between newcomers and local communities;

- A cross-departmental group, chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, has been established by Government to carry out a review of existing integration policy and to provide an initial assessment of future policy options. That review is now completed and a policy framework document has been developed which will inform developing integration policy;
- With the support of the National Action Plan against Racism the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has launched an intercultural strategy for soccer to encourage increased participation in football among people from minority ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- A strategic review of funding mechanisms for ethnic led organisations has been carried out which will seek to ensure fair and equal access to mainstream funding resources by these communities and groups representing them;
- A strategic review on a future framework for interpretation and translation is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Further initiatives planned for 2007/08 will include:

- A strategic review of National Strategy on Information Provision will be initiated to complement existing initiatives.
- The funding of integration projects at regional and local level will be extended and developed;
- A taskforce on integration will be established.

**Progress on other targets specific to Communities can be found in Part 2.**

### **Further information is available at the following websites**

Department of Education  
**[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)**

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government  
**[www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)**

Department of Social and Family Affairs  
**[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**

Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform  
**[www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie)**

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs  
**[www.pobail.ie](http://www.pobail.ie)**

Reception and Integration Agency  
**[www.ria.gov.ie](http://www.ria.gov.ie)**

Office for Social Inclusion  
**[www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)**

Department of the Taoiseach (*Towards 2016*)  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

National Development Plan  
**[www.ndp.ie](http://www.ndp.ie)**

Programme for Government  
**[www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)**

## Chapter 7

# Implementing and Monitoring

## Introduction

The commitments set out in the strategies for social inclusion are ambitious and challenging. Implementation by government departments, agencies and other stakeholders will be crucial in achieving the outcomes sought in terms of making a decisive impact on poverty and social exclusion. The strategies address this challenge through provision for:

- More “joined up” implementation at national and at local levels to be promoted and facilitated by the lifecycle approach;
- More streamlined and coordinated consultation on all aspects of implementation of the strategies with the social partners and other stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty;
- Regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress on goals and targets to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration and to the social partners and other stakeholders, with a view to ensuring that any additional action required to meet specific commitments is taken in good time.

The strengthened institutional structures set out in *Towards 2016*, and in Chapter 7 of the NAPinclusion are designed to assist in more effectively meeting these objectives.

### **Cabinet Committee and Senior Officials Group**

The Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration chaired by the Taoiseach, met on a regular basis during the period of this report, supported by the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion. The focus was on the development of the strategies, the action to be taken to ensure effective implementation and policies on major cross-cutting issues, including supports for lone parents and immigrants.

### **Towards 2016 Steering Group**

This steering group includes social partners and representatives of relevant government departments and agencies. It has overall responsibility for managing the implementation of *Towards 2016*, as it applies to the wider non-pay issues. It has an ongoing oversight role in relation to implementation of the lifecycle framework and a seminar on this topic was organised by the Department of the Taoiseach to

assist in assessing its policy and administrative implications. Since the inaugural steering group meeting in November 2006, quarterly meetings have taken place in April and July 2007 focusing particularly on the People of Working Age and Children lifecycle stages respectively. The Department of the Taoiseach has held bilateral meetings with each of the social partners to discuss monitoring groups and mechanisms.

New coordinating structures are being put in place to facilitate and promote joined up policy and administrative approaches to achieving social inclusion goals.

There has been some good progress on strengthening linkages between the national and local level, including the decision announced in July 2007 to extend the social inclusion unit programme to nine more local authorities.

### **Office of the Minister for Children**

The Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) has a broad remit to engage with departments and agencies to achieve better outcomes for children. In line with a commitment under *Towards 2016*, the OMC established the National Children's Strategy Implementation Group in November 2006. This group includes national decision-makers from government departments and agencies - including local authorities and the Health Service Executive (HSE). The group provides strategic direction at national level. At local level, multi-agency Children Services Committees (CSCs) are to be established within each City/County Development Board, to focus on improved integration of service delivery for children. The first phase of this development is well underway and four CSCs have been established in

Donegal, Dublin City, South Dublin and Limerick City.

The OMC is promoting innovative and integrated service delivery at local level through its Prevention and Early Intervention Programme, jointly funded by Government and the Atlantic Philanthropies. The programme focuses on disadvantaged children and their families and encourages innovation in service design. Three projects have been selected for funding and a phased programme of activities commenced in September 2007. The programme will be rigorously evaluated to ascertain its impact on outcomes for children.

The OMC, in co-operation with the Department of Social and Family Affairs, continues to fund an extensive programme of research in relation to children, including the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland. Data collection commenced for the first cohort of children in that study in May 2007.

### **High Level Group on Facilitating and Promoting Activation of People into Employment**

A new high level group has been set up, comprising representatives of the Departments of Social and Family Affairs, Enterprise, Trade and Employment and FÁS to ensure better integration of activation, income and other supports and to progress the activation of people into employment.

### **National Disability Strategy**

The implementation of the National Disability Strategy is monitored by the Senior Officials Group on Disability, comprising senior officials from key government departments, which reports to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion,

Children and Integration. The establishment, in 2006, of the National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group under *Towards 2016*, builds on the monitoring and review procedures already in place and ensures a continued constructive relationship with stakeholders.

The Government appointed a Minister of State with specific responsibility for disability issues and mental health. Based in the Department of Health and Children, the new Minister of State will also focus on issues relating to people with disabilities under the remit of the Departments of Education and Science and Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

### **Integration of Migrants**

The Government has established the Office of the Minister for Integration overseen by a Minister of State with responsibility for the development of integration policy. Responsibility for the promotion and coordination of integration measures for all legally-resident immigrants rests with the Irish Nationalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) through the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA).

### **Further Government assignments to facilitate integrated policy responses**

In addition to Ministers of State for Children, Integration and Disability Issues and Mental Health, a number of other Ministers of State have been appointed whose remits span a range of government departments to improve integrated responses to poverty and social exclusion. These include Ministers of State for:

- Older people; and
- Drugs Strategy and Community Affairs.

### **Traveller Interagency Groups**

County Development Boards (CDBs) have established Traveller Interagency Groups to coordinate delivery of services and support for Travellers. Their work derives from the Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues (March 2006) which recommended a local integrated approach based on CDB structures. *Towards 2016* also contains a commitment from all social partners to give “concentrated attention” to achieving greater progress for Travellers, based on the local integrated approach. A National Traveller Monitoring and Advisory Committee was established in March 2007 as a national forum for dialogue between stakeholders.

### **National to Local**

The task of the Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group is to promote and support the embedding of social inclusion in local government and to support, promote and disseminate good practice. Since the beginning of 2007 the Steering group has met twice on a range of issues and has overseen the Spring meeting of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network (LGAPLN). Two further meetings of the group, and the autumn meeting of the LGAPLN, are planned before end 2007. Membership of the Steering Group has been expanded to include representatives from the County and City Managers’ Association and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

*Towards 2016* contains a commitment to strengthen and develop the CDBs and their Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) groups. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has appointed consultants to prepare an assessment of the CDB strategy

reviews and to make recommendations for developing and strengthening the role of CDBs, including the work of their SIM groups.

More information in relation to monitoring and implementation of the NAPinclusion can be found at Appendix 1 (Developments in the Office for Social Inclusion) and Appendix 2 (Map of Institutional Structures).

## **Part 2**

# **Progress in Relation to Targets in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 - 2016<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>6</sup> This appendix contains updates on progress in relation to those targets/actions contained in the NAPinclusion 2007-2016 which are either relevant to the timeframe of this report or where significant progress has been reported.

## Lifecycle Stage: Children

Target	Progress
The findings of the review of <i>Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children</i> will be published in early 2007.	Publication by end 2007
A Children's Services policy will be completed and published in 2007. Roll-out and implementation of policy by the Health Service Executive (HSE) will commence in 2007.	Publication by end 2007
Standardised inspection procedures and reports will be commenced under the Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 2006 in 2007.	Regulations were commenced in September 2007. Work on introduction of standardised procedures underway
The review of child income supports by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, informed by the NESC study on a second tier child income support, will be completed in 2007.	Work is ongoing. A detailed analysis of recipients of Family Income Supplement is almost complete, while a project on FIS take up levels has commenced
The prevalence trends of smoking and substance use will be monitored through the National Health and Lifestyle Surveys and the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD). ESPAD results will be available in late 2007 or early 2008.	On target. Data analysis underway
The Survey of Lifestyles, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN 06) fieldwork will be completed and data analysed in 2007. The first results will be available by end 2007. The results will inform policy development at national level and service planning at national and regional level.	Fieldwork almost completed. Results available early 2008

Target	Progress
The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey (HBSC) results will be available from mid-2007.	Published August 2007
A National Nutrition Policy to address children's food poverty and obesity will be finalised and launched by mid-2007. A national database will be developed to monitor prevalence trends of growth, overweight and obesity. The Programme of Action for Children has developed a growth module for children and its implementation will be dealt with in the National Nutrition Policy.	Planned completion date late 2007
In order to meet high level Goal 1, the Early Childhood Education measure under the DEIS Action Plan will be extended to the urban primary school communities with the most immediate and pressing needs by 2010. This measure will continue to be extended to encompass the remaining schools in the urban primary strand of DEIS after 2010.	<p>Analysis of Band 1 Urban DEIS schools with an intake of junior infants has been completed. The analysis showed that in over 90% of Junior Infant classes, some of the children had attended a pre-school service</p> <p>A further analysis has looked at how schools could be clustered and the different models for implementing the Early Education strand of DEIS. These recommendations are currently being analysed in the Department of Education and Science</p>
To help further address absenteeism, early school leaving, behavioural problems and special needs, an additional 100 posts will be provided for the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and the National Educational Psychological Service by 2009.	15 posts have been sanctioned and advertised for the NEWB and 31 posts have been sanctioned for NEPS and the recruitment process is underway

Target	Progress
<p>Support for the effective integration of migrant children at both primary and second-level will be enhanced through the provision of an extra 550 teachers for language supports by 2009 and the reform of the current limit of two additional teachers per school. Some €637 million will be available by 2013 for teachers for language supports to assist children from non-English speaking backgrounds.</p>	<p>200 language support teacher posts have been allocated by the D/Education and Science (175 primary and 25 post-primary) in 2007. Currently, there are 1,450 language support teacher posts in primary and post primary schools. In addition the limit of two additional teachers per school has been lifted</p>
<p>Provisions to enable the full implementation of the Children Act 2001 will be in place in 2007 with the further development of quality standards with enhanced monitoring and inspection of these standards.</p>	<p>The Children Act 2001 has been commenced in full in 2007. Work on enhancing the quality of inspections of children's residential centres is ongoing within the Social Services Inspectorate which is part of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)</p>
<p>Young people enrolled in Youthreach centres throughout the country need additional supports to develop skills which will ensure they can reach their full potential socially, personally, educationally and economically. Some €2 million is to be allocated in 2007 to 20 existing Youthreach Centres to address the special educational needs of students aged 15-20 years. Consideration will be given to extending the arrangement to all Youthreach Centres following an evaluation. A further 1,000 Youthreach places will be provided by 2009, on top of the existing 2,700 places provided by Vocational Education Committees.</p>	<p>The additional €2 million has been allocated</p>

Target	Progress
The Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) will undertake a review of progress on the implementation of the <i>Youth Homelessness Strategy</i> and develop a new programme of action in 2007.	Ongoing
15 playground projects will be completed in 2007 through funding of some €700,000 under the 2005 Local Authority Playground Grants Scheme. In addition, over €4 million is being allocated to each City and County Council under the 2006 Local Authority Playground Grants scheme to provide up to 90 additional playground projects over the next two years.	11 playgrounds from both the 2005 and 2006 schemes have been completed to date in 2007 with grants of €665,014 paid to local authorities to supplement funding from their own sources. A number of other projects will be completed by the end of the year
21 projects to develop skateboard facilities will be completed through overall funding of €2 million by the end of 2007.	In addition to the 4 completed in 2006, a further 5 skateboard parks have been completed to date in 2007, through grants totalling €363,419 to local authorities to supplement funding from their own sources. A number of other projects will be completed before year end
The RAPID Programme will provide €3 million under its Playground Grants Scheme in 2007.	Scheme launched on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
New standards, guidelines and supports will be put in place for the operation of Comhairle Na nÓg by September 2007.	Allocation of additional supports to Comhairle na nÓg underway – due for completion by end 2007

Target	Progress
<p>The OMC in partnership with the new Irish Youth Justice Service and the Justice sector, the Health Service Executive and the Department of Education and Science and the Education sector will support the accelerated implementation of the Children Act 2001. The legislative provisions will be commenced on 1 March 2007.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>The Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPF SF) will continue to assist in the development of youth facilities (including sport and recreational facilities) and services in disadvantaged areas where a significant drug problem exists or has the potential to develop. The geographic coverage of the Fund may be expanded to other disadvantaged urban areas. The YPF SF will continue to target 10 to 21 year olds who are 'at risk'. It will continue to build on and complement youth measures under the Children's Programme in the areas where it is operational.</p>	<p>The allocation of additional capital funding is currently being finalised and an announcement is expected shortly</p>

### Lifecycle Stage: People of Working Age

Target	Progress
<p>The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) allows low-income farmers and fishermen to earn a supplementary income while, at the same time, benefits rural communities by maintaining and improving local amenities and facilities. Expenditure of some €214 million will be provided between 2007 and 2013 to benefit some 2,600 households. It is an aim of the scheme that over the medium-term all participants will be facilitated with their preferences with regard to both location and type of work.</p>	<p>There are currently 2,600 households participating in the scheme, with 130 supervisors, which is consistent with the commitment in the Programme for Government to expand the scheme</p>
<p>To achieve and surpass the Lisbon targets: to increase the overall employment rate to 70% by 2010; to continue to increase the female employment rate above 60%; and to continue to increase the employment rate of older workers* above 50%.</p> <p>* age 55-64</p>	<p>Current employment rate:            Overall: 68.9%            Female: 60.3%            Older Workers: 54.0%            (age 55-64)            Source: CSO, QNHS, 2nd Quarter 2007</p>
<p>The extension of the <i>Employment Action Plan</i> process to those who are three months unemployed (previous threshold was six months) and those who are aged 55-64 will enable the provision of increased and earlier engagement.</p>	<p>Referral under the <i>Employment Action Plan</i> process at 3 months commenced from Monday 16 October 2006. This is in line with a commitment in <i>Towards 2016</i>. In addition the EAP was extended in July 2006 to those aged 55 and under 64 years</p>

Target	Progress
<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will invest some €2.8 billion between 2007-2013 to improve training for people in employment, to help upskill those who may be affected by industrial restructuring, to improve and enlarge the apprenticeship system and to provide progression opportunities for school leavers.</p>	<p>DETE has increased the resources spent in upskilling those in employment from €55m in 2006 to €70m in 2007. There has also been an additional €15million provided for training apprentices. It is expected that approximately 50,000 people will benefit from publicly funded training this year</p>
<p>The Workplace Basic Education Fund will register 2,000 learners during the period 2007-2010.</p>	<p>As of the end of 2006 almost 1,500 participants were registered with the Workplace Basic Education Fund since its inception in 2005. Based on these figures over the two year period and on the fact that the budget for the fund increased by 50% in 2007, the fund is on track to achieve this target</p>
<p>A family literacy project is also being put in place under the DEIS action plan.</p>	<p>In its initial phase, the project will be piloted and 7 providers have been identified</p>

## Lifecycle Stage: Older People

Target	Progress
<p>In relation to long-term residential care, €88 million has been provided for the cost of 2,300 additional public and private long-stay beds. This comprises €28 million for the full-year implementation of 1,050 beds provided in 2006; €32 million and €22 million in 2007 and 2008 respectively for the provision of an extra 1,250 beds; and €6 million to strengthen nursing home inspections.</p>	<p>On target</p>
<p>The Health Act 2006 provides for the establishment of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Office of the Chief Inspector of Social Services within HIQA. The Chief Inspector will have statutory responsibility for inspecting and registering children's residential services, residential centres for people with disabilities, residential centres for older people and private nursing homes. The Chief Inspector will inspect these services against standards set by HIQA and regulations made by the Minister for Health and Children.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>A total of €2 million has been allocated to the National Implementation Group on Elder Abuse to address the issue of elder abuse over 2006 and 2007. This is also being incorporated into professional training courses including gerontology courses. A review of <i>Protecting Our Future</i> will be carried out in 2007. It is expected that the review will consider issues not included in the original report on elder abuse including self-neglect and institutional abuse.</p>	<p>On target</p>
<p>Future Housing Action Plans will address special needs in a more strategic manner when the current plans come to an end in 2008.</p>	<p>Revised guidelines for the next round of actions plans are being prepared and are due to issue to local authorities in 2008</p>

Target	Progress
From 2007 any amount of social welfare pension received by those over 65 years, in excess of the SWA rate, will be disregarded when determining entitlement to rent supplement.	This change came into effect in January 2007
The earnings disregard for non-contributory social welfare pensions, introduced in 2006 to encourage recipients to take up or continue in employment, will be increased to €200 in 2007.	This change came into effect in January 2007
The Disabled Persons, Essential Repairs, and Special Housing Aid for the Elderly grant schemes have been reviewed. Proposals to improve equity and targeting were announced in the Government's new housing policy statement - <i>Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities</i> .	Revised framework of grant aid to be implemented on 1st November 2007
Adequate central heating systems will be made available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people by the end of 2008.	Local Authorities have been instructed to prioritise the upgrading of central heating in rented accommodation provided for older people
The continued participation of older people in the labour market will be encouraged and facilitated to meet the challenge of an ageing society. Training and advisory services, including those provided by FÁS, will assist older people who wish to return to or remain in the workplace. These services are being provided within FÁS' overall services, particularly through the preventative process and through training and upskilling.	Referral under the Employment Action Plan was extended in July 2006 to those aged 55 and under 64 years
4 pilot Community Intervention Team projects were in place by the end of 2006. Based on progress, they will be rolled out in 2007 to other areas.	Target capacity for the 4 CIT projects is 3,900 or 75 cases per week and expenditure on CITs in the period up to 31 July 2007 is €1.5m

**Lifecycle Stage: People with Disabilities**

Target	Progress
<p>Progress reports will be prepared on the implementation of the Disability Sectoral Plans after 3 years (2009 and after 1 year in the case of the Department of Health and Children only) and the Disability Act will be reviewed after 5 years (2010).</p>	<p>Departments are reporting at 6 monthly intervals on progress, both at departmental level and at national level, to the Senior Officials Group on Disability and the National Stakeholders Group as well as at Departmental level with national stakeholder committees</p>
<p>By the end of July 2007, each local authority will have carried out an accessibility audit and developed an accessibility implementation plan for the built environment and infrastructure within its control including all roads, streets, pavements, parks, amenities and open spaces.</p>	<p>An access audit and implementation planning process has been rolled out in local authorities. The implementation planning process is currently ongoing</p> <p>A local authority good practice in accessibility website was developed and launched in March 2007. The site showcases good practice, provides practical answers to common queries, hosts a discussion forum and provides links to relevant publications, including guidance, legislation, etc. The site's address is <a href="http://www.la-accessibility.ie">www.la-accessibility.ie</a></p> <p>At the request of the local government sector a template implementation plan was developed and circulated to local authorities in May 2007</p>

Target	Progress
<p>A key objective of transport policy is to ensure the accessibility of the public transport system by providing fully accessible city buses and enhanced access to bus and railway stations in line with the Department of Transport Sectoral Plan under the Disability Act, 2005. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The replacement of inaccessible Bus Éireann and Private Operator coaches with coaches that are accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2015;</li> <li>• Making all urban buses accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2012; and</li> <li>• Making practically all inter-urban passenger rail services accessible to people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by 2009.</li> </ul>	<p>'Transport Access for All', the Department of Transport's Sectoral Plan under the Disability Act 2005 was published in July 2006. It addresses the accessibility needs of people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments across all transport modes and contains time bound targets for the progressive realisation of accessible transport in Ireland. The mainstreaming of measures for social inclusion is a fundamental principle in the Plan which was prepared following an extensive consultation exercise. It was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas in October 2006 enabling it to take effect</p> <p>Significant resources for accessibility are being provided under <i>Transport 21</i>. Accessibility is being built into new public transport infrastructure projects and funding is also being provided to continue the phased retrofit of existing infrastructure</p>

Target	Progress
<p>A national housing strategy for people with disabilities will be developed by end 2009, as recommended in the NESC <i>Housing in Ireland</i> report. This will have particular regard to adults with significant disabilities and people who experience mental illness. It will be progressed through the establishment of a national group under the aegis of the Housing Forum, headed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and involving the Department of Health and Children, the HSE, Social Partners and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The Disabled Persons, Essential Repairs, and Special Housing Aid for the Elderly grant schemes have been reviewed. Proposals to improve equity and targeting were announced in the Government's new Housing policy statement - <i>Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities</i>.</p>	<p>The National Group will formally convene at the end of October</p> <p>Revised framework of grant aid to be implemented on 1st November 2007</p>
<p>New protocols will be developed and implemented for inter-agency co-operation in housing and accommodation where there is a care dimension between 2007 and 2009.</p>	<p>Protocol governing liaison between the HSE and the housing authorities on the assessment of the accommodation needs of people with a disability has been developed and circulated to the local authorities and the HSE. The protocol initially applies to children under 5 years of age and will be extended to all age groups by 2011</p> <p>A protocol governing support costs for social housing projects provided for people with a disability, is currently being developed and will be implemented later this year</p>

Target	Progress
<p>The Citizens Information Act, 2007, provides for the assignment of a personal advocate to a person with a disability who is unable or who has difficulty in obtaining a social service without assistance.</p>	<p>It is estimated that the personal advocacy service will be available early in 2008</p>
<p>The National Disability Authority is in the process of establishing a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design within the Authority. The main aim of the Centre will be to facilitate the achievement of excellence in universal design through collaboration with relevant bodies to support the development of standards, education and awareness raising.</p>	<p>The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design was established by the NDA in January 2007 and the Centre's Director was appointed in May 2007. The Centre is dedicated to the principle of universal access, enabling people in Ireland to participate in a society that takes account of human difference and to interact with their environment to the best of their ability</p> <p>New Development Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities which address accessibility issues, developed by D/EHLG in consultation with the NDA, were introduced in June 2007</p>

**Lifecycle Stage: Communities**

Target	Progress
<p>From 2007 certain social welfare recipients who are providing full-time care and attention will be able to retain their main social welfare payment and also receive a payment equivalent to half-rate Carer's Allowance.</p>	<p>This change came into effect in September 2007</p>
<p>All Department of Social and Family Affairs Local Offices will be surveyed by end of February 2007 to identify demand for interpretation services for migrants and appropriate services will be made available.</p>	<p>A seminar was held in February 2007 to survey demand for interpretation services and this will inform development of these services. A three-way phone system, providing interpretation for customers, is currently being tested in local offices of the Department</p>
<p>A guide to all the schemes and services operated by the Department of Social and Family Affairs will be available on the department's website in eight different languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish) in addition to Irish and English, by the end of the first quarter of 2007.</p>	<p>Guide was placed on website in February 2007</p>

Target	Progress
<p>As set out in High level Goal 10 the needs of some 60,000 new households will be addressed over the period 2007 to 2009. Under the National Development Plan (NDP) progress towards this target will be subject to ongoing annual review with a comprehensive mid-term review after three years of activity. However resources reflected in the NDP will allow for a broadly similar level of output beyond 2009 resulting in the needs of some 140,000 households overall being provided for in the period 2007-2013.</p>	<p>Some figures are collected annually. Total output figures available by mid 2008</p>
<p>Investment over the period 2007-2009 will allow for the commencement or acquisition of 27,000 homes for people in need of social housing through a combination of local authority, voluntary and co-operative housing and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) contractual arrangements. Under the NDP, progress towards this target will be subject to ongoing annual review with a comprehensive mid-term review after three years of activity. However, resources reflected in the Plan will allow for a broadly similar level of output beyond 2009 resulting in some 60,000 homes overall being commenced or acquired through these programmes between 2007 and 2013.</p>	<p>Activity on social housing programmes increased in the first half of 2007 when over 3,960 units were commenced/acquired by local authorities and voluntary and co-operative housing bodies</p> <p>The number of completions/acquisitions in the same period at 3,167 units was 33% ahead of the same period in 2006</p>
<p>The Rental Accommodation Scheme will be implemented fully by 2009. Some 32,000 households which have been in receipt of rent supplement for over 18 months and which have a long-term housing need will benefit.</p>	<p>All local authorities are implementing RAS. Some 8,632 cases, formerly on rent supplement, were transferred to RAS and other social housing options by end August 2007</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Investment will be used to intensify efforts to rejuvenate and, where necessary, regenerate existing social housing communities. The resources available under the NDP will allow for the completion of the current phase of the regeneration of Ballymun. Further renewal schemes will be rolled out nationwide, part-funded by the resources made available through the sale of dwellings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed to undertake a survey of the local authority housing stock by end 2008 which will help inform housing authorities on the physical condition of the stock and provide the basis for future programmes of improvement works;</li> <li>• Rolling out a programme of other remedial works to improve local authority housing between 2007 and 2012;</li> <li>• Rolling out a programme of regeneration for all run-down estates nationwide between 2007 and 2016;</li> <li>• Making adequate central heating systems available in all local authority rented dwellings by end 2008.</li> </ul>	<p>Limerick Northside Regeneration Agency and Limerick Southside Regeneration Agency have been established to address issues of social exclusion and disadvantage in the Moyross and Southhill areas of Limerick City and to drive forward the regeneration of these areas</p> <p>A scoping document has been completed by the National Building Agency regarding the survey of Local Authority housing stock and project structures should be in place by years end</p> <p>The Department has allocated in the order of €168.1 million to improvement works, which is divided as follows:          €65 million is allocated for the regeneration of Ballymun. €32.8 million is set aside for regeneration programmes. €37 million is allocated for improvement works programmes</p> <p>In addition to Exchequer funding from 1 January 2007, local authorities may use income from the sale of their housing stock to fund improvement works</p> <p>The Department continues to fund regeneration programmes nationwide, including Cork, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Limerick, Dundalk, Sligo and Waterford</p> <p>There is an allocation of €33.3 million for the central heating programme in 2007. It is expected that 6,000 homes will have central heating systems installed by the end of 2007</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Some 17,000 new units will be delivered between 2007 and 2009 through affordable housing measures under the NDP which will be subject to ongoing annual review. It is expected that a broadly similar level of output will be delivered beyond 2009, resulting in the delivery of some 40,000 new units overall between 2007 and 2013.</p>	<p>1,192 affordable homes were provided under the affordable housing schemes from January-June 2007. This represents a 5% increase in output on the same period in 2006</p>
<p>Minimum standards regulations for the private rented sector will be updated by mid-2007 and effectively enforced.</p>	<p>Regulations expected to be updated later this year</p>
<p>A revised government strategy on homelessness will be published during 2007.</p>	<p>Work is ongoing under the aegis of the cross-departmental team on homelessness</p>
<p>Long-term occupancy of emergency homeless accommodation will be eliminated by 2010. This will involve addressing the needs of up to 500 households.</p>	<p>This target is included in <i>Towards 2016</i> and is also the aim of <i>A Key to the Door</i>, the 2007 - 2010 action plan of the Homeless Agency</p>
<p>The involvement of the voluntary and cooperative housing sector will be strengthened through the establishment of a National Homelessness Consultative Committee (NHCC) under the aegis of the Housing Forum during 2007.</p>	<p>The NHCC was established in April 2007 and meetings are ongoing. A data sub-group of the NHCC has been formed to address the issue of data collection and associated definitions</p>
<p>Out-of-hours GP services will be further developed with a view to having those services available to the whole population over the course of this Plan.</p>	<p>Government policy is to support the development of GP out-of-hours services, to date such services are now established in all HSE areas, providing coverage in at least part of each county</p>

Target	Progress
<p>In line with the recommendations of <i>A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland</i>, the Department of Health and Children will liaise with the HSE to ensure that arrangements are put in place to monitor inequalities in cancer risks, cancer occurrence, cancer services and cancer outcomes. The policy indicators proposed in the strategy will provide an important means of maintaining a policy focus on cancer inequalities. Targets around the following policy indicators will be developed during 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage of presentation of common cancers, broken down by geographic area and by deprivation index (SAHRU index category);</li> <li>• Survival rates for common cancers, broken down by geographic area and by deprivation index (SAHRU index category);</li> <li>• Uptake of breast cancer screening, by women in the appropriate age group covered by BreastCheck Programme, broken down by medical card status;</li> <li>• Cigarette smoking prevalence, broken down by social class and gender;</li> <li>• Procedure rate for females, broken down by geographic area.</li> </ul>	<p>Progress is being made in developing a set of cancer targets around these policy indicators. The work is being facilitated by a joint process currently underway between the Department of Health and Children and the HSE</p>

Target	Progress
<p>A range of health services is being provided for minority groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minority identifier, to facilitate more evidence-based planning through identification of needs, measurement of uptake of services, and evaluation of outcomes, has been developed and will be rolled out from 2007;</li> <li>• The HSE will develop a <i>National Equality Strategy Framework</i> in 2007;</li> <li>• A national intercultural strategy designed to address the unique health and support needs of minority groups, for example, refugees, migrants and Travellers will be developed by early 2007.</li> </ul>	<p>A minority identifier has been developed and is currently being rolled out</p> <p>The Health Service Executive is currently finalising the development of a National Intercultural Health Strategy</p>
<p>A National Carers' Strategy that focuses on supporting informal and family carers in the community will be developed by end 2007.</p>	<p>All relevant departments and agencies will be involved in the development of the National Carer's Strategy and there will be appropriate consultation with the social partners. Departments are currently in discussions regarding the best way to advance the process</p>
<p>Funding will be made available to local authorities to support the implementation of their second Traveller Accommodation Programme, which covers the period 2005-2008. Approximately 2,000 units of accommodation will be provided (made up of additional families accommodated in standard local authority accommodation and additional units of permanent Traveller-specific accommodation constructed).</p>	<p>1,000 units of accommodation have been provided to date in the 2005-2006 Programmes (consisting of Traveller-specific and standard local authority accommodation)</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Research on Travellers' health status, being commissioned jointly with the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland in 2007, will be completed in 2009. The research will aim to assess the impact of the health services currently provided and to identify the factors which influence mortality and health status. The study will also include a detailed census of Traveller numbers on the island of Ireland.</p>	<p>The study was launched in July. It will take 2½ -3 years to complete</p>
<p>The target of the Rural Transport Programme is to develop community-based transport to redress social exclusion related to unmet needs for public transport in rural areas.</p>	<p>A new Rural Transport Programme (RTP) was launched in February 2007</p> <p>€9 million is being provided for the RTP in 2007 and the National Development Plan 2007-2013 – Transforming Ireland, commits some €90 million to the RTP over its full term. Funding is also available to the RTP from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in respect of the Free Travel scheme and from other interests that support the initiative</p> <p>On a phased basis, Pobal is developing the RTP in conjunction with the RTP groups by way of more services and wider area coverage with a view to eventual nationwide rural coverage</p>
<p>Once-off grants will be available to local voluntary and community groups including Equipment and Refurbishment Grants and Education, Training and Research Grants. It is expected that at least 600 local organisations will be funded per year.</p>	<p>A separate scheme will be run for 180 Community Development Projects, subject to funding becoming available. Mid October 2007 to complete offers</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Local authorities spent €27.4 million on the installation of central heating in local authority rented dwellings in 2006 and a further €70 million will be allocated over the period 2007 – 2008.</p>	<p>There is an allocation of €33.3 million for the central heating programme in 2007. Expenditure at the end of June 2007 was €3.6 million</p>
<p>The Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) uses money from unclaimed accounts in credit institutions and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings to support programmes or projects targeting social and economic disadvantage, educational disadvantage and persons with a disability. The current disbursement plan provides that RAPID, CLÁR and Drugs Task Force areas will receive particular priority in relation to disbursements from the Fund. It is anticipated that approximately €30 million per year will be available for disbursement during the early years of this Plan.</p>	<p>Since the beginning of 2006, the Government has approved approximately €65 million from the DAF to support 3,285 groups and organisations. Further funding measures will be rolled-out in 2007 including the ring-fencing of funds for priority projects in RAPID areas</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Through the Rural Development Programme, €426 million will be invested over the period 2007-2013 in promoting the diversification of the rural economy with measures aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversification into non-agricultural activities;</li> <li>• Business creation and development;</li> <li>• Encouragement of tourism activities;</li> <li>• Basic services for the economy and rural population;</li> <li>• Village renewal and development;</li> <li>• Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage;</li> <li>• Training and information for economic actors.</li> </ul> <p>Specific targets will be contained in the <i>Rural Development Programme 2007-2013</i> when it is finalised.</p>	<p>Full implementation of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 at Local Action Group level in the first quarter of 2008</p>

Target	Progress
<p>The Gaeltacht and Islands Programme will invest some €457 million between 2007 and 2013 in infrastructure and enterprise development in the Gaeltacht and our island communities. This investment will provide tangible benefits across a range of projects and activities, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better community access and related economic spin-offs from road and pier improvements;</li> <li>• higher quality and more sustainable job opportunities arising from investment in building and upgrading office and factory space;</li> <li>• improved standards of living by provision of enhanced community facilities and services;</li> <li>• preservation of the national language and culture.</li> </ul>	<p>Údarás na Gaeltachta investment has supported 7,900 full-time and 4,500 part-time jobs in Gaeltacht areas</p> <p>New ferry access piers commenced on Inis Meáin (€12 million) and Árann (€39 million)</p> <p>Ongoing investment in Strategic Gaeltacht Roads and Harbours</p> <p>17 island lifeline transport services subsidised</p> <p>Capital funding provided for playgrounds on two islands</p> <p>Support provided for third level education in the Gaeltacht and on the islands</p>
<p>Some €417 million will be provided in the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme over the period 2007-2013 to support locally based social inclusion interventions. The programme will have a particular focus on supporting people and communities suffering disadvantage and exclusion through a wide spectrum of locally promoted actions.</p>	<p>Current programme subject to Value for Money review. New programme being developed in line with the commitments in the NDP and outcome of review. Mid November for delivery of guidelines to Partnerships</p>

Target	Progress
<p>A revised Community Development Programme will be prepared to cover the period 2007-2013 to support local people in improving their own communities. Local Resource Centres and Community Development Projects will support a wide range of self-help activities designed to improve quality of life for individuals and groups in disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>The Family &amp; Community Services Resource Centre Programme will be further expanded over the period 2007 – 2013.</p>	<p>Consultation on new programme and programme guidelines due to be completed mid-September. New programme framework to be completed by mid-November 2007</p> <p>It is expected that 6 new Family Resource Centres will be included in the programme by end 2007 bringing the total countrywide to 106 centres</p>
<p>Almost €67 million will be available under the RAPID Programme Leverage Fund between 2007 and 2013 to co-fund investment by departments and agencies in the 46 RAPID designated areas. This funding will help to support new projects and initiatives, such as playgrounds and community-based CCTV, aimed at improving the quality of life and community safety for residents of RAPID areas.</p>	<p>Individual leverage scheme being launched to meet annual timetable. Minister has sought revisions to all schemes for 2008 and onwards to meet new areas of demand. Scheme review to be completed by end December 2007</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Some €319 million will be available over the period 2007-2013 to support the National Drugs Strategy to continue the fight against the causes and consequences of the misuse of illegal drugs. The aim will be to significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and the community by the misuse of illicit drugs through a concerted focus on supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research. Specific targets to be achieved by 2008 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume of drugs seized to increase by 50% based on 2000 figures; number of seizures to increase by 20% based on 2004 figures; and number of supply detections to increase by 20% by end of 2008 based on 2004 figures;</li> <li>• The 3 Source Capture-Recapture estimate of opiate misusers, which will be released in 2007, to show a stabilisation in terms of overall numbers and to show a reduction of 5% of the prevalence rate based on 2001 figures published in 2003;</li> <li>• The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) Drug Prevalence survey, which will be released in 2007, to show a reduction of 5% of the prevalence rate of recent and current use of illicit drugs in the overall population based on 2002/03 rate;</li> </ul>	<p>These targets have either been met, exceeded or are in the process of being met</p> <p>The estimate of opiate misusers study has been commissioned and a report is expected in the first half of 2008</p> <p>The fieldwork on the all island Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/07 has been completed. The data is currently being analysed with a view to reporting in Winter 2007</p> <p>By July 2007, 8,474 clients were in receipt of methadone treatment</p> <p>While in many areas problem drug users can access treatment within one month after assessment, there continues to be a number of areas where treatment cannot be provided within one month after assessment</p>

Target	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of problematic drugs users to access treatment within one month after assessment; harm reduction facilities available, including needle exchange where necessary, to open during the day and at evenings and weekends, according to need, in every local health office area; and incidence of HIV in drug users to stabilise based on 2004 figures;</li> <li>• To eliminate all identified gaps in drugs research by mid-2008; to publish an annual report on the nature and extent of the drug problem in Ireland, drawing on available data; and to publish a report on progress being made in achieving the objectives and aims set out in the strategy every two years;</li> <li>• With the establishment of 10 Regional Drugs Task Forces (RDTF) around the country, strategic plans, to be developed by the Task Forces and based on the identified needs of the areas involved, will be central to the effort to counteract the problems of drug misuse in these areas.</li> </ul>	<p>This is ongoing work between the National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Health Research Board who are committed under their work programmes to providing up to date research on drugs issues in Ireland</p> <p>In 2007, each of the RDTFs are continuing the process of implementing specific actions identified in its strategic plan. A sum of €7.8 million has been allocated to RDTFs to progress implementation of their plans in 2007. Funding will be increased on an incremental basis over the coming years to achieve full roll-out of these action plans at a cost of €14.1 million per annum</p>

Target	Progress
<p>The Rehabilitation Pillar, the need for which was identified in the mid-term review of the National Drugs Strategy (2005), is currently being developed within the framework of the strategy by two committees under the aegis of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Health Service Executive. The National Drugs Strategy will be reviewed in 2008.</p>	<p>The report of the Working Group on Rehabilitation was completed and was published in May 2007. The report of the Working Group on residential rehabilitation (substance misuse) was completed in May 2007 and has been submitted to the Health Service Executive for consideration</p>

## Implementation and Monitoring

Target	Progress
<p>The Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group to be further developed.</p>	<p>The overall objective of the Steering Group is to promote and support the embedding of social inclusion in local government in the context of relevant national policies and supporting, promoting and disseminating good practice. Since the beginning of 2007 the Steering Group has met twice on a range of issues and has overseen the Spring meeting of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network (LGAPLN). Two further meetings of the Group, together with the Autumn meeting of the LGAPLN, are planned before end 2007. Recently, membership of the Steering Group has been expanded to include representatives from the County and City Manager's Association and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs</p>
<p>County/City Development Boards (CDBs) structure to be developed and strengthened, including prioritisation of work of Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Groups.</p>	<p><i>Towards 2016</i> contains a commitment to strengthen and develop the CDBs and their SIM groups. The Department has appointed consultants to prepare an assessment of the CDB strategy reviews and to make recommendations for the development and strengthening of the role of CDBs, including the work of their SIM groups</p>

Target	Progress
<p>Social Inclusion Units to be established in half of all county/city local authorities by the end of 2008.</p>	<p>In July 2007 the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government announced the extension of the social inclusion unit programme to 9 more local authorities, viz. Cavan, Donegal, Fingal, Galway City, Galway County, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon and South Tipperary, in line with a commitment in <i>Towards 2016</i>. The successful local authorities were selected following an objective assessment process which was overseen by an Inter-Departmental Steering Group</p>
<p>A number of other fora provide valuable support and assistance, including sectoral mechanisms such as the Housing Forum and other agencies that provide advice and research in key areas of social inclusion generally.</p>	<p>The Housing Forum met in December 2006, March 2007 and October 2007. <i>Towards 2016</i> recognises the role of the Housing Forum as the platform for social partners' input into housing policy development and implementation</p>

# Appendix 1

## Developments in the Office for Social Inclusion

## Office for Social Inclusion (OSI)

The OSI, set up in 2002 under Building an Inclusive Society (Review of National Anti-Poverty Strategy,) has responsibility for coordinating the development and monitoring of Government strategies on social inclusion, and reporting on the progress being achieved, together with other support functions. The Office has hitherto prepared a separate annual report each year on its activities, but in accordance with the streamlined approach to reporting, it will now instead include a summary of its main activities in this report. Further details on its activities are available on its website: [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)

## Strategies on Social inclusion

*Towards 2016* has provided a strategic framework, including the lifecycle approach, for subsequent, more detailed strategies on social inclusion. A key task of the Office over the past year has involved working to co-ordinate preparation of the report of the National Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for the EU (September 2006), the NDP (January 2007) and the NAPinclusion (February 2007).

This included, in particular, consultation with relevant Government Departments and other stakeholders in relation to key priorities for the EU report and more generally in relation to the implications of the lifecycle approach for the other strategies.

## Developing Streamlined Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

*Towards 2016* addressed the potential offered by the lifecycle approach for a more streamlined outcomes-focused approach to monitoring and reporting on progress within social partnership across key national strategies such as the NAPinclusion and the NDP. In particular it stated that such an approach would include “a single reporting mechanism through an annual Social Inclusion Report to monitor and review progress at each stage of the Lifecycle in the context of this agreement, the [...] NAPinclusion and, where appropriate, social inclusion aspects of the NDP”.

The OSI has been engaged in discussions with the Departments of the Taoiseach and Finance on how best to structure a streamlined

system. Preparation of this first annual report on a streamlined basis is a first outcome of this process. It has been designed, as far as possible, to minimise duplication of reporting on the part of government departments, but with a view to ensuring also that the report provides the information and analysis required for stakeholders to effectively monitor progress being achieved.

## Communications

The NAPinclusion recognises that there is a need for effective communication on the trends and challenges in relation to poverty and on the ongoing process for tackling it.

A key element of the work of the Office during 2006/07 related to the development and implementation of a social inclusion communications strategy, commencing with the launch of the NAPinclusion in February 2007. This was complemented by the introduction of a recognisable social inclusion brand and logo, information and stationery packs to help increase awareness and communicate social inclusion developments to members of the public and especially to those experiencing poverty and exclusion.

Following on from the NAPinclusion, the OSI has produced a number of social inclusion themed articles for inclusion in relevant publications. A selection of social inclusion posters has also been produced and disseminated to all social welfare local offices as well as to Citizen Information Centres, Family Resource Centres and libraries.

## Social Inclusion Network

A new Social Inclusion Learning Network has been set up in the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) to provide staff who are involved in social inclusion activity with an opportunity to network, and to share information, experiences and good practice. This group will also assist in raising awareness within DSFA of OSI, the NAPinclusion and related national social inclusion strategies and the Department's role in this regard. Based on experience of its operation, consideration will also be given to establishing similar networks in other relevant departments and agencies.

## Poverty Impact Assessment

An important element of the remit of the Office is to promote the incorporation of anti-poverty and social inclusion objectives in public policy development by the implementation of new guidelines for Poverty Impact Assessment (PIA). The Office has now commenced providing assistance to government departments on application of the new guidelines. The experience being gained from this process will also assist in the development of a training course on their application for staff across all government departments. In addition the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) has been working with a number of local authorities on applying the new guidelines in a local government context.

## Poverty Measurement /Data Strategy

The Technical Advisory Group, which advises the OSI on issues related to a data strategy on social inclusion, is being reconstituted to include representatives of the social partners. The work of the reconstituted group commenced with its first meeting in October 2007.

Government departments are in the process of finalising their individual data strategies which will identify their data requirements for each stage of the lifecycle. In line with this approach, the Office of the Minister for Children has commenced work on the development of an overarching data strategy on children's lives.

## Research

The NAPinclusion states that the Government will work to ensure that research which it commissions and supports is effectively aligned with the priorities in the Plan, identifying the need for a focus on delivery. In this regard the Office and the DSFA are reviewing their programme of research into poverty and social exclusion. An evaluation of the research programme of the CPA is also underway in this context.

## EU Social Inclusion Process

The OSI represents Ireland on the EU Social Protection Committee in relation to policy on poverty and social exclusion. This includes exchanges on the social inclusion element of the National Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NSSPIs) and reporting on progress achieved.

The social inclusion strand of the EU's PROGRESS Community Action Programme 2007-2013 is the mechanism for the engagement of all stakeholders in this process of co-operation and exchange of good practice. Over the past year the OSI has represented Ireland at a number of peer review seminars hosted by individual Member States. These examine particular policy approaches to combating poverty and social exclusion in the host State, with a view to considering whether that approach could successfully be applied elsewhere. Later in 2007, Ireland is due to host a peer review seminar to consider the effectiveness of the annual meeting of the Social Inclusion Forum as a consultation process on social inclusion issues and the feasibility for other EU Member States of organising similar events.

## International Organisations

OSI represents Ireland on the Council of Europe's European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS). A high level task force is currently preparing, in consultation with Member States, a report on "*Social Cohesion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Towards an Active, Fair and Socially Cohesive Europe*". The report is due to be completed by the end of 2007. Committees of Experts have also been established by CDCS to report by end 2008 on "*Empowerment of People Experiencing Extreme Poverty*", "*The Situation of Low Income Workers*", and on "*Social Policy for Families and Children*".

The OECD published the latest edition of *Society at a Glance* for 2006, containing a series of social indicators and analysis which provide a concise overview of social trends and policies.

This edition includes a wide range of information on social issues including demography, family characteristics, employment, working mothers, out-of-work replacement rates, poverty persistence, social expenditure, health care expenditure, subjective well-being and suicides. An indicator on *Material Deprivation* as a way of measuring poverty, which has similarities to the *consistent poverty* indicator used in Ireland, has been included for the first time

## Co-operation between Ireland and Northern Ireland on Social Inclusion Issues

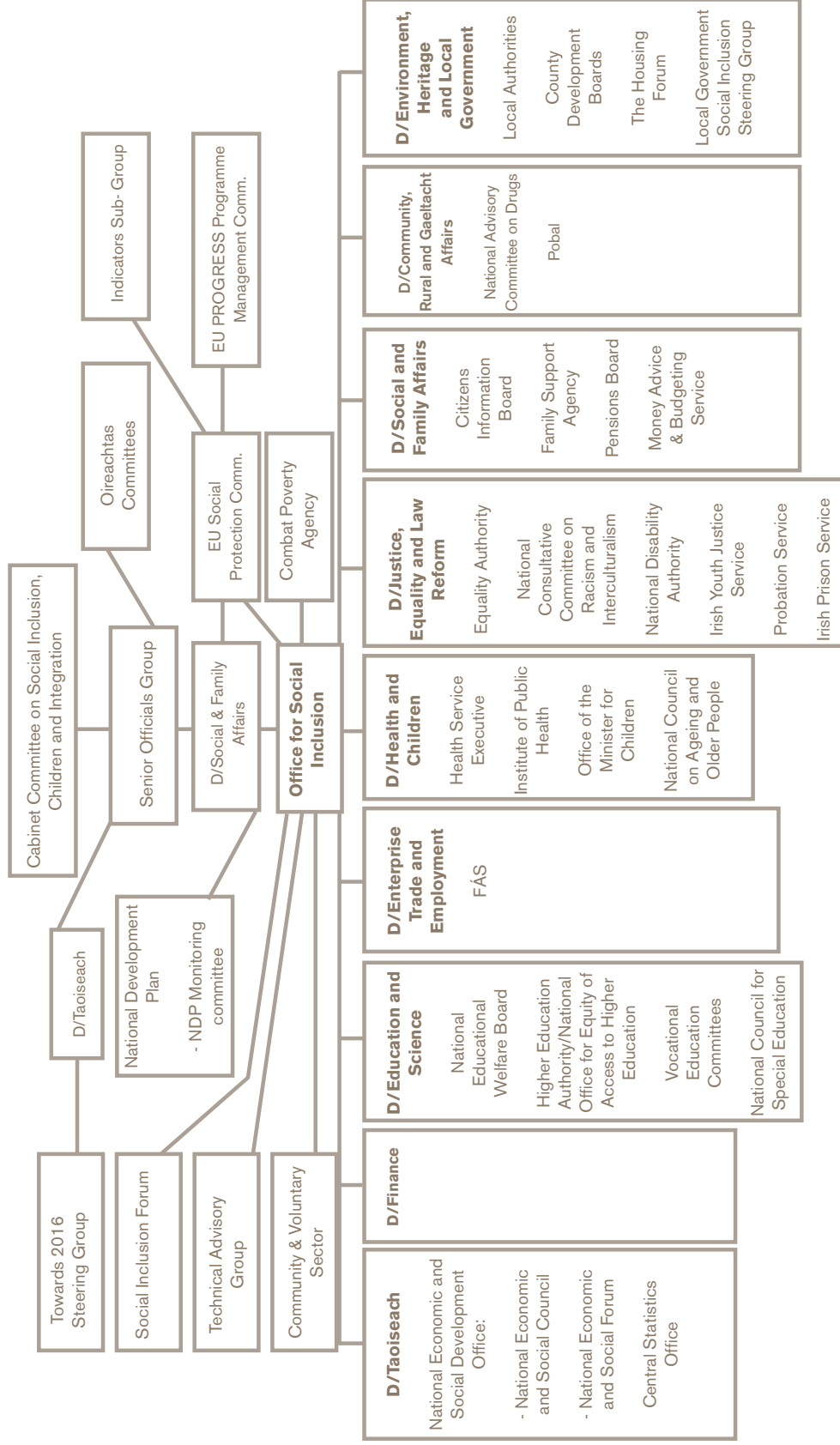
Common text, which appears in Northern Ireland's *Lifetime Opportunities: Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland* and in Ireland's *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016*, outlines how the UK and Irish Governments are committed to developing and promoting co-operation in relation to combating poverty and social exclusion. It commits Ireland and Northern Ireland to preparing a Joint Report to include:

- an overview of areas of existing North/South co-operation;
- areas potentially suitable for further cooperation; and
- advice on the mechanisms by which this work might be undertaken and delivered.

The Joint Report was submitted to the British Irish Inter-Governmental Conference (BIIGC) in February 2007 and approval was given by the Conference to continuing North/South joint work to alleviate '*social exclusion, poverty and deprivation to help create a more inclusive society on the island of Ireland*'.

## **Appendix 2**

# **Map of Institutional Structures**



## **Appendix 3**

# **Poverty Measurement**

## Consistent Poverty and At Risk of Poverty Rates<sup>7</sup>

### Headline Statistics

**Table 1: Consistent Poverty and At Risk of Poverty Rates 1994 – 2005**

	LIIS 1994	LIIS 1997	LIIS 1998	LIIS 2000	LIIS 2001	SILC 2003	SILC 2004	SILC 2005
<b>Percentage of persons in consistent poverty</b>	8.3	7.8	6.0	4.3	4.1	8.8	6.8	7.0
<b>Percentage of persons at risk of poverty</b>	15.6	18.2	19.8	20.9	21.9	19.7	19.4	18.5

Source: ESRI *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland: Results from the 2001 Living in Ireland Survey (LIIS)* & CSO Statistical Release on EU-SILC 2005

Based on median income threshold (60%) and using the national equivalence scale.

N.B. LIIS consistent poverty figures are not comparable with EU-SILC data (shaded).

<sup>7</sup> Consistent Poverty rates in this Annex are all based on the old 8-item index. Only limited data are currently available in relation to the new 11-item index. These show an overall level of consistent poverty of 8.0% in 2003, 6.6% in 2004 and 7.0% in 2005. Further information on statistics relating to poverty and deprivation can be found on the CSO website: [http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/pr\\_healthsoc.html](http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/pr_healthsoc.html) and on the OSI website [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)

## Consistent Poverty Rates

<b>Table 2</b>		<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
		<b>(%)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>Consistent Poverty Rates</b> - <b>Percentage of persons below 60% of median income and experiencing consistent poverty</b>	Overall	<b>8.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>
	Men	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>
	Women	<b>9.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	Age 0-14	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>
	15-64	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>
	65+	<b>5.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>
	At Work	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>
	Unemployed	<b>28.3</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>21.6</b>
	Student	<b>11.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>11.2</b>
	Home Duties	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>
	Retired	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>
	Ill/Disabled	<b>22.4</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>
	Other	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>15.2</b>
	Single adult, no children	<b>12.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>
2 adult, no children	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	
3+ adult, no children	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	
1 adult with children	<b>33.6</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	
2 adults with 1-3 children	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	
Other h'holds with children	<b>13.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.6</b>	
Irish nationals	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	
Non-Irish nationals	<b>15.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	

Source: EU-SILC results 2003-2005

\*Sample occurrence too small for estimation

### At Risk of Poverty Rates

<b>Table 3</b>		<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
		<b>(%)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>AT RISK OF POVERTY RATES</b> - <b>Percentage of persons below 60% of median income</b>	Overall	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.5</b>
	Poverty Gap	<b>21.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>20.8</b>
	Men	<b>18.9</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>18.4</b>
	Women	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>18.5</b>
	Age 0-14	<b>21.0</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.2</b>
	15-64	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.4</b>
	65+	<b>29.8</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>20.1</b>
	At Work	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>
	Unemployed	<b>41.5</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>40.6</b>
	Student	<b>23.1</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>29.5</b>
	Home Duties	<b>31.8</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>27.6</b>
	Retired	<b>27.7</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>
	Ill/Disabled	<b>51.7</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>40.6</b>
	Other	<b>*</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>35.7</b>
	Single adult, no children	<b>40.4</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>28.8</b>
2 adult, no children	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	
3+ adult, no children	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	
1 adult with children	<b>49.3</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>40.7</b>	
2 adults with 1-3 children	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.8</b>	
Other h'holds with children	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>24.7</b>	
Irish nationals	<b>19.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	
Non-Irish nationals	<b>27.9</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>26.9</b>	

Source: EU-SILC results 2003-2005

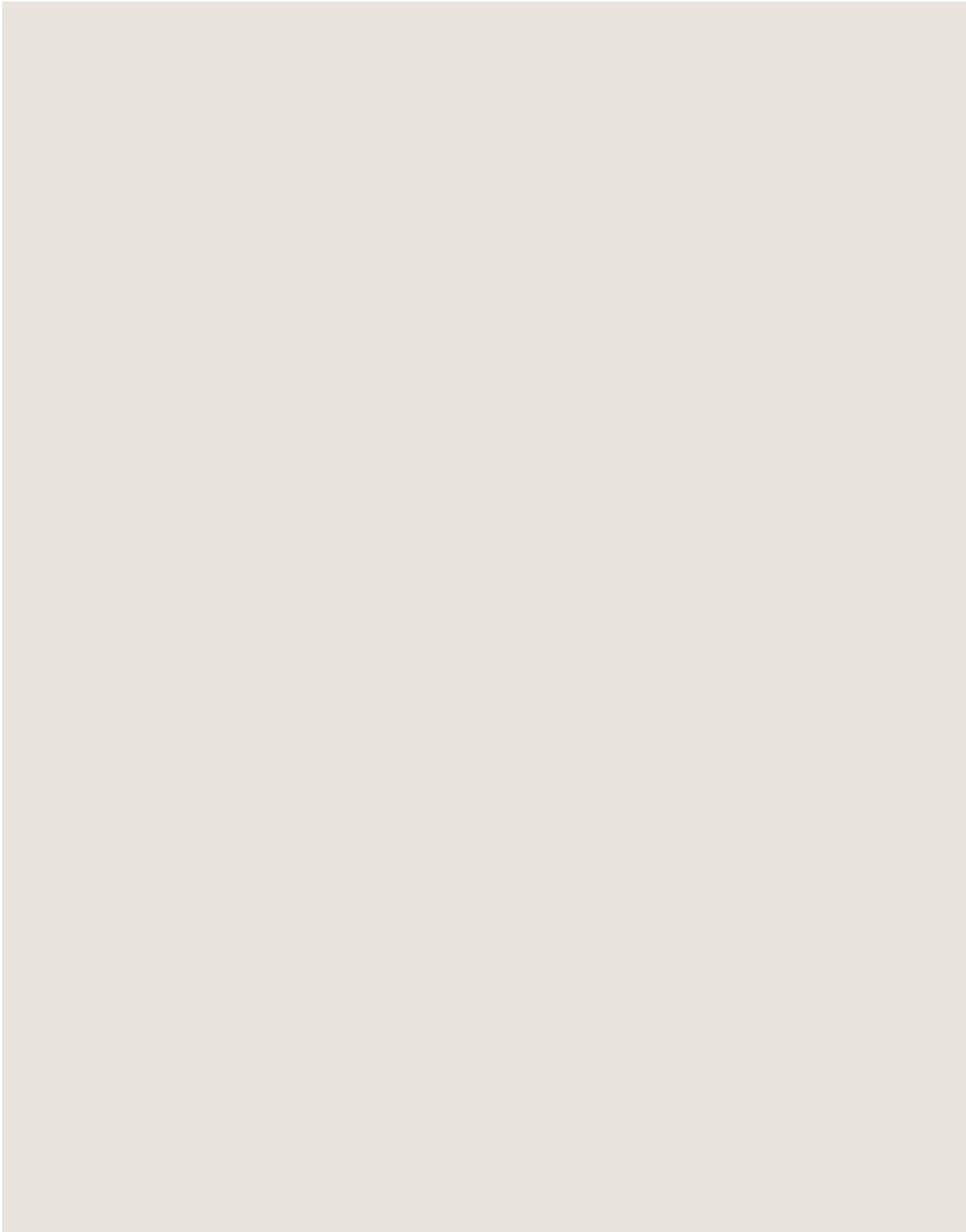
\*Sample occurrence too small for estimation

**Table 4: Key EU Common Income Indicators for Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Income indicators	1999		2001		2003		2004		2005	
	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland	EU 15 average
At-risk-of-poverty rate <sup>8</sup>										
• After social transfers (60% threshold)	19	16	21	15	20.1	15	20.9	17	19.7	16
• Before social transfers (income including pensions)	30	24	30	24	31.3	25	32.9	26	32.3	26
• Before social transfers (income excluding pensions)	37	40	36	40	37.0	39	39.1	41	39.6	42
• 40% threshold	4	5	5	5	5.8	5	4.8	5	4.6	5
• 50% threshold	11	9	15	9	12.3	9	11.4	10	11.2	9
• 70% threshold	28	23	29	23	27.0	24	29.0	24	28.1	24
At-risk-of poverty threshold (euro)										
One adult household	6,656	7,242	8,553	8,163	10,434	9,263	10,763	8,882	11,227	9,608
2 adults – 2 children household	13,978	15,207	17,961	17,142	21,911	19,452	22,602	18,652	23,576	20,177
Relative median at risk of poverty gap (%)	21	22	24	22	22.4	NA	19.6	NA	20.3	22
Income distribution (income quintile share ratio)	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.6	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.8
Gini coefficient (%)	32	29	29	29	30.8	30	31.6	30	32.0	30

Sources: Eurostat &amp; CSO, EU-SILC.

8 Based on EU definition of median income and using modified OECD equivalence scale. Figures from Eurostat are rounded.



# *Building an Inclusive Society*



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