



1. Advisory Council for *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* residential meeting 13/14 September 2017

At the Advisory Council's annual residential meeting on 13th and 14th September, the Council reviewed the progress made on the actions in their 2017 workplan, and identified areas for progression in 2018. The Council's priorities are underpinned by an overarching focus on and commitment to children's rights and tackling childhood and youth inequalities in Irish society. The Council's priority work areas for 2018 are:

1. Child poverty
2. Homelessness
3. Learning and development
4. Rights and equality
5. Prevention and Early Intervention
6. Enhancing the functioning of the Council

The paper on Child Poverty prepared by members of the Advisory Council entitled 'NGO Submission on Actions to Achieve the Child Poverty Reduction Target' and the roundtable event on child poverty, held in June of this year, were highlighted as examples of very productive outputs from the work of the Council in the previous year, which will be further advanced and used as a model for the progression of other priorities.

Table of contents

1. Advisory Council residential
2. BOBF Annual Report
3. North East Inner City
4. BOBF Indicator Set report
5. Children and Young People's Policy Consortium
6. Upcoming events

For further information/full reports on the above, please see: www.dcyv.gov.ie

Advisory Council for *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* residential meeting 13/14 September 2017 (continued)

On 28th August, 2017, Dr Owen Keenan wrote to Minister Zappone indicating that he would be stepping down as Chairperson of the Advisory Council at the Council's Annual residential meeting on 13th and 14th September, 2017. At that residential meeting, Dr Keenan informed the Council members of his resignation which he had tendered to Minister Zappone.

We would like to thank Dr Keenan most sincerely for all his work with the Advisory Council. Dr Keenan had chaired the Council from its inception in 2014, and had also been the Chair of the previous National Children's Advisory Council.

Dr Keenan's leadership and dedication to improving the lives of children and young people have been instrumental to the development and progress of the Council, as well as to the working of the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* framework and wider implementation infrastructure across Government.



2. *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* Annual Report April 2016 - 2017

The third Annual Report on the implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* has been [published on the DCYA website](#).

The report covers the period from April 2016 to April 2017 and outlines the progress made on the 163 commitments, broken down by transformational goals and the five national outcomes. These are rated as either green (progressing well), amber (progressing with some small issues), and red (requiring whole of government attention). It also covers the progression of the cross-sectoral priorities identified for 2016, progress on the development of a set of outcome indicators and development of the Advisory Council workplan.

The Annual Report also contains commentary on the progress made in the previous year from the chairs of key groups in the implantation infrastructure (Consortium, Sponsors Group, Advisory Council and Children and Young People's Services Committees National Steering Group).

The report highlights a number of key issues which need to be addressed as implementation continues. These include: the need for Departments and Agencies to consistently engage with and utilise implementation infrastructures, the need to collaborate and coordinate on cross-sectoral priorities, utilising the structures, model and brand of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, and ensuring that children and young people have appropriate centrality of focus in policy development and implementation.

3. North East Inner City

Kieran Mulvey was requested by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny to report on the profound challenges facing the communities of Dublin's North East Inner City and to recommend specific measures to be put in place to support and enable the long term economic growth and social regeneration of the area. 'Creating a Brighter Future' was published in February of this year which outlines the key actions or measures necessary to support the development of the area and to provide services and facilities to support families in the North East Inner City. Michael Stone was appointed Chair of the Programme Implementation Board which comprises of key government departments and agencies who have statutory responsibility for delivery of key services and accountability for the expenditure of funds related to priority areas in the [North East Inner City project](#).



Work on the 54 actions is in progress having established four sub groups including a Crime and Drugs group, an Employment, Education and Training group, Integrated Social Services group and Physical Infrastructure group. A launch event for the North East Inner City Initiative took place on the 19th October 2017 in Larkin Community College. It enabled members of the community, representatives from government departments and the community and voluntary sector to meet and discuss the regeneration of the North East Inner City. The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe came out in support of the initiative and spoke with many people who live and work in the area. The event had a very positive outcome as it promoted interagency collaboration and gave residents of the North East Inner City a platform to discuss an action plan to tackling issues such as crime, drugs, poverty, homelessness and gang related violence in the area.

The Programme Implementation Board is currently developing an action plan for 2018 working alongside the four sub groups. Michael Stone said: "I am determined that the NEIC Initiative will be successful and will make the North East Inner City a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for all. Community involvement is key to the success of this work."

The Integrated Social Services group is chaired by the Policy Innovation Unit in DCYA, who are working to ensure that the achieved learning on integrated working through *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* informs the work in the North East Inner City.

4. BOBF Indicator Set report launch

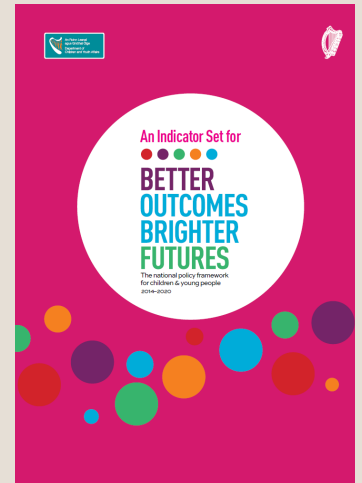
The report on the [Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Indicator Set](#) was launched by Dr Fergal Lynch, Secretary General of DCYA on behalf of Minister Zappone on 27th September 2017. Launch speakers included -

- Dr. Fergal Lynch, Secretary General, DCYA,
- Dr. Claire Finn, Head of Research and Evaluation, DCYA
- Ms. Nicola Tickner, Statistician, DCYA
- Professor Alan Barrett, Director, Economic and Social Research Institute.

The report was well received and the launch was attended by representatives of many of the key stakeholders. Hard copies of the report are available upon request from dcyaresearch@dcya.gov.ie

The indicator set was finalised following an extensive development and consultation process and through this process, key priority areas and relevant indicators were identified under each outcome and aim contained in BOBF. The report contains over 110 indicators and related aggregate data and also includes recent high-level summary data on each indicator, as well as detailed information on each indicator and related data source. Links between the BOBF outcomes and the articles of the UN Children's Rights Convention UNCRC are also explored in the Appendix section. The report will help to provide important evidence on children and young people's experiences and outcomes and the full set of indicators will reflect a broad picture of children and young people's lives to enable us to track progress across BOBF outcomes and aims. The BOBF indicators will also assist policy makers in informing the prioritisation of objectives in policy implementation.

Further detailed reporting of the data on each indicator by different subgroups in the population (where possible) will be also be undertaken. This disaggregation of the data will provide more information about variations in outcomes for different groups of children and young people. It is intended to publish this data in an electronic format and to update it over time. More information is available on the [DCYA website](#).



5. Children and Young People's Policy Consortium

The Children and Young People's Policy Consortium's final meeting of 2017 was held on 28th September. The Consortium is the main body responsible for driving implementation and monitoring progress of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures across Government. The Minister chaired the meeting with members from government departments, agencies and representatives from the Advisory Council and the CYPSC National Steering Group.

Members of the Consortium received an update from the five key departments including DCYA, Department of Health, Department of Education and Skills, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. An update was also reported on by Dr Noelle Spring as chair of the Children and Young People's Services Committees National Steering Group and by Grainia Long and Karen Kieran as members of the Advisory Council.

The meeting heard presentations on Youth Check from three young people from the EU Structured Dialogue (Young Voices) and on Homelessness from Brian Kenny, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.



Presentation on Youth Check:

Representatives from the [Young Voices initiative](#) gave a presentation on the Young Voices group, and the Youth Check project which they are working on. This is intended to be an impact assessment tool designed to consider the impact on children and young people of any new policy or legislation that is relevant to them. The group discussed the need for young people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. Youth Check has been in the development stage for four years and a conference was held in May which was attended by the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone. The Youth Check project is presently in the drafting stage, and will function as a set of questions linked to the aims of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.

It was agreed by members of the Consortium that the group should continue to work on Youth Check in collaboration with DCYA Policy Innovation Unit.

5. Children and Young People's Policy Consortium (*continued*)

Presentation on Homelessness:

Figures showed in July 2017 that there were 2,973 dependents (under 18) homeless. The figures also displayed that 82% of homeless families were located in the Dublin region. It was noted that there has been an increase in family homelessness nationally. There are 15 operational Hubs accommodating 436 families. Within these Hubs there are play spaces for children, cooking and laundry facilities and communal recreation spaces.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy is carrying out a review of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. In terms of the future, there will be 200 additional emergency beds in Dublin by December 2017, a further €10 million in funding for Family Hubs and a homeless prevention strategy for non-nationals without entitlements will be developed. In addition, a Housing First target will be given to each of the Dublin Local Authorities.

For more information on Homelessness: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/housing>

6. Upcoming Events

Advisory Council:

24th January

4th April

6th June

12th/13th September

21st November

Consortium:

15th February

28th June

27th September



An Roinn Leanáí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

Policy Innovation Unit

Department of Children and Youth Affairs
43-49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4
D04 YP52

policyinnovation@dcya.gov.ie