



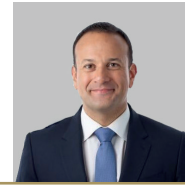
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 - 2025

Summary of Ambition, Goals and Commitments



Taoiseach's Foreword



Ireland's economy and society are changing rapidly. We have made significant progress over recent years putting the country on the right track and both our economic prospects and investment in public and social services are on the rise. For these reasons, we have seen significant reductions in the rates of poverty, child poverty, deprivation and social exclusion, particularly since 2014.

We want to build on this in the coming years. Now is the time to set ourselves a new set of ambitions for the Ireland we want to see by 2025.

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion seeks to identify those challenges, which confront us, and to put in place firm actions across Government. We believe that the commitments set out in the Roadmap are realistic yet ambitious and our agenda is clear: to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU over the coming five years.

To this end, the Roadmap moves away from a focus solely on incomes. It outlines specific measures and goals, which can capture progress across many aspects of social inclusion: housing, healthcare, childcare and social integration. The Roadmap aims to set us on a course for real change and delivery in those areas which matter most to our citizens and which can underpin a better quality of life for all.

Finally, this cannot and will not be simply a static document to be re-visited intermittently. Rather, our aim is to ensure that this is a living strategy and one that develops and grows over time as we come to understand what is working, and perhaps what is not. It is our firm intention to recalibrate our actions and commitments over the next five years so that we can be sure that no opportunity is wasted.

Leo Varadkar

Taoiseach

January 2020



Minister's Foreword

That we have made substantial progress in tackling poverty and social exclusion in Ireland over recent years is clear but yet questions remain. What will progress in future years look like? How will we get there? How will we drive the changes we wish to see? The Roadmap for Social Inclusion was developed after an extensive period of consultation and sets out to provide answers to these questions.

In its look and feel, the new Roadmap represents a move away from its predecessors. In the past, such strategy documents could be seen as, in effect, a detailed repetition of actions and plans across each Government Department. In this case, the document is more streamlined and is intended to provide an overarching structure for the various social inclusion and poverty reduction approaches set forth in each Department's own sectoral strategy.

It will be a five year strategy with an independent mid-term review to facilitate an evaluation of the impact of the Roadmap commitments. It will be implemented through annual action plans outlining the key actions for each year allocated to each agency/Department covering all aspects of social inclusion.

The value-added of the Roadmap lies in the provision of a framework for the activities of the various Government Departments. In the current climate, each Government Department addresses poverty reduction and social inclusion in their own strategies. The role of the Roadmap is to provide a broader framework for this work and to set the medium-term direction on a whole-of-Government basis, identifying the inter-linkages and dependencies across the various stakeholders.

The Roadmap presents 7 high-level goals, 22 targets and 66 unique commitments. The focus of the Roadmap is on building social inclusion, using an expanded approach that moves beyond the traditional focus on income poverty. This strategy reaffirms the Government's long-held commitment to reduce the national consistent poverty rate to 2% or less and to do so over the period up to 2025.

It also incorporates a variety of pan-European targets covering housing, healthcare, childcare and social integration. The Roadmap recognises that certain groups within society are at greater risk and presents cohort-specific targets for people with a disability and children.

The Roadmap commits the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to examine and develop proposals for Government to set a formal benchmark and institute a process whereby future changes in pension rates of payment are explicitly linked to changes in the consumer price index and average wages.

Finally, the Roadmap establishes a robust framework for monitoring and reporting progress that will hold Government to account and also inform the renewal of existing, and the development of future, sectoral strategies.

Regina Doherty, TD

Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

January 2020

Ambition for 2025

To reduce the national consistent poverty rate to 2% or less of the population and,

To make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive States in the EU

7 High-Level Goals

1

Extend employment opportunities to all who can work

2

Ensure work pays – fair pay, fair conditions for workers

3

Provide income security for older people

4

Support families - reduce child poverty

5

Reduce poverty among people with disabilities – help them to maximise their ability

6

Build inclusive communities – encourage active citizenship

7

Ensure that all people have access to quality services

66 Commitments, including:

Improve employment services for long-term unemployed people and marginalised groups.

Tighten enforcement of employment conditions. Continue development of the minimum wage.

Benchmark pension rates to salaries and inflation. Establish a pension rates commission.

Prioritise increases in family related payments. Introduce and extend new family supports.

Reform structure of disability related welfare payments. Enhance employment supports for people with disabilities.

Protect all-Ireland schemes and services post-Brexit. Implement National Broadband Plan.

Implement Sláintecare. Reduce food and fuel poverty.

Focused actions covering:

- Older people
- People outside employment
- Workers
- Families
- People with disabilities
- Communities

Driven through 66 commitments:

- Welfare rates
- Wages
- Employment creation
- Education and training
- Employment supports
- Family and early learning and care supports
- Services for people with disabilities
- Community development

Tracked against 22 Targets covering:

- Poverty (including child poverty)
- Deprivation
- Income Distribution
- Housing
- Health
- Early Learning and Care
- Social Participation/Active Citizenship

Full List of Commitments



No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
1	Ensure that progress in respect of Future Jobs Ireland; Enterprise 2025; the Apprenticeship Action Plan; and the Further Education and Training Strategy is monitored and reported as part of the Roadmap monitoring programme.	DEASP; DBEI; DES	Ongoing
2	Develop and publish a new Further Education and Training Strategy for the next five year period from 2020, ensuring that it includes specific provisions to support socially excluded groups access training and education support.	DES	Q1 2020
3	Develop and publish a successor employment services strategy to PathWays to Work, with a focus on increasing labour market participation and improving employment transitions.	DEASP	Q1 2020
4	Review existing programmes as part of the new employment services strategy, to cater for the needs of marginalised groups/ socially excluded people.	DEASP; DES	Q1 2020
5	Convene the Labour Market Advisory Council to advise on the development of a successor plan to PathWays to Work.	DEASP	Q1 2020
6	Develop a communications campaign to highlight the ability of people to retain key welfare benefits when taking up employment.	DEASP	Q4 2019
7	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years (<i>see also commitment 29 below</i>).	DJE; DEASP	Q3 2019
8	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 (<i>see also commitment 30 below</i>).	DCYA	Q4 2019

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
9	Undertake a Carers Needs Assessment within a community healthcare organisation to assess the needs of family carers across all care groups.	DoH	Work to commence in 2020
10	Introduce a new statutory scheme of regulation for home care designed to support family carers and integrate with other health and social care services.	DoH	Work to commence in 2019
11	Examine options to further support carers who wish to increase their level of engagement with or transition into full time employment, education or training.	DEASP	Q2 2020
12	Establish a statutory code of conduct for the determination of the employment status of workers.	DEASP	Q1 2020
13	Build and expand the focused inspection team established to investigate, and prosecute as appropriate, instances of false declaration of workers as self-employed for social insurance purposes.	DEASP	Ongoing
14	Enforce legislation providing for the application of interest charges on late payments of social insurance contributions where a worker was incorrectly declared as 'self-employed'.	DEASP	Ongoing
15	Commission, with the support of the Labour Market Advisory Council, a study of trends in employment arrangements in Ireland.	DEASP	Q2 2020
16	Develop and run a communications campaign to increase awareness of in work income support payments for families on low incomes.	DEASP	Q4 2019
17	Institute a biennial review of the earnings thresholds used to qualify for in-work income supports for families on low incomes.	DEASP	Q3 2020

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
18	Continue to target a reduction in poverty among children and families on low incomes as part of the annual budget process.	DEASP; DPER	Ongoing
19	Establish and report on a new target in respect of Child Poverty, to improve Ireland's ranking from 20th to at least 5th for the EU SILC reporting year of 2025. This will be equivalent to reducing the percentage of children under 18 years of age at risk of poverty and social exclusion from 23.9% to 16%.	DEASP	Q1 2020 – Q4 2025 ^{^^}
20	Set and report on a new target to further improve Ireland's EU ranking for 'in-work poverty' from 3rd to 2nd by reducing the rate of in-work poverty' to 2%.	DEASP	Q1 2020 – Q4 2025 ^{^^}
21	Review options for improving the financial management competence and literacy / access to financial management for people on low incomes and report to Government with a proposed approach.	DEASP; DES; DRCD	Q2 2020
22	Finalise an approach for benchmarking pension payments for Government decision.	DEASP	Q1 2020
23	Subject to Government decision, develop and prepare any necessary changes to legislation to give effect to a benchmarking approach.	DEASP	Q1 2020
24	Apply the benchmark in adjusting Pension changes for Budget 2021.	DEASP; DPER	Q4 2020
25	Consider and prepare a report for Government on the potential application of the benchmarking approach to other welfare payments.	DEASP	Q3 2020
26	Continue to train GPs and primary care teams in the management of dementia under the Primary Care Education, Pathways and Research in Dementia (PREPARED) project.	DoH	Ongoing

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
27	Provide 4,500 additional short-term and long-term residential care beds across the public system in Community Nursing Units and other step-down facilities. ¹	DoH	2027
28	Continue the refurbishment or replacement of 90 public community nursing units and long term residential care facilities for older people across the country.	DoH	Ongoing
29	Implement an additional two weeks paid parental leave in 2019 and extend this to seven weeks over the subsequent three years (<i>see also commitment 7 above</i>).	DJE; DEASP	Q4 2019
30	Implement the new National Childcare Scheme, launched in November 2019 (<i>see also commitment 8 above</i>).	DCYA	Q4 2019
31	Introduce a range of measures to improve the quality of early learning and care services to better contribute to positive experiences and outcomes for babies and young children, including increasing qualifications for those working in Early Learning and Care and developing the infrastructure of Continued Professional Development (CPD) supports and mentoring.	DCYA; DES	2021
32	As part of the reform of the early learning and care funding model, develop an appropriate mechanism to control fees charged to parents in return for increased State investment in affordability, quality and sustainability.	DCYA	2021
33	Develop mechanisms to provide additional supports to Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings where there are high proportions of children who are at risk of poverty to mitigate the impacts of early disadvantage. Specifically, informed by the DEIS model, develop a programme for the delivery of ELC in the context of concentrated disadvantage.	DCYA	2021

¹To be provided for under the National Development Plan published as part of the Project Ireland 2040 policy initiative

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
34	Assess outcomes from the 2019/2020 hot school meals pilot and bring forward a proposal to Government on the feasibility and desirability of extending the pilot to all schools (<i>see also commitment 63 below</i>).	DEASP; DPER	Q2 2021
35	Extend GP care without fees to children aged between 6 and 12 years in a phased basis starting in 2020.	DoH	Q4 2020
36	Review the current system of classifying second adults in households as 'dependent adults' with a view to individualising welfare payments and supports.	DEASP	Q2 2020
37	Use up-to-date research and data to inform decisions with respect to the level of income disregards to ensure lone-parents are not disadvantaged in taking up part time work.	DEASP	Ongoing
38	Identify specific measures and actions which can increase employment rates among lone parents as part of the new employment services strategy.	DEASP	Q4 2020
39	Continue with the implementation of the DEIS Plan 2017.	DES	Ongoing
40	Continue to report on progress against the national target for reducing the number of children experiencing consistent poverty by the end of 2020 and set a new target for the period to the end of 2025 consistent with any revised EU targets for the period.	DEASP; DCYA; DES; DoH	Ongoing
41	The Government commits to the continued implementation of the National Disability Inclusion and Comprehensive Employment Strategies and to their review in 2021.	DJE	Q4 2021

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
42	Specific poverty reduction and employment targets will be set for people with disabilities: Reduce the AROPE rate from 36.9% first to 28.7% (2025) and then to 22.7% (2030); and increase the employment rate from 22.3% first to 25% (2021) and then to 33% (2027).	DEASP	Ongoing
43	Develop and consult on a 'strawman' proposal for the restructuring of long term disability payments to simplify the system and take account of the concerns expressed in the <i>Make Work Pay</i> report.	DEASP	Q4 2020
44	Commission a study on the cost of research and publish a final report with recommendations.	DEASP; DPER	Commission Q2 2019 Report Q1 2020
45	Develop an implementation plan to deliver on the objectives of tackling loneliness and isolation.	DoH	Commenced in 2019; continuing in 2020
46	Set specific new targets which can inform the development of relevant Government policies and strategies: increase the rate of Active Citizenship to 17% and Participation in Voluntary Work to 34%.	All Departments	Ongoing
47	Finalise and publish the successor to the Action Plan for Rural Development.	DRCD	Q1 2020
48	Finalise and publish a National Volunteering Strategy.	DRCD	Q1 2020
49	Complete the review of Social Inclusion through Community Employment and implement any recommendations arising.	DEASP	Q2 2020

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
50	Implement the actions in the National Sports Policy, 2018-2027 (which contains a particular focus on addressing specific inequalities in participation (i.e. ethnic minority groups, people with a disability, etc.)).	DTTAS	Ongoing
51	Award contract for the implementation of the National Broadband Plan.	DCCAIE	Q4 2019
52	Renew and refresh the system and level of engagement between Government bodies and the community and voluntary sector.	All Departments	Ongoing
53	Ensure that reciprocal north-south entitlements to welfare benefits, the all Island free travel scheme and access to education and healthcare are maintained following the implementation of Brexit.	DFAT; DEASP; DES; DoH	Ongoing
54	Implement Sláintecare through the delivery of annual action plans and report on progress with respect to the delivery of the Sláintecare strategy and other health policies such as Smile agus Sláinte.	DoH	Ongoing to 2026.
55	Develop an Inclusion Health policy to address the healthcare needs of socially excluded groups who experience greater levels of health inequalities.	DoH	Work to commence in 2019
56	Review the feasibility of adapting the Smile agus Sláinte approach to other primary care services, including ophthalmic services.	DoH	Q2 2021
57	Review operation of the Treatment Benefit scheme and consider options to improve its impact in reducing deprivation and poverty.	DEASP	Q3 2020
58	As part of Rebuilding Ireland, complete the migration of long-term rent supplement claimants to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.	DHPLG; DEASP	Q4 2020

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
59	Under Rebuilding Ireland, deliver 50,000 new social homes through construction, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing, with the delivery of 12,000 additional social housing homes annually, through construction, refurbishment, acquisition and leasing programmes.	DHPLG	50,000 by end 2021; 12,000 annually thereafter
60	As part of the Climate Action Plan, review ways to improve how current energy poverty schemes target those most in need.	DCCAIE	Q4 2019
61	Develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions.	DoH; DEASP; DRCD; DPER; DES; DCYA	Q2 2021
62	Pilot a meals programme in early learning and care settings to address food poverty for young children.	DCYA	Q4 2020
63	Introduce a hot school meals pilot. Review the pilot (DEASP with input from DES) and report to Government with proposals. <i>(see also commitment 34 above).</i>	DEASP DEASP; DES; DPER	Q3 2019 Q2 2021
64	Establish a Social Inclusion Roadmap Steering Group to be chaired by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.	DEASP	Q1 2020
65	Nominate a senior manager at Assistant Secretary as a Social Inclusion Responsible Officer to participate in the Steering Group.	Departments with Roadmap commitments	Q1 2020
66	Work with the CSO and other relevant bodies to ensure that the data required to track progress and assess impact are available.	DEASP	Q1 2020
67	Publish an annual report on progress against each commitment and key metric.	DEASP	Annually

No.	Commitment	Responsible Departments	Timeline [^]
68	Present the report to and discuss progress with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection.	DEASP	Annually
69	Publish an annual report card on progress against each commitment and ambition.	DEASP and Departments with Roadmap commitments	Annually

Note:

The table includes 66 unique commitments, three of which appear across multiple chapters reflecting the structure of the Roadmap.

[^]In some cases, implementation of Commitments will commence in 2019 and this will continue into 2020 (or beyond).

^{^^}The relevant SILC data is likely to be available by 2026/27.



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