

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR IRELAND ON THE
NAP/INCLUSION 2003-2005
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FOREWORD

This report provides an analysis and evaluation of the implementation of Ireland's second National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion under the EU open method of coordination (OMC) for the period 2003 -2005. It also provides an opportunity to broadly examine the outcome of the strategic process to combat poverty and social exclusion since the introduction of the first National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) in 1997.

There is much that is positive to report. Major improvements have been made across the board in standards of living and in access to quality services for health, education, housing, and transport. Much of this is due to our economic success which has resulted in major increases in employment participation, particularly in the case of women, and low unemployment, particularly long term unemployment. The high involuntary emigration of much of our past has now been replaced with the new challenge of growing net immigration. Much has also been due to the high levels of social investment made possible by our economic success.

But the improvements have been uneven. While all now enjoy substantially higher living standards, they have risen at a slower pace for those on lower incomes, and the gap with the majority has widened. Households most at risk of having lower living standards include families with children, especially lone parents and larger families, those with disabilities and older people living alone. One consistent characteristic of these households is joblessness, or low income from employment. For example, among those in the active age groups currently over twice as many receive weekly payments for disabilities or as lone parents, than receive unemployment-related payments.

A key part of the way forward over the coming years, therefore, is to focus on reducing the number of jobless households. This includes removing the obstacles to employment that still exist for so many in the current buoyant labour market, and investing in peoples' capabilities through effective service provision, such as education, training, health care, housing and child care. An effective combination of income support and appropriate services will also achieve the best outcomes for those who can no longer work, especially the elderly.

Our challenge now is to learn from and replicate the success we have already achieved in reducing unemployment, especially long term unemployment, through tackling joblessness more generally. We have much to learn in this regard, especially through the open method of coordination, from other EU Member States some of whom have already achieved nationally the lowest poverty levels in the world.

A priority now is to develop the next NAP/inclusion for 2006-09, in consultation with all the stakeholders. In doing so we will draw on our own experience, as set out in this report, on that of other EU countries, and on the fruits of the consultation ahead, to effectively build on what has been achieved under this strategic process, and to work towards achieving the Lisbon Goal of "making a decisive impact on poverty" by 2010.

Séamus Brennan TD
Minister for Social and Family Affairs

INTRODUCTION

Ireland began its strategic approach to combating poverty and social exclusion with the introduction in 1997 of a National Anti-Poverty Strategy, known by its acronym, the NAPS. This was the product of close cooperation between the relevant Government Departments and agencies, including the Combat Poverty Agency, and widespread consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties. A revised and more developed NAPS, based on similar coordination and consultation, was published 5 years later in February 2002, including targets set for 2007.

In the meantime, the EU open method of coordination was introduced to assist Member States in advancing the achievement of the economic, employment and social cohesion goals set down by the Lisbon European Council in 2000. As part of the process, Member States undertook to produce National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPs/inclusion). In the period since then two NAPs/inclusion have been produced covering the periods 2001-03 and 2003-05 respectively.

In developing its NAPs/inclusion, Ireland drew heavily on its earlier National Anti-Poverty Strategy. These were supplemented by further policy initiatives and developments, many of which derived from the social partnership agreements, the most recent of which, Sustaining Progress, applies from 2003 to 2005.

This report analyses and evaluates the implementation of the second NAP/inclusion covering the period 2003/05 and also provides an update on the continued implementation of the strategy up to 2006. A third NAP/inclusion is scheduled to be introduced then to cover the period 2006-09, which will have a major role in determining the extent to which Ireland will meet the Lisbon goal of "making a decisive impact on poverty" by 2010.

The present report will make a key contribution to the preparation of the next NAP/inclusion, as it will highlight where and how substantial progress was achieved in achieving inclusion, and the priorities for more effective policies, programmes and resources required to make an even more decisive impact on poverty by 2010.

The report is structured across five separate chapters. Chapter 1 gives an outline of the major trends and challenges in achieving inclusion since 2003. Chapter 2 provides an overall assessment of the objectives and priorities in the plan and the trends. Chapter 3, the most detailed Chapter in the report, describes the implementation of the policy measures and the institutional arrangements for delivering implementation. Chapter 4 gives a number of examples of good practice which may be of particular interest to other Member States. Chapter 5 looks forward to 2006, giving an update on the key policies and priorities for implementation during the coming year.

As the report is limited to a maximum of 30 pages, more details on the measures being taken are provided in the annexes to the report. Further information, including analysis reports for individual Government Departments and the First Annual Report of the Office for Social Inclusion, can be accessed on the Office for Social Inclusion website at www.socialinclusion.ie

CHAPTER 1

Major Trends and Challenges since 2003

1.1 Introduction

The Irish NAP/inclusion 2003-2005 was framed against a background of disimproving Government finances resulting mainly from a slowdown in economic growth, itself a result of the global economic slowdown, and the need to curb inflation which was running at a higher level than the EU average. It was anticipated that the scope for increased public spending, including that provided for in the NAP/inclusion, would be constrained by these factors.

The Irish economy, however, proved to be highly resilient during the global downturn and now continues to recover as the global situation improves. This has enabled substantial progress to be made in achieving the targets in the NAP/inclusion. Emphasis on social investment has been maintained, with particular reference to removing obstacles to employment in the buoyant labour market. Details are set out in chapters 2 and 3 of this report.

Given the openness of the Irish economy, however, the level of progress that can be achieved is constrained by the need to maintain the conditions necessary for stable and sustainable growth, primarily by keeping downward pressure on costs and by maintaining competitiveness.

1.2 Economic Trends

GNP growth increased from 2.8% in 2003 to 5.5% (provisional) in 2004 and average GNP growth of 5.4% is forecast for the period 2005-2010. The level of General Government Debt fell from 32.0% of GDP (38.6% of GNP) at the end of 2003 to 29.9% of GDP (35.7% of GNP) at the end of 2004. The current forecast to end 2005 is 29.5% of GDP, which is one of the lowest levels in the EU.

Inflation fell from 3.5% to 2.3% between 2003 and 2004. However, control of inflation remains a priority - between 1996 and 2004 the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices increased in Ireland by over 29%, well above the EU25 average of 19%. Cumulative inflation from 2000 to 2004 was 16% in Ireland as against the EU25 average of 9%. These relatively high rates of inflation, coupled with an appreciating euro, have impacted negatively on competitiveness since 2000.

1.3 Employment Trends

A combination of economic growth and active labour market policies has led to Ireland maintaining its strong employment performance. The overall employment rate increased from 65.7% at the end of 2003 to 66.7% at the end of 2004. The employment rate for women increased from 55.9% to 57.2%. The rate for older persons, aged 55-64, increased from 47.95% to 48.85%. Based on current projections, it is expected that employment rates for all three categories will meet the targets for 2010 set by EU Member States at Lisbon in 2000.

The overall labour force participation rate was 61% at the end of 2004 while the participation rate for women was 50.8%. Ireland recorded the second highest population growth at 12.3% in the ten years to 2004, well above the EU25 average of 2.2%. In 2004 the excess of births over deaths was 33,000, while net migration was 32,000.

The continued improvements in employment and participation levels have also helped to maintain unemployment at very low levels. The unemployment rate, at 4.3%, is among the lowest in the EU. There was a slight increase to 1.5% of persons who were long-term unemployed at the end of 2004, compared to 1.3% in 2002. This rate has remained within the range of 1.2% to 2.0%, with slight fluctuations, since 2000.

Considerable improvements in educational attainment, particularly in the third level sector, have resulted in an increased supply of highly educated labour relative to unskilled labour. In 2004, 28% of persons aged 25-64 had a third level qualification compared to 20% five years previously. Over the period 1999-2004, the proportion of females aged 25-34 with third level education rose from 28% to 44%. In 2004, Ireland's proportion of the population aged 25-34 with third level educational attainment was the second highest in the EU-25 (with 40% compared to an EU average of 28%).

1.4 Income Support

The main aims of income support policy have continued to be: the provision of real increases in social welfare payments, especially for those who are unable to work or who are retired; and ensuring that social welfare payments and income tax provision are structured in ways that contribute to making work pay and reconciling work and family life.

In the two years since the NAP/inclusion was agreed, the lowest rates of adult social welfare payments were increased by 19.9% while the rate of the state contributory pension was increased by 14%. Given a projected rise in the Consumer Price Index of 4.7% over 2004 and 2005 these payment increases represent real increases of 14.5% in the lowest rates of payment and nearly 9% in the state contributory pension. The rates of the Child Benefit payment were increased by 12.7% over the same period.

There has also been a greatly reduced tax burden on the lower paid. For example, those earning at or under the average industrial wage as projected for 2005 (€30,700) will pay less than 6 per cent of the total income tax bill compared to 14 per cent in 1997. After Budget 2005 over 656,500 of the 1.9 million income-earners are exempt from paying tax on their income. Budget 2005 removed all PAYE persons on the minimum wage from the tax net, while 52,100 taxpayers were taken off the higher rate of tax¹.

1.5 Poverty Trends

The key target regarding poverty in the NAP/inclusion is to “*reduce the numbers of those who are ‘consistently poor’ below 2% and, if possible, eliminate consistent poverty, under the current definition of consistent poverty*”².

The number of households experiencing consistent poverty, based on results of the Living in Ireland survey (LIIS), fell continuously from 15.1% in 1994 to 5.2% in 2001. The LIIS was replaced by the new EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The 2003 results from the EU-SILC indicated that the rate of consistent poverty was 10.2% (see Table

¹ However, as a result of the most recent increase in the value of the minimum wage in May 2005 (now set at €7.65 per hour), a small percentage of the minimum wage will, again, be liable for tax.

² The consistent poverty measure is used in Ireland to ensure a focus on those who are most deprived and at risk of social exclusion. It involves using an ‘at risk of poverty’ figure combined with a number of basic deprivation indicators to determine those who are in consistent poverty. These basic deprivation indicators are based on earlier surveys of what Irish people considered were necessary to ensure a basic standard of living.

1.1 in Annex 1)³. There have been no policy changes that would have brought about such a reversal of the previous downward trend. In fact the contrary was the case. For example, the lowest rates of adult social welfare payments increased in nominal terms by some 40% between 2001 and 2005, while the Consumer Price Index rose by just 13.5% over the same period. It has been acknowledged by the organisations responsible for the two surveys that the outcome was primarily due to methodological differences in the approaches adopted in measuring what is essentially peoples' subjective perception of their degree of deprivation, and as a result it is not possible to draw any conclusions on how the situation on consistent poverty changed between 2001 and 2003.

At risk of poverty

The results from EU-SILC show that the hard data on incomes remained consistent with previous surveys, showing a small rise in the proportion 'at risk of poverty' from 21.9% to 22.7%. Ireland's high 'at risk of poverty' rate compared to other EU Member States is in part due to the very substantial real increases in household incomes generally during a period of rapid and sustained economic growth. Median household income for a single person household has risen from €171.00 in 1997 (first NAPS), to €309 in 2003 (second NAP/inclusion), an increase of 81 per cent in total, a trend that has continued over the 2 year period, 2003/05, of this plan. This has resulted from a combination of increased female participation in the workforce, reduced unemployment generally, tax reform and high earnings growth. These increases in household incomes were substantially higher than increases both in individual earnings and the incomes of those reliant on benefits and pensions over this period

The impact of the improvements in social welfare incomes in real terms is clearer from other poverty measures. For example, when the poverty line is increased by consumer prices, "the anchored poverty line approach", for the period 1994 to 2000, the impact of real increases in benefits and pensions is shown by the level of poverty actually falling by 55.9%. This trend has continued for the period since 2000, as the same combination of circumstances apply. The impact of these improvements in social welfare and other services is similarly shown by the ongoing reduction in the relative 'at risk of poverty' gap, which shows that the difference between the average income of persons regarded as being at risk of poverty and the 60% median income level, reduced from 20.7% in 2001 to 16.3% in 2003. It is, of course, also the case that the high level of home ownership in Ireland and the provision of household allowances for electricity, heating, telephone rental and TV licence, together with other services, help to provide a higher standard of living for many, especially older people, than indicators measuring monetary incomes alone can show.

The findings common to each of the survey methods and relevant indicators reveal that, overall, households experiencing joblessness or low income employment are most at risk of poverty or, at the extreme, deprivation. Among the categories identified as being most at risk of poverty are low income families with children, especially lone parent and larger families, people with disabilities, and older people living alone.

1.6 Services

Removing obstacles to employment, through the provision of appropriate and effective services is now a central part of the strategy, with capacity to provide the services being steadily built up, as resources allow. Increased female participation in the work force and the

³ Annex 1 contains a number of tables showing trends in both Consistent Poverty and "At Risk of Poverty" measurements, updated to include the first results from the 2003 EU-SILC survey.

growing numbers of elderly people, especially those living alone, has created the need for much greater capacity for the care of children, those with disabilities and the frail elderly. Increased economic prosperity is facilitating greater Government investment in care services and more generally in social inclusion related expenditure across a range of other policy areas, including health, education, housing, and transport. Details of this expenditure are set out in Annex 8 while the specific progress being made is reported in subsequent chapters.

1.7 Gender

Many of the demographic, social and economic changes have a particular impact on women especially in relation to employment participation and education. Progress has been made towards meeting the aim in the NAP/inclusion of achieving a more equal society for men and women through the mainstreaming of equal opportunities across the National Development Plan/Community Support Framework (NDP/CSF). The NDP/CSF contains a number of commitments to progress gender mainstreaming, including requirements that equal opportunities be part of the criteria for selecting projects to be funded under the plan and that indicators used be disaggregated by gender. The NDP Gender Equality Unit has provided support to policy makers in implementing gender mainstreaming in their policies and has also carried out further work in relation to gender budgeting and gender impact assessment. The Equality for Women Measure in the NDP has provided a number of targeted initiatives for women, on training and decision-making, aimed at increasing the employment opportunities of women, which will be transferred to mainstream policy. The development of a National Women's Strategy will be completed in 2005. Following a nationwide consultation exercise, a strategic process on supports for families in a changing society is also being developed. This will specifically address how to provide more effective supports for families, in meeting the challenges they face as a result of the major changes taking place, with particular reference to the role of women.

1.8 Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

A steady flow of inward migration has continued, with much of this coming from the new EU Member States. Delegates from twenty-eight countries considered how best to reconcile mobility and social inclusion at an Irish EU Presidency conference in April 2004. The need to provide migrants with access to social protection and other services, and to information on these services, in culturally sensitive ways was a key theme. The benefits of a coordinated approach by immigration, employment, and social services, in cooperation with civil society were also emphasised. The findings of this conference are now informing policy and programme development in relation to the integration of migrants. The National Action Plan Against Racism was launched in January 2005 covering the period 2005-2008. Work is continuing on the development of a comprehensive Immigration and Residence Bill which is informed by a public consultation process.

Chapter 2 – Overall Assessment of Objectives, Priorities and Trends

2.1 High Level Objectives

The core objective of the strategy, which is fully consistent with the corresponding EU Lisbon objective, *is to reduce substantially and, ideally, eliminate poverty in Ireland and to build a socially inclusive society*. The NAP/inclusion process is designed to provide, and to further develop in an integrated way, the range of policies and programmes required to achieve that objective. This is contingent on pursuing and progressively realising the following:

- Sustaining economic growth, and more and better jobs;
- Increasing income support in real terms for those who need it and employment participation for those who are able;
- Improving access to and providing higher quality public services;
- Addressing the specific needs of groups at high risk of poverty and tackling the causes of inter-generational poverty; and
- Supporting disadvantaged communities.

2.2 Strategic Approach

Ireland has enjoyed sustained economic growth and employment since the 1990s. The priority given to investment in human resources under the National Action Plan for Employment, part funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), has resulted in significant returns in terms of a more skilled, healthy, and productive workforce. This, together with modernising income support and other services to facilitate employment participation and make work pay, have helped in significantly reducing dependency, especially among the hitherto long term unemployed, and in breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty and dependency.

These policies have contributed to a major reduction in jobless households (where none of the adults of working age has a paid job) and a substantial increase in households with two or more adults employed. The number of households where none of the adults of working age were working has fallen from 22% in 1994 to less than 9% today. This decline is particularly marked among households with children.

The proportions affected by poverty, as a consequence, have shifted from the active to the inactive population. In 1994 41% of those at risk of poverty were unemployed compared to less than 5% at present. In 2003, from among the working age population (16 to 65), 145,339 were receiving weekly unemployment related payments. However, over twice that number (295,588) were receiving disability related payments or payments as lone parents.

Priority is now being given to removing obstacles to the employment of many people who were previously regarded as not being available for employment, in particular family members with children, especially lone parents. The support of the childcare needs of families has been a major policy focus of the Irish Government since the late 1990s. The Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, (funded by the Exchequer, with both ESF and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) assistance) is a key instrument for stimulating a very significant increase in the supply of childcare places, in assisting with the provision of low cost childcare for disadvantaged families and in enhancing the quality of childcare.

There has been an over threefold increase in child benefit since 1999, specifically in order to enable parents to make choices in relation to the care of their children.

A range of measures has been introduced to assist people with disabilities in employment. These include the Supported Employment Programme, which is designed to assist people with a disability integrate into a job in the open labour market. Also included is the Workway Project, which brings together employers, people with disabilities, trade unions and other groups representing the interests of people with disabilities in networks established to improve their employment opportunities. Progress is also recorded in relation to tackling the particular difficulties experienced by other vulnerable groups. These include the homeless, Travellers, migrants and ethnic minorities, prisoners and ex-prisoners.

The standard of living of pensioners has improved significantly in real terms, as a result of the priority given to substantially increasing social welfare pensions in real terms. In the period 2002 to 2005 inclusive, pensioners received increases of €44.71 per week and the target is to increase social welfare pensions to €200 per week by 2007.

A number of other issues highlighted in the Joint Inclusion Report have received particular attention:

- A new five-year action plan on educational inclusion has been developed to address problems of disadvantage among children and young people. When fully implemented the plan will involve additional annual expenditure of €40 million and 300 extra posts in the education system;
- Substantial resources have been devoted to social and affordable housing provision over the past number of years. The total housing provision, Exchequer and Non-Exchequer, in 2005 will be some €2 billion, which is more than double the spending in 2000. This will assist in meeting the housing needs of over 13,000 households in 2005, compared to just over 8,500 households in 2000. Good progress has also been made in addressing the housing needs of Travellers, particularly those living on unauthorised sites, who are especially vulnerable: the numbers in this group have reduced from 1,000 in 2003 to 600. Active engagement with the social partners on housing issues is ongoing through the establishment of a Housing Forum;
- Significant progress has been achieved in rolling out national anti-poverty strategies to regional and local level: the vast majority of local authorities are participating in the Local Authority Anti-Poverty Learning Network. More importantly a number of local authorities have established social inclusion units, and some have already developed strong and focused local anti-poverty strategies. A significant development has been the requirement by Government that all local authorities must promote social inclusion in their Corporate Plans;
- Improvements in rural transport have had a significant impact on social exclusion in rural areas (See also Chapter 4 - good practice); and
- Work is underway on the development of an Immigration and Residence Bill. Preparatory work has included public consultation and a review of best practice internationally. Considerable progress has been made in reducing the time taken to process asylum applications, leading to a reduced average time spent by asylum seekers in direct provision.

2.3 Assessment of Overall Progress

Substantial progress has been achieved across all objectives since 2003. This is evident in progress achieved in meeting or progressing a number of key targets in the area of income support, employment and unemployment, education, health and housing. As part of the evaluation of this NAP/inclusion, the Office for Social Inclusion has conducted an evaluation

of the 34 specific targets set out in the NAP/inclusion. In addition some 24 specific commitments have been analysed. A summary of the outcome of this analysis is set out below in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary Analysis

Progress on targets and commitments	Number
Achieved	6
In progress	45
Limited progress	4
Insufficient progress	2
Unknown	1
TOTAL	58

An appraisal of whether the specified targets will be met, within the timescale envisaged, was also undertaken and a summary of the outcome is set out below in Table 2. Commitments that are not time-bound are not included. Also excluded from this table are 8 commitments/targets where lack of data makes it impossible to determine whether or not they will be met on time.

Table 2: ‘Will Target be met on Time’

Progress on targets	Number
Yes	8
Likely	15
Unlikely	2
No	5
TOTAL	30

Detailed reporting on the specific targets, across the four common objectives, is dealt with in Chapter 3 and in Annex 2 of this report. Further information on social inclusion activity by individual Departments covering the period of the report is available in the Publications section of the OSI website – www.socialinclusion.ie

A number of general points and common elements are set out below, that will inform the future approach to developing and implementing the NAP/inclusion.

Target-setting - Targets provide a clear focus and time-frame for meeting objectives. In retrospect the effort required within the timescale set down for meeting some targets was excessive. To maintain the ongoing credibility and thus the value of target-setting, it is

essential that not only should they require substantial effort, but also the effort must be realisable within the timescale set down, save for exceptional circumstances. Analysis of whether the targeted outcomes have been achieved can also be difficult due to weaknesses in or unavailability of the data. This has been examined in detail with Departments during the evaluation process and will be fully addressed in the further development of the Data Strategy for the NAP/inclusion process, and as part of a wider data strategy which all Government Departments are required to develop.

Measuring benefits and outcomes – Reporting in relation to some aspects of the current plan is descriptive in nature and less focused on achieved outcomes. This is due to the nature of the intervention and the many factors which impact on poverty and social inclusion. It is also the case that the impact may not be clearly discernible in the short term, or that it cannot be measured simply in terms of monetary value but on the more subjective grounds of fairness and equity.

Income itself is an important indicator of outcomes, and one that is central to determining what the priorities should be in relation to social transfers and other social interventions. However, it is also essential to ensure that measures of poverty which focus solely on income do not reduce the importance of improvements in other essential services such as education, health, care, housing etc.

Poverty proofing of policies has become a useful tool in developing a better understanding of these issues. A major review of the effectiveness of proofing mechanisms is scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. In addition, a trans-national exchange project, funded by the EU Community Action Programme and led by the Combat Poverty Agency in Ireland, is assessing the extent to which mainstreaming social inclusion can be applied to policy development.

Cross-cutting issues - The evaluation has underlined the need for a coordinated approach to cross-cutting issues. These include situations where there are a number of complex administrative arrangements and strategic responses in place focusing on the same group of people. The findings of the evaluation exercise will be used in the course of the development of the NAP/inclusion process, in identifying the areas where a cross-cutting approach would be beneficial in achieving desired outcomes and in fostering the inter-agency linkages required to facilitate this approach.

Social Inclusion activity outside the NAP/inclusion process - It is important to emphasise that this report is concerned only with targets and commitments specifically contained in the second NAP/inclusion. Local authorities, local agencies, the social partners and the community and voluntary sector are also involved in a wide range of valuable and worthwhile social inclusion activities. All of these activities, both public and private, help alleviate poverty and social exclusion while also presenting learning, development and partnership opportunities for all.

2.4 Lessons Learned

The process of monitoring and evaluating progress against NAP/inclusion targets has been coordinated over the past two years by the new Office for Social Inclusion. The Office has coordinated the development of the Plan and in the process built up strong ties with the policy owners in Government Departments and across the broad range of stakeholders which have been invaluable in the subsequent monitoring and evaluation process. This in turn has meant

that it could report effectively on progress through the Senior Officials Group to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, chaired by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), and to the Social Inclusion Consultative Group representing the social partners. The process has greatly helped to strengthen the engagement of many of the actors involved in a coordinated way. It is already clear that the lessons learned, particularly in relation to target setting, focusing on outcomes and the need for crosscutting approaches to achieve more effective outcomes, will contribute positively to the development of an improved NAP/inclusion for 2006-2009.

Other social inclusion activity under the current National Social Partnership Agreement (Sustaining Progress), the National Action Plan for Employment and the NDP/CSF has contributed greatly in the learning process. Particular mention should be made of the work led by the Combat Poverty Agency and the OSI in developing indicators and focusing on social inclusion outcomes in the NDP/CSF. This work tackled weaknesses highlighted by the Mid-term Review and significantly strengthened social inclusion reporting across all Operational Programmes. It is intended that preparation for the next NAP/inclusion will incorporate the synergies between all these national processes where feasible and appropriate.

2.5 Future Strategy

The future strategy will focus on continuing to ensure that improvements in employment levels are maintained through more and better jobs. There will be a special emphasis on removing obstacles to employment in the case of lone parents, the second parent in larger families, and people with disabilities. This will require a greater cross-cutting approach focussed on more and better coordination of income and employment supports, child care and other services. Further development of similar approaches will occur in the case of Travellers, migrants and ethnic minorities. This approach will not only greatly benefit the adults involved but also, and particularly, their children. The evaluation shows that a high proportion of children at risk of poverty are either in households that are jobless or where income from employment is low. A strategic process on supports for families in a changing society, currently being prepared, will also be focussed on providing more effective State support for family care.

Improvements in the main social protection schemes and in other social services will be a key feature of the strategy, but within the constraints of the need to maintain the economic competitiveness needed for continuing economic and employment growth. Greater emphasis will be placed on the improvement of services to support employment and greater autonomy more generally, on targeting to substantially improve the position of the more vulnerable, and on the development of more coordinated cross-cutting approaches to achieve better policy outcomes. The evaluation has also underlined how better coordination at regional and local levels, where many services are actually delivered, can contribute greatly to achieving such outcomes. Provision for monitoring and evaluation will be further enhanced by more developed data strategy and poverty proofing mechanisms.

It will also be important as part of future strategy to ensure that social inclusion considerations continue to effectively influence the broad Lisbon agenda which has been recently refocused on growth and jobs. While higher growth is recognised as key to achieving more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, it is also recognised that ongoing progress to develop social cohesion is itself a major contributory factor towards achieving long-term sustainable growth. The way in which social inclusion issues can best inform the wider jobs and growth agenda and the development of the new Lisbon National Reform Programmes will be an important consideration in future strategic plans.

Chapter 3

Implementation of Policy Measures and Institutional Arrangements

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report assesses progress against targets and commitments contained in the NAP/inclusion under the four common objectives and highlights some of the key actions which were progressed or initiated by the Government to combat poverty and social exclusion since July 2003. More detailed information on progress against targets is contained in **Annex 2** of this report and on the OSI website at www.socialinclusion.ie

3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Given the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and social exclusion, effective implementation of the NAP/inclusion process requires coordination of its various elements. Based in the Department of Social and Family Affairs, the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) works closely with Departments to monitor implementation of social inclusion targets contained in the plan.

The work of the OSI is overseen by a management group of Assistant Secretaries drawn from relevant Departments, including the Departments of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) and Finance. A key role for this group is the ongoing development and prioritisation of policy measures to combat poverty more effectively, especially in the light of emerging trends and challenges. In addition, the Office also reports on progress to the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, and to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, which is chaired by the Taoiseach. Making the NAP/inclusion and its further development happen requires the direct involvement of a network of different entities. In addition to the Governmental and Oireachtas system this also includes social partners, the community and voluntary sector, people experiencing poverty and their representatives. **Annex 3** describes the relevant institutional arrangements.

Strong monitoring and evaluation procedures have been put in place, leading to the production of this report which included:

- The strengthening of the network of Social Inclusion Liaison Officers who co-ordinate social inclusion activity in Government Departments, including more focused support from OSI;
- A review and analysis by OSI of reported social inclusion activity, which was communicated to Departments by written procedure and subsequently discussed at a series of bilateral meetings with seven of the key Departments, involving discussions with fifty-six senior officials in charge of policy;
- Discussions with social partners through the Social Inclusion Consultative Group;
- Input from the wider community and voluntary sector and from people experiencing poverty through the annual Social Inclusion Forum, with emphasis on implementation of current strategy and future focus; and
- Presentations and discussions with the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion and the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion.

3.3 Regional and Local Impact

Many of the measures to combat poverty and social exclusion are implemented at regional and local level. Effective implementation requires coordination to ensure that local variations on the nature, extent and causes of poverty are taken into account in both policy design and

implementation. The OSI works with relevant Departments, with regional and local structures, and with the Combat Poverty Agency, to strengthen the focus on the regional and local implementation of the NAP/inclusion.

A number of initiatives have commenced or are being progressed during the lifetime of the Plan, aimed at increasing awareness of and involvement in the NAP/inclusion process and the embedding of social inclusion at central, regional and local levels. These include the mainstreaming of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, the development, by many County and City Development Boards of local social inclusion strategies which reflect the targets set at national level, the embedding of social inclusion in the Corporate Plans of Local Authorities, the promotion of anti-poverty work at a regional and local level within the health services, and the promotion of social inclusion within the NDP/CSF. Information on all of these initiatives is contained in **Annex 4** of this report.

3.4 Synergy with National Partnership Agreement

In April 2003 the current national partnership agreement, *Sustaining Progress*, set down a major part of the agenda for the further development of the NAP/inclusion through the agreed commitment to pursue a series of special initiatives on the basis of dialogue between Government and the social partners (including the community and voluntary sector). The ten Special Initiatives chosen for inclusion in the national agreement all relate to major cross-cutting issues that require mobilisation of a range of resources across sectors, organisations and individuals and at different levels of Government. These include: Ending Child Poverty; Tackling Educational Disadvantage; Long Term Unemployed; Care of Children, People with Disabilities and Older People; Migration and Interculturalism; Housing and Accommodation; Alcohol/Drug Abuse; and Including Everyone in the Information Society. It is clear that there are synergies between a number of the initiatives which are of key importance to the NAP/inclusion. The mechanism for regular reporting to social partners of progress under the special initiatives ensures a continued focus on social inclusion, in particular on the vulnerable groups, and gives an added impetus to the social inclusion process.

3.5 Communications and Consultation

Tackling poverty is not just a task for the State, but for society as a whole. There is a need, in the first instance, for effective communication on the trends and challenges in relation to poverty, and on the ongoing process for tackling it. This communication must involve all those within the governmental system, the social partners, the community and voluntary sector, the academic and research communities, the media, the wider public and, above all, the people experiencing poverty themselves. The Social Inclusion Forum (see **Annex 5** for details) and Social Inclusion Consultative Group provide valuable mechanisms for ongoing consultation. In addition, a communications strategy was developed by OSI during 2004 and is in its first year of implementation. Some of the major highlights to date have been the production, in December 2004, of OSI's first annual report and the first information leaflet in a series on poverty issues, and the launch of OSI's website (www.socialinclusion.ie). The website includes, inter alia, the text of the NAP/inclusion, OSI Annual Report and relevant publications, details regarding poverty measurement, and links to social inclusion activity at a local, national and international level.

The following paragraphs provide an analysis of progress against key NAP/inclusion targets and commitments broken down by the four common objectives. This analysis is supported by a table of progress against all of the NAP/inclusion targets which is contained in **Annex 2**. A more detailed picture of the progress made in implementing the NAP/inclusion over the

period 2003-2005 can be accessed on the OSI website - www.socialinclusion.ie, in the Publications section.

3.6 Facilitating participation in employment

The NAP/inclusion contains four employment targets. Reporting on the targets relating to women and vulnerable groups is dealt with in the section 'to help the most vulnerable'.

As can be seen in the employment targets, significant synergies were established between the NAP/inclusion and the NAP/employment from the outset of the plan. The National Employment Action Plan 2003 – 2005 provided the strategic objectives for Irish employment policy within the context of the European Employment Strategy (EES). Further linkages between the EES and the employment targets in the NAP/inclusion are evident in the three overarching objectives of the strategy: full employment; quality and productivity of work; and social cohesion and inclusion. Implementing these targets and objectives has contributed to the reduction in unemployment rates and the provision of paid employment, which is recognised as the best means of combating poverty and social exclusion. It is intended to develop these linkages through enhanced co-ordination during the preparatory period for the next NAP/employment and the next NAP/inclusion, which are both due to commence in October 2006.

Significant progress is being made in the implementation of the target to increase employment rates as set out in the NAP/employment and it is possible that the targets of an employment rate of 70% for the overall working age population will be achieved by 2010. This assessment is derived from the 'Employment in Europe 2004: Recent trends and prospects' report, which also concluded that it is likely that the employment rate targets of 60% for the female working age population and 50% for the older working age population will be achieved. Table 3 sets out the Irish and EU employment rates for 2003 and 2004.

Table 3: Actual and Target EU and Irish Employment Rates

Employment Rate	EU Actual 2003	EU Actual 2004	Ireland Actual 2003	Ireland Actual 2004	EU Target 2005	EU Target 2010
OVERALL	63%	63.7%	65.7%	66.7%	67%	70%
Female	55.1%	56.1%	55.9%	57.2%	57%	60%
Older	40.2%	40.6%	47.95%	48.85%	n/a	50%

Source: CSO Quarterly National Household Survey and Eurostat

To increase employment rates, measures to assist in reconciling work and family life are needed. The availability of high quality and affordable childcare greatly influences employment participation rates, especially of lone parents. National policy on childcare and the implementation of childcare services is implemented through the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme.

Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme

To the end of May 2005, 2,497 grant applications under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 - 2006 (EOCP) have been approved, making almost €96 million in capital,

staffing and quality improvement grants for Childcare nationwide. This funding has been provided under the NDP, with the assistance of the ERDF and ESF. A total of €341 million has been approved for a wide range of capital and staffing projects across the country and, on completion of the EOCP, this funding is projected to create some 36,000 new centre based childcare places and will support 30,476 existing places. It is noteworthy that over 24,600 of these new places had already opened by end 2004. Much of the funding remaining under the current strand of the EOCP is required for ongoing support towards the staffing costs of community based not for profit childcare services located in disadvantaged areas and for the continuing support of projects which enhance the quality of childcare in Ireland. In addition, the Government has already made a commitment to the further development of childcare infrastructure.

Long-Term Unemployment

The target to eliminate long-term unemployment by 2007 has proved to be more difficult to achieve. The long-term unemployment rate for the last quarter of 2004 was 1.5%. Although this rate stood at 3.1% in 1998, which represents a significant reduction over the past six years, the rate has consistently been between 1% and 2% since 2000 and currently there are approximately 28,900 persons who have been unemployed for a period of twelve months or more. Given this pattern it would appear that this target will not be achieved by 2007. However, good progress in supporting the long-term unemployed back into employment is being achieved through various Active Labour Market Programmes which facilitate access by unemployed and inactive persons to the labour market and which are co-financed by the Irish Government and the ESF under the NDP.

Details of some of the key initiatives to combat long-term unemployment are included in **Annex 7**.

3.7 Facilitating access to resources, rights, goods and services for all

Social Welfare Payment Rates

Budget 2004 and 2005 provided for increases in allowances, pensions and a range of other supports which directly benefit the 970,000 people who claim a weekly social welfare payment and, when their dependents are included, a total of more than 1.5 million people, or almost four out of every ten people in the State. The increases, averaging over 8%, are more than three times higher than the expected rate of inflation in 2005. The lowest adult social welfare payment is now €148.80 per week which is on the way to achieving the NAP/inclusion target rate. The total funding for social welfare in 2005 is €12.25 billion which represents one third of government spending. As a result of substantial Child Benefit increases in recent budgets, the equivalence level of basic child income support is now at 33.3% of the minimum social welfare rate, meeting the NAP/inclusion target. Child Benefit is paid to 520,000 families in respect of over 1 million children.

Of the five key targets relating to social welfare payments, all are in progress or have been met.

Reconciling Work and Family Life

The Department of Social and Family Affairs is co-ordinating, with an inter-departmental committee, an integrated strategy on supports for families and family life, which is due for completion by end of summer 2005. It is also engaged in a number of different reviews

which will assist people in reconciling work and family life, i.e. Family Income Supplement (FIS), Child Dependant Allowance (CDA) and Lone Parents.

Removing those on the minimum wage from the tax net

The level of the minimum wage was increased to €7.65 per hour with effect from 1 May 2005. The target of exempting the minimum wage for income tax was achieved in Budget 2005. However, as a result of the most recent increase in the value of the minimum wage, the position is that, in the year 2005, a single person on the minimum wage will have 94.4% of their income free of tax. This compares to a position pre-Budget 2005 where only 90% of the wage was free of tax. When the minimum wage was introduced in April 2000, less than 64% of the minimum wage annualised was free of tax. Budget 2005 also increased the Age Exemption limits for income tax once again. In four years, the limits have increased by well over 50% whereas inflation for the same period is expected to increase by slightly less than 13.5%. Under this system, those aged 65 or over are exempt from tax up to specified limits. Over the last 8 budgets 75,700 elderly people have been taken out of the tax net.

Health

The ten-year National Health Strategy (2001) is the framework within which the NAP/inclusion targets and commitments on health are being progressed. Policy initiatives being implemented include: Health Impact Assessment; Primary Care Strategy; Cardiovascular Health Strategy and the Cancer Strategy. Under the National Smoking Cessation Plan, Nicotine Replacement Therapy is made available without charge to lower socio-economic groups. The Report of the National Taskforce on Obesity was published in May 2005. A draft Food and Nutrition Strategy is currently being prepared and will also focus on obesity and food poverty in children and young people. Government has committed increasing resources to healthcare, with estimated expenditure in 2005 of €1.36 billion, an increase of 20.6% over the 2003 figure. A recent initiative to provide an additional 200,000 medical cards will allow access free of charge to GP services, under the General Medical Scheme. This will benefit persons on low incomes, particularly families with children.

While undoubtedly many initiatives are underway which are impacting on the NAP/inclusion target groups, the absence of baseline data makes it impossible to measure how progress is being made against some of the Health targets. However, there has been a significant focus on research and data collection over the lifetime of the current plan in an effort to address this issue. The benefits of this work should feed into the development of Health targets for the next NAP/inclusion. Valuable work on awareness raising about existing health targets and social inclusion issues aimed at staff in the wider health service is being undertaken which should help to mainstream actions to address existing and future targets.

The Health Reform Programme provided for the establishment of a Health Services Executive (HSE) with effect from 1 January 2005 allowing the Department of Health and Children to reposition itself to concentrate on policy and strategic issues, regulation, governance and evaluation. This represents a major step towards the goal of creating a national focus for service delivery and executive management of the system and will facilitate a more focused and co-ordinated approach to social inclusion issues.

Education

The target to halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006 is being addressed by a strategy of implementing targeted initiatives in disadvantaged primary schools. The new action plan on educational inclusion will focus in particular on addressing the

problems of literacy and numeracy among primary school children. Although baseline data and outcome measures have been lacking, which makes monitoring progress on this target difficult to assess, action has been taken to strengthen reporting in this area. Recent surveys of literacy in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities showed the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties at about 27-30% or about three times the national average.

Progress is being made on the early school-leaving target but it is unlikely that the target of a school completion rate of 90 per cent will be met by 2006. Although retention to upper second level has remained relatively constant at around 82 per cent in recent years, the equivalent educational attainment among 18-24 year olds is approximately 87 per cent, which includes those following educational pathways outside the mainstream school senior cycle.

The new action plan for educational inclusion includes a number of measures to promote retention to upper second level and to address the issue of literacy and numeracy in schools. (See Chapter 5 for further details). The adult literacy target is likely to be met. An International Adult Literacy Survey, conducted in 1995 found that 25% of Irish Adults aged 16 – 64 possessed the lowest level of literacy skills – Level 1. Given the pattern of demographic change and rising levels of educational attainment, it is likely that this will be reduced to below 20% by 2007. There is ongoing and increased support for adult literacy programmes. However, monitoring and evaluation of attainment outcomes needs to be further developed. Under the NDP, and with the assistance of the ESF, investment in this area in 2004 amounted to €19 million compared to €13.6 million in 2001 and €1.1 million in 1997. Client numbers rose in the same period from 5,000 to 30,000 a year. The National Development Plan set a target of having 113,000 participants on adult literacy programmes for the period 2000 – 2006. A participation rate of 100,000 was achieved in the period 2000-2003.

Housing

The target of 500,000 new housing units between 2000 and 2010 is well on the way to being met, with 61% of that total completed by end 2004. 60% of the target of 41,500 Local Authority housing starts between 2000 and 2006 has been achieved, with investment under the National Development Plan in this area running 8% ahead of target. The shortfall in the social housing (as opposed to affordable housing) element of the total number of Local Authority starts is due to higher than expected construction costs. However, over €2 billion in total will be spent in 2005, with €1.3 billion of this being Government spending on social and affordable housing, which is more than double the 2000 total. This will assist in meeting the needs of 13,000 households compared to 8,500 in 2000.

The target of providing an appropriate mix of social and affordable housing is also in progress. The results of a recent housing needs survey will be published in September 2005 and will provide data on the categories of households in need of housing and assist in the review of housing policy in general. In their most recent housing strategies, local authorities were obliged to address the housing needs of all sectors in their population and this should provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types to cater for all housing needs and encourage mixed and balanced communities.

Transport

Since 2000, all major refurbishment projects at bus and rail stations, together with the construction of new stations or purchase of trains or buses, take account of the needs of

people with mobility or sensory impairments. This is being co-financed by the ERDF under the NDP. An accessibility audit of all railway stations, commissioned in 2003, provides a comprehensive assessment of the works that have to be carried out and a programme of station investment is being developed based on its findings. Information on the Rural Transport Initiative is reported on under the common objective 'to help the most vulnerable' and in chapter 4.

Commitment to Service Provision

To meet the commitment to develop more formal expressions of entitlements all Government Departments have published Customer Charters and will report progress in their Annual Reports during 2005.

3.8 To Prevent the Risks of Exclusion

Homelessness

The target to provide sufficient emergency accommodation for the homeless can be considered to be complete, as it is generally accepted by the statutory and voluntary service providers that sufficient accommodation is available for those who wish to avail of it. In achieving this target, efforts were concentrated on providing emergency accommodation and eliminating rough sleeping.

Data on homelessness is collected via the Assessment of Housing Needs, but it is recognised that there is a need for a more comprehensive data system to monitor progress. In response to this, the LINK system, which aims to improve services and service delivery by ensuring homeless persons receive a continuum of care based on an accurate and up to date assessment of their needs, is being developed. In addition, an IT system is being developed for local authorities to assist them in carrying out their housing functions.

Consultants have been engaged to undertake a review of the implementation of the Government's homeless strategy and to make recommendations to promote further progress in addressing homelessness.

Homeless Offenders

HOST (**H**omeless **O**ffenders **S**trategy **T**eam) - a multi-agency unit within the Probation and Welfare Service of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has developed and published a strategic plan (2004-2007) the main aims of which are to:

- Prevent and minimise homelessness amongst offenders; and
- Improve access to accommodation for homeless offenders.

Youth homelessness.

Since 2003 €1.5 million has been allocated by the Department of Health and Children for the development of youth homelessness services (approximately €2 million has been allocated since 2001).

Under the Youth Homelessness Strategy (YHS), which was published in October 2001, 195 new whole-time equivalent posts which impact on youth homelessness services (including Management Staff, Project Workers, Social Workers, Family Support Workers, Aftercare Workers and Public Health Nurses) have been filled across the 10 former Health Board regions up to December 2004. 11 new units have opened nationwide and 42 new/extended

services have been developed around the country. It is considered that there is now sufficient emergency night-time accommodation for the current youth homeless population of Dublin.

Drugs Misuse - A Special Initiative under Sustaining Progress

Progress achieved during the first 3 years of the Drugs Strategy, 2001 – 2008, was detailed in a progress report published in March 2005. The report measured progress using a series of key performance indicators, as set out in the strategy.

The strategy was also evaluated in a mid-term review, published in June 2005, which found that the current aims of the strategy are sound and that progress is being made across all actions contained therein, although progress varies from action to action. Some amendments were recommended in the review in order to better deliver on the aims of the strategy, including changes to the performance indicators by which progress is measured. A review of the overall impact of the strategy will be undertaken when the strategy is completed.

Social Participation

In order to strengthen supports to volunteering and to encourage participation 32 projects are currently being funded in the amount of €5.48 million over a three-year period under the Scheme to Support the Role of Federations, Networks and Umbrella bodies. Under the Funding Scheme for Training and Supports 20 projects are currently being funded totalling €1.83 million over three years. In addition the Anti-Poverty Networks have been funded to a total of some €5.1 million over the past 4 years. The Wheel, which addresses learning and development issues common across the entire Community and Voluntary sector, is funded to a total of €7,000 per annum with a further grant in 2004 of €250,000.

e-Inclusion

For those who are already at high risk of exclusion, the recent unprecedented growth in the usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can present a serious risk rather than an opportunity as some vulnerable and low income groups may not have access to them. A revised national e-Inclusion strategy has been developed based on a comprehensive review of national eInclusion policy that was undertaken by the Department of the Taoiseach in consultation with the relevant Departments, agencies, organisations and bodies. The results of an analysis of the ICT needs and capacity of the Community and Voluntary Sector, being carried out by NUI Maynooth, will feed into the rollout of projects aimed at building the ICT capacity of the Community & Voluntary sector by establishing an online presence and providing them with the ability to communicate with members, interested parties and citizens by means of websites, hosted intranets, secure e-mail and SMS gateways.

Indebtedness

The Money Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS), a free and independent, information and advice service funded by the Department of Social & Family Affairs, continues to play a big role in developing community education on debt prevention, budgeting and financial management. The MABS budget is €3.6 million for 2005 compared to €1.4 million in 2004, €0.4 million in 2003 and €0.3 million in 2002.

Access to Sport, Arts and Culture

The Sports Capital Programme provided funding of almost €31 million to 4,271 projects throughout the country in the period 1999 to 2004. The main aim of this programme is to

assist with the provision of sporting facilities aimed at increasing levels of participation and improving standards of performance.

The ACCESS scheme provides funding for arts and culture projects throughout the country. In assessing projects for approval, account was taken of the need for the facility in the geographical catchment area. In addition, the very significant increase in cultural and heritage tourism, with over 600,000 overseas visitors to Ireland annually indicating a special or particular interest in heritage and culture, will result in increased employment opportunities for those living in the areas targeted for investment.

3.9 To help the most Vulnerable

Children – Information on support for children

A special initiative is being progressed under the National Partnership Agreement, to assist vulnerable children and their families. The Office for Social Inclusion is co-ordinating work in this area, involving the relevant Government Departments, the Combat Poverty Agency, the National Children's Office and the Social Partners. The initiative also includes an examination of obstacles to employment for lone parents through a steering group comprised of the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Finance and the Office for Social Inclusion. Work also includes an examination of child income supports which is being undertaken by the National Economic and Social Council.

The Department of Health and Children, through the National Children's Office, and the Department of Social and Family Affairs, are jointly funding a National Longitudinal Study on children. It is anticipated that 10,000 children from birth and 8,000 children aged nine will be recruited to participate in the study, which is expected to commence later in 2005. This study will inform the development of the next NAP/inclusion. The study will provide a valid source of data on the impact on child development by a wide range of policies, especially by those targeted at children in poverty.

Older people

Health

Additional funding of almost €10.7 million (including €1.2 million for palliative care) was provided by the Department of Health and Children for Services for Older People in 2004, of which approximately €3.75 million went to the Home Help Service. Funding was provided in 2004 to develop models of good practice in the care of older people in the community and some Health Boards have developed pilot projects. Under the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) programme, in most instances, anyone waiting more than three months for an operation can be facilitated. In this way the target with respect to older people and hip replacement has been achieved.

Accommodation

In relation to the target for adequate heating systems in local authority rented accommodation, a central heating programme was introduced in 2004 to accelerate delivery of the target by 2007. €16 million was spent in 2004 upgrading the heating systems in approximately 3,000 of the estimated 45,000 local authority dwellings which require such upgrades. In 2005, the total amount set aside for this purpose has been increased to €36 million.

Long-Term Care

A study on the future financing of long-term care by the Department of Social and Family Affairs in 2003 was followed by a consultation process with interested groups. An inter-departmental Working Group has now been established to identify the policy options for a financially sustainable system of long-term care. The Group will report by mid-2005.

Travellers

Health

Implementation of *Traveller's Health Strategy – a National Strategy 2002-2005* is continuing. A feature of this strategy is that Travellers and Traveller organisations are involved in determining health priorities for their community and in decisions on the allocation of resources through membership of the Traveller Health Units in each Health Service Executive area.

Progress to date includes: the appointment of regional Traveller Health Co-ordinators; the establishment of Primary Health Care projects, which involve Travellers in the delivery of health services to their own community; the establishment of a Traveller Ethics, Research and Information Working Group which meets regularly to consider applications on research into Traveller health for ethical approval; and a sub-group of this Working Group which is progressing the administration of an ethnic identifier question on the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry/Perinatal Systems in two Dublin hospitals.

The absence of data in relation to Traveller health has made it impossible to determine whether the target in this regard will be met. The Department of Health and Children and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland are jointly committed to carrying out a Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study and it is expected that the Study will commence in 2005 and should go some way towards filling the data gap.

Task Force on the Travelling Community

The Second Progress Report of the Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community is currently being finalised and will be published during 2005. A High Level Group on Traveller Issues was established under the aegis of the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, with a remit to ensure that the relevant statutory agencies involved in the full range of services to Travellers focus on the immediate and practical delivery of such services, including accommodation.

Traveller Accommodation

The current Traveller Accommodation programme has ended and new programmes to cover the period 2005 – 2008 are being finalised by local authorities. Under the previous programme, which identified a total of 3,785 accommodation units as being the projected need, a total of 1,371 additional families had been provided with, or assisted in the provision of, permanent accommodation by end 2004, while the number of families on unauthorised sites had decreased from 1207 to 601. In addition, 346 existing sites were upgraded to modern standards and 133 basic service bays provided for Travellers awaiting permanent accommodation.

On foot of a 2004 review of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, the format for the count of Traveller families undertaken annually by local authorities is to be reviewed

while the new accommodation programmes for 2005 – 2008 will contain annual targets for accommodation provision.

Racism

The National Action Plan Against Racism, launched in January 2005, covering the period 2005-2008, seeks to address racism and promote a more inclusive, intercultural society. The Plan is the vehicle for the operation of the Sustaining Progress Special Initiative on Migration and Interculturalism. A Steering Group has been established to oversee the implementation of the Plan. The Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform announced details of funding given to organisations under a grant scheme to coincide with the launch of the plan. The aim of the scheme was to enable organisations to raise awareness about racism and highlight cultural diversity in Ireland. A total of €250,000 was allocated to 44 projects nationally.

To support the aims of the plan, the Steering Group for the plan announced a grant scheme in May 2005 for the development of actions, initiatives or projects in the area of sport, recreation and the arts, which encourage participation and involvement of ethnic minority groups. €200,000 was made available under this scheme.

Applications for Asylum

Considerable progress continues to be made in relation to asylum application processing. Some 2,700 cases awaited processing in the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal at the end of May 2005 compared to some 5,400 cases at the end of May 2004 - representing a decrease of 50%. This can also be contrasted with some 7,550 cases at year-end 2002. 734 cases were in the asylum process for over 6 months at the end of May 2005 compared with 6,500 such cases in September 2001.

Areas marked by exclusion

Rural Transport Initiative (RTI)

The Rural Transport Initiative was launched in July 2001 to provide funding on a pilot basis for community organisations and community partnerships to address the particular transport needs of their rural area and also to improve transport facilities and services to rural dwellers. The success of this initiative can be seen from the fact that some 65,000 RTI services were provided in 2004 and over 500,000 passenger trips were recorded on these services. This initiative has been identified as an example of good practice and is detailed in Chapter 4 of this report.

Urban Poverty and Rural Disadvantage

The NAP/inclusion refers to the objective to combat social exclusion in urban areas by building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged urban areas and community ownership of the strategy. Tackling poverty and social exclusion in rural areas requires the provision of employment and support services, together with access to required services and infrastructure, and the empowerment of the local community. A number of programmes, some of which are co-financed by EU Structural Funds under the NDP, aim to provide these services and are detailed in **Annex 6**.

People with Disabilities

The National Disability Strategy, launched in September 2004, underpins the participation of people with disabilities in society. The strategy comprises four elements:

- Disability Bill 2004;

- Comhairle (Amendment) Bill 2004;
- Six Outline Sectoral Plans; and
- Commitment to a multi-annual investment programme for disability support services.

Developments in relation to employment and education regarding persons with disabilities are set out below.

Vulnerable Groups and Employment.

Good progress has been made in increasing the employment rate of women in the workforce, which in the last quarter of 2004 was 57.2%. It is therefore likely that the target of 60%, as envisaged in the National Employment Action Plan, will be met by 2010. This rate has increased substantially over the last decade and has been one of the mainstays of labour force growth. Unemployment among women is also low, with a female unemployment rate of 3.9% in the last quarter of 2004, which is below the national average of 4.3%, thus achieving the NAPS target.

In general progress on achieving the target regarding employment participation for other vulnerable groups has been varied. In the case of older people the unemployment rate for those aged 55 to 64 is now also below the national average. For other vulnerable groups, including prisoners/ ex-prisoners, migrants and ethnic minorities, progress cannot be determined as there is currently no data available on their unemployment levels. In the case of people with disabilities and Travellers, it is doubtful that the target will be reached by 2007. In the first quarter of 2004, 37% of persons aged 15 to 64 who were ill or had a disability were in employment compared to just under 64% of the total population in the same category. The 2002 Census recorded an unemployment rate among Travellers at 69%.

Despite these variations, specific employment programmes tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups have been developed and these include: the Supported Employment Programme; the Workway Project; Expanding the Workforce programme; and the EQUAL Community Initiative Programme, which is co-funded through the European Social Fund, with a total ESF budget of €34.5 million up to 2007.

Vulnerable Groups and Education

Progress on the implementation of some of the education targets for vulnerable groups is difficult to assess owing to the lack of baseline and/or current data, e.g. the target for each third-level institution to double the participation by mature disadvantaged students, including Travellers and refugees, by 2006. Currently no statistics are compiled on the ethnic background of entrants to higher education institutions or the socio-economic background of mature students. Despite this, contextual information suggests that some progress is being made in this regard. The 2002 census indicated that 1.4% of adult Travellers possessed a third level qualification and recent statistical data from the Department of Education and Science show that in 2003/04 approximately 10% of full-time new entrants to higher education were mature students (i.e. over 23 years of age). A recent report on higher education participation also noted significant increases in the participation rate of lower socio-economic groups in tertiary education during the period 1998-2003.

Based on initial results from a recent survey by the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability (AHEAD), the target to increase participation by students with disabilities at

third level to 1.8% by 2006 will be met. The results indicate that for the 2003/04 academic year 2.4% of all undergraduate students have a disability compared with 1.1% in the academic year 1998/99. Further progress on these targets is being achieved through the work of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education, which was established in August 2003. This Office facilitates educational access and opportunity for groups who are under-represented in higher education, including students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, students with a disability and mature 'second chance' students. During 2005 the Office will be working on developing mechanisms to gather more comprehensive data on the four target groups: socio-economically disadvantaged school leavers; members of the Traveller community and ethnic minorities; students with a disability; and mature students.

Of the two education targets specifically aimed at Travellers, one has been achieved and the other has not. Feedback from the Visiting Teachers for Travellers service indicates that the majority of Traveller children in primary school are in age appropriate places and that in 2003 there were almost 6,000 Traveller children in primary schools. On the other hand, 85% of Traveller children transferred to post primary schools in 2004, below the target of 95%. Furthermore, approximately only 45% of Travellers in the age cohort are attending post-primary schools, which highlights the need to focus on the retention rate of Travellers in second level education. To address this situation a five-year Traveller Education Strategy is being developed.

Chapter 4

Good Practice

4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains details of three examples of good practice drawn from key policy measures or institutional arrangements implemented during the period of the second NAP/inclusion.

4.2 NAPS Social Inclusion Forum

The Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) was established by the Government in 2002 as an important institutional structure aimed at ensuring the involvement of all actors in the drive to combat poverty and social exclusion. The SIF is jointly organised and funded by the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) and OSI, with input from the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA), the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the Department of the Taoiseach. Convened by the NESF, the SIF provides an opportunity for representatives of Government and state agencies, the social partners, NGOs, people experiencing poverty and their representatives to meet on an annual basis. A report of the proceedings is published and widely disseminated.

The second Social Inclusion Forum was held on 26 January 2005 in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin. With a capacity attendance of almost 300 people, the main focus of this meeting was on vulnerable groups who face high risks of poverty. These groups include older people, children and young people, people with disabilities, minority groups and women. A series of capacity-building meetings, which were held in regional locations prior to the SIF, was a new and innovative element in this year's Forum. This enhanced the interaction and involvement of people experiencing poverty and their representatives on the day.

The SIF plenary session included addresses by the Chair of the NESF and representatives of the EU Commission, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the European Anti-Poverty Network and the Office for Social Inclusion. These were followed by roundtable discussions to encourage participants to consider, question and comment on issues raised by speakers. The plenary session was followed by a series of parallel workshops focusing on each of the target groups where further presentations and discussions took place and suggestions were put forward on how to address the issues of concern. Both a national and local perspective was presented at each workshop to ensure regional balance was achieved. The conclusions drawn from the workshops feed directly into the monitoring and evaluation of the current NAP/inclusion and will also prove to be a valuable contribution in developing the next National Action Plan.

The 2005 Forum was attended by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mr. Séamus Brennan T.D., who stressed that the SIF was a key element of the Government's commitment to consult with all the relevant stakeholders in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Further details regarding the 2005 SIF are set out in Chapter 3 and in Annex 5. Copies of the 2005 SIF Conference report are available in the publications area of the Office for Social Inclusion Website at <http://www.socialinclusion.ie>

4.3 Building Healthy Communities Programme

In May 2003 the Department of Health and Children and the Combat Poverty Agency jointly launched the Building Healthy Communities Programme which has a specific focus on community participation in tackling poverty and health inequalities. Funding totalling €390,040 was provided to 31 projects during the first phase of the Programme which ran from 2003-2004. Funding requests for the second phase, covering the period 2005-2007 are currently being evaluated. A total budget of 180,000 per year has been allocated for the duration of the three years of Phase 2.

The main aims of the programme are to:

- Promote the practice of community development in improving health and well-being outcomes for disadvantaged communities;
- Inform and support policy initiatives relating to the links between poverty and health;
- Explore mechanisms for effective, meaningful and sustainable community participation in decision making regarding health; and
- Build the capacity of community health interests to draw out practice and policy lessons from their work.

Support for projects in the first round of funding was intended as a way of building knowledge, understanding and capacity about the links between poverty and health and skills in community participation in health issues. An evaluation of the programme's first phase has been undertaken and the report, published in October 2004, has noted some positive outcomes from the work to date. The most important of these being:

- The establishment of a range of mechanisms and procedures to facilitate working relationships involving community-based groups, health and other service providers. Some of these are already pointing the way to good practice in relation to future planning;
- The successful completion of community-based courses;
- Greater participation in activities by more disadvantaged people and increased voluntary involvement in a range of consultative mechanisms;
- An increase in the extent to which health issues have featured on various programme and project agendas – including Community Development Boards, area-based Partnerships, Community Projects and RAPID Structures;
- An increase in awareness – within and between participating projects – about issues linking health to poverty and disadvantage. The spread of interest groups and different communities of interest involved (and the facilitation of networking between them) has been important in allowing this to happen; and
- The beginning of more productive working relationships between community groups and service providers; and the beginning of more effective networking amongst a range of stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally.

At a more general policy level, there has been a marked contribution to how community development and community involvement can be effectively progressed. This is especially evident within the context of new and emerging structures in health service planning and development. A copy of the evaluation report is available on the Combat Poverty Agency website – www.combatpoverty.ie.

4.4 Rural Transport Initiative

The Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) was launched in 2001 as a result of a commitment by the Department of Transport in the National Development Plan 2000-2006 to support the development of pilot public transport initiatives in rural areas to address the issue of social exclusion caused by lack of access to public transport. An intensive consultation process and a public information campaign was part of the process. It was recognised that the problem of low population densities and very dispersed settlements in rural areas in Ireland can make it difficult to provide commercial public transport services, resulting in mobility difficulties for people who do not have access to a car. Those identified as most marginalised included women, the elderly, the mobility impaired, unemployed and young people. Lack of access to transport may also lead to lack of access to essential services, social and cultural activities and access to employment and training.

The RTI is about local communities meeting their own needs by:

- Developing new models of transport which are innovative and responsive to those needs (including community bus and car services and private transport providers);
- Involving key stakeholders in the planning, design, co-ordination and operation of the services (including the community, local development organisations, local government and statutory agencies);
- Examining the use of new technologies; and
- Contributing to the development of future rural transport policy

Thirty four projects are participating in the RTI – at least one project from almost every county of Ireland. Some 65,000 RTI transport services were provided in 2004 and over 500,000 passenger trips were recorded on these services. The scheme provided direct employment for 90 people and supported an additional 200 bus drivers. The Free Travel Scheme was extended to RTI transport services in 2003.

An independent appraisal in 2004 found that the initiative had achieved good progress since its inception. It was noted that 75% of the passengers using the services are female and that 66% of passengers are aged 66 or over. The main qualitative benefits identified included:

- Increased levels of independence and reduced isolation for excluded rural residents;
- Improved access to other public services such as healthcare, training and education;
- Higher quality standards in rural public transport provision through the use of passenger assistants, improved vehicle accessibility and higher vehicle standards;
- Learning and capacity-building at local level regarding local transport provision and awareness raising amongst the community and statutory sectors of the transport needs of rural dwellers; and
- Improved co-ordination in rural public transport provision.

Annual funding of €3 million was provided by the Department of Transport for the initiative for each of the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 2005 allocation is €4.5 million and funding of the order of €5 million for the RTI in 2006 is anticipated. In line with one of the key recommendations of the appraisal, the RTI will be extended to the end of 2006 and it is intended that it will be put on a permanent footing from 2007.

A copy of the appraisal report is available at <http://www.adm.ie/>

Chapter 5 – Update for 2005-2006

5.1 Meeting Existing Targets

The main focus over the next year will be on continuing to make progress on meeting the targets set out in the current NAP/inclusion. The timescale for many of these targets is 2007, which was the deadline set in 1997 under the original National Anti-Poverty Strategy (revised in 2002). Progress on these targets has been examined in previous Chapters. Planned new measures or changes to existing measures are outlined below. In addition, reviews are soon due for completion in relation to a number of other policy areas, which may lead to changes during 2005/2006.

5.2 New Measures/Planned Changes to Existing Measures

The following sections provide details of those policy areas where new measures or changes to existing measures are envisaged during 2005/2006, broken down across the four common objectives in the NAP/Inclusion

5.2.1 Facilitating Participation in Employment

The Irish policy approach to 'making work pay' focuses on encouraging labour market participation through financial and non-financial incentives. Financial incentives such as the minimum wage, (increased to €7.65 from May 2005), structural changes to the taxation system, and reductions in social security contributions, particularly for the low paid, seek to ensure that the interaction between pay, tax and benefits removes disincentives to entry, participation and progress in the labour force. The objective is to make work a more attractive option for all, while at the same time preserving a high level of social protection. Non-financial policies to make work pay are in particular aimed at those outside, or at risk of dropping out of employment and seek to reduce the under representation of vulnerable groups such as lone parents, women, older workers, and the disabled in employment. Policy initiatives in this area include: employment and training initiatives; flexible working arrangements; increasing access to childcare; and increasing labour supply and gender equality.

In relation to policy to facilitate the reconciliation of work and family life a strategy to co-ordinate policy concerning families and family life is due for completion by the end of summer 2005. The strategy will help to guide future developments in this policy area.

5.2.2 Facilitating Access to Resources, Rights, Goods and Services for All

Health

A major reform programme is currently underway within the Irish health system. Under the programme, the Health Act 2004 provided for the establishment of a Health Services Executive (HSE) on a statutory basis with effect from 1 January 2005. The HSE took over responsibility for the management and delivery of health services from the Eastern Regional Health Authority, the seven regional health boards and a number of other specified agencies. The HSE will also take over a number of operational functions from the Department of Health and Children. The establishment of the HSE provides for a unitary system for the management and delivery of health and personal social services. The measures will enable greater efficiency, effectiveness, value for money, quality of service, integration of services

and accountability within a unitary management and delivery system. It is envisaged that at both levels of the system the reform will facilitate a more focused and co-ordinated approach to social inclusion issues.

The development of the report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy is well advanced and the report is expected to be published towards the end of 2005. The Department has commenced work on a new legislative framework for eligibility. A new National Cancer Strategy is currently being finalised. The new Strategy will set out the key priorities for the development of cancer services over the coming years and will make recommendations in relation to the organisation of cancer services nationally.

Housing

A new framework of five-year action plans for local authority social and affordable housing programmes has been introduced to cover the period 2004-2008. The action plans encompass the provision of social rented accommodation by the local authority, the voluntary and co-operative housing sector, Traveller accommodation, measures to address homelessness as well as affordable housing and programmes to regenerate the existing local authority stock. These plans will ensure that resources are used to best effect to deliver the optimum level of quality housing to address social inclusion objectives of breaking cycles of disadvantage and dependency. A mid term review of plans will be undertaken in 2006 which will allow for adjustments to be made in light of actual performance and any new housing policy initiatives arising in the interim.

A recent report by the National Economic and Social Council on housing will be a key element in the consideration of future housing policy. The report provides an important analysis of the Irish housing system and an agenda for the future development of policy. Importantly, the report recognises that the general thrust of existing policy is well directed. The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government is examining the issues raised in the report and is considering new measures that are desirable both in the short term and in the more medium term.

Educational Inclusion

DEIS (Delivering 'Equality of Opportunity In Schools') a new action plan for educational inclusion was launched in May 2005. The new plan will be implemented on a phased basis over the next five years and is the outcome of the first full review of all programmes for tackling educational disadvantage that have been put in place over the past twenty years. This new action plan will focus on addressing the educational needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities, from pre-school through second-level education. Moving to a single programme of supports for all disadvantaged schools will result in a more integrated and coordinated approach.

A Joint Working Group drawn from the Educational Disadvantage Committee and from the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education is finalising a strategy on Traveller education. The main focus of the Traveller Education Strategy exercise has been to review and evaluate existing provision from pre-school to adult and further education. The strategy, to be completed by autumn 2005, will provide recommendations on the way forward in relation to Traveller education.

5.2.3 To Prevent the Risks of Exclusion

e-Inclusion

Following a review of e-Inclusion policy a revised national e-Inclusion strategy has been developed. The strategy will inter alia result in the development of projects aimed at building the ICT capacity of groups in the Community and Voluntary sector, enabling them to communicate electronically with other groups and with citizens.

5.2.4 To Help the Most Vulnerable

Disability Strategy

As part of the Disability Strategy, six sectoral plans have been developed, which set out the services to be provided to people with disabilities in the areas of health, transport, communications/marine, welfare, employment and the environment.

A multi-annual investment programme for disability specific services in health and education was announced in Budget 2005. This provides for additional expenditure of €150 million in 2005 and a further €900 million over the period 2006-2009.

Policy on migration

Work on the development of the Immigration and Residence Bill is ongoing. Preparatory work has included public consultation and a review of best practice internationally. A discussion document, 'Immigration and Residence in Ireland – Outline policy proposals for an Immigration and Residence Bill' was published in April 2005.

The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) will be established as an executive office within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The Service will incorporate the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform's current structures dealing with asylum, immigration and citizenship.

Homelessness

A review of the national homelessness strategy was completed in May 2005 and contains a number of recommendations to promote further progress in addressing homelessness. These recommendations will inform further policy development in this area.

5.3 Developments planned in other areas

In addition to the above planned developments under the four common objectives of the NAP/Inclusion other developments proposed for 2005/2006 are also relevant to policy to combat poverty and social exclusion. These are detailed below.

5.3.1 Addressing Data Deficiencies

A key part of the monitoring and evaluation process under the Plan is measuring the outcomes being achieved by policies and programmes and by the resources spent and invested, as measured by indicators which cover the main dimensions of poverty. As pointed out elsewhere in this report, this is not straightforward and the NAP/inclusion monitoring process has identified an absence of data and/or indicators in relation to certain targets which make it impossible to measure progress or to state with certainty that the target has been or will be met. Addressing these data difficulties, in particular in relation to vulnerable groups

identified in the NAP/inclusion, has been identified as a key priority for the Office for Social Inclusion for the next twelve months, working through the NAPS Technical Advisory Group. As part of this process, the potential for Departments to agree new or more specific targets for the next National Action Plan will be considered as well as the implications for target setting of new emerging needs or of new growing categories of groups, such as ethnic minorities.

The revision of existing deprivation indicators used to monitor consistent poverty in Ireland, taking account of developments in this regard at EU level, has also been identified as a priority for the NAPS Data Strategy over the next twelve months.

It has also been recognised that one of the deficiencies to be addressed in the current Poverty Proofing process is the need for relevant statistical data to underpin the proofing exercise. The existing poverty proofing process is currently being revised and amended guidelines will be circulated to Departments in late 2005/ early 2006.

5.3.2 Streamlining the NAP/inclusion and National Partnership Processes

Combating poverty and social exclusion requires not just a governmental response but a wider societal response to the challenge. Since 1997, when the first National Anti-Poverty Strategy was published, the development of social inclusion strategies has always involved significant consultation with the social partners, employers, trade unions, farmers and the community and voluntary sector, as well as people experiencing poverty. These plans were subsequently endorsed through National Partnership Agreements.

It is anticipated that the Government will initiate discussions with the social partners on a successor to Sustaining Progress - the current National Partnership Agreement - in the autumn of 2005. Given the obvious synergy between the social inclusion element of this Agreement and the 2006-2009 NAP/inclusion, a decision has been taken to seek to streamline the two processes as far as possible with a view to maximising the efficiency and effectiveness of all aspects including consultation, development, implementation, reporting and monitoring.

Annex 1⁴

Consistent Poverty and At Risk of Poverty Rates

CONSISTENT POVERTY RATES

Table 1.1 – Percentage of households in consistent poverty

	LIIS 1998	LIIS 2000	LIIS 2001	SILC 2003
Less than 40% of threshold	3.4	2.7	2.5	3.9
Less than 50% of threshold	6.0	4.5	4.1	7.3
Less than 60% of threshold	8.0	5.8	5.2	10.2

Source: CSO Statistical Release on EU-SILC (Ref 13/2005).

Based on mean income threshold and using the national equivalence scale.

Table 1.2 – Percentage of persons in consistent poverty

	LIIS 1998	LIIS 2000	LIIS 2001	SILC 2003
Less than 50% of threshold	3.6	2.7	2.9	5.9
Less than 60% of threshold	6.0	4.3	4.1	9.4
Less than 70% of threshold	7.7	5.4	4.9	11.6

Source: CSO Statistical Release on EU-SILC (Ref 13/2005).

Based on median income threshold and using the national equivalence scale.

Table 1.3

CONSISTENT POVERTY RATES - Percentage of persons below 60% of Mean Income and experiencing consistent poverty by age, household type or by labour force status		1998 (%)	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2003 (%)
	Overall		8.2	6.2	5.2
Men		6.9	3.6	3.5	10.5
Women		7.0	4.9	4.7	11.4
Children*		11.7	7.7	6.5	17.2
Elderly		6.6	5.9	3.9	8.3
Adults		7.0	4.0	4.1	9.5
Employee		1.8	2.2	1.7	4.5
Unemployed		32.7	24.1	17.8	38.6
Single adults		12.8	10.7	7.2	13.2
2 adults with 4 or more children		20.2	14.2	10.1	29.2
Lone parents		30.9	23.0	23.7	45.5

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

* Children in LIIS classification are defined as aged 0-17, EU- SILC definition is 0-14

Adults in LIIS classification are defined as aged 18-64, EU- SILC definition is 15-64

⁴ This Annex includes a number of tables that were contained in the NAP/inclusion 2003-2005, updated to take account of the first results of the 2003 EU-SILC survey (Survey of Income and Living Conditions) for Ireland. It should be noted that methodological differences between the new EU-SILC survey and the earlier Living in Ireland Survey (LIIS) resulted in a major discontinuity between the two surveys in the measurement of deprivation and consistent poverty. As a consequence of this, it is not possible to draw conclusions from the EU-SILC findings regarding the direction or scale of any real changes in consistent poverty between 2001 and 2003. [This discontinuity is shown by the grey shading of figures in Tables 1.1 – 1.9]

Table 1.4 - Percentage of Persons Below 60% of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Household Type.

	1998	2000	2001	2003
1 adult	12.8	10.7	7.2	13.2
2 adults	3.9	3.0	4.1	7.1
3 or more adults	5.6	1.7	1.0	5.0
2 adults, 1 child	3.6	3.6	3.3	6.8
2 adults, 2 children	1.8	2.6	1.4	5.6
2 adults, 3 children	12.8	4.9	3.2	7.8
2 adults, 4 or more children	20.2	14.2	10.1	29.2
1 adult with children	30.9	23.0	23.7	45.5
3 or more adults with children	7.7	4.0	5.3	17.6
All	8.3	5.2	4.7	11.0

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

Table 1.5 - Breakdown of Persons Below 60% of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Household Type

	1998	2000	2001	2003
1 adult	11.1	15.0	11.1	9.4
2 adults	6.6	8.6	13.5	12.2
3 or more adults	11.4	5.6	3.7	10.3
2 adults, 1 child	3.4	5.1	5.0	3.9
2 adults, 2 children	2.7	6.5	3.6	6.8
2 adults, 3 children	16.4	8.0	6.3	7.4
2 adults, 4 or more children	15.3	18.7	14.6	11.6
1 adult with children	14.1	17.0	19.8	13.3
3 or more adults with children	18.9	15.4	22.2	25.1
All	100	100	100	100

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

Table 1.6 - Percentage of Persons Below 60% of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Labour Force Status of Reference Person

	1998	2000	2001	2003
Employee	1.8	2.2	1.7	4.5 [^]
S/Emp	3.6	1.7	0	5.1
Farmer	3.4	1.2	1.1	N/A ⁺
Unemployed	32.7	24.1	17.8	38.6
Ill/Disab	17.7	10.8	22.5	26.8
Retired	5.1	3.6	5.3	8.3
Home Duties	21.3	14.2	12.3	26.9

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

[^] ‘At Work’ category in EU-SILC

⁺ No separate category for farmers in EU-SILC

Table 1.7 - Breakdown of Persons Below 60% of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Labour Force Status of Reference Person

	1998	2000	2001	2003
Employee	10.2	21.2	18.9	5.0 [^]
S/Emp	4.5	3.2	-	27.7
Farmer	3.6	1.7	1.7	N/A ⁺
Unemployed	31.5	20.9	13.7	17.6
Ill/Disab	7.4	8.7	18.3	8.8
Retired	8.2	7.8	12.5	7.4
Home Duties	34.5	36.5	34.6	30.9
Student*				—
Other inactive person				—
All	100	100	100	100

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

[^] ‘At Work’ category in EU-SILC

⁺ No separate category for farmers in EU-SILC

* ‘Students’ and ‘other inactive persons’ are categorised in EU-SILC only.

Table 1.8 - Percentage of Persons Below 60 Per Cent of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Age

	1998	2000	2001	2003
Adults	6.9	4.3	4.1	9.3
Aged 18-64 (15-64 in EU-SILC)	7.0	4.0	4.1	9.5
Aged 65 or more	6.6	5.9	3.9	8.3
Children (aged under 18) (aged under 15 in EU-SILC)	11.7	7.7	6.5	17.2

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

Table 1.9 - Percentage Below 60 Per Cent of Mean Income and Experiencing Basic Deprivation by Gender and Age

	1998		2000		2001		2003	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
All Adults	6.9	7.0	3.6	4.9	3.5	4.7	8.6	10.0
Aged 18-64 (15-64 in EU-SILC)	7.3	6.7	3.5	4.4	3.5	4.8	8.7	10.3
Aged 65 or more	4.4	8.3	4.0	7.4	3.1	4.4	8.1	8.4

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – LIIS; 2003 figures – CSO – EU-SILC.

'AT RISK OF POVERTY' RATES

Table 1.10

AT RISK OF POVERTY RATES - Percentage of persons below 60% of median income by age, household type or by labour force status		1998 (%)	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2003 (%)
	Overall	19.8	20.9	21.9	22.7
	Men	15.9	17.3	19.4	22.0
	Women	21.2	22.3	23.2	23.4
	Children*	22.6	23.7	23.4	23.9
	Elderly	32.9	38.4	44.1	36.4
	Adults	15.9	16.4	17.1	20.1
	Employee	2.6	6.5	8.1	15.2
	Unemployed	58.8	57.1	44.7	46.7
	Single adult	50.1	47.7	46.8	44.9
	2 adults with 4 or more children	29.8	39.2	40.7	32.6
	Lone parents	44.9	46.5	42.9	42.3

Source: 1998–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.
2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

* Children in LIIS classification are defined as aged 0-17, EU- SILC definition is 0-14
Adults in LIIS classification are defined as aged 18-64, EU- SILC definition is 15-64

Table 1.11- Percentage of Persons Below 60% of Median Income by Household Composition

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
1 adult	7.3	35.7	50.1	47.7	46.8	44.9
2 adults	6.8	9.4	16.2	23.1	28.8	20.6
3 or more adults	2.6	7.9	5.3	8.8	10.4	13.1
2 adults, 1 child	12.5	16.8	14.6	13.9	19.0	12.5
2 adults, 2 children	12.6	11.5	12.2	16.1	13.9	12.3
2 adults, 3 children	21.8	20.4	20.6	20.7	20.8	21.0
2 adults, 4 or more children	44.0	38.9	29.8	39.2	40.7	32.6
1 adult with children	36.3	45.3	44.9	46.5	42.9	42.3
3 or more adults with children	13.6	19.3	21.9	14.6	13.0	34.0
All	15.6	18.2	19.8	20.9	21.9	22.7

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.
2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

Table 1.12 - Breakdown of Persons Below 60% of Median Income by Household Composition

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
1 adult	3.3	14.6	18.4	17.0	15.8	14.6
2 adults	5.5	7.4	11.8	16.4	20.4	15.8
3 or more adults	2.1	6.5	4.5	7.3	8.1	14.1
2 adults, 1 child	4.6	7.0	5.7	4.9	6.3	3.0
2 adults, 2 children	9.4	8.7	7.9	10.2	8.1	6.4
2 adults, 3 children	16.4	12.2	11.0	8.4	8.8	8.3
2 adults, 4 or more children	26.8	12.1	9.5	13.0	12.6	5.3
1 adult with children	10.2	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.0	7.1
3 or more adults with children	21.8	23.1	22.7	14.2	11.9	25.5
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.
2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

Table 1.13: Percentage of Persons Below 60% of Median Income by Labour Force Status of Household Reference Person.

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
Employee	3.2	4.7	2.6	6.5	8.1	15.2 [^]
Self-employed	16.0	14.4	16.4	17.9	14.3	12.9
Farmer	18.6	16.7	23.9	24.1	23.0	N/A ⁺
Unemployed	51.4	57.7	58.8	57.1	44.7	46.7
Ill/disabled	29.5	52.5	54.5	52.2	66.5	65.7
Retired	8.2	13.5	18.4	30.3	36.9	32.5
Home duties	20.9	32.6	46.8	44.3	46.9	39.1
All	15.6	18.0	19.8	20.9	21.9	22.7

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.
2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

[^] 'At Work' category in EU-SILC

⁺ No separate category for farmers in EU-SILC

Table 1.14: Breakdown of Persons Below 60% of Median Income by Labour Force Status of Household Reference Person

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
Employee	8.3	11.5	6.0	15.4	18.8	8.3 [^]
Self-employed	10.1	7.8	8.3	8.2	6.6	30.3
Farmer	10.6	8.0	10.4	8.9	7.6	N/A ⁺
Unemployed	41.1	29.6	22.9	12.2	7.3	9.7
Ill/disabled	6.2	10.4	9.1	10.7	11.9	9.4
Retired	6.0	9.1	12.0	16.3	18.8	14.6
Home duties	17.8	23.6	31.4	28.4	29.0	24.7
Student*						1.8
Other inactive person						-
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.

2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

[^] ‘At Work’ category in EU-SILC

⁺ No separate category for farmers in EU-SILC

* ‘Students’ and ‘other inactive persons’ are categorised in EU-SILC only.

Table 1.15: Percentage of Persons Falling Below 60% of Median Income by Presence of Children and Age of Household Reference Person

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
Aged < 65 No Children	5.1	10.2	11.0	14.5	16.2	14.8
Aged <65 with Children	20.6	20.9	19.8	20.6	20.3	24.3
Aged 65+	6.5	20.3	25.3	31.9	36.6	35.3
All	15.6	18.2	19.8	20.9	21.9	22.7

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.

2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

Table 1.16: Percentage of Persons falling below 60% of Median Income by Age

	1994	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Adults	11.1	16.1	18.6	19.9	21.3	22.4
Aged 18-64 (15-64 in EU-SILC)	12.1	14.7	15.9	16.4	17.1	20.1
Aged 65 or more	5.9	24.2	32.9	38.4	44.1	36.4
Children (aged under 18) (0-14 in EU-SILC)	24.5	23.5	22.6	23.7	23.4	23.9

Source: 1994–2001 figures – ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.

2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

Table 1.17 - Percentage Below 60% of Median Income by Gender and Age,

	1994		1997		1998		2000		2001		2003	
	%		%		%		%		%		%	
	Men	Women										
All Adults	10.6	11.6	12.9	19.2	15.9	21.2	17.3	22.3	19.4	23.2	21.0	23.8
Aged 18-64 (15-64 in EU-SILC)	11.3	12.9	12.9	16.5	15.0	16.8	15.4	17.5	16.7	17.4	19.6	20.6
Aged 65 or more	6.4	5.5	13.0	33.1	21.1	41.9	29.2	45.4	36.1	50.2	30.6	40.7

Source: 1994–2001 figures - ESRI – Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland, December 2003.
2003 figures - CSO EU-SILC.

EU COMMON INCOME INDICATORS (LAEKEN INDICATORS)

Table 1.18: EU Common Income Indicators for Poverty and Social Exclusion

INCOME INDICATORS	1999		2001		2003 ⁵
	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland	EU 15 average	Ireland
At-risk-of-poverty rate ⁶					
- After social transfers (60% threshold)	18	15	21	15	21.3
- Before social transfers (income including pensions)	30	24	30	24	33.9
- Before social transfers (income excluding pensions)	37	40	36	24	38.8
- 40% threshold	4	5	5	5	6.3
- 50% threshold	11	9	15	15	12.2
- 70% threshold	28	23	29	23	30.4
At-risk-of poverty threshold					
One adult household	6,721	7,263	7,934	8,253	10,818
2 adults – 2 children household	14,114	15,252	16,662	17,332	22,718
Relative median at risk of poverty gap (%)	21	22	24	22	20.8
Persistent risk of poverty rate % (60% threshold)	12	9	13	9	N/A ⁷
Persistent risk of poverty rate % (50% threshold)	5	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
At risk of poverty rate anchored at 1996 for 1999 and at 1998 for 2001(%)	10	14	13	12	N/A
Income distribution (income quintile share ratio)	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.7
Gini coefficient (%)	32	29	29	28	29.3

Sources:

1999 – Eurostat

2001 – Statistical Annex to the Joint Inclusion Report 2003.

2003 – CSO, EU-SILC.

⁵ No 2003 average for EU yet available

⁶ Based on EU definition of Median Income and using modified OECD equivalence scale.

⁷ The persistent risk of poverty rate is unavailable for 2003, as the calculation of this indicator requires 4 years data.

ANNEX 2

Progress on NAP/inclusion Targets:

ACHIEVED:

D/E&S: Age Appropriate placement of all Travellers in primary school will be achieved by 2003.

D/E&S: Aim to increase participation by students with disabilities at Third Level to 1.8% by 2006

D/ETE: The National Minimum Wage is to be adjusted to €7 per hour with effect from 1 February 2004

D/EH&LG: By end 2004, sufficient and appropriate emergency accommodation to be available to rough sleepers, in conjunction with appropriate outreach services to enable them to access it. This target is to apply to each local authority and health board area. At the end 2003, progress in meeting the target will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised mechanisms put in place to achieve it

D/SFA: (a) To increase the level of payments of Widow(ers) Pensions.

(b) Progress to be made towards the implementation of improvements in qualified adult allowance for pensioner spouses to the level of the old age (non-contributory) pension.

D/SFA: (a) Child Benefit and Child Dependant allowances to be set at 33% - 35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate by 2007.

(b) The final phase of the planned multi-annual increases in Child Benefit rates to be completed in 2004 and 2005.

D/ETE: Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
D/JELR: Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
D/EH&LG: Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
D/E&S: Department of Education & Science
D/CRGA: Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

D/Taoiseach: Department of the Taoiseach
D/SFA: Department of Social & Family Affairs
D/H&C: Department of Health & Children
D/AST: Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism
D/TRANS: Department of Transport
D/Finance: Department of Finance

IN PROGRESS:

D/E&S: Reduce the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with restricted literacy to 10 to 20% by 2007.

D/ETE : Eliminate long-term unemployment as soon as circumstances permit but in any event not later than 2007

D/ETE : Reduce the level of unemployment experienced by Vulnerable Groups towards the national average by 2007

D/ETE: Achieve the objectives set out in the National Employment Action Plan to increase employment rates. [The targets set at Lisbon in 2000 were for rates of 70% for the overall working age population (15-64), 60% for the female working age population and 50% for the age group 55-64. These were to be achieved by 2010. Interim targets for 2007 were set at the Stockholm summit of 2001. These interim targets were 67% for the overall rate and 57% for the female rate]

D/ETE : Increase the employment participation of women to an average of more than 60% in 2010, as envisaged under the National Employment Action Plan 2001

D/CRGA: 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 and research

D/CRGA: Encouraging and facilitating communities to pursue social and economic progress in their areas

Various: To ensure that the basic needs of all families, especially young parents, lone parents, older people and ethnic minorities are met through enhanced and better coordinated State support services

D/CRGA: Improve access to employment, health, education and housing services for rural dwellers.

D/CRGA: Continue to strengthen supports to volunteering and to encourage the self-expression and participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures affecting them

D/EH&LG: To ensure that housing supply is brought more into line with demand and that the housing requirements set out in the NDP (500,000 new units between 2000-2010) are achieved in a planned and coherent way.

D/EH&LG: To deliver 41,500 local authority housing starts (including acquisitions) between 2000 and 2006

D/EH&LG: To deliver an appropriate mix of social and affordable housing measures which meets the needs of different types of households

D/EH&LG: To analyse the information gathered in the next statutory assessment of household needs with a view to ensuring that Government makes the best use of resources available to meet the needs identified.

D/EH&LG: By end 2007, adequate heating systems will be available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people

D/TRANS: To improve transport services to rural dwellers through a combination of State support and community-based provision.

D/TRANS: A transport action plan is being prepared to provide for the further development and implementation of accessible transport services for people with disabilities

D/SFA: To reduce the numbers of those who are 'consistently poor' below 2% and, if possible, eliminate consistent poverty, under the current definition of consistent poverty. Specific attention will be paid to particular vulnerable groups in the pursuit of this objective.

D/SFA: To achieve the rate of €150 per week in 2002 terms for the lowest rates of social welfare payments by 2007. During the period of the Plan (2003-2005) increases in the rates will be made in order to achieve this target

D/SFA: Social Welfare pensions to be improved to reach a target level of €200 by 2007

D/SFA: DSFA is to review the contribution being made by the department's income support system to people reconciling work and family life, the review to be completed not later than 2005.

D/AST: To provide funding, under the Sports Capital Programme, on an annual basis to voluntary and community organisations so as to assist with the provision of sporting facilities aimed at increasing levels of participation and improving standards of performance

D/AST: To provide funding, under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS 2001 – 2004), for arts and culture projects throughout the country.

D/H&C: To reduce the gap in premature mortality between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups by at least 10% for circulatory diseases, for cancers and for injuries and poisonings by 2007.

D/H&C: The gap in life expectancy between the Traveller Community and the whole population will be reduced by at least 10% by 2007

D/H&C: Access to orthopaedic services will be improved so that no one is waiting longer than 12 months for a hip replacement. This is an initial short-term action to improve quality of life for older people and it will be reviewed in 2003.

D/H&C: The incidence of youth homelessness will be reduced significantly, through increasing family and community based supports to prevent homelessness and providing appropriate emergency response so as to prevent young people staying homeless and to facilitate their reintegration into the community.

D/H&C: Aim to improve access to planned respite care for carers of disabled people by 2003

D/Taoiseach: The development of more formal expressions of entitlements across the range of public services and the setting of standards and guidelines regarding the standard of service delivery that can be expected by the customer, taking into account the Council of Europe recommendations on access to social rights. Monitoring, by means of indicators, access to services of a given standard and working to improve performance over time.

D/Taoiseach: To raise the level of access to and participation in the Information Society by increasing the numbers using Information and Communication Technologies.

D/JELR: All 14 commitments in relation to D/JELR are in progress.

D/Finance: To the extent that there is any scope for personal tax reductions, progress will continue to be targeted towards removing those on the minimum wage from the tax net.

LIMITED PROGRESS:

D/E&S: Reduce the number of young people who leave the school system early, so that the percentage of those who complete upper second level or equivalent will reach 85% by 2003 and 90% by 2006

D/E&S: The transfer rate of Travellers to post primary schools will be increased to 95% by 2004

D/EH&LG: All Travellers' families identified in the local authority five-year Traveller accommodation programme process as being in need of accommodation will be appropriately accommodated by end 2004

D/H&C: To reduce the gap in low birth weight rates between children from the lowest and highest socio-economic group by 10% from the current level, by 2007.

INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS:

D/E&S: Each third-level institution will double the participation by mature disadvantaged students, including Travellers and refugees, by 2006 (within the 15% quota)

D/H&C: By 2003, national guidelines will be put in place for the provision of respite care services to carers of older people.

UNKNOWN:

D/E&S: Halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006.

WILL TARGET BE MET ON TIME:

- YES:**
- D/E&S:** Age appropriate placement of all Travellers in primary school will be achieved by 2003
 - D/E&S:** Aim to increase participation by students with disabilities at Third Level to 1.8% by 2006
 - D/ETE:** The National Minimum Wage is to be adjusted to €7 per hour with effect from 1 February 2004
 - D/EH&LG:** To analyse the information gathered in the next statutory assessment of household needs with a view to ensuring that Government makes the best use of resources available to meet the needs identified.
 - D/EH&LG:** By end 2004, sufficient and appropriate emergency accommodation to be available to rough sleepers, in conjunction with appropriate outreach services to enable them to access it. This target is to apply to each local authority and health board area. At the end 2003, progress in meeting the target will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised mechanisms put in place to achieve it
 - D/SFA:** (a) To increase the level of payments of Widow/ers Pensions.
(b) Progress to be made towards the implementation of improvements in qualified adult allowance for pensioner spouses to the level of the old age (non-contributory) pension.
 - D/H&C:** Access to orthopaedic services will be improved so that no one is waiting longer than 12 months for a hip replacement. This is an initial short-term action to improve quality of life for older people and it will be reviewed in 2003.
 - D/H&C:** Aim to improve access to planned respite care for carers of disabled People by 2003
- LIKELY:**
- D/E&S:** : Reduce the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with restricted literacy to 10 to 20% by 2007.
 - D/ETE:** Achieve the objectives set out in the National Employment Action Plan to increase employment rates. [The targets set at Lisbon in 2000 were for rates of 70% for the overall working age population (15-64), 60% for the female working age population and 50% for the age group 55-64. These were to be achieved by 2010. Interim targets for 2007 were set at the Stockholm summit of 2001. These interim targets were 67% for the overall rate and 57% for the female rate]

D/ETE: Increase the employment participation of women to an average of more than 60% in 2010, as envisaged under the National Employment Action Plan 2001

D/EH&LG: To ensure that housing supply is brought more into line with demand and that the housing requirements set out in the NDP (500,000 new units between 2000-2010) are achieved in a planned and coherent way.

D/EH&LG: To deliver 41,500 local authority housing starts (including acquisitions) between 2000 and 2006

D/EH&LG: By end 2007, adequate heating systems will be available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people

D/TRANS: To improve transport services to rural dwellers through a combination of State support and community-based provision.

D/TRANS: A transport action plan is being prepared to provide for the further development and implementation of accessible transport services for people with disabilities

D/SFA: To achieve the rate of €150 per week in 2002 terms for the lowest rates of social welfare payments by 2007. During the period of the Plan (2003-2005) increases in the rates will be made in order to achieve this target

D/SFA: Social Welfare pensions to be improved to reach a target level of €200 by 2007

D/AST: To provide funding, under the Sports Capital Programme, on an annual basis to voluntary and community organisations so as to assist with the provision of sporting facilities aimed at increasing levels of participation and improving standards of performance

D/AST: To provide funding, under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS 2001 – 2004), for arts and culture projects throughout the country.

D/H&C: The incidence of youth homelessness will be reduced significantly, through increasing family and community based supports to prevent homelessness and providing appropriate emergency response so as to prevent young people staying homeless and to facilitate their reintegration into the community.

D/Taoiseach: The development of more formal expressions of entitlements across the range of public services and the setting of standards and guidelines regarding the standard of service delivery that can be expected by the customer, taking into account the Council of Europe recommendations on access to social rights. Monitoring, by means of indicators, access to services of a given standard and working to improve performance over time.

D/Taoiseach: To raise the level of access to and participation in the Information Society by increasing the numbers using Information and Communication Technologies.

UNLIKELY: D/E&S : Halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006

D/SFA: DSFA is to review the contribution being made by the department's income support system to people reconciling work and family life, the review to be completed not later than 2005.

NO: D/E&S : Reduce the number of young people who leave the school system early, so that the percentage of those who complete upper second level or equivalent will reach 85% by 2003 and 90% by 2006

D/E&S : The transfer rate of Travellers to post primary schools will be increased to 95% by 2004

D/ETE : Eliminate long-term unemployment as soon as circumstances permit but in any event not later than 2007

D/EH&LG: All Travellers' families identified in the local authority five-year Traveller accommodation programme process as being in need of accommodation will be appropriately accommodated by end 2004

D/H&C: By 2003, national guidelines will be put in place for the provision of respite care services to carers of older people.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE UNDER NAP/INCLUSION 2003-2005

1. OBJECTIVE: TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION IN EMPLOYMENT⁸

<i>Target</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Eliminate long-term unemployment as soon as circumstances permit but in any event not later than 2007</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment⁹: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time¹⁰: <i>No</i></p>	<p>Long-term unemployment rate 1.5% in Q4 2004. The long-term unemployment rate has consistently been between 1 and 2% since 2000, currently approx 28,900 people have been unemployed for 12 months or more. However good progress is being made through the Prevention and Activation Process.</p>	<p>Long term unemployment rate</p>	<p>Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)</p>

⁸ Two Employment Targets – ‘Reduce the level of unemployment experienced by vulnerable groups towards the national average by 2007’ and ‘Increase the employment participation rate of women to an average of more than 60 per cent in 2010, as envisaged under the National Employment Action Plan 2001’ are reported on in Objective 4: To Help the Most Vulnerable’.

⁹ Summary assessment of progress (taken from Implementation Criteria used in EU Joint Employment Report, with addition of new ‘unknown’ category):

<p>Achieve the objectives set out in the National Employment Action Plan to increase employment rates. [Targets – 70% for the overall working age population; 60% for the female working age population and 50% for the 55-64 age group – to be achieved by 2010]</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p><u>Actual Employment Rate</u> 2003: 65.7% 2004: 66.7%</p> <p><u>Female Employment Rate</u> 2003: 55.9% 2004: 57.2%</p> <p><u>Older Age Group Employment Rate</u> 2003: 47.95% 2004: 48.85%</p> <p><u>Older Age Male Employment Rate</u> 2003: 63.45% 2004: 64.15%</p> <p><u>Older Age Female Employment Rate</u> 2003: 32.05% 2004: 33.45%</p>	<p>Employment Rate defined as the number of employed aged 15 – 64 expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 - 64.</p>	<p>Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)</p>
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“Complete” where the reform process is (practically) complete and the desired results have (practically) been achieved;

“In progress” where the policy reform is well advanced and progress in implementation is being made;

“Limited” where the policy response to the recommendation is only partial and implementation is limited;

“Insufficient” where no substantial policy measures going in the right direction have been taken;

“Unknown” where there is insufficient information/data available to assess what progress has been made.

¹⁰Yes/No/Likely/Unlikely/Unknown/Not time bound

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Increase labour market participation levels and job progression rates among women and marginalised and excluded groups</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p><u>Parental Leave</u> The Parental Leave (Amendment) Bill 2004, providing for the recommendations in the Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Parental Leave Act 1998, was published in December 2004. It is expected to be enacted in autumn 2005.</p> <p><u>Maternity Leave</u> The Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act 2004, giving effect to the outstanding recommendations of the Working Group on the Review and Improvement of the Maternity Protection Legislation, commenced on 18 October 2004.</p> <p><u>Adoptive Leave</u> With the purpose of improving the existing adoptive leave provisions in line with the new maternity leave provisions, the Adoptive Leave (Amendment) Bill 2004 is expected to be enacted in the coming months. An increase in adoptive leave entitlement by 2 weeks to 16 weeks was implemented by Ministerial Order on 19 November 2004.</p> <p><u>Equality Studies Unit –</u> The Equality Studies Unit (ESU) of the Equality Authority, which is funded by the Employment and Human Resources Development Operation Programme (EHRDOP) of the National Development</p>	<p>Implementation of recommendations in the Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Parental Leave Act 1998</p> <p>Research and report on Male/Female Wage Differentials</p> <p>Achievement of targets on equal opportunities childcare provision</p>	<p>Report of the P2000 Expert Working Group report, the Commission on the Family and the Report of the National Forum for Early Childhood Education. National Childcare Census 1999 - 2000. Regional Operational Programme complements targets. Developing Childcare in Ireland – a review of progress on the implementation of the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 – 2006.” Available on www.justice.ie.</p>

	<p>Plan 2000-2006 (NDP), focuses on exclusion and discrimination in the labour market as covered by equality legislation and for particular groups named in the EHRDOP. Ongoing ESU projects include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studies examining equality policy and practice in individual EHRDOP education and training measures, which are carried out in partnership with implementing agencies, - A research project on the mainstreaming of training and employment services for people with disabilities, - Production of information and other resources to support the development of capacity to promote equality and accommodate diversity in education, training and labour market provision. <p><u>Gender pay gap</u> A Consultative Group Report to Government on Male/Female Wage Differentials has been published and distributed to interested parties. Research into the gender pay gap for graduates, arising from the Report's recommendations is expected to be completed by mid 2005.</p> <p><u>Equality for Women Measure – Phase II</u> The organisations receiving funding, under the RAPID Strand of Phase II of the Equality for Women Measure, will target disadvantaged women living in RAPID designated areas under the following strands: improving women's access to education, training and employment; achieving equality for women in the</p>		
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	<p>workplace and business; increasing participation of women in the workplace and in local authority/agency planning and development structures.</p> <p><u>The Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 - 2006 (EOCP)</u></p> <p>To the end of May 2005, 2,497 grant applications under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 - 2006 (EOCP) have been approved, making almost €96 million in capital, staffing and quality improvement grants for Childcare nationwide. This funding has been provided under the NDP, with the assistance of the ERDF and ESF. A total of €341 million has been approved for a wide range of capital and staffing projects across the country and, on completion of the EOCP, this funding is projected to create some 36,000 new centre based childcare places and will support 30,476 existing places. It is noteworthy that over 24,600 of these new places had already opened by end 2004. Much of the funding remaining under the current strand of the EOCP is required for ongoing support towards the staffing costs of community based not for profit childcare services located in disadvantaged areas and for the continuing support of projects which enhance the quality of childcare in Ireland. Also, 2,213 childcare staff, working directly with children in disadvantaged areas, have been supported under the Programme. To the end of May 2005, over €66.5 million was committed to funding childcare services operating in RAPID areas and almost €31 million was committed</p>		
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	<p>to funding childcare services in CLÁR areas, supporting urban and rural regeneration in areas of disadvantage.</p> <p>Since it was launched, overall funding for the 2000-2006 Programme has increased from €18 million to €499.3 million or by 57%, the most recent increase being an additional €50 million announced in Budget 2005 under the Capital Investment Framework to 2007. A further €40 million in additional funding for the period from the end of the National Development Plan to 2009 was also included in the Budget 2005 announcement.</p>		
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2. OBJECTIVE: TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO RESOURCES, RIGHTS, GOODS AND SERVICES

<i>Target</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To reduce the gap in premature mortality between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups by at least 10% for circulatory diseases, for cancers and for injuries and poisonings by 2007.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unknown</i></p>	<p>Policy initiatives being implemented through the National Health Strategy include – Health Impact Assessment; Primary Care Strategy; Cardiovascular Health Strategy; and Cancer Strategy and Programmes.</p> <p>Initiatives are underway which should directly impact on premature mortality, but the absence of baseline data broken down by socio-economic group makes it difficult to measure progress.</p>	<p>Directly standardized mortality rate ratio (DSRR); CSO Mortality and Population Data</p>	<p>National Health Information Strategy, published in 2004, recommends the geocoding of routinely administered patient data.</p> <p>Mortality Statistics from CSO not routinely disaggregated by socio-economic group but 2002 and 2003 statistics have been were been analysed on this basis.</p> <p>Plans are underway to test some proposed standards for demographic and socio-economic data of cardiac patients in specific modules of the National Cardiovascular Information System (NCIS).</p>
<p>To reduce the gap in low birth weight rates between children from the lowest and highest socio-economic group by 10% from the current level, by 2007.</p> <p>Responsible Department:</p>	<p>A Paper commissioned by the Department quantified the effect of socio-economic status on low birthweight in Ireland.</p> <p>The paper identified a lack of clear strategic direction from</p>	<p>The level of low birth weights among the highest and lowest socio-economic groups based on data collected through the National Peri-natal Reporting System (NPRS).</p>	<p>Data on low birth-weight by socio-economic group is collected through the National Peri-natal Reporting System (NPRS) managed on behalf of the Dept of Health and Children by the ESRI and are analysed by the Institute of</p>

<p><i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>limited</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unknown</i></p>	<p>international literature. The intergenerational aspects of the issue of low birthweight also make this a difficult target to achieve within the NAP/inclusion timeframe.</p> <p>Absence of baseline data makes it difficult to measure progress</p>		<p>Public Health.</p>
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>The development of more formal expressions of entitlements across the range of public services and the setting of standards and guidelines regarding the standard of service delivery that can be expected by the customer, taking into account the Council of Europe recommendations on access to social rights.</p> <p>Monitoring, by means of indicators, access to services of a given standard and working to improve performance over time</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Taoiseach</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p>	<p>All Government Departments and Offices have developed and published Customer Charters. They are obliged to report on their performance against the commitments contained in their charters in their 2004 annual reports which are to be published throughout 2005.</p>	<p>Annual reporting of Government Departments on development of customer charters.</p>	<p>Stats from the Department of the Taoiseach</p>

<p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>			
<p>To reduce the numbers of those who are ‘consistently poor’ below 2% and, if possible, eliminate consistent poverty, under the current definition of consistent poverty. Specific attention will be paid to particular vulnerable groups in the pursuit of this objective.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Various</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unknown¹¹</i></p>	<p>In 2005 €12.2 billion will be spent on social welfare, up from €1.29 billion in 2004 and €10.49 billion in 2003. Since 1997 there has been a four fold increase in Child Benefit rates and as a result of Budget 2005, welfare payments have increased by 3 times the expected rate of inflation. However due to the discontinuity between results of the Living in Ireland Survey, under which this consistent poverty target was set, and the EU SILC, it is not possible to conclude how consistent poverty changed between 2001 and 2003.</p>	<p>LIIS undertaken by ESRI between 1994 and 2001 and EU-SILC undertaken by the CSO for 2003</p>	<p>Following on from the release of the EU-SILC figures, a review of the current deprivation indicators which are used to measure consistent poverty in Ireland are being progressed through the OSI Data Strategy and taking account of similar work at EU level. This will be completed by end 2005 and will feed into the next NAP/inclusion.</p>
<p>To achieve the rate of €150 per week in 2002 terms for the lowest rates of adult social welfare payments by 2007. During the period of the Plan (2003-2005) increases in the rates will be made in order to achieve this target.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Social & Family Affairs</i></p>	<p>The lowest adult social welfare rate is currently €148.80 per week, following the €14 per week increase in Budget 2005. Further increases are required in the next two budgets to meet the target.</p>	<p>Published SW rates of payment and indexation measures.</p>	

¹¹ This target was set on the basis of the Living in Ireland Survey methodology; the last such survey being undertaken in 2001. As this survey was replaced by the EU-SILC from 2003, based on a different methodology, it will not be possible to determine whether this target will be achieved.

<p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>			
<p>Social Welfare pensions to be improved to reach a target level of €200 by 2007</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Social & Family Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Budget 2005 provided for a €12 weekly increase for all old age pensions, bringing, inter alia, the contributory pension rate to €179 per week. Further increases will be required in the next two budgets to meet the target.</p>	<p>Published Social Welfare rates of payment.</p>	
<p>(a) Progress to be made towards implementation of improvements in Widow() Pensions. (b) Progress to be made in increasing the level of the Qualified Adult Allowance for pensioner spouses to the level of the old age (non-contributory) pension.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Social & Family Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment:</p>	<p>Part (a) was achieved in 2004. Continued progress needs to be made towards the achievement of the commitment on the pensioner QAA rate.</p>	<p>Published SW rates of payment.</p>	

<p><i>(a) Complete (b) In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>(a) Yes (b) Unknown</i></p>			
<p>(a) Child Benefit and Child Dependant allowances to be set at 33% - 35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate by 2007.</p> <p>(b) The final phase of the planned multi-annual increases in Child Benefit rates to be completed in 2004 and 2005.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Social & Family Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>(a) Complete (b) In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>(a) Yes (b) Not before end of 2005</i></p>	<p>(a) The equivalence level of basic child income support is 33.3% of the minimum social welfare rate, meaning that the child support package announced in Budget 2005 is within the NAP/inclusion target.</p> <p>(b) €1.27 billion investment proposed from 2001, according to programme for Government. The rates currently stand at €41.60 (first two children) and €77.30 (third and subsequent children). The deadline for completing this target has been deferred to Budget 2006.</p>	<p>Child Benefit and Child Dependent Allowances combined as per published social welfare rates.</p>	
<p>DSFA is to review the contribution being made by the Department's income support system to people reconciling work and family life, the review to be completed not later than 2005.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Social & Family Affairs</i></p>	<p>The objective of the overall target has been met by a number of different reviews that are in progress e.g. FIS, CDA and Lone Parents.</p>		

<p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unlikely</i></p>			
<p>The National Minimum Wage is to be adjusted to €7 per hour with effect from 1 February 2004</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Complete</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Yes</i></p>	<p>Implemented 1 February 2004</p> <p>New Minimum Wage of €7.65 with effect from 1 May 2005</p>	<p>Level of the National Minimum Wage</p>	
<p>To ensure that housing supply is brought more into line with demand and that the housing requirements set out in the NDP (500,000 new units between 2000-2010) are achieved in a planned and coherent way.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p>	<p>There have been 305,882 completions between January 2000 and the end of 2004, or 61% of the NDP target.</p>	<p>Number of new home completions</p>	<p>Based on 2004 output levels, there is currently 5 years supply of serviced residential land nationally and over 7 years in Dublin.</p> <p>It is not possible at present to give a breakdown of house completions according to CLÁR and RAPID areas, but its feasibility will be examined.</p>

<p>Will target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>			
<p>To deliver 41,500 local authority housing starts (including acquisitions) between 2000 and 2006</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Total starts achieved to end of 2004 was 24,964 (or 60.2% of target).</p> <p>Less than anticipated output levels for social housing can be attributed to higher than anticipated construction costs.</p>	<p>Number of local authority housing units delivered.</p>	<p>Local authorities have prepared multi-annual housing action plans to cover the period 2004 – 2008, which aim to deliver the optimum level of quality housing in a manner which breaks cycles of disadvantage and dependency.</p>
<p>To deliver an appropriate mix of social and affordable housing measures which meets the needs of different types of households</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>The needs of over 46,000 households were met under social and affordable housing measures between 2000 and 2004. In 2002 there were 48,413 households in need of local authority housing.</p> <p>This year some €billion will be spent on social and affordable housing measures which is double the expenditure in 2000.</p> <p>Sufficient land released in 2004 to allow for 8,891 affordable housing units during 2004 –</p>	<p>Number of households assessed as being in need of housing.</p>	<p>The results of the 2005 housing needs assessment will be published in October 2005. The assessment will provide information on the categories of household in need of LA housing.</p> <p>Local authorities are required in their housing strategies to address the housing needs of all sectors of the existing and future population in their area which should provide for an appropriate mix of dwelling types and size to cater for the broad range of housing needs.</p>

	2006.)		
<p>Halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Education and Science</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Unknown</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unlikely</i></p>	<p>Surveys show the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties at about 10% nationally and about 27-33% for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>This will be further addressed by literacy and numeracy supports under the action plan for educational inclusion including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new advisory service at primary level • More access to initiatives such as Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery and First Steps • A new family literacy project • ICT investment. 	Literacy levels in schools.	National assessments, OECD PISA survey and recent surveys of disadvantaged primary schools by the Educational Research Centre and the Department of Education and Science's Inspectorate will provide the necessary baseline data
<p>Reduce the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with restricted literacy to 10 to 20% by 2007.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Education and Science</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time:</p>	<p>The International Adult Literacy Survey 1995 found that 25 per cent of Irish Adults aged 16 – 64 possessed the lowest level of literacy skills – Level 1. Demographic change and rising levels of education among the population will reduce this proportion to below 20%.</p> <p>Being addressed by prioritising</p>	Proportion of adults with restricted literacy. Levels of participation in adult learning schemes.	The CSO proposes to conduct a survey of participation by adults in education and training in late 2006 or 2007. This will improve the quality and scope of data on adult participation in education and training. The CSO included a module on adult learning in QNHS in Q2 2003.

<i>Likely</i>	adult literacy within the field of adult education. Special programmes have also been introduced which are targeted at groups with particular literacy needs. Literacy programmes in the workplace are also being implemented.		
Reduce the number of young people who leave the school system early, so that the percentage of those who complete upper second level or equivalent will reach 85% by 2003 and 90% by 2006 Responsible Department: <i>Education and Science</i> Summary Assessment: <i>Limited</i> Will Target be met on time: <i>No</i>	While retention to upper second level has remained relatively constant at around 82% in recent years, the equivalent educational attainment among 18-24 year olds is nearing 90%. Attainment equivalency will be facilitated by the ongoing development of the national qualifications framework. The new action plan on educational inclusion will include a number of measures to promote retention to upper second level.	Early school leaving rates / school retention rates	-ESRI Annual Schools Leavers Survey -NESF report on Early School Leavers 2002 -D/E&S Statistical reports -CSO: NQHS and Measuring Ireland's progress in 2004
Commitment	Progress Update	Indicator(s)	Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues
To analyse the information gathered in the next statutory assessment of household needs with a view to ensuring that Government makes the best use of resources available to meet the	Ongoing – Finalised data expected September 2005	The Assessment of Need 2005	The 2005 assessment of need is more rigorous than heretofore and requires local authorities to submit data in electronic format for input into a data warehouse. This will facilitate analysis of aggregate data

<p>needs identified.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Yes</i></p>			<p>in respect of all households, including homeless households. It is also envisaged that a new IT system being developed for housing authorities will provide information on housing needs on a more regular basis in the future.</p>
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Drive forward the range of proofing mechanisms (poverty, equality and others) necessary to ensure that policies and programmes are developed in such a way as to achieve the maximum impact in reducing and eliminating poverty and social exclusion</p> <p>To undertake policy, research and legislative initiatives for development of the equality infrastructure</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p>	<p><u>Proofing</u> Work is progressing on an integrated poverty-proofing template that will focus on the wider equality agenda.</p> <p>The Working Group on Equality Proofing will shortly report on its activities to the Steering Group on Sustaining Progress. There are a number of programmes, run through 2004, currently being finalised e.g. the Manual on Equality Proofing for Community Groups, the Equal Status Review in the North Western Health Board, and follow up to the Pilot Projects on Equality Proofing in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a programme of work on the poverty/inequality. • Production of the second progress report of the Committee to monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of 	

<p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>FÁS.</p> <p><u>Travelling Community</u> The Second Progress Report of the Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community is currently being finalised and will be published during 2005. A High Level Group on Traveller Issues was established under the aegis of the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, with a remit to ensure that the relevant statutory agencies involved in the full range of services to Travellers focus on the immediate and practical delivery of such services, including accommodation.</p> <p><u>Transposing EU directives in relation to race, employment and gender Equal Treatment</u> The Equality Act 2004, enacted in July 2004, amends the Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000. It implements three EU Directives, the Race Directive (2000/43/EC), the Framework Employment</p>	<p>the recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend equality legislation in order to transpose EU directives in relation to race, employment and Gender Equal Treatment. • Review the Employment Equality Act 1998 and Equal Status Acts 	
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	<p>Directive (2000/78/EC) and the Gender Equal Treatment in Employment Directive (2002/73/EC).</p> <p><u>Review of the Employment Equality Act 1998 and Equal Status Acts</u></p> <p>The findings of research by University College Cork (UCC) were published on 3 September 2004 in a report entitled 'Extending the Scope of Employment Equality Legislation: Comparative Perspectives on the Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination'. The research findings and the information obtained through the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform's (D/JELR) consultations in relation to the review will inform any future policy decisions. The outcome of the review of the Employment Equality Act 1998 will help inform the review of the Equal Status Act 2000.</p>		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
Develop more formal expressions of entitlements across the range of	<u>The Courts Service</u> The Courts Service regularly	As per commitment	Civil Legal Aid:-In house statistics on a monthly basis are

<p>public services and the setting of standards and guidelines regarding the standard of service delivery that can be expected by the customer - Access to Legal Services</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>updates its Customer Service Action Plan and has established a number of focus groups for service users.</p> <p>The Courts Service continues to cooperate with the National Adult Literacy Agency to raise awareness of the issues facing people with literacy difficulties who find themselves involved with the legal system. The Service has also made advances in the drive to make information available for those users of the courts for whom English is not their first language.</p> <p><u>Civil Legal Aid</u> The Legal Aid Board has recently updated their Customer Charter and has a Customer Compliant system in operation.</p> <p>Funding for the Legal Aid Board was increased for the purpose of enabling the Board to progress towards meeting its objectives of ensuring that a service is provided to all persons within a period of about four months.</p>		<p>used to monitor the situation in each Legal Aid centre and through this the Board can move to alleviate any large backlogs in civil cases.</p>

<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To the extent that there is any scope for personal tax reductions, progress will continue to be made towards removing those on the minimum wage from the tax net and moving towards the target where 80% of all earners pay tax at not more than the standard rate.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Finance</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not time bound. Target was achieved in Budget 2005. However, the minimum wage was subsequently increased in May 2005. The re-exemption of the minimum wage from taxation will be addressed in the context of future budgets, consistent with overall economic and budgetary strategy.</i></p>	<p>The target of exempting the minimum wage from the tax net was achieved in Budget 2005. However, as a result of the subsequent increase in the value of the minimum wage to €7.65 per hour from 1 May 2005, the position is that, in 2005, a single person on the minimum wage will have 94.4% of their income free of tax. This compares to a position pre-Budget 2005 where only 90% was free of tax. When the minimum wage was introduced in April 2000, less than 64% of the minimum wage annualised was free of tax. Budget 2005 also increased the Age Exemption limits for income tax once again. In four years, the limits have increased by well over 50% whereas inflation for the same period is expected to increase by slightly less than 13.5%. Under this system, those aged 65 or over are exempt from tax up to specified limits – for 2005 these limits are €16,500 in the case of a single or widowed person and €3,000 in the case of a married</p>	<p>The percentage of annualised equivalent of minimum wage free of tax</p>	

	couple where one or both are aged 65 or over. Over the last eight budgets, 75,700 elderly people have been taken out of the tax net.		
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3. OBJECTIVE: TO PREVENT THE RISKS OF EXCLUSION

<i>Target</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To raise the level of access to and participation in the Information Society by increasing the numbers using Information and Communication Technologies.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Taoiseach</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>According to CSO statistics 727,300 people use a computer every day. Computer ownership and internet usage are strongly related to age, employment and geographical location.</p> <p>A revised national e-Inclusion strategy has been developed based on the findings and recommendations of a comprehensive review of national e-Inclusion policy.</p> <p>Projects are underway to build the ICT capacity of the Community & Voluntary sector by establishing an online presence and providing them with the ability to communicate with members, interested parties and citizens by means of websites, hosted intranets, secure e-mail and SMS gateways.</p> <p>The Group Broadband Scheme which will be implemented over 3 years has been running since</p>	<p>Usage of computers and broadband access in disadvantaged areas and by vulnerable groups</p>	<p>CSO statistics on how ICTs are being used.</p>

	<p>March 2004 covering a population base of approx 21,000. The scheme, operated by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources will address broadband needs in small, rural or more remote communities.</p>		
<p>By end 2004, sufficient and appropriate emergency accommodation to be available to rough sleepers, in conjunction with appropriate outreach services to enable them to access it.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Complete</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Yes</i></p>	<p>Efforts have concentrated on providing emergency accommodation and in getting people off the streets. It is widely accepted by the statutory and voluntary service providers that sufficient emergency accommodation is available for those who wish to avail of it</p> <p>Homeless fora have been established and local action plans completed in all local authority areas, including a second action plan for Dublin and Cork</p> <p>The D/EHLG has increased the amount it recoups to local authorities in respect of accommodation and services for homeless persons from €12.5m in 1999 to €1m in 2005.</p>	<p>No specific indicators agreed at present.</p>	<p>In response to the need for a comprehensive data system to monitor progress in addressing homelessness, the LINK System was developed to improve and develop services and service delivery to homeless persons to ensure they receive a continuum of care based on an accurate and up to date assessment of their needs.</p> <p>An IT system is being developed to assist local authorities in carrying out their housing functions.</p> <p>Consultants have been engaged to undertake a review of the implementation of the Government's Homeless Strategy and to</p>

			make recommendations for further progress to Government by summer 2005.
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>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 and research</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>Will target be met on time:</i> <i>Unknown</i></p>	<p>A progress report covering the first 3 years of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 was published in March 2005. A mid-term review of the strategy found that its current aims and objectives are sound and that progress is being made across all pillars but did recommend some adjustments to better deliver on the aims of the strategy.</p> <p>The review did not comment on the overall impact of the strategy - this will be done when the strategy is completed.</p>	<p>The Drugs Strategy contains Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) – by which each department and agency measure success in implementing the strategy. Progress in relation to the KPI's is set out in the progress report published in March 2005</p>	<p>The progress report analyses how far the overall strategic objectives of the strategy are being achieved by assessing progress achieved the key performance indicators.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the strategy has proposed new KPI's which concentrate on available data.</p>
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To provide funding, under the Sports Capital Programme, on an annual basis to voluntary and community organisations so as to assist with the provision of</p>	<p>In the period 1999 to 2004 almost €31 million was allocated to 4,271 projects throughout the country.</p>	<p>The Number of organisations/groups selected for funding. The level of funding awarded. Levels of participation. Standards of performance.</p>	

<p>sporting facilities aimed at increasing levels of participation and improving standards of performance, while prioritising the needs of disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Arts, Sport & Tourism</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>		<p>Location of Project beneficiaries.</p>	
<p>To provide funding, under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS 2001 – 2004), for arts and culture projects throughout the country.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Arts, Sport & Tourism</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Some projects were delayed and revised timetables were submitted. Of the five projects selected in the Border, Midland and Western region in 2001 two are fully complete, two are commencing in 2005 and one is progressing satisfactorily. Of all the applications selected in the S&E region in 2001 only 9 have received any NDP funding. However funding is ongoing.</p> <p>In assessing those projects for approval, account was taken of the need for the facility in the geographical catchment area. In addition, the very significant</p>	<p>The number of projects selected for funding. The level of funding awarded The impact of projects funded on disadvantaged communities or vulnerable groups</p>	

	increase in cultural and heritage tourism will result in increased employment opportunities for those living in the areas targeted for investment.		
<p>Continue to strengthen supports to volunteering and to encourage the self-expression and participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>Under the White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector, a total of €12.75m over the past 3 years has been allocated to the Funding Scheme to Support the Role of Federations, Networks and Umbrella bodies, the Funding Scheme for Training and Supports, the Anti- Poverty Networks, and The Wheel</p>		
Commitment	Progress Update	Indicator(s)	Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues
<p>Prevention of homelessness among offenders</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p>	<p>HOST (Homeless Offenders Strategy Team) - a multi-agency unit within the Probation and Welfare Service of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has developed and published a strategic plan (2004-2007) the main aims of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a coherent, integrated implementation mechanism that contributes to and facilitates the development of a more comprehensive and co-ordinated delivery of services to homeless offenders by all relevant agencies 	<p>The Probation and Welfare Service has funded and commissioned major research on prisoner homelessness. This research, carried out by the Centre for Social and Educational Research at the Dublin</p>

<p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>which is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and minimise homelessness amongst offenders; and • Improve access to accommodation for homeless offenders. <p>The Probation and Welfare Service continues to work closely, at national and local level, with a range of organisations in the statutory and voluntary sectors, to improve access to accommodation and related services for homeless offenders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement actions set out in Government's Preventative Strategy • Relevant statistics on ex-offender homelessness 	<p>Institute of Technology, tracked the progression of a sample of offenders in Dublin through the courts and prison, with a particular reference to accommodation issues facing them. The research, which will be published shortly, will provide statistical data on homelessness amongst offenders and will make a valuable contribution to the planning and provision of services in this area.</p> <p>Review of Government Homeless Strategy (2005). Local authority assessments of homelessness and housing need, as co-ordinated by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (although offenders are not specifically recognised as a distinct sub-group among the homeless in this regard; thus making absolute accuracy difficult). Periodic or local data collection and research by the Probation and Welfare</p>
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			Service and Irish Prison Service, as they occur are another possible source.
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To combat domestic violence through awareness raising and other prevention measures and to promote co-ordination between the various statutory and other agencies involved in this field.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>The number of incidents of domestic violence reported to An Garda Síochána in 2003 was 8,452, a decrease of 21% on the number of incidents reported in 2002.</p> <p>A number of awareness raising campaigns have been conducted over the last number of years. The most recent campaign consisted of a TV advertisement aired on national television during February and March 2005. Funding has been provided by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to various regional and local groups and organisations for the purposes of awareness raising initiatives and prevention measures in relation to violence against women, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.</p> <p>The National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women has</p>	<p>Number of incidents of domestic violence reported to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An Garda Síochána and (ii) support services for victims. <p>Level of public awareness and attitudes</p>	<p>As part of the recent awareness raising campaign, a survey of public awareness and attitudes to the issue of domestic violence was conducted. The survey was undertaken in 2 stages – a pre-campaign survey in December 2004 and a follow-up survey in May 2005. The final results show a relatively high rate of public awareness of domestic violence with 58% of respondents being aware of various advertising or promotions in relation to the issue. Results in relation to attitudes were also relatively high, for example, only 10% of respondents believe that domestic violence is a private matter only for the two people involved. It is intended that further surveys of this nature will be conducted over the next few</p>

	<p>commenced the development of a long term awareness strategy in relation to violence against women, including domestic violence.</p> <p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is supporting (financially) the operation and development of a number of intervention programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence throughout the country. These Programmes have recently been independently evaluated and the evaluation report is due to be published shortly.</p>		<p>years.</p> <p>The National Crime Council has conducted a national study on domestic violence, which will include prevalence of and public attitudes to the issue. This report is due to be published in Summer 2005.</p>
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4. OBJECTIVE: TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE

<i>Target</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Reduce the level of unemployment experienced by vulnerable groups towards the national average by 2007</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Varies according to each vulnerable group – see www.socialinclusion.ie for further details</i></p>	<p>A strategic objective of Employment policy is to increase the labour market participation and progression rates among women, marginalised and excluded groups.</p> <p>The EQUAL Initiative tests new ways of approaching training, education and employment support with the aim of mainstreaming examples of best practice.</p> <p>Examples of initiatives which support vulnerable groups in employment: Expanding the Workforce Workway Project Ex-offender Employment Project</p> <p>Unemployment Rates Q4 2004 - National: 4.3% Female: 3.9% 55 – 59: 2.8% 60 – 64: 1.9%</p>	<p>Unemployment rate among vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) Census 2002</p>

	<p>QNHS 2004 Q1 showed that just over 37% of persons aged 15 to 64 who were ill or had a disability were in employment compared with an overall rate of 65% of the total population in the same category.</p> <p>2002 Census Traveller unemployment rate 69% National unemployment rate 8.8%</p>		
<p>Increase the employment participation of women to an average of more than 60 per cent in 2010, as envisaged under the National Employment Action Plan 2001</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Employment rate for women 2003: 55.9% Q4 2004: 57.2%.</p> <p>Expanding the Workforce provides a gateway for women returnees and lone parents into the labour market</p>	Employment rate for women	Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

<p>The gap in life expectancy between the Traveller Community and the whole population will be reduced by at least 10 per cent by 2007.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time <i>Unknown</i></p>	<p>Significant progress is being made through Implementation of <i>Traveller's Health Strategy – a National Strategy 2002-2005</i>, which involves Travellers and Traveller organisations determining health priorities.</p> <p>However, very little data available in relation to the target which makes it difficult to measure progress. The Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study due to commence in 2005 should provide relevant data</p>	<p>The difference in life expectancy between the Traveller population and the whole population.</p>	<p>The Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study due to commence in 2005 should provide relevant data.</p> <p>CSO mortality and population data for comparison purposes.</p>
<p>All Travellers' families identified in the local authority five-year Traveller accommodation programme process as being in need of accommodation will be appropriately accommodated by end 2004</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Limited – New programmes</i></p>	<p>At end of 2004, a total of 1,371 additional families had been provided with, or assisted in the provision of permanent accommodation through the local authority five-year programme.</p> <p>The number of families on unauthorised sites has been reduced from 1207 to 601.</p> <p>346 existing sites were upgraded to modern standards and 133 basic</p>	<p>Local authority five-year traveller accommodation programme 2000 – 2004 which identified a total of 3,785 accommodation units as being the current and projected needs.</p>	<p>The data source used to monitor progress is the annual count of traveller families, which is carried out by local authority officials on the last Friday in November every year. On foot of the 2004 review of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, the format for the count of Traveller families undertaken annually by local authorities is to be reviewed</p> <p>A further set of programmes</p>

<p><i>being finalised by local authorities to cover 2005 – 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Will target be met on time:</i> <i>No – target date has passed</i></p>	<p>service bays provided for Travellers awaiting permanent accommodation.</p> <p>The Operation of Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 was reviewed and all of its recommendations published and accepted by the Minister in January 2005.</p>		<p>covering the period 2005-2008 are being finalised by local authorities, with a revised target on the number of families to be accommodated.</p>
<p>Aim to increase participation by students with disabilities at Third Level to 1.8% by 2006</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Education and Science</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>Complete</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Yes</i></p>	<p>A survey carried out by the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability (AHEAD) showed a first year undergraduate participation rate for People with Disabilities of 1.4% and 1.1% of the total undergraduate population in 1998/99. Initial results from a more recent survey by AHEAD indicate that for the 2003/04 academic year 2.4% of all undergraduate students have a disability.</p> <p>Under the Fund for Students with Disabilities, provisional figures indicated that €6.73m was allocated to some 1,800 students in the 2004/05 academic year.</p>	<p>Percentage of students with disabilities at Third Level</p>	

<p>Age Appropriate placement of all Travellers in primary school will be achieved by 2003</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Education and Science</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Complete</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Yes</i></p>	<p>Almost 6,000 Traveller children in primary schools in 2003. Feedback from the Visiting Teachers for Travellers service indicates that the majority of Traveller children in primary school are in age appropriate places.</p>	<p>Number of Travellers at primary school</p>	<p>Traveller children enrolment returns are being considered in the context of the development of the Primary Pupil Database</p>
<p>The transfer rate of Travellers to post primary schools will be increased to 95% by 2004</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Education and Science</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Limited</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>No</i></p>	<p>85% transfer rate to post-primary level in 2004. Approx. 45% of Travellers in the age cohort are attending post-primary schools</p> <p>A Traveller Education Strategy is being developed, which will provide recommendations on the way forward in relation to Traveller education</p>	<p>Percentage of Travellers transferring from primary to post primary schools</p>	<p>Enrolment of Traveller children at post primary schools</p>
<p>Each third-level institution will double the participation by mature disadvantaged students, including Travellers and refugees, by 2006 (within the 15% quota)</p> <p>Responsible Department:</p>	<p>Recent statistical data from the Department of Education and Science show that in 2003/04 approximately 10% of full-time new entrants to higher education were mature students (i.e. over 23 years of age).</p>	<p>Number of mature disadvantaged, Travellers and refugees at third level</p>	<p>2002 Census Data on the Irish Traveller Community and Education</p> <p>HEA statistics on Higher Education Participation</p>

<p><i>Education and Science</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Insufficient</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Unknown</i></p>	<p>Data from the CSO indicates that 1.4 per cent of adult Travellers have a third-level qualification.</p>		
<p>Access to orthopaedic services for older people will be improved so that no one is waiting longer than 12 months for a hip replacement. This is an initial short-term action to improve quality of life for older people.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Under the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) programme, in most instances, anyone waiting more than three months can be facilitated.</p>	<p>Number of people over 65 waiting longer than 12 months for a hip replacement.</p>	<p>There is currently no age breakdown making it difficult to focus specifically on the target group. The NTPF system is being set up to record date of birth of patients on waiting lists. It should then be possible to extract data on patients over 65.</p>
<p>By 2003, national guidelines will be put in place for the provision of respite care services to carers of older people.</p>	<p>The issue of guidelines for the provision of respite services to carers of older people will be referred to the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)</p>	<p>Publication of National Guidelines</p>	

<p>Responsible Department: <i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>Insufficient</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>No</i></p>	<p>which is in the process of being established.</p>		
<p>By end 2007, adequate heating systems will be available in all local authority rented dwellings provided for older people</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Environment, Heritage & Local Government.</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>A programme was introduced in 2004 to accelerate the provision of central heating facilities. During 2004 €16m was spent upgrading 2900 local authority houses and flats under the scheme. A total of €36 has been provided for 2005.</p>	<p>Number of new heating systems installed in local authority housing. (At the outset of the programme, it was estimated that 45,000 local authority dwellings required heating facilities)</p>	<p>Local authorities will address the number of outstanding LA dwellings in need of heating upgrade as implementation proceeds.</p>
<p>Aim to improve access to planned respite care for carers of disabled people by 2003</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Health & Children</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p>	<p>In recent years there has been a continued expansion of residential support services (respite) for people with intellectual disabilities. The 2005 Budget extended availability of the DSFA Respite Care Grant and increasing it to EUR from</p>	<p>Level of access to respite care</p>	<p>Intellectual Disability Database Report</p> <p>DSFA Statistical Reports</p>

<p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Has been met</i></p>	<p>835 EUR to 1,000 EUR. This measure will benefit approximately 32,800 carers, including those who may not be entitled to Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit Intellectual.</p> <p>Disability Database Report 2004 shows 3, 978 receiving a service, an increase of 357% in number of individuals since 1996.</p>		
<p>To improve transport services to rural dwellers through a combination of State support and community-based provision.</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Transport</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Likely</i></p>	<p>Following the recommendations of a comprehensive appraisal of the initiative, the Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) which commenced in 2002 has since been extended by the Minister to 2006, with further funding of €4.5million being provided in 2005. The Minister has indicated his intention to allocate funding of the order of €million in 2006. Total funding committed to end 2006 is €18 million. There are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 34 RTI Groups in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of rural transport groups being funded. - Number of routes. - Numbers using the service. - Levels of funding. 	<p>Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) reports and ADM newsletters are published on the ADM website (www.adm.ie).</p>

	<p>operation in 25 counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over 300,000 passenger trips in 2003, with 514,000 in 2004. ▪ 16,000 rural residents benefit, 75% are female, 66% are aged 66 or over. 		
<p>Improve access to employment, health, education and housing services for rural dwellers.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>Under the CLÁR programme, a range of projects were funded and approved for funding between 2002 and 2005 with €1.62m allocated to 122 projects aimed at increasing employment, €4.92m funding for 111 projects in the health area, €1.3m funding for 370 education related projects and €3.7m allocated to 1,896 projects to improve services to rural housing. A further €6.1m has been allocated under this final heading and the projects are currently being identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to create additional jobs through improved productivity and delivery of services, and actual jobs created • improved health services, • improved living conditions 	
<p>To ensure that the basic needs of all families, especially young parents, lone parents, older</p>	<p>A Review of Community and Local Development Structures has been taking</p>	<p>Review of Community and Local Development Structures - <i>Number of grants issued to</i></p>	<p>Also considered by DSFA in context of developing a Family Strategy in 2005.</p>

<p>people and ethnic minorities are met through enhanced and better coordinated State support services</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Various: (including Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and Social and Family Affairs via Family Strategy)</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>place since 2004 with the purpose of improving cohesion between all bodies engaged in social inclusion. Following this County/City Development Boards now endorse the plans and programmes of bodies operating within their areas. In 2004, €3,248,600 was allocated, and €4.022m will be allocated in 2005 to proposals for improved co-ordination and delivery of services.</p>	<p><i>CDBs for improved cohesion plans</i></p>	
<p>Commitment/Action</p>	<p>Progress Update</p>	<p>Indicator(s)</p>	<p>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</p>
<p>A transport action plan is being prepared to provide for the further development and implementation of accessible transport services for people with disabilities</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Transport</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time:</p>	<p>Since 2000 all new buses purchased for the urban services of Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus are now low floor and wheelchair accessible. Similarly in the rail sector all new carriages are specified to full accessibility standards. The LUAS, Dublin's tram system, has been designed and is operating as a fully accessible service. In Sept '04 the Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levels of accessibility based on D/Transport accessibility audit. - Percentages of trains and buses that are accessible. 	<p>The completed accessibility audit of all railway stations, commissioned by Iarnród Éireann in 2003, provides a comprehensive assessment of the works that have to be carried out at each station to make it fully accessible to people with mobility and sensory impairments. A programme of station investment is being developed based on the findings of this audit. In particular,</p>

<p><i>Likely</i></p>	<p>of Transport was one of six Departments who published Outline Sectoral Plans for the development of services for people with disabilities in their sectors. The Plan is a draft consultation document, which outlines the proposals in relation to the ongoing development of accessible public transport services for people with mobility and sensory impairments. As a result of an Accessibility Audit of railway stations a programme of station investment is being developed.</p>		<p>preparatory work has commenced for a railway station refurbishment programme on the Dublin-Cork route which will complement the arrival of new accessible rolling stock on this route later this year.</p>
<p>Encouraging and facilitating communities to pursue social and economic progress in their areas</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will target be met on time:</p>	<p>The <i>Local Development Social Inclusion Programme</i> aims to counter disadvantage and promote equality and social and economic inclusion. To date over 250,000 people have directly participated in these services An allocation of €15.7million has being made available for the Programme in 2005 (a 6% increase over 2004).</p>	<p>Community Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of areas identified for inclusion, and number of projects funded, also broken down by RAPID and CLAR areas - Number of proposals from CDB's accepted for funding – broken down by RAPID and CLAR areas - Others as suggested in OSI/FCPA review of revised NDP Programme Complement 	

<i>Not time bound</i>	(More details on progress in relation to this, the Community Development Programme and the RAPID Programme are contained in Annex 5)	RAPID – number of projects etc approved for funding	
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Application of Positive Sentence Management Strategy (PSM)</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In Progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>Positive Sentence Management (PSM) is envisaged as a mechanism for effective integration and co-ordination of all services and programmes designed to meet the complex and diverse needs of offenders. The report, of the Irish Prison Service established PSM Scoping Group, including terms of reference for its introduction, is due to be completed in mid -2005.</p>	<p>Operation of Positive Sentence Management</p>	<p>Indicators will be developed as part of the ongoing development of Positive Sentence Management</p>
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Continue ongoing work in relation to prisoners' education and training, and post-release initiatives</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p>	<p>At end 2004, the participation rate in education in the prisons was 51%; almost half of the participants were intensively involved (i.e., for more than 10 hours per week of classes). The Irish Prison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of prisoner participation in education and work/training. • Implementation of service-wide strategies in relation to education and work/training. 	<p>A work/training database is under development at present within the Irish Prison Service. It is envisaged that the database will be rolled out to all institutions by the end of 2005. The database will be used to facilitate reports on</p>

<p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>Service published Guidelines for Quality Literacy Work in Prisons and ‘Prison Adult Literacy Survey - Results and Implications’ in 2003. Implementation of both the Survey recommendations and the Guidelines is ongoing. In April 2004, the Irish Prison Service published the Curriculum Review Group Report. The Report continues to inform the future development of the prison education curriculum. The Irish Prison Service is continuing its efforts to maximise the skill training opportunities for prisoners to enhance their employment prospects on release.</p> <p>The Prison Education Service continues to engage in structured efforts to help prisoners in the transition from prison to the community, through the putting in place of post-release support in relation to a number of institutions.</p>		<p>the number of prisoner participants in work/training activities, certified vocational courses and the number of prisoners who achieve qualifications or certification.</p>
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<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>To foster public safety and prevent crime through better detection, use of approved youth diversion programmes and restorative schemes, optimum use of community based sanctions and reducing the level of re-offending.</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>The Garda National Juvenile Office processed 20,607 referrals under the Juvenile Diversion Programme (some juveniles are referred for multiple crimes) in 2004. Since the commencement of the relevant Part of the Children Act in May 2002 to December 2004, approximately 300 restorative justice events (specifically restorative cautioning and restorative conferencing) have been held under the Juvenile Diversion Programme. Early assessments indicated a very high level of satisfaction from all those involved in the process.</p> <p>Sixty-four Garda Youth Diversion Projects, involving approximately 3,150 participants, are funded.</p> <p>The Probation & Welfare Service provides funding for 70 projects and programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation of an effective Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme • Implementation of the Garda Youth Diversion Project Guidelines by end 2006 • The number of participants in Garda Youth Diversion Projects • Provision of restorative justice schemes • Provision of community sanctions for use by Courts and following detention or imprisonment • Provision of pilot schemes by the Probation and Welfare Service which replicate provisions of the Children Act, 2001 • Number of offenders placed on community sanctions and other Probation and Welfare managed orders, including post release orders 	<p>Ongoing evaluation of restorative justice practice is being carried out by the Garda Research Unit. It is intended that as Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers become more skilled in administering restorative justice, they will be able to focus on the more complex and high-risk offenders, with a view to further reducing the incidence of recidivism.</p> <p>Garda Youth Diversion Projects operate within the overall framework of a set of guidelines which were published in May 2003.</p> <p>A database has recently been developed which will assist both the D/JELR and An Garda Síochána Community Relations Section in monitoring data on all aspects of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects. Probation and Welfare Service Research and Statistics section provide statistics relating to Probation</p>

	<p>which support the work of the Service in managing offenders in the community, of which, forty two offer a service to young offenders.</p> <p>The target group for the projects and programmes supported by the Service are offenders who have been before the Courts or who have been released following a period of detention - whether it be in a detention school or prison.</p> <p>The overall objective of the projects/programmes is to assist the reintegration of young offenders into their community and to reduce the risk of re-offending. Projects can be divided between educational/vocational, counselling and offender reintegration, substance misuse treatment and aftercare, restorative justice and those providing residential services and day assessment.</p>		<p>and Welfare Service referrals etc.</p> <p>Reports on the number and percentage of Garda Youth Diversion Projects located in RAPID areas and the number and percentage of participants broken down by gender.</p> <p>A Case tracking system, is being developed in the Probation and Welfare Service, which will provide statistics, inter alia, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the number of offenders referred by the Courts for supervision in the community including those on release from prison, detention centres and detention schools (ii) the volume of probation reports requested by the Courts
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	<p>The Family Conference provision of the Children Act 2001 was placed on a statutory footing with effect from 29 July 2004. This conference, which is convened by the Probation and Welfare Service on the direction of the Court where it considers that the preparation of an action plan would be desirable in an individual case.</p> <p>Development of a pilot mentoring programme has taken place in Dublin, staff recruited and offices established. It is planned to recruit volunteers to act as mentors later this year.</p> <p>Development of a Case Tracking System in the Probation and Welfare Service will allow the Service to analyse information regarding the use of Community Sanctions and other Orders annually. Information available will</p>		
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	<p>include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of Probation Reports requested by Courts • The number of offenders placed on Community Sanctions. • Volume of family conference referred by the Courts • The number of offenders referred for supervision in the community. 		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>A five-year National Women's Strategy is to be developed</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In Progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>Work commenced on the drafting of the Strategy in January 2005 with the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Committee and a Consultation Group (comprising of the Social Partners and the National Women's Council of Ireland). It is expected that the Strategy, which will now be ten years in duration, will be published by the end of 2005.</p>	<p>Production of National Women's Strategy</p>	
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>Increase the participation of</p>	<p>The Government launched</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a National 	

<p>people with disabilities in work and in society generally and to support people with a disability, and their families, to lead full and independent lives</p> <p><i>Responsible Department: The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform was to the fore in the development of the National Disability Strategy along with the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion. The Strategy contains separate components that are the responsibility of the relevant Government Departments.</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment: In Progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time: Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>the National Disability Strategy in September 2004. The Strategy is a framework of positive action measures to support participation by people with disabilities in Irish society. The Strategy comprises four elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Bill 2004; • Comhairle (Amendment) Bill 2004; • Six Outline Sectoral Plans; and • A commitment to provide over €1 billion additional funding for high priority disability support services mainly in the health and education areas for 2005 to 2009. <p>The Strategy builds on existing policy and legislation including the Employment Equality Act 1998, the Equal Status Act 2000, the Equality Act 2004 and the Education for Persons with Special</p>	<p>Disability Strategy</p>	
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	<p>Educational Needs Acts 2004 and the policy of mainstreaming service provision for people with disabilities by State agencies.</p> <p>The Disability Bill is currently progressing through the Houses of the Oireachtas and is expected to be enacted shortly.</p>		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>From a gender mainstreaming perspective, there is a need to have increased awareness of the importance of the different experiences of each gender.</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>124 of the 130 measures of the National Development Plan (NDP) are reporting twice yearly to NDP Monitoring Committees on the implementation of the Government commitment to support gender equality under NDP. Following the Mid-Term Review of the NDP, 51 out of the 124 measures have been prioritised for in-depth reporting on this commitment.</p> <p>In the period 2000-2003, more than half of the 124</p>	<p>Gender dis-aggregation of NDP beneficiaries and participants across various policy areas</p>	<p>The NDP Gender Equality Unit considers all available national data sources. For example, the recent publication, <i>Women and Men in Ireland</i>, from the CSO is a useful data source for the Unit's work.</p>

	<p>measures which were required to indicate their impact on gender equality have adopted gender disaggregation indicators to assist with this process. Following the mid-term review in 2003, many of the NDP indicators were revised and further gender disaggregated indicators were developed. An assessment of the number of gender disaggregated indicators will be made on receipt of the material for the April 2005 monitoring committee meetings.</p> <p>All NDP Managing Authorities have been informed of the Government's commitment to gender balance and the gender representation on NDP Monitoring Committees is monitored.</p>		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
The National Action Plan Against Racism will be published and measures agreed	The National Action Plan Against Racism, covering the period 2005-2008, was	as per commitment	

<p>by Government implemented</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>launched in January 2005 as the vehicle for the operation of the Sustaining Progress Special Initiative on Migration and Interculturalism. The Steering Group set up to oversee the implementation of the Plan has commenced operation.</p> <p>The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced details of funding given to organisations under a grant scheme to coincide with the launch of the plan. The aim of the scheme was to enable organisations to raise awareness about racism and highlight cultural diversity in Ireland. A total of €250,000 was allocated to 44 projects nationally.</p> <p>To support the aims of the plan, the Steering Group for the plan announced a grant scheme in May 2005 for the development of actions, initiatives or projects in the area of sport, recreation and</p>		
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	the arts, which encourage participation and involvement of ethnic minority groups. €200,000 was made available under this scheme.		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
<p>A comprehensive framework policy on migration covering the regulation of inflows into the state, as well as integration issues, racism and interculturalism, will be developed in respect of immigrants, emigrants and returning emigrants.</p> <p><i>Responsible Department:</i> <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p><i>Summary Assessment:</i> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>Will Target be met on time:</i> <i>Not time bound</i></p>	<p>Work on the development of the Immigration and Residence Bill is ongoing. Preparatory work has included public consultation and a review of best practice internationally.</p> <p>A discussion document, 'Immigration and Residence in Ireland – Outline policy proposals for an Immigration and Residence Bill' was published on 12 April 2005 inviting comments on the issues concerned by Friday 29th July 2005.</p> <p>The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) continues to address integration issues for refugees and those with leave to remain through a</p>	<p>Publication of an Immigration and Residence Bill following public consultation on policy proposals</p>	

	<p>wide range of activities. These include; funding refugee support groups through the European Refugee Fund (ERF); working with NGO's to develop common agendas; making information available through development of the RIA web site and local visits; and piloting the use of existing local structures to stimulate a more active role in integration activities. In addition, the RIA operates a "small grants" scheme for asylum support groups and ERF funding is available to NGO's for reception projects for asylum seekers.</p> <p>Given that effective implementation of integration policy is best carried out at local level, the use of existing local structures such as County and City Development Boards is being piloted by the RIA's Integration Unit in order to stimulate a more</p>		
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	<p>active role in refugee integration activities.</p> <p>On 1 March 2005 the Irish Government approved the establishment of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) as an executive office within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The Service will incorporate the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform's current structures dealing with asylum, immigration and citizenship. The Visa Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs will transfer to the INIS. Responsibility for the provision of visa services at diplomatic and consular missions abroad will remain with the Department of Foreign Affairs.</p>		
<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Progress Update</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Data Sources/Addressing Data&Indicator issues</i>
Provide the resources for an efficient, fair, independent and transparent procedure for processing asylum applications	Considerable progress continues to be made in relation to asylum application processing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of an efficient, fair, independent and transparent procedure for processing asylum application 	Statistics provided in-house by the relevant agencies.

<p>with the target of deciding on applications within 6 months</p> <p>Responsible Department: <i>Justice, Equality and Law Reform</i></p> <p>Summary Assessment: <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Will Target be met on time: <i>Not Time Bound</i></p>	<p>Some 2,700 cases awaited processing in the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal (RAT) at the end of May 2005 as compared to some 5,400 cases at the end of May 2004 – representing a decrease of 50%. This can also be contrasted with 7,550 cases at year end 2002. Some 734 cases were in the asylum process for over 6 months at the end of May 2005. This may be contrasted with 6,500 such cases in September 2001.</p> <p>A new accelerated process has been introduced for certain categories of applications with a first instance decision provided by the ORAC within an average of 14 working days and on appeal on the papers, where applicable, provided in some 10 working days by the RAT. At present, such cases comprise some 46% of all applications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cases on hands over six months old 	
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ANNEX 3

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Drugs and Rural Development: this Committee, chaired by the Taoiseach and composed of the relevant Ministers, gives overall strategic direction to the development of policies to combat poverty and social exclusion and ensures that their implementation is regularly monitored and promoted at the highest level. It is supported in its work in this area by the Senior Officials and Management Groups referred to below.

Management Group of Assistant Secretaries: This group, chaired by the OSI, is composed of high level representatives of the key Departments involved in combating poverty and social exclusion. It is responsible for overseeing the work of OSI and the implementation of the NAP/inclusion strategy generally.

Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion: This Group is chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach. It maintains a broad overview of social inclusion issues and brings emerging topics to the attention of the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion. It also deals with policy developments relating to meeting the objectives of social inclusion strategies, and specifically with the special initiatives under the partnership agreement, *Sustaining Progress*.

Minister for Social and Family Affairs and Department's Management Advisory Committee: The OSI regularly reports on developments to the Minister, who has specific responsibility for the OSI and for reporting on its activities to the *Oireachtas* (Parliament) (See also below). The Director similarly reports to the Management Advisory Committee of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, of which he is a member.

Oireachtas Committees: The Minister for Social and Family Affairs may be called to present regular progress reports on the implementation of the NAP/inclusion to the Joint Oireachtas Committees on Social and Family Affairs and on European Affairs.

Technical Advisory Group: Work is ongoing on the development of a Data Strategy to underpin the NAP/inclusion. The Office for Social Inclusion is assisted in this regard by a Technical Advisory Group comprising representatives of key Government Departments, the Central Statistics Office, the Combat Poverty Agency, the Economic and Social Research Institute and the Equality Authority.

National Development Plan (NDP)/Community Support Framework (CSF) Monitoring Committees: The OSI has responsibility for supporting the social inclusion horizontal principle within the NDP/CSF. To assist the progression of this process and generally increase the social inclusion focus of the NDP/CSF, the OSI participates on all NDP/CSF Monitoring Committees and works with the Combat Poverty Agency in providing technical assistance.

Social Partnership – Social Inclusion Consultative Group: This group constitutes an important vehicle for involving the social partners in the NAP/inclusion process. It is co-chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach and the OSI and comprises representatives of the relevant Government Departments, the social partners, community and voluntary sector and

certain statutory agencies, e.g. the Combat Poverty Agency, the Equality Authority and the Economic and Social Research Institute. The Group meets at least twice a year to offer its advice and observations.

Social Inclusion Forum

The annual Social Inclusion Forum provides individual members of the social partner organisations, the community and voluntary and other sectors, and people experiencing poverty with an opportunity to contribute to the NAP/inclusion process. Progress in relation to the NAP/inclusion is reported to the Forum and provision is made for feedback on its implementation and further development. The Forum is seen as an important mechanism to facilitate consultation with all those who have a stake in the NAP/inclusion process.

Social Inclusion Units: These are established in the key Government Departments and coordinate their Department's contribution to the process in liaison with the OSI.

Agencies working for inclusion:

Combat Poverty Agency (CPA): The CPA is a statutory body working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion through advice to Government, developing innovative anti-poverty measures, examining the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland and promoting a greater public understanding of poverty and social exclusion. The OSI works closely with the Agency, particularly in relation to poverty research, promoting regional and local government involvement in the process, EU social inclusion projects and public consultation. A number of projects are ongoing between the OSI and CPA, for example, the development and support of a Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, the Building Healthy Communities programme and actions under the National Development Plan.

Other statutory agencies whose remit involves a social inclusion dimension and with which the OSI works closely include: the National Children's Office; responsible for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the National Children's Strategy; the Equality Authority; and the Family Support Agency.

Annex 4

NAPS Social Inclusion Forum 2005 Main Conclusions and Recommendations

The Conference Report of the 2005 Social Inclusion Forum, which is available on the OSI Website (<http://www.socialinclusion.ie>), provides an overview account of the Forum meeting. It includes a summary of the papers that were presented by guest speakers at the Plenary Sessions, as well as inputs from the speakers and respondents in the five parallel Workshops. It also provides a summary of the discussions that occurred in roundtables, workshops and plenary sessions and details the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum which will feed into the preparation of the 2006-2009 NAP/inclusion. The following summary tables reflect the issues raised during the workshops by Forum participants, many of whom were drawn from the community and voluntary sector or people experiencing poverty.

1. Suggestions from the workshops on target issues that need to be addressed

Older People – Care Services in the Community:

- Recognise the importance of services for older people and provide resources for these;
- Facilitate the participation of older people in society and decision making;
- Fully recognise the contribution older people have made and continue to make;
- Resume the Need for integrated, seamless services for older people to overcome present inequity in the coverage and access to services; and
- Broaden the NAPS targets to reflect a broader definition of poverty that recognises exclusion.

Children and Young People – Educational Disadvantage:

- Complete the review of educational disadvantage programmes;
- Review the meaning and resourcing of schools designated as disadvantaged;
- Increase the emphasis placed on early childhood education;
- Review the NAPS targets and clarify their meaning;
- Improve current and devise new data collection strategies.

People with Disabilities – Access to Education, Training and Employment:

- Consider introducing a portable ‘Cost of Disability’ payment, which people would carry with them into education, training or employment;
- Increase and improve pre-employment and workplace supports;
- Employers should introduce job retention supports for people who acquire a disability at work;
- Ensure all employers’ facilities have adequate access for people with disabilities;
- Increase inter-agency co-operation to deliver appropriate supports and services; and
- Need for policy-makers to listen more to people with disabilities.

Minority Groups – Integration Strategies:

- Address issues that are not currently named in NAPS or NAP/inclusion, including the specific needs of the deaf community, the issue of Direct Provision for asylum seekers and refugees, and the habitual residency rule for migrant workers;
- Increase the attention paid to migrant workers and address the lack of progress on the proposed integration strategy;
- Increase resources available to address the needs of minority groups;
- Address the needs of minority groups from a rights perspective; and
- Include minority groups in all integration policies and from the perspective of inclusion not assimilation.

Women – Decision Making and Participation:

- Ensure that there are linkages between NAPS and the forthcoming National Women's Strategy;
- Include a target for women and decision-making in the NAPS;
- Strengthen the commitment to and legislative basis of quotas and introduce sanctions for not attaining these;
- Ensure that women's organisations are represented in social partnership;
- Introduce measures to combat negative attitudes to women's involvement in local and national politics and representative structures;
- Improve the mainstreaming of learning from local women's projects; and
- Support men's groups to address their own issues rather than asking women's groups to do this for them.

2. Horizontal Issues Identified by the Workshops (National and Local Level)

National Issues:

- Political commitment needs to be strengthened;
- Increase inter-departmental co-operation and integrated policies;
- Improve and implement policy proofing for poverty, equality etc;
- Consider the adoption of a rights and / or equality approach; and
- Increase funding for the NAPS and make it more flexible.

Local Issues:

- Make local government structures more responsible for the implementation of policies and strategies. Devise local and regional strategies for data collection;
- Consult more with people at local and regional level; and
- Provide increased resources for implementation at local level and the mainstreaming of local initiatives.

Poverty Measurement, targets and Indicators:

- Clarify poverty measures and broaden the concept of poverty;
- Devise new indicators of deprivation;
- Consider the use of an equality framework;

- Devise realistic and challenging targets, including targets for specific vulnerable groups and service delivery – at national local and regional level;
- Involve people in the design of targets and indicators;
- Increase monitoring and accountability for reaching targets;
- Make disaggregated data and analysis of data readily available;
- Appoint a Minister for Older People;
- Address child poverty and childcare; and
- Develop family-friendly policies.

Copies of the conference report are also available from the NESF Secretariat, 16 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, E-mail: info@nesf.ie or from the NESF website at: www.nesf.ie.

ANNEX 5

Regional and Local Impact

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network

The Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network promotes and supports the development of a strong anti-poverty focus within a reformed system of local government. The Network provides a forum in which local authorities can share experiences and best practice and consider how to make the maximum contribution to policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It also supports local authorities in incorporating a strong anti-poverty focus within their work.

In 2002 a review of the Network was commissioned by the CPA in order to measure its effectiveness as well as to make recommendations for its future development. This review was carried out in 2004 by independent consultants. As a result of the review, it has been decided the operations of the network will continue, albeit in a slightly revised format. A new Steering Group has been set up, chaired by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and comprising members from the Combat Poverty Agency, the Office for Social Inclusion, the Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB) and the Institute for Public Administration (IPA). The role of the steering Group is to oversee the workings of the Network and to examine others ways in which social inclusion can be promoted in local authorities.

The IPA will take over logistical arrangements for the meeting while the LGMSB will promote social inclusion as part of the normal training/education programmes for local authority staff with the result that social inclusion can be mainstreamed within the normal work of local authorities.

County and City Development Boards

The social inclusion role of the County and City Development Boards and their constituent Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Co-ordinating Groups continued to develop particularly through their involvement in implementing the Joint Ministerial Initiative on Improving Local and Community Development Structures and Programmes. This is an initiative involving the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

This initiative has seen the CDBs / SIM Co-ordinating Groups playing a central role in;

- the endorsement of local/community development plans leading to greater cohesion among agencies;
- developing and monitoring the implementation of proposals from local/community development groups aimed at greater cohesion in service provision;
- The development and implementation of plans for improved cohesion among local community and development bodies. Funding for approved plans is being provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and allocations to CDBs totalling €2.9m were announced in November 2004; and
- A Review of CDB Strategies. In January 2005, each CDB was asked to carry out a review of its county / city Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development. These were originally published in 2002. All Boards are being asked to examine progress to date, to identify limited number of key priorities and actions to improve co-ordination and delivery of public services at local level including those aimed at counteracting social inclusion. The review is to be completed by the end of 2005.

Many of the CDBs have developed local social inclusion strategies to underpin and strengthen the national actions being taken (see Local Focus section of OSI website – www.socialinclusion.ie for more detail.

Local Authority Structures

Pilot Social Inclusion Units were established in seven local authorities for a three-year period (2002-2004) A Social Inclusion Unit was in operation in Dublin City Council prior to the commencement of the pilot units, but has also received funding under the pilot scheme. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (D/EHLG) provided total funding of €3.1 million for the establishment and operation of the units for the three-year duration of the pilot scheme. In June 2004, independent consultants were engaged to undertake a review and evaluation of the pilot programme. A report was presented to the D/EHLG in late 2004, and a decision was taken to continue the funding for the units for one more year at a cost of over €1m. The Report is still under consideration by the Department and a final decision on the long-term future of the units is expected before the end of 2005.

Embedding of Social Inclusion in Corporate Plans. Social Inclusion is a key cross-cutting theme across local government services and activities. In June 2004, local authorities were asked by the D/EHLG to prepare Corporate Plans for 2004-2009, and to ensure that social inclusion is addressed in those plans. Guidelines setting out the approach to be adopted were issued by the Department. Each local authority is also required to prepare an Operational Plan for each year of the Corporate Plan's timeframe. The Operational Plan spells out in more detail the activities undertaken by the different service areas.

Anti-Poverty work in the health services

Work to support health service staff at a regional and local level in implementing actions to achieve the key NAPS health targets commenced during the lifetime of the NAP/inclusion. This work aims to raise awareness of NAPS targets and social inclusion issues in the wider health service and lay the foundation for a learning network to ensure, inter alia, that social inclusion issues are better addressed in health service staff training; and that actions to address further NAPS health target achievement in the context of all major policy implementation are mainstreamed. The first phase of the work, which was progressed during 2004, related to information gathering and agenda setting including scoping of anti-poverty work in health boards; a survey of senior health board staff to identify strategic issues; and a baseline survey of health board staff to measure awareness of anti-poverty work

National Development Plan/Community Support Framework (NDP/CSF)

The NDP/CSF provides for an investment of over €52 billion of Public, Private and EU funds (in 1999 prices) over the period 2000-2006. The Plan involves significant investment in health services, social housing, education, roads, public transport, rural development, industry, water and waste services. The promotion of social inclusion is one of the four key horizontal principles underpinning the NDP/CSF. This involves a multi-faceted approach to the promotion of social inclusion, including both mainstreamed and targeted interventions aimed

at areas and groups affected by poverty and social exclusion throughout the community. In total, some €9 billion is provided in the Plan directly to promote Social Inclusion.

In order to monitor the impact of the NDP/CSF on social inclusion, all those measures under the Plan which are most directly relevant to social inclusion have been adapted to ensure that the promotion of social inclusion is clearly identified in their objectives. In addition, indicators have been developed in many cases to track progress in this area and each measure must report on an annual basis on the progress against the objectives, using these indicators, as well as on the actions that have been taken during that year to promote social inclusion.

Peace Programme

The border counties of Ireland have been affected by the Northern Ireland conflict which has contributed to poverty and social exclusion in these areas. There is a strong but complex relationship between poverty and conflict. In addressing poverty and conflict the rebuilding of physical infrastructure and economic regeneration are both important elements of reconstruction but there is a vital need to reconstruct civil society, education and health services, as well as relationships between communities and individuals. The EU funded Peace Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland have made an enormous contribution to date in supporting such reconstruction.

Annex 6

Programmes to Combat Urban Poverty and Rural Disadvantage

- Local Development Social Inclusion Programme
This programme aims to counter disadvantage and promote equality and social and economic inclusion through supporting actions across 3 sub measures; services to the unemployed, community development, and community based youth initiatives. To date over 250,000 people have directly participated in these services and funding for 2005 of €45.7m has been provided (an increase of 6% over 2004).
- Community Development Programme
The Community Development Programme is designed to reduce poverty and social exclusion through targeting support at groups and individuals who live in communities experiencing high levels of unemployment and poverty. Since its establishment in 1990, the Programme has expanded from 9 projects to a network of 180, with 25 new projects being funded between September 2003 and April 2005. In 2004 over 30,000 people used the services and resources of their local CDP and over €22.3 million of funding has been allocated to the Programme in 2005.
- RAPID
The RAPID Programme is a focused Government initiative, which targets the 45 most disadvantaged urban areas in the country. In 2004 RAPID areas benefited through the development of playgrounds, improvement works in local authority housing estates/flat complexes and the allocation of additional top-up funding to successful applicants under the Sports Capital Programme 2004. Funding to co-fund measures in RAPID areas has been significantly increased in 2005, with €7.5 million available this year, compared €4.5m in 2004.
- CLÁR Programme
The main ways in which rural disadvantage was tackled was via grants paid out to projects aimed at increasing employment and also through the CLÁR programme. Under this programme, a range of projects were approved for funding between 2002 and 2005 with €1.62m allocated to 122 projects aimed at increasing employment, €4.92m allocated to 111 projects in the health area, €1.3m allocated to 370 education related projects and €3.7m allocated to 1,896 projects to improve services to rural housing. A further €6.1m has been allocated under this final heading and the projects are currently being identified.
- Review of Community and Local Development Structures
In order to improve the cohesion of all state services involved in social inclusion activities, a review of Community and Local Development Structures has been ongoing since 2004. Arising from this review, there is a requirement on public bodies that they look at existing structures when new initiatives in this area are being planned and County and City Development Boards now endorse the plans of bodies operating within their area. In addition, €3.248m in 2004 and €4.02m in 2005 has been allocated to fund proposals from County and City Development Boards to improve coordination and delivery of state support services.

Annex 7

Key Initiatives to Combat Long-Term Unemployment

- **The Prevention and Activation Process**, under which the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) refers all persons reaching six months of unemployment for interview by FÁS (the public employment service). In 2004, a total of 52,328 clients were referred to FAS, of whom 35,136 attended the interview. This process is currently under review and it is anticipated that this review will indicate improvements that will impact more positively on the long term unemployed. In addition to this a cross-departmental expenditure review of state supports for the long term unemployed aims to draw up appropriate recommendations on the tailoring, prioritisation and direction of future supports for the long term unemployed.
- **The High Support Process** – introduced in 2003 and mainstreamed the following year. This is a flexible process designed to provide a range of responses for clients who are experiencing major barriers in progressing from unemployment to the workforce. 370 clients were supported during 2004 and a provisional budget of €1.3 million was allocated to the HSP for 2005;
- **The Pathways Programme** – launched as a pilot project in a number of locations in 2003 and further rolled out in 2004. This is a two-week group guidance programme for clients identified under the preventive process, with the aim of identifying the most appropriate development pathway for each participant in order to assist them obtain and maintain employment. In 2004 approximately 1,000 clients attended 70 Pathway Programmes nationally;
- Other Active Labour Market Programmes operate across a number of Government Departments. These include three employment schemes – Community Employment, Job Initiative and Social Economy Programme, and ESF co-financed measures under the NDP, – which in total provide some 25,000 places. The Social Economy Programme specifically provides employment opportunities for the long term unemployed while at the same time providing local community services.

Annex 8

Social Inclusion related expenditure - 2004 - 2005

Department	Measure	Outturn 2004 €000	Estimate 2005 €000
Arts, Sport and Tourism (Vote 35)	Sports Capital Programme	40,700	61,926
Total Expenditure:		40,700	61,926
Health & Children (Vote 33)			
	Community Health		
	GMS GP & Drugs	1,173,529	1,382,896
	Dental	140,287	148,627
	Optical	24,784	25,687
	Aural	6,528	6,765
	Home Nursing (75%)	66,712	69,140
	Drugs Services	55,687	59,219
	Community Welfare		
	Mobility Allowance	2,949	3,348
	Infectious Disease	217	247
	Maternity Cash Grants	67	76
	DCA Children	53,010	52,068
	Blind Payments	10,194	6,267
	Home Help	112,223	121,743
	Meals-on-Wheels	9,895	9,751
	Grants voluntaries	71,253	70,220
	Milk (GMS)	1,547	1,523
	Foster Care Services	67,043	69,484
	Child care services incl. residential	287,338	299,710
	Welfare Homes (older people)	81,257	84,216
	Mental Health Programme	661,352	725,392
	Disability Programme		
	Homes - Intellectual Disability	649,385	714,097
	Psychiatric Places ID	81,439	89,555
	Day centres ID	85,357	93,863
	Visually Impaired	12,223	13,401
	Hearing Impaired	8,046	8,823
	Otherwise Disabled	281,142	320,218
	Rehab Service	113,042	123,939
	Health Board Long Stay	295,768	306,621
Total Expenditure	Total	4,352,274	4,806,896

Department	Measure	Outturn 2004 €000	Estimate 2005 €000
Enterprise, Trade & Employment			
	FÁS Administration	32,019	33,588
	Local Employment Service	17,188	18,000
	Job Initiative	39,043	40,089
	Social Economy Programme	39,399	36,759
	Community Employment Scheme	263,952	292,981
	Employment Support Programme	3,139	7,794
	Pilot Employment Programme	1,931	2,200
	Supported Employment Programme	6,481	7,968
	Specialist Training Providers	42,406	44,155
Total Expenditure		445,558	483,534
Education & Science (Vote 26-29)			
	Early Education	7,800	8,800
	Breaking the Cycle	3,590	4,620
	Giving Children an Even Break	18,000	21,250
	Disadvantaged Areas Scheme	28,320	31,400
	Home School Community Liaison Scheme	15,700	16,500
	Book Grants	11,700	12,300
	Support Teachers	1,680	2,060
	Traveller Education	23,000	23,000
	Early Literacy Initiative	2,300	3,300
	Traveller Teacher Resource/Visiting Teachers	7,000	6,600
	School Completion Programme	23,500	24,100
	Projects in LDTFs	3,100	3,000
	NEWB	6,500	7,800
	Further Education	175,000	188,000
	Youth Projects	20,000	21,000
	Third Level Access and Maintenance Grants	197,000	222,800
Total Expenditure		544,190	596,530

Department	Measure	Outturn 2004 €000	Estimate 2005 €000
Social & Family Affairs (Vote 38)			
	Vote Programme Expenditure	5,820,934	6,384,330
	Social Insurance Fund Benefit Expenditure	5,081,541	5,436,978
Total Expenditure		10,902,475	11,821,308
Justice, Equality & Law Reform (Vote 19)			
	Legal Aid in criminal cases	34,139	37,543
	Legal Aid in civil cases (Legal Aid Board)	18,388	21,362
	Grants to National Women's Organisations	532	546
	Gender Mainstreaming & Positive Action for Women Programme	4,683	6,534
	Violence Against Women	802	1,124
	Disability	6,814	7,980
	Childcare	68,200	83,400
	Anti Racism/ Inter-culturalism	565	1,000
	Equality Authority/ Equality Investigations/ Equality Proofing	7,332	7,511
	European Refugee Fund	900	1,200
	Asylum Seekers Task Force and Asylum Seekers Legal Aid	49,559	52,841
Total Expenditure		191,914	221,041
Garda Síochána (Vote 20)			
	Youth Diversion	5,318	5,471
Total Expenditure		5,318	5,471

Prisons (Vote 21)	Probation and Welfare Service; prisoners' education and work/training	43,803	52,410
Total Expenditure		43,803	52,410

Department	Measure	Outturn 2004 €000	Estimate 2005 €000
Agriculture & Food (Vote 31)			
	Rural Environment Protection Scheme	260,000	271,000
	Early Retirement Scheme for Farmers	84,000	77,050
	Compensatory Allowances	231,500	231,500
	Teagasc's Rural Viability Advisory Service	15,000	15,000
	Installation Aid for Young Farmers	10,300	10,000
	The EEC School Milk Scheme	1,365	1,365
Total Expenditure		602,165	605,915

Communications, Marine & Natural Resources (Vote 30)	Sustainable Energy Priority	810	1,550
Total Expenditure		810	1,550

Foreign Affairs (Vote 39)	Overseas Development Aid	399,107	460,162
	Overseas Development Aid (other Votes)	83,000	75,000
Total Expenditure		482,107	535,162

Transport (Vote 32)	Public Transport Projects	8000	3000
	Public Transport Investment Programme	9000	10000
Total Expenditure		17,000	13,000

Department	Measure	Outturn 2004 €000	Estimate 2005 €000
Environment, Heritage & Local Government (Vote 25)	Exchequer Capital Expenditure on Social & Affordable Housing Programmes	972,131	1,190,160
	Exchequer Current Expenditure on Social & Affordable Housing Programmes	77,996	89,494
	Non Voted Expenditure on Social Inclusion Programmes -Housing	495,304	752,119
	Social Inclusion Non-Housing Expenditure	4,860	5,139
Total Expenditure		1,550,291	2,036,912
Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	Grants for Community and Voluntary Services (mainly Lottery funded)	32,332	39,150
	Peace & Reconciliation Programme	26,690	22,739
	Western Development Commission	1,563	1,843
	Western Investment Fund	3,960	4,000
	CLÁR Expenditure	12,116	13,700
	INTERREG/PEACE	260	1,500
	Total Expenditure		76,921
Total Social Inclusion Expenditure:		19,255,526	21,324,587