



Prevention & Early
Intervention Network
Promoting positive outcomes for children,
families & communities

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar,
Department of The Taoiseach,
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2
15th June 2020

A Thaoisigh,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN) in Ireland. PEIN is a national network of support services for children and families. Our members represent a wide range of organisations and projects including Barnardos, Treoir, Alcohol Action Ireland, and Tusla, as well as the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Projects and the national forum of Family Resource Centres.

We are writing to you to urgently request that children are prioritised under this government. We are asking that the Department of Children and Youth Affairs retained and that no decision is taken to reduce the prominence of this department in the newly formed government. This department was borne out of a need to dedicate space and resources to the children of Ireland. We believe that any reduction in the DCYA will threaten to undermine the important role that children and young people have in Irish society.

In our recent Programme for Government campaign PEIN contacted Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and Green Party officials and representatives to highlight a range of issues affecting children. We were pleased that Fine Gael contacted us quickly to go through this campaign document. The key headline issues in PEINs Campaign 2020 are child poverty and child health. Through this campaign we have advocated for this government to be the government to end child poverty.

In Pre-Covid 19 Ireland children were already affected disproportionately by poverty and poor health. Fast forward to Covid 19 and the post pandemic context and we believe that children will need additional and expanded supports in order to overcome issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic context.

If the Department of Children and Youth Affairs is broken up and divided into other departments this will reduce the voices of children and youth people. It will threaten not only to undermine but to undo the positive work and achievements that have been made through this department and previous Ministers.

We are asking that you urgently prioritise children by retaining the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the senior ministerial position. It is only through a dedicated department that children and young people, and the services working with them, can be heard and supported.

Yours Sincerely,
Lyndsey Anderson
Coordinator, Prevention and Early Intervention Network