

Policy

| Theme | PEIN recommendation | Responsibility | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-------|------|-------|-----|
| | | DPER | DCEDI | YDoH | Tusla | HSE |
| All national policy | Support the recovery of children and families from the impacts of the pandemic. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Address the pre-existing challenges and barriers to all children achieving their full potential. | | | | | |
| New national strategy for Children and Young People (2022+) | Ensure that the process of developing the new strategy is fully inclusive, with the voice of children, young people, parents and service providers at its core. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Develop a strategy that is ambitious and forward-looking in continuing to address the needs of children, young people and families, as well as responding to new and intensified needs caused by the pandemic. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Retain the National Advisory Council as an integral structure under the new strategy and ensure that the target measures required to eradicate child poverty are core to the development and implementation of BOBF's successor. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Ensure that there are comprehensive parallel implementation and investment plans. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Orient prevention and early intervention at the core of the strategy as the prioritised approach to addressing the developmental and well-being needs of Ireland's children and young people. | | ✓ | | | |

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| The National Childcare Scheme (2019+) | Explicate the key purpose of the National Childcare Scheme as the holistic development of children rather than the labour force activation of parents. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Address identified weaknesses in the sponsored referrals process as a matter of urgency, to ensure that the most vulnerable children have access to consistent, high-quality childcare. | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Design the NCS to ensure the financial viability of community-based service providers. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Include a DEIS model for the Early Years in the NCS. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Reinvigorate the NCS awareness campaign for parents, to ensure that they are aware of their entitlements to places and subsidies. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Provide greater training and practice development to professionals working in the early years, particularly around the risk/protective factors affecting child development and wellbeing. | | ✓ | | | |
| Sláintecare (2017-2026) | Re-engage as a matter of urgency with the original Sláintecare vision and focuss on the delivery of: | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Right care: A phased shift from crisis response to prevention and early intervention | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Right place: Services are delivered in the family home and in the local community wherever possible | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Right time: Use public health strategies to pre-empt the development of problems where possible and respond to emerging needs at the earliest possible opportunity. | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Restructure the Public Health Nursing service to create a cohort of child and family Public Health Nurses whose sole focus is the health and wellbeing of the children in their catchment area. | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |

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| First 5: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families (2019-2028) | Ensure that the full implementation of First 5 is a core action in Ireland's next strategy for children, young people and their families, with ambitious targets and congruent investment. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Sign off on the National Model for Parenting Support Services Government in 2022 and launch with a five-year implementation plan and the necessary investment. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Organise consultations with service providers by mid-2022, in order to develop an agreed national approach to home visiting programmes, accompanied by a phased plan to achieve universal access to home visiting for all first-time parents by 2026. | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| The European Child Guarantee (2021) | Acknowledge the European Child Guarantee as a systemic approach to finally eradicating child poverty in Ireland. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Undertake meaningful consultations with multi-departmental stakeholders, children, and parents to design the requisite action plans. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Develop a national framework for data collection to evidence the impact of initiatives on child poverty. | | ✓ | | | |
| | Use the funding secured under the E.U. Child Guarantee strategically with a focus on prevention and early intervention, with sustainability and mainstreaming built in from the outset. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |

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| A commitment to progressive universalism | Provide responsive and high quality services for all, with additional services for those experiencing the most disadvantage. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Explicate prevention and early intervention as the cornerstones of progressive universalism. | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| The adoption of an integrated & multidimensional approach | Undertake national and local needs assessments and multi-annual planning. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Apply core national standards of service, with scope to tailor to local contexts. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| The immediate and full recommencing of all child health & well-being screening | Undertake an urgent review of all children born during or just before the pandemic who have not yet had access to a full programme of screening. | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| A review of waiting lists for early intervention services | Provide clear information, sign-posting and referral pathways for the Network Disability Teams. | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Standardise access and referral processes across all CHOs. | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Greater investment in mental health services for children and young people | Meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommendation of ring-fencing a minimum of 14% of Ireland's health budget for mental health. | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Establish fully staffed multi-disciplinary Child and Adolescent Mental Health teams in each CHO, with clear national practice standards. | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Provide a range of evidence-based PEI services on a national basis, drawing on the skills of community and voluntary sector organisations. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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| Enhanced local and national integration | Develop collaborative work practices within and across the HSE and Tusla, based on clear goals and their understanding of their inter-dependence as service providers. | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

FUNDING

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| Prioritise the funding of prevention & early intervention | Agree a whole-of-government definition of 'prevention and early intervention'. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Require every human service orientated government department and state agency to: | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and red circle their current spending on prevention and early intervention and to report on this annually as part of the budget process | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the potential to shift / increase their spend on prevention and early intervention and submit relevant estimates to the annual budgetary process. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Department of Public Expenditure & Reform | Require DPER to: | ✓ | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify percentage targets in each government department and state agency for the phased transition of expenditure in favour of PEI strategies (e.g. 2% per year over ten years) Prioritise approval of promising proposals for shifting of expenditure Develop a rolling and revolving PEI investment fund to incentivise the move and to frontload and support the shift Monitor the outputs and outcomes being achieved on an individual department / agency and cross government basis, reporting annually as part of the annual estimates process. | ✓ | | | | |
| | Move to a 3–5-year funding cycle, to provide continuity of planned and high quality supports to children and families. | ✓ | | | | |
| Tusla | Create and support a level playing field for services delivered through the Community and Voluntary sector, that includes full cost recovery and parity of pay and conditions with equivalent statutory colleagues. | ✓ | | | | |
| | Ringfence National Lottery funding for investment in PEI programmes for children and families, subject to key criteria. | | | | ✓ | |
| | Ringfence minimum budgets for prevention and early intervention in each service area, with the aim of a phased increase in PEI investment | | | | ✓ | |