



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



BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

The national policy framework
for children & young people

2014 - 2020

Prevention and Early Intervention: A Policy Context

Prevention, Partnership and
Family Support 5th Annual
National Workshop,

15th November 2017.

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Department of Children and Youth Affairs



BETTER OUTCOMES, BRIGHTER FUTURES

THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, 2014-2020



The European Policy Context

Increasing importance of **child poverty and social exclusion** on the European agenda.

High level of child poverty (2015: 26.9% of children and young people 0-17 years, at risk of poverty or exclusion), **(over 25 million children)**

Lisbon Treaty (2009)

Europe 2020 Strategy:

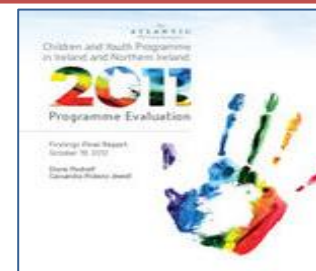
EU Commission: “ Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage

Context and climate: Changing landscapes in Ireland's policy and provision

Preface

2000-2011

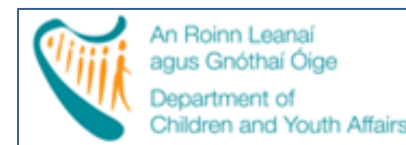
National Children's Office, Increasing focus on outcomes, First 4 Children's Services Committees in 2007



Institutional Developments

2011

Establishment of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs...



2014

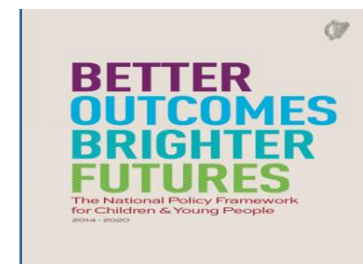
Establishment of Tusla



Policy Developments

2014

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People...



2017 – Launch of BOBF Indicator set

Key features of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

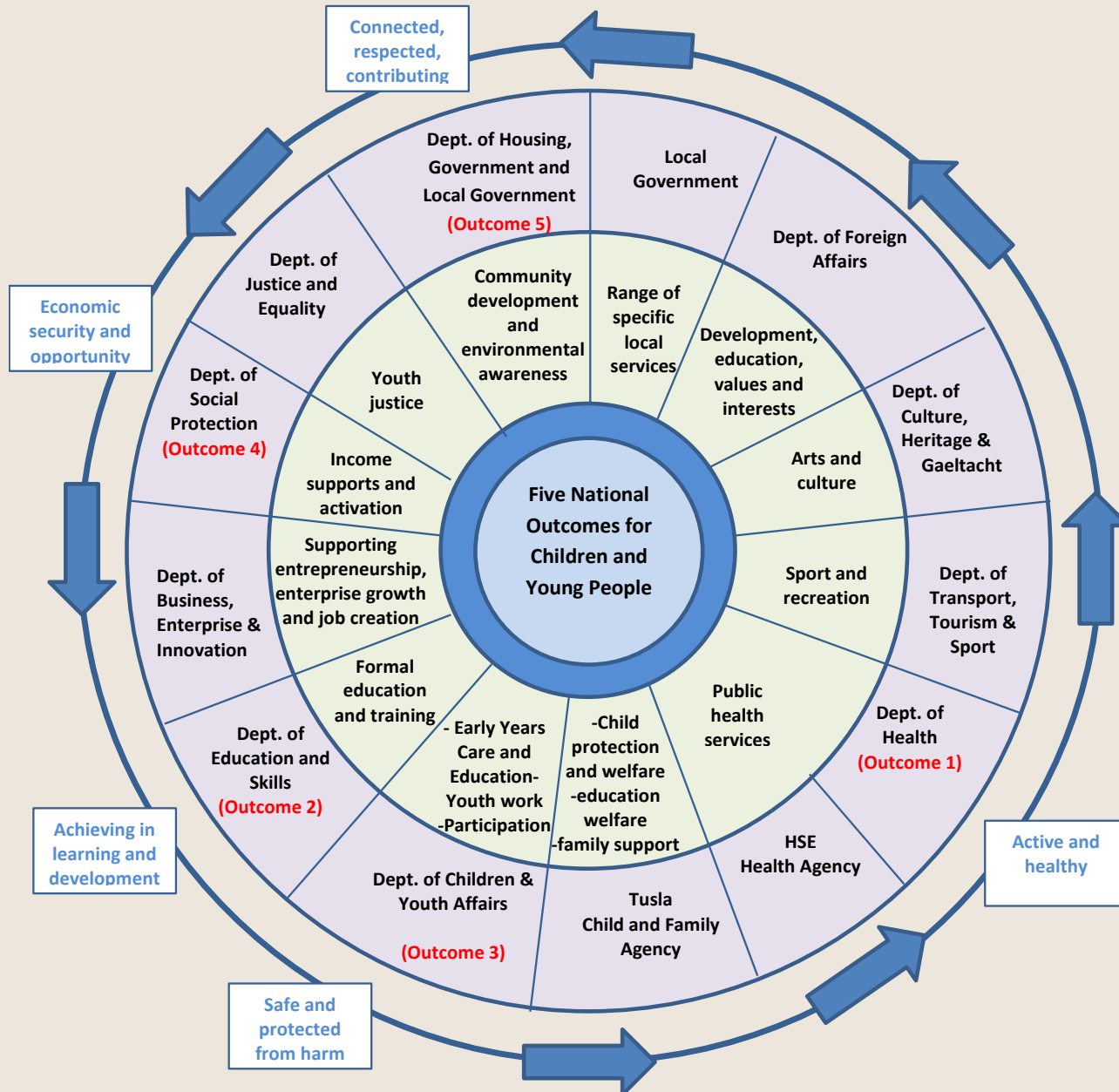
- First overarching national policy framework spanning children and young people (0 – 24 years).
- Represents a whole of government approach running from 2014 until 2020
- Accommodates a number of constituent strategies.

The Framework:

- sets out and centralises common outcomes
- captures 163 policy commitments
- identifies key transformational goals necessitating action
- ensures an innovative and effective way of working.

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NATIONAL OUTCOMES

Active & healthy,
physical & mental
wellbeing

Achieving
full potential
in all areas of
learning &
development

Safe & protected
from harm

Economic security
& opportunity

Connected,
respected &
contributing to
their world

AIMS:

Children and young people are or have ...

1.1

Physically healthy
and make positive
health choices

2.1

Learning
and developing
from birth

3.1

Secure, stable,
caring home
environment

4.1

Protected
from poverty and
social exclusion

5.1

Sense of own
identity, free from
discrimination

1.2

Good
mental health

2.2

Social and
emotional
wellbeing

3.2

Safe from
abuse, neglect
and exploitation

4.2

Living in
child/youth-friendly
sustainable
communities

5.2

Part of
positive networks
of friends, family
and community

1.3

Positive
and respectful
approach to
relationships and
sexual health

2.3

Engaged
in learning

3.3

Protected
from bullying and
discrimination

4.3

Opportunities for
ongoing education
and training

5.3

Civically engaged,
socially and
environmentally
conscious

1.4

Enjoying play,
recreation, sport,
arts, culture
and nature

2.4

Achieving
in education

3.4

Safe from crime
and anti-social
behaviour

4.4

Pathways to
economic
participation and
independent living

5.4

Aware of rights,
responsible and
respectful of
the law

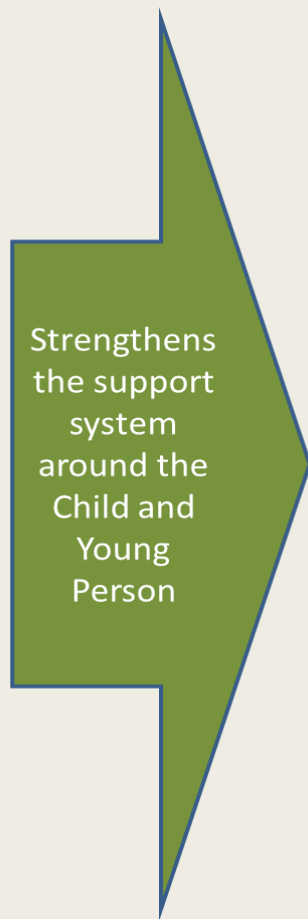
Children and Young People have a voice and influence in all decisions affecting them

National Outcomes and Transformational Goals

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS



CROSS CUTTING



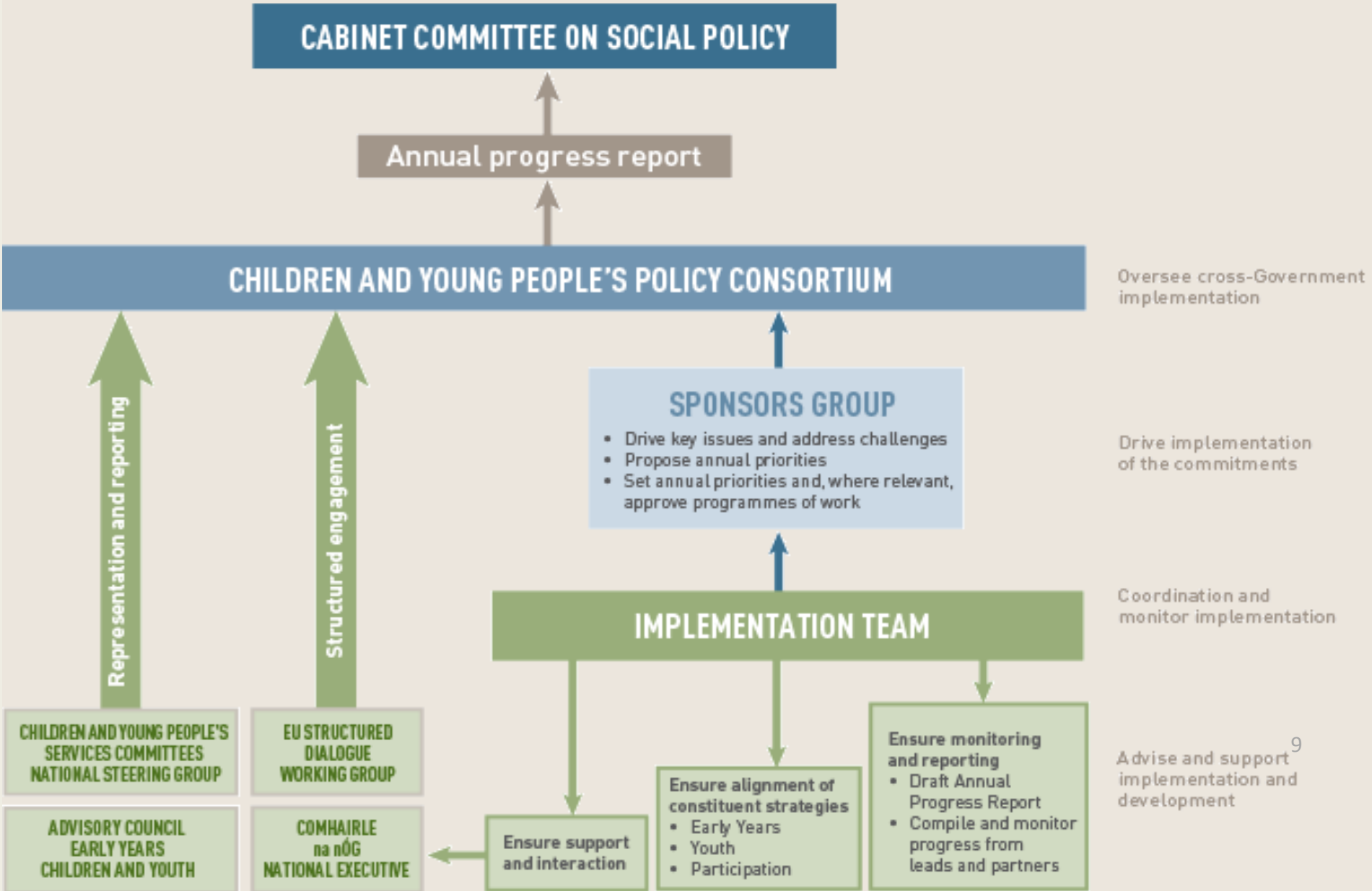
BETTER OUTCOMES



BRIGHTER FUTURES

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Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

DCYA has foregrounded the position and forged a path for action in Prevention and Early Intervention through the following:

1. Identifying PEI as the DCYA **cross sectoral priority under BOBF and making this a transversal theme across Government.**
2. Ensuring this theme and the concept of Progressive Universalism is key to the **development of CYPSCs** as per the Blueprint for the Development of CYPSCs and all subsequent developments (coverage, configuration, funding etc.).
3. Leading the development of PEI through the **EU Peer Review 2016 and ABC Open Policy Debate 2017.**
4. Leading on the development of the **Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI).**
5. Strengthening PEI in our plans for a renewed a focus on **Parenting.**
6. Working with Tusla in areas of shared interest under PPFSP, for example Outcomes for Children data project.
7. Foregrounding PEI in the **Tusla Performance Framework 2018 – 2020.**

Learning from the State's investment in PEI to date

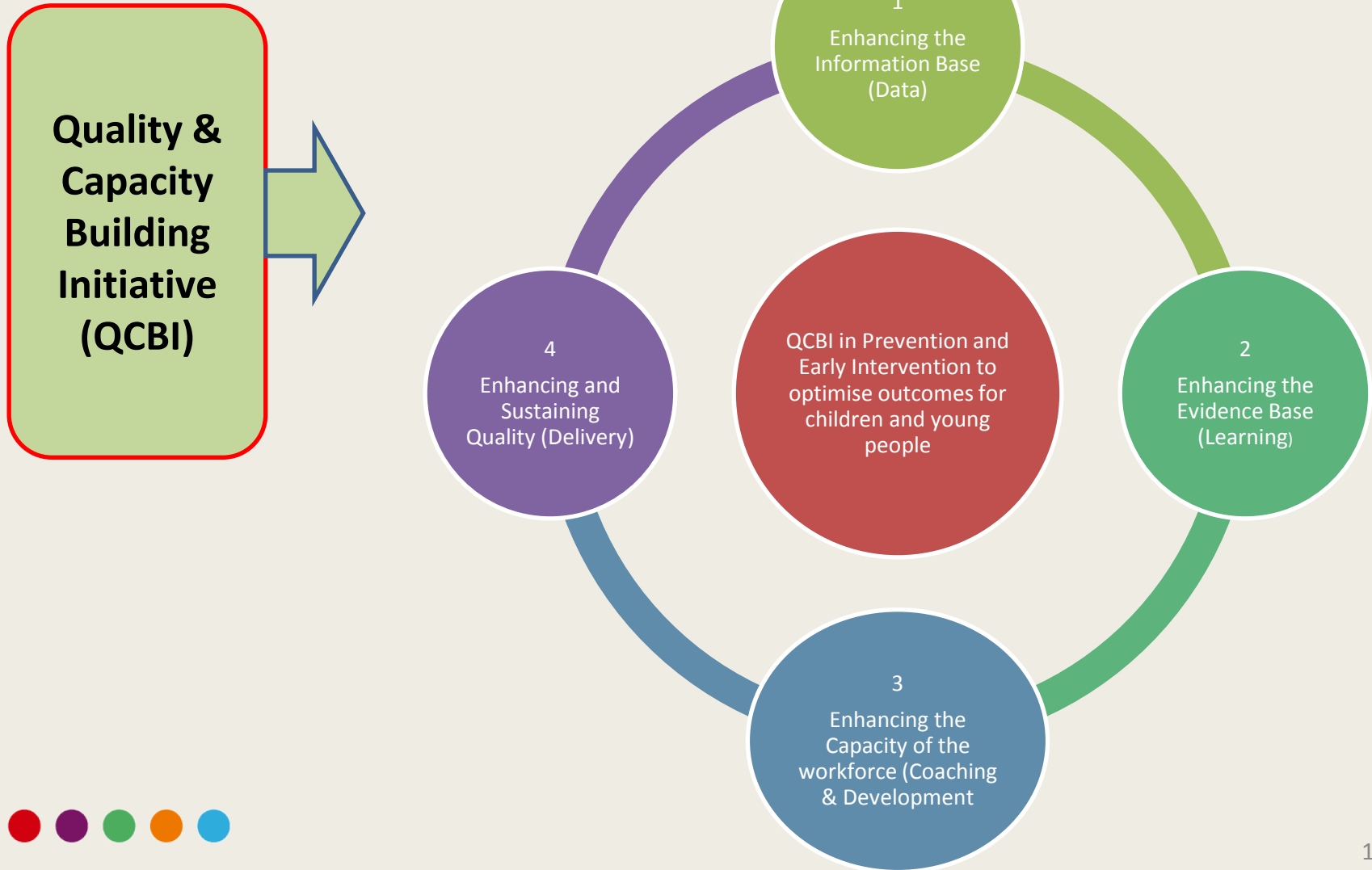
1. Supporting **parents** pays real dividends in terms of children's outcomes
2. A strong focus on supporting child development for **0-3s**
3. Supporting key **transitions** can make a significant difference to outcomes
4. Initiatives to support children's and young peoples **learning** must promote a love of learning and be clear how they will integrate into the school setting
5. Programmes that support **social and emotional learning and promote inclusion** should be supported by wider school structures and policies
6. Development of **personal skills and aptitudes** should be part of formal and ongoing training for all professionals
7. **Consulting with local communities** helps ensure that PEI services fit with the needs of children, young people and families
8. Effective **interagency** structures are vital to ensuring better services

EU Peer Review Event: Prevention and early intervention services to address children at risk of poverty

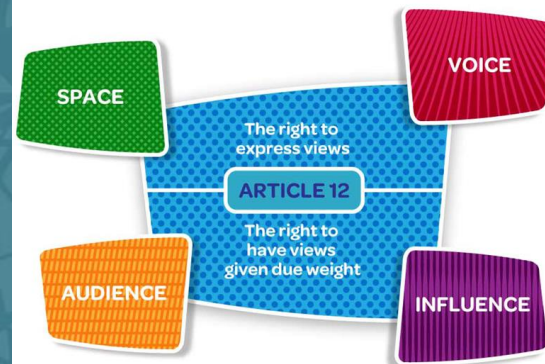
1. The **pre-birth and 0-3 years** are vital to a child's future development:
2. **Political will** is important to ensure adequate resources and a long term approach.
3. A **broad holistic policy mix** is essential.
4. Develop a **system-wide approach** that is multi-dimensional.
5. Combine **universal and targeted** services: .
6. A focus on the **local level** and local coordination is important.
7. It is important to reach out to those **children and families most at risk**.
8. To ensure **quality**, it is necessary to invest in building capacity across agencies:.
9. Importance of **data and evaluation for evidence-based policy**.
10. Foster the **participation of children**, parents and communities.
11. Put **children's rights** at the heart of policy and programme development and delivery and prioritise the best interests of the child.
12. Working with and strengthening **families** is vital (but not a substitute for children's rights and services).
13. The **EU level** can provide valuable support.

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Links between government policy and the PPFS Programme

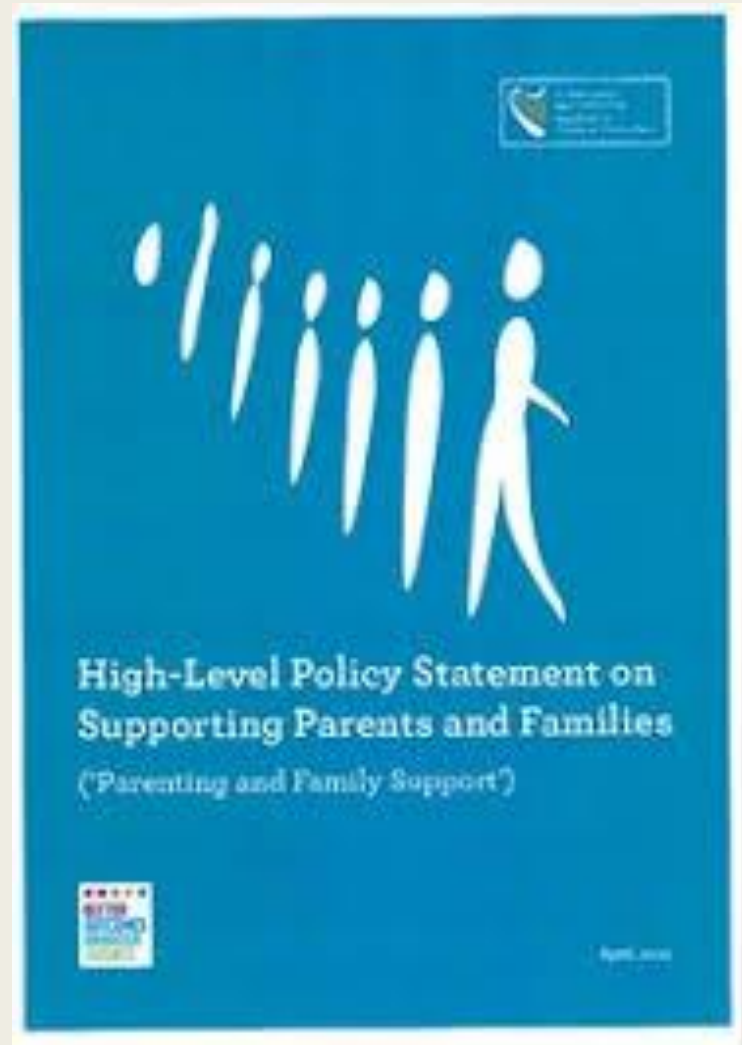


This model provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC which is intended to focus decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order:

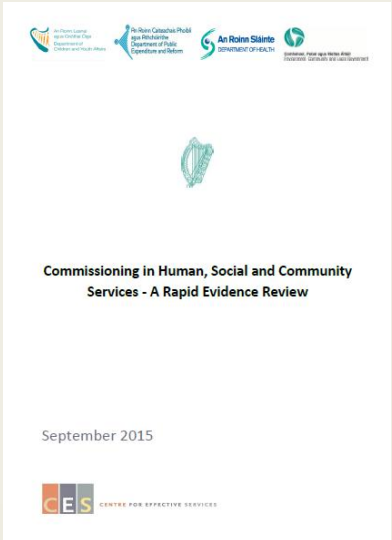
- **SPACE:** Children must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their view
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.



Links between government policy and the PPFS Programme

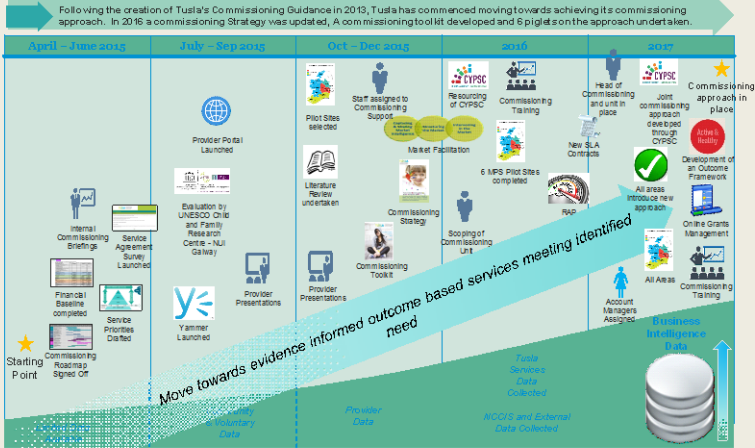


Links between government policy and the PPFS Programme



“Introduce the commissioning of services....by moving away from a grants system to outcome-based contracts, and offer support to build capacity within the children and youth sector to respond to the new approach effectively.” (BOBF G69)

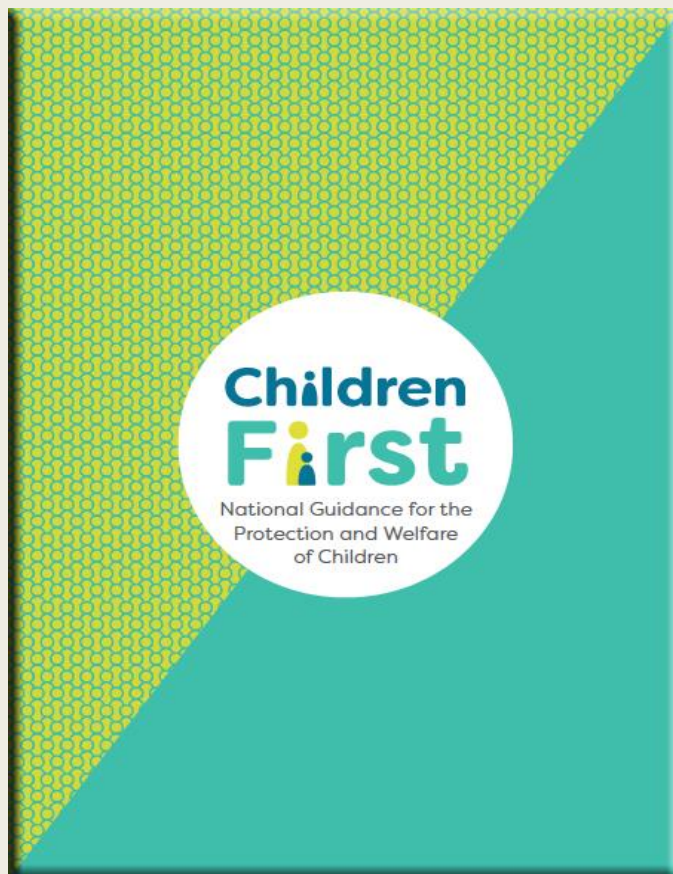
Tusla Commissioning Journey



Links between government policy and the PPFS Programme



Children First



Provides national guidance for the protection and welfare of children from abuse and neglect

Sets out definitions of abuse and signs for its recognition

Explains how reports about reasonable concerns of child abuse or neglect should be made

Sets out what organisations need to do to keep children safe

Describes the obligations under the Children First Act 2015, and who they attach to

Review of Child Care Act 1991

The Purpose of the review is to:

- **Identify** what is working well
- **Address** any gaps, improvements, or areas for new development
- **Capture** current legislative, policy and practice developments
- **Building** on those steps, **Revise** the original act

The Department is seeking to ensure that:

- The child's best interests, welfare and protection are paramount
- Children's rights are respected and vindicated.
- Families are listened to, and supported.

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Thank You

