



Minister Zappone with DCYA staff on the *What Works* team

## 1. Launch of *What Works*

In June, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone TD launched *What Works* a Department of Children and Youth Affairs initiative which aims to maximise the impact of prevention and early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people. *What Works* will ensure that key groups working with children, young people and their families know what works, how it works, and it will provide an evidence supported approach to apply to this work.

*What Works* focuses on enhancing key areas in Prevention and Early Intervention policy, service and practice. :

- Data and Evidence,
- Capacity Development,
- and Quality.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Zappone said “*What Works is a co-ordinated effort to support a whole system approach to prevention and early intervention in Ireland. We know that investment in this area can have a genuinely positive effect on the whole life of the child, reducing their need to avail of services at later stages in their lives.*”

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For further information/full reports on the above, please see: [www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie)

## Launch of What Works (*continued*)

What Works was developed in response to a decade of development in children and young people's services. Since then, those working for children and young people across statutory and non-statutory sectors have seen increased emphasis and innovation in the area of prevention and early intervention. This means anticipating possible problems, minimising the risk they arise, and targeting resources at those at high risk or showing early signs of a problem.

Minister Zappone pointed to the capacity of this approach both to combat the risks and emerging issues for children and young people, and to heighten the positives in their lives.

The event included an address from Dr Patrick McCarthy, former President of the Annie E. Casey Foundation on approaches to scaling prevention and early intervention to ensure its success at a population level.

The What Works Launch coincides with the launch of a dedicated website and data hub as part of the initiative. This website ([www.whatworks.gov.ie](http://www.whatworks.gov.ie)) will be a single source and resource where information on practice approaches, toolkits, practice guides,



professional learning opportunities, and interventions and programmes can be accessed by everyone.

The Outcomes for Children Data Hub (<https://outcomes4children.tusla.ie/>), funded under What Works and is linked to this website, provides a sustainable, standardised technical solution for mapping outcomes and indicators for children and young people. It has been developed by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency in conjunction with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under What Works. This powerful new tool is accessible to all and provides an intuitive web based platform to visualise published data sets. It aligns with the objective of What Works to facilitate practitioners, service providers and policymakers' access to data to aid in service planning, design and delivery.

## 2. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Indicator Set

In August, a [Report on the Development of a Set of Indicators to Support Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures](#) was published on the DCYA website.

This report outlines the methodology used to develop the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* Indicator Set and was written in conjunction with the Centre for Effective Services. The report outlines the steps involved in the development.



### 3. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Annual Report

The [fourth annual report on the implementation of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures](#) has been published on the DCYA website.

The report covers the period from April 2017 to December 2018 and outlines the progress made on the 163 commitments, broken down by transformational goals and the five national outcomes.

The report highlights a number of key issues which need to be addressed as implementation continues. These include: the need for Departments and Agencies to consistently engage with and utilise implementation infrastructures; the need to collaborate and coordinate on cross-sectoral priorities; and ensuring that children and young people have appropriate centrality of focus in policy development and implementation.

In the development of this report, Government Departments and agencies were asked to account for their progress against commitments as follows:

- **Done:** These commitments are considered to have been achieved.
- **Ongoing:** These commitments, by their nature, will not have a point at which they would be complete. These are commitments whose work will continue. An example is Commitment G3: Continue to support parents financially with the costs of rearing children through the provision of Child Benefit.
- **In Progress:** Commitments that are expected to be achieved by the end of the framework's timeline.
- **Not being progressed:** These commitments are facing serious issues that hinder their completion, where the timeframe for achievement has passed, or where other developments have superseded the action.

It should be noted that while many commitments are either time bound or task bound, there are some which are ongoing actions without a definitive end.

### 4. Upcoming events

**September 11/12:** Advisory Council Residential meeting

**September 18:** Sponsors Group meeting

**September 26:** Children and Young People's Policy Consortium

**November 4:** Launch of 'CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps'

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