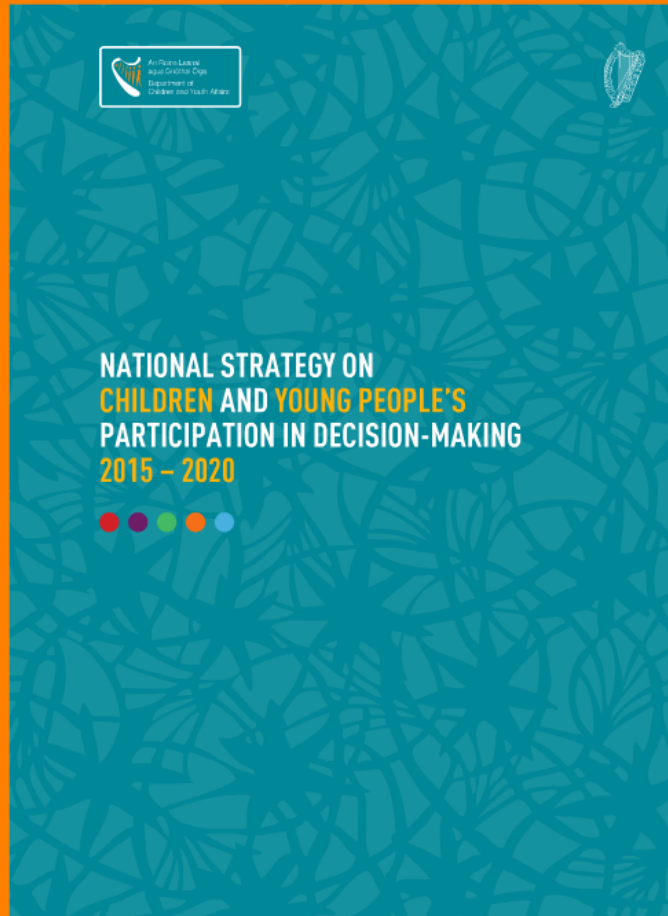






Development and Implementation: The Journey



How did it all start?

Ireland criticised by the UN Committee in its concluding observations, 1998

RESPONSE:

1. First National Children's Strategy (2000)

- Goal 1 - voice of the child
- Participation structures and voice of individual child

2. National Children's Office

- Dedicated Child Participation Unit

3. Decision to develop a dedicated Participation Strategy under National Policy Framework (Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures)

Successor to first
National Children's Strategy



**BETTER
OUTCOMES
BRIGHTER
FUTURES**

The national policy framework
for children & young people

2014 - 2020

Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures

- Establishes five national outcomes with accompanying transformational goals
- Whole of Government
- Implementation focus
- Constituent strategies
 - Participation
 - Youth
 - Early Years

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS

SUPPORT PARENTS

EARLIER INTERVENTION
& PREVENTION

LISTEN TO AND
INVOLVE CHILDREN
& YOUNG PEOPLE

ENSURE QUALITY SERVICES

STRENGTHEN TRANSITIONS

CROSS-GOVERNMENT AND
INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION
& COORDINATION

CROSS-CUTTING

STRENGTHENS THE SUPPORT
SYSTEM AROUND THE CHILD
AND YOUNG PERSON

BETTER OUTCOMES

ACTIVE &
HEALTHY

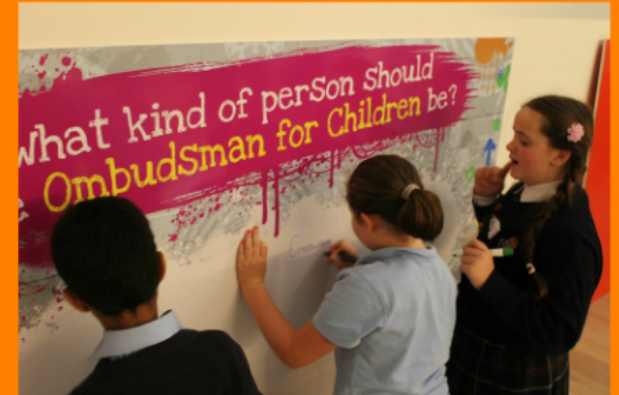
ACHIEVING
IN ALL AREAS OF
LEARNING &
DEVELOPMENT

SAFE &
PROTECTED
FROM HARM

ECONOMIC
SECURITY &
OPPORTUNITY

CONNECTED,
RESPECTED &
CONTRIBUTING

BRIGHTER FUTURES



Participation Strategy development

A constituent strategy of *Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures*

Consultative and evidence-based approach:

- National consultation with 66,700 children and young people
- Public consultation with over 1,000 stakeholders
- Bilateral meetings (Government Departments, State agencies, children and youth NGOs, academics, Comhairle na nÓg)
- Literature review (Kilkelly et al)
- Audit of existing nationwide participation activity
- A review of monitoring and evaluation reports
- Commissioned research participation





peer pressure accessories
celebrity social media diet weight
body image
SURVEY
IS YOUR BODY IMAGE IMPORTANT TO YOU?
This survey is designed to discover the things that affect young people's body image. It will help us to figure out how to promote healthy body image among young people in Ireland.
CONFIDENTIAL

Frances Fitzgerald TD,
Minister for Children
and Youth Affairs
invites you to the launch of:

**LIFE AS A CHILD
AND YOUNG PERSON
IN IRELAND**
Report of a National Consultation

Date: Wednesday, 7th November 2012
Place: Scoil Chaitríona National School,
Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2
Time: 11.30am

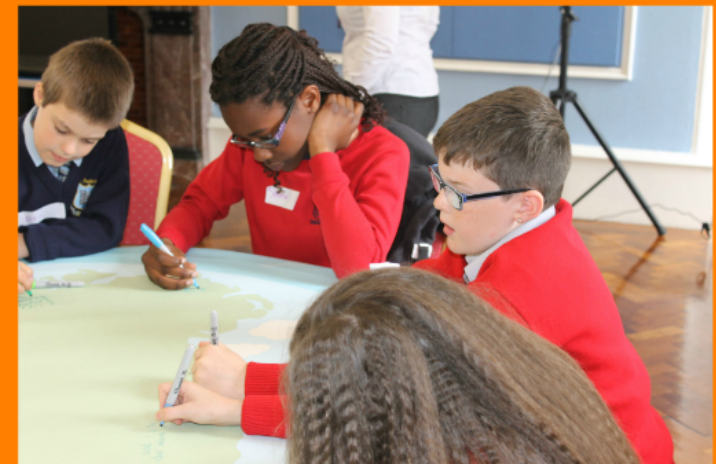
Tea & coffee will be
served from 11.00am

Life as a child and young person in Ireland: Report of a National Consultation documents the views of 66,705 children and young people.

Children and young people in every primary school, second-level school and Youthreach centre in the country were invited to complete short questionnaires containing three open questions.

The wording of the consultation questions was developed by children and young people themselves. This national consultation was conducted by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to inform development of the Children and Young People's Policy Framework. A consultation team from Trinity College Dublin was contracted to manage and run the national consultation in co-operation with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

R&VP: citizenparticipation@dca.gov.ie



What persuaded duty bearers to buy-in?

- **It is Government policy**
- Dedicated Unit in a Government Department to lead the process, headed by a senior official
- Letter from Secretary General to all other Secretaries General
- Request for a senior official to lead a bilateral meeting for each Government Department
- **Wooing champions**
- Evidence of the benefits of children's participation
- Offer of help - establishment of DCYA Children's Participation Hub, as a national centre of excellence
- **Obligation to have commitments in the Participation Strategy**

National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making, 2015-2020

Launched in June 2015

- Guided by UNCRC and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Uses Lundy's model of participation
- Uses principles of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (Rec. (2012)2)

Goal and Objectives of the National Strategy:

To ensure that children have a voice in their individual and collective everyday lives:

1. in their local communities
2. in early education, schools, formal and non-formal education systems
3. on their health and well-being, including on health and social services
4. in the courts and legal system

Implementation:

Government departments and agencies required to report on an annual basis

Priority action for DCYA: establishment of Children's Participation Hub

- national centre for excellence
- online database
- training
- resources

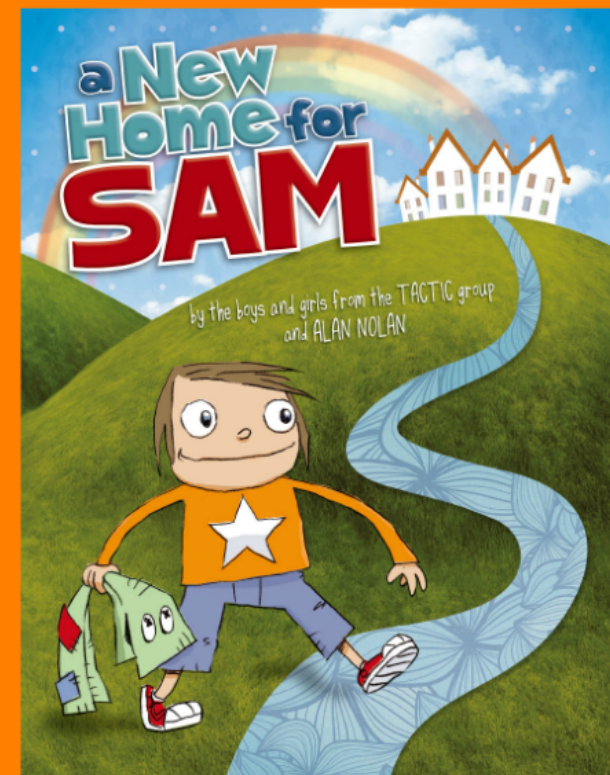
An example of children's voices changing policy and practice

Ryan Report on abuse of children in State institutions (2009)

- **DCYA conducted consultations with children living in the care of the State (foster, residential, detention)**
- **Report of consultations published**
- **Advisory group of children set up**

Outcomes:

- **standardised national child in care forms developed with focus on voice of child**
- **resources developed by children in care now given to every child going into care (2014)**



Child well being indicators

- Participation indicators will be located under each of the five outcome areas of *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures* (BOBF).
- DCYA conducting a Delphi process on indicators to track progress for children and young people across the five national outcomes.
- A review of consultations with children and young people carried out by DCYA in recent years was conducted.
- Key consultation findings mapped against the indicator areas included in the Delphi to explore the areas that children and young people viewed as important.
- Findings being used to inform development of the indicator set.



Recent consultations to inform national policy and practice

- **Direct Provision (D. Justice and Equality)**
- **Ireland 2016 (D. Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)**
- **Universal Periodic Review (D. Justice and Equality)**
- **The National Obesity Policy (D. Health)**
- **Cybercrime (Law Reform Commission)**
- **After school care (DCYA Early Years)**



CHILDREN SEEN AND HEARD 1916-2016

Report of consultations with
children and young people on
their vision for Ireland and
on remembering the children
who died in 1916

ÉIRE
IRELAND

1916
2016



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
JUNE 2016



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

A CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

HAVE
your SAY

Implementation Reporting

- A reporting template was created for each individual Department or agency with its commitments/actions
- Information sought (max 50 words) on progress under each action
- The original Action Plan template was updated and colour coded:
 - Green = Action completed
 - Red = Action not completed
 - Amber = Action in progress
 - Black = No update submitted
 - Grey = Update provided only by lead Department/agency
- The Appendix contains the complete set of templates supplied by each Department/Agency who reported under:
 - 'YES', 'NO' or 'IN PROGRESS'
- The first implementation report published online in August 2016

Strategy implementation challenges

- Some promising progress but it is slow
- Still a **lack of understanding** of 'participation'
- Still a **lack of belief** in its value
- People have moved on and new **people not briefed**
- Don't see overarching **actions as applying to them**
- **Not a top priority** for most
- **DCYA needs to maintain strong leadership** and keep children's participation as a core value

Impact of Annual Implementation Report

- What is it telling us - Progress Summary and Bar Charts
- Departmental Statements of Strategy - letter from our Secretary General seeking implementation of Participation Strategy
- Keeping children's participation on the agenda
- Annual Report forming the basis of an online, user-friendly database on commitments and progress

Conclusion

- **Carrot and stick**
- **Seeing is believing**
- **Evidence**
- **Champions**
- **Structures and partnerships**
- **Leadership**

