



**Community Platform Press Release: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – For immediate release**

## **The Government must use Budget 2019 to deliver on its commitments to a more equal and sustainable future for all**

On the eve of Budget 2019, a network of 28 national organisations in the community and voluntary sector is reminding the Government that the Budget must move Ireland towards achieving its national and international commitments to ending poverty, reducing inequality and creating a more sustainable future for everyone. These commitments are made under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Pillar of Social Rights and a range of national strategies including the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

The Community Platform, a network of 28 national organisations working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, has published Four Tests for Budget 2019 and will apply these in assessing the Government's progress in achieving its commitments. The four tests are:

Test 1: Will Budget 2019 redistribute income towards the poorest 20%?

Test 2: Will Budget 2019 strengthen access to quality employment?

Test 3: Will Budget 2019 restore and strengthen public services which are of particular importance to people on low income?

Test 4: Will the impact of Budget 2019 be assessed to ensure that all provisions reduce poverty and inequality?

The Platform has drawn on its members proposals for Budget 2019 to outline detailed measures the Government should implement if it is to achieve these tests.

Paul Ginnell, spokesperson for the Community Platform, said that "Ireland has commitments, such as reducing consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2020, and these must be the drivers for decisions on Budget day. We will assess the impact of the Budget to ensure it is moving Ireland towards achieving these commitments and the Government must to be held to account if it does not".

Mr Ginnell concluded by saying that "Budget 2019 should also re-create the conditions and provide resources to enable people from disadvantaged and excluded backgrounds to participate in the design and monitoring of policies which impact on their lives".

**Ends....**

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### **Further Information**

- Download the full Four Tests for Budget 2018 at [www.communityplatform.ie](http://www.communityplatform.ie) .

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### **The Community Platform**

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The Community Platform is an alliance of 28 national networks and organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

- Age Action Ireland
- All Together in Dignity (ATD) Ireland
- Community Action Network
- Community Work Ireland
- Cairde
- Debt and Development Coalition
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
- Focus Ireland
- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Independent Living Movement Ireland
- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
- Irish Penal Reform Trust
- Irish Refugee Council
- Irish Rural Link
- Irish Traveller Movement
- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- National Adult Literacy Agency
- National Collective of Community-based Women's Networks
- National Traveller Women's Forum
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- Pavee Point
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland
- Safe Ireland
- Sign Language Interpreting Service
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- Threshold
- Vincentian Partnership for Justice
- Women's Aid