



Community Platform Press Statement: 7th October 2021

Budget 2022 must lead to a just and fair recovery and address the social inequality that existed before Covid-19

In advance of Budget 2022 a network of 32 national community and voluntary organisations has called on the Government to put the values of Community, Participation and Decency at the heart of its implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan and Budget 2022 and use it to redress ongoing inequalities in our society that Covid-19 has highlighted and reinforced.

The Community Platform, a network of 32 national organisations working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, has published Four Tests which it will use to assess Budget 2022.

The Four Tests are:

Test 1: Will Budget 2022 redistribute income towards the poorest 20%?

Test 2: Will Budget 2022 strengthen access to quality employment?

Test 3: Will Budget 2022 restore and strengthen public services that are of particular importance to people on low income?

Test 4: Will the impact of Budget 2022 be assessed to ensure that all provisions reduce poverty and inequality?

The Platform has drawn on its members proposals for Budget 2022 to outline detailed measures the Government should implement if it is to achieve these Four Tests.

Paul Ginnell, speaking on behalf of the Community Platform said that “Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on those in poverty and social exclusion and has reinforced existing inequalities. These inequalities include inadequate social welfare supports, high levels of low paid workers, low investment in public services which among other things has led to a homelessness crisis and dysfunctional health and childcare systems, and many groups in our society being left behind”.

Catherine Lane, also speaking on behalf of the Platform stated that “Budget 2022 is our opportunity to significantly increase investment in a public, not for profit childcare model, rising to the OECD recommendation of investment of 1% of GDP over time. International evidence shows very clearly that a public childcare model is the best way to ensure access to affordable, quality childcare for families and decent pay and working conditions for childcare workers.”

Mr Ginnell continued “There were 271,000 people in consistent poverty before the covid pandemic hit and this is likely to be much higher now. Increasing numbers of people are unable to afford basic essentials and the current fuel shock will see an increase in fuel poverty”.

He concluded “Budget 2022 must protect those already severely disadvantaged and take visible steps to address existing inequalities so that in recovering from this crisis we can create a more just and fair society underpinned by values of Community, Participation and Decency”.

Ends.

Contact: Paul Ginnell 087 640 2200

Further Information: Download the full Four Tests for Budget 2022 at www.communityplatform.ie

The Community Platform

c/o EAPN Ireland, 100 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, Ireland; Phone: +353 (0)1 8745737

Email: communityplatform@eapn.ie Website: www.communityplatform.ie

The Community Platform is an alliance of 32 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
- Family Resource Centre National Forum
- 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
- One Family
- Pavee Point
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland
- Safe Ireland
- Sign Language Interpreting Service
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- TASC
- Threshold
- Treoir
- Vincentian Partnership for Justice
- Women's Aid