



## Community Platform Press Statement: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Budget 2022 must tackle the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on those worst affected while also addressing the long-term causes of poverty

In advance of Budget 2023 a network of 32 national community and voluntary organisations has called on the Government to urgently respond to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on those on the lowest income who are the worst affected, but to also tackle the ongoing issues that have enabled inequality and poverty to become ingrained and grow in our society.

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 2023.

The Four Tests are:

Test 1: Will Budget 2023 redistribute income towards the poorest 20%?

Test 2: Will Budget 2023 strengthen access to quality employment?

Test 3: Will Budget 2023 restore and strengthen public services that are of particular importance to people on low income?

Test 4: Will the impact of Budget 2023 be assessed to ensure that all provisions reduce poverty and inequality?

The Platform has drawn on its members proposals for Budget 2023 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 “The current cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people and families deeper into poverty and adding to the unaffordable cost of goods and services that were already being faced by those on the lowest incomes. Budget 2023 has to ensure that those on the lowest incomes have an adequate income to live with dignity while at the same time tackling long-term problems that create poverty. This includes much needed investment in our housing, health, childcare and other public services and ensuring they are accessible and affordable for everyone in our society”.

Mr Ginnell concluded “The Government has committed to reducing the number of people experiencing consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025. This involves halving the number of people currently in consistent poverty to 100,000 or less by then. It is crucial that as a result of Budget 2023 we see visible progress towards this commitment”.

**Ends.**

**Contact: Paul Ginnell 087 640 2200**

**Further Information:** Download the full Four Tests for Budget 2023 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 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 Traveller Women's Forum
- National Women's Council
- One Family
- Pavee Point
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland
- Safe Ireland
- Sign Language Interpreting Service
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- TASC
- Threshold
- Treoir
- Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
- Women's Aid
- Women's Collective Ireland