



Community Platform Press Statement: 9th October 2023

Budget 2024 must tackle the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on those worst affected while also addressing the long-term causes of poverty

On the eve of Budget 2024 a network of 31 national community and voluntary organisations has called on the Government to urgently address the cumulative impact of the very high cost of living on people, while also addressing ongoing structural weaknesses that create the conditions that enable inequality and poverty to become ingrained and grow in our society.

The Community Platform, a network of 31 national organisations working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, has published Four Tests which it will use to assess Budget 2024.

The Four Tests are:

Test 1: Will Budget 2024 redistribute income towards the poorest 20%?

Test 2: Will Budget 2024 strengthen access to quality employment?

Test 3: Will Budget 2024 restore and strengthen public services that are of particular importance to people on low income?

Test 4: Will the impact of Budget 2024 be assessed to ensure that all provisions reduce poverty and inequality?

The Platform has drawn on its members proposals for Budget 2024 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 ongoing 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 2024 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 “This year the Government re-confirmed its commitment to reducing the number of people experiencing consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025. This comes following an increase in the level of those experiencing consistent poverty from 4% in 2021 to 5.3%, or more than 270,000 people in 2022. It is crucial that as a result of Budget 2024 we see visible progress towards the Government’s commitment”.

Ends.

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Further Information: The Community Platform’s Four Tests for Budget 2024 at available at www.communityplatform.ie

The Community Platform

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The Community Platform is an alliance of 31 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
- European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
- Family Resource Centre National Forum
- Financial Justice 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 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
- Women's Aid
- Women's Collective Ireland