Data Sharing

A strategic and cross-Departmental issue that, perhaps, should be addressed in your Strategy Statement is that of data sharing with other bodies. DSP recognises that there is an increasing need to use existing data holdings, particularly in other public bodies, to support better decision making and the effective provision of a range of services, including new digital services. We expect to use data held in other agencies and to provide agreed DSP data to those agencies. The Department of Social Protection is working towards providing a standard set of data exchange services that is secure, auditable and based on industry standard approaches (e.g. web services).

The Department of Social Protection will work closely and collaboratively with your Department and ensure appropriate channels of communication and contacts points are systematically in place for the sharing of data for control purposes and to enable administrative efficiency in compliance with Data Protection Acts 1998/2003.

Build to Share - SAFE

A further strategic and cross-Departmental issue that should be addressed in your Strategy Statement is that of utilising the Department of Social Protection’s robust client registration and identity management services. The Department has issued some 2 million Public Service Cards and has developed a new online identity and access management facility (MyGovID) that utilises the Standard Authentication Framework Environment (SAFE). Any new digital/online customer services being developed should use the MyGovID for identity and access management, and your Department should consider opportunities for extending use of the SAFE Identity Registration process and the Public Service Card over the period of the Strategy.

Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion

DSP suggests that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport strategy is used to reinforce the Government’s policy perspective that poverty reduction, and social inclusion, are a whole-of-Government responsibility, which requires effective, cross-departmental action to achieve the national social target for poverty reduction, by 2020.

Tackling poverty remains a fundamental aspiration of Irish society and the Government, as set out in a commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government to pursue an integrated plan across Government Departments to reduce poverty. Although this ambition presents a broader cross-Departmental challenge, it is a key priority for the Department of Social Protection in particular through its co-ordination of the implementation of government strategies for social inclusion under the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2015-2017 (NAPinclusion).

NAPinclusion identifies a wide range of actions and interventions to achieve the overall objective of reducing consistent poverty. The plan prioritises 14 high level goals in relation to children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and communities across Departments and Agencies with a remit in social policy, as part of a strategic approach to make a decisive impact on poverty over the period to 2017.

A key element of NAPinclusion is the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction, which aims to reduce consistent poverty to 4% by 2016 and to 2% or less by 2020. The NSTPR also contains additional components of:
• a sub-target on child poverty: to lift over 70,000 children out of consistent poverty by 2020. This sub-target has been adopted in the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020. DSP recognises the key role set out in this Framework in developing and delivering a multi-dimensional approach to tackling and reducing child poverty;

• the Irish contribution to the Europe 2020 Poverty Target, which is to reduce by a minimum of 200,000 the population in combined poverty (i.e. consistent poverty or at-risk-of-poverty or basic deprivation) between 2010 and 2020.

Progress towards the national social target and the supporting indicators is the responsibility of all Government Departments, boosted by the resources and commitment of the social partners and civil society.

I hope that this will be of assistance in formulating your Department’s new Statement of Strategy.

25 July 2016

ENDS

Bill Ryan
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