



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

# BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

The national policy framework  
for children & young people

2014 - 2020

**Transatlantic  
Forum on  
Inclusive Early  
Years  
26<sup>th</sup> January  
2015**

**Elizabeth Canavan  
Assistant Secretary General  
Department of Children and Youth Affairs**



# Evolving Policy Perspective

- Policy Foundations
  - National Children’s Strategy 2000
  - UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - Understanding Children’s Lives
  - Shifts in thinking
    - Evidence-informed approaches
    - Preventive / Population–based approaches
  - Findings and Recommendations from Inquiries



# Implementation “Gap”

- Joined up policy = Joined up services ??
- More to do.....
- Structures
- Mandate for service providers / practitioners
- Oversight / Performance Reporting
- Need for a unifying agenda which speaks to practitioners – *Agenda for Children’s Services*

- First overarching national policy framework which comprehends the age ranges spanning children and young people (0 – 24 years).
- Represents a whole of government approach, will run from 2014 until 2020 and will accommodate a number of constituent strategies.
- The Framework:
  - sets out and centralises common outcomes
  - captures 163 policy commitments
  - identifies key transformational goals necessitating action
  - ensures an innovative and effective way of working.



# Better Outcomes Brighter Futures

- 5 National Outcomes as a Framework which can be used to articulate both policy and practice models
  - Child-centred practice not silo/service-centred
  - Emphasises strategic relationships/alliances and priorities
  - Outcome not input or output focused
- Transformational Goals
  - Emphasise pivotal role of parents
  - Value of investment in early years
  - Voice of children – a change in culture to listening and involving children
  - Quality – effective, efficient and trusted
  - Transitions – strengthening them – minding the gaps

# NATIONAL OUTCOMES

## Outcomes Framework

Active & healthy, physical & mental wellbeing

Achieving full potential in all areas of learning & development

Safe & protected from harm

Economic security & opportunity

Connected, respected & contributing to their world

### AIMS:

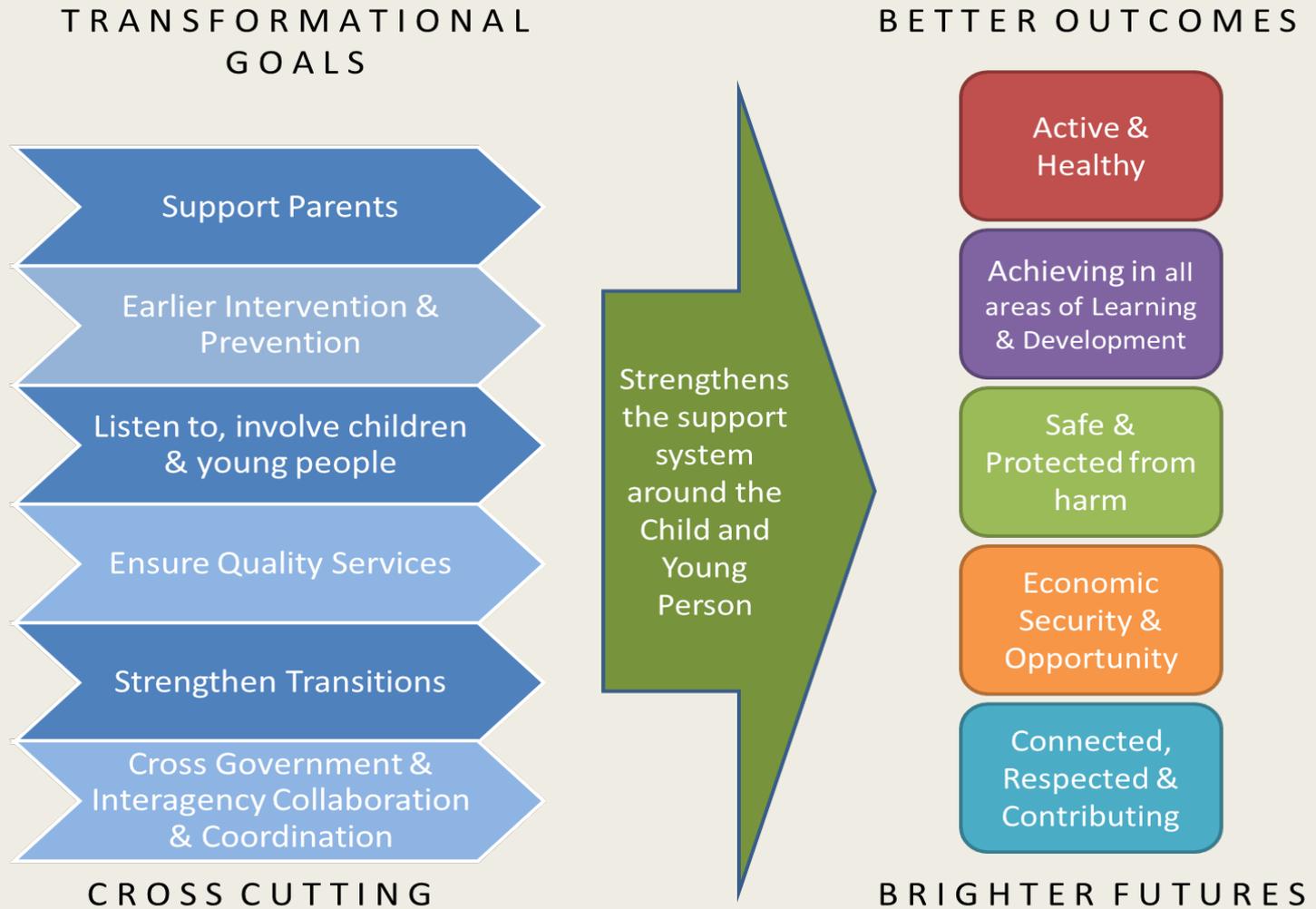
*Children and young people are or have ...*

<b>1.1</b> Physically healthy and make positive health choices	<b>2.1</b> Learning and developing from birth	<b>3.1</b> Secure, stable, caring home environment	<b>4.1</b> Protected from poverty and social exclusion	<b>5.1</b> Sense of own identity, free from discrimination
<b>1.2</b> Good mental health	<b>2.2</b> Social and emotional wellbeing	<b>3.2</b> Safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation	<b>4.2</b> Living in child/youth-friendly sustainable communities	<b>5.2</b> Part of positive networks of friends, family and community
<b>1.3</b> Positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health	<b>2.3</b> Engaged in learning	<b>3.3</b> Protected from bullying and discrimination	<b>4.3</b> Opportunities for ongoing education and training	<b>5.3</b> Civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious
<b>1.4</b> Enjoying play, recreation, sport, arts, culture and nature	<b>2.4</b> Achieving in education	<b>3.4</b> Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour	<b>4.4</b> Pathways to economic participation and independent living	<b>5.4</b> Aware of rights, responsible and respectful of the law

**Children and Young People have a voice and influence in all decisions affecting them**

# BETTER OUTCOMES: BRIGHTER FUTURES

THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2014-2020



# BETTER OUTCOMES: BRIGHTER FUTURES

THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2014-2020



Impacts

- Streamlines and structures the **work programmes of groupings** to ensure that a **shared agenda** is identified and common approach adopted
- Endeavours to bring about a **change in the way we all work** to ensure **optimum outcomes** for children and young people through a more **comprehensive and coordinated approach**
- Situates the **needs and aspirations of children and young people** within a holistic policy context and is the context for the development of constituent strategies (Early Years; Participation; Youth).



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BOBF – 2015  
Focus &  
Priorities

Lead	Cross-cutting priority
DSP:	Child Poverty Reduction via national target
DH:	Physical Health via National Physical Activity Plan
DCYA:	Prevention and Early Intervention via move to rebalancing of resources with a focus on Prevention and Early Intervention
DES:	Early Years Education via inclusion of children with additional needs in Early Years Care and Education
DECLG:	Enhanced coordination via establishment of a local and community development structures to ensure greater alignment and effective coordination



Establishment of clear and efficient structures to drive implementation, ensure accountability and provide a forum for stakeholder engagement.

## New Structures

### Consolidation and creation:

- Children and Young People's Policy Consortium (incorporating Sponsor's Group)
- Advisory Council (comprising Early Years, Children and Youth sectors and interests)

## Existing Structures

### Alignment:

- Reconfigured Children's Services Committees National Steering Group
- Comhairle na nÓg Executive
- EU Structured Dialogue National Working Group

Insert text here

# Cabinet Committee on Social Policy

Annual progress report

## Children and Young People's Policy Consortium

Process & Interaction for Reporting

Oversee cross-Government implementation

Drive implementation of the commitments.

Coordination & monitor implementation

Advise & support implementation & development

### Sponsors Group

Drive key issues & address challenges  
Propose annual priorities  
Set annual priorities and, where relevant approve programmes of work

### Implementation Team

#### Ensure Monitoring and Reporting

- Draft Annual Progress Report
- Compile and monitor progress from Leads & Partners

#### Ensure alignment of constituent strategies

- Early Years
- Youth
- Participation

Ensure support and interaction

Representation & Reporting

Representation & Reporting

Structured Engagement

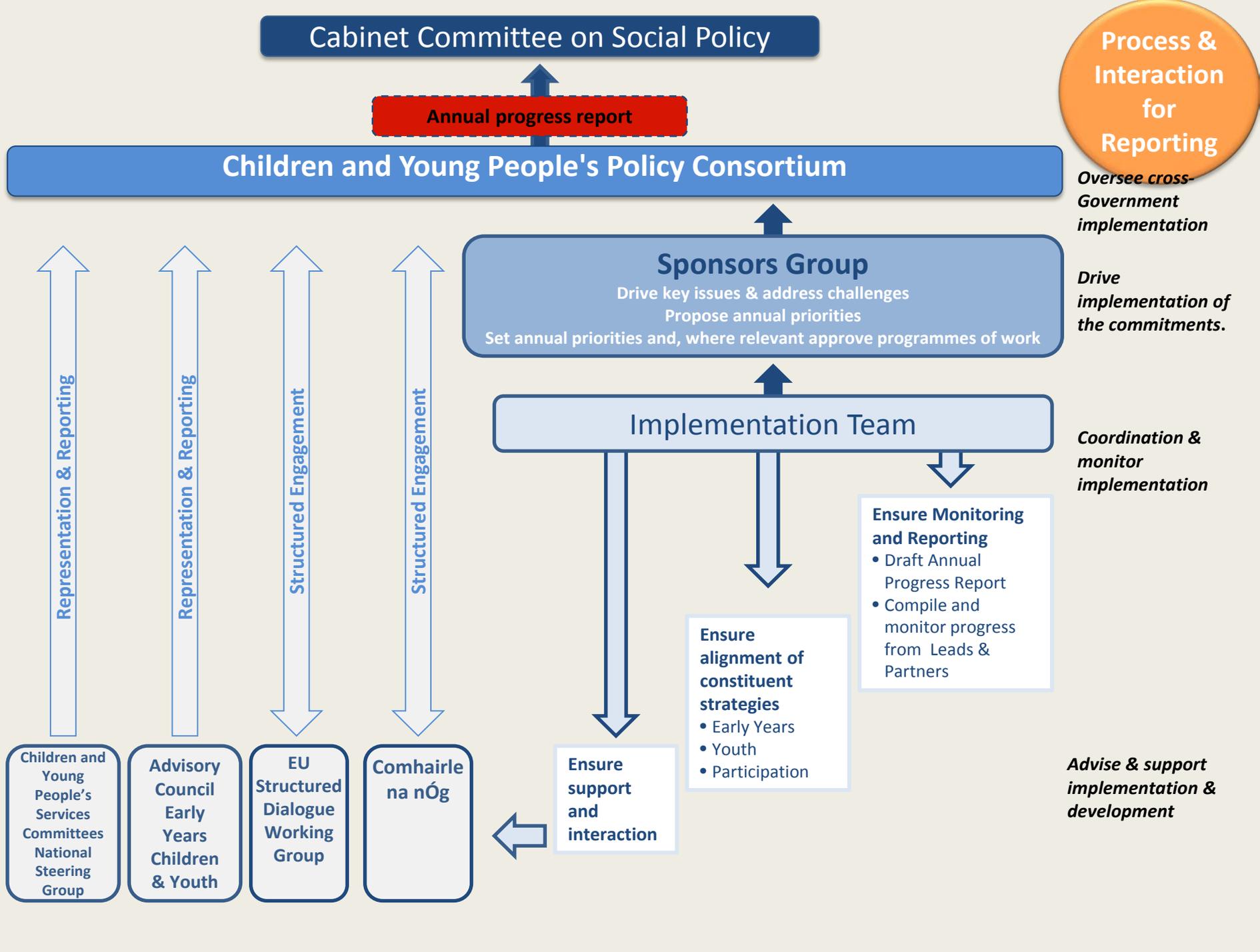
Structured Engagement

Children and Young People's Services Committees National Steering Group

Advisory Council Early Years Children & Youth

EU Structured Dialogue Working Group

Comhairle na nÓg



# BETTER OUTCOMES: BRIGHTER FUTURES

THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2014-2020

Strengthening  
Implementation

- **Approach to implementation will be monitored and reviewed as process develops**
  - Annually and mid-term review in 2017
- **Leadership commitment secured within Statutory, Community and Voluntary sectors**
  - Achieved via a well-functioning implementation infrastructure
- **Communicating and engaging staff and stakeholders**
  - Making *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* relevant and accessible to a range of audiences on a range of levels
- **Framework becomes “business as usual” for Departments and Agencies (...and sectors)**

