



SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	PUBLIC BODY	PREPARED BY
12/02/2024	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	DCEDIY Corporate Governance Unit

The purpose of the table below is to assist the public body in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Southern Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A (2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct, covering the 2-year period 2022-2024, and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or programme outlined.

For further information, please contact Brigh Ryan at bryan@southernassembly.ie or Claire Breen at cbreen@southernassembly.ie

Please return the report to this office by **Friday, 2nd February 2024**.

This can be submitted by email to: cbreen@southernassembly.ie

PLEASE OUTLINE ANY PROGRESS MADE IN SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RSES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT-

In framing your response please provide a short overview of key public investment mechanisms and proposals by reference to:

1. Delivery of services in the context of the planned population increase of 340,000 to 380,000 in the Southern Region to 2040 under the NPF and RSES

Much of the input included in this report relates to medium and long-term strategies which aim to improve outcomes for children, young people as well as minorities and other groups of society all across the country. The input provided below has a focus on their implementation and related funding in Carlow, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Cork, Kerry, Clare, and Limerick.

I note that the report prepared by Tusla (sent as a separate attachment to this report) outlines their plans in this regard. Please see the attached report for reference.

2. Progress made in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to your Department, including detail relating to:

- Access to childcare
- Youth services
- Play and recreation needs of children and young people
- Age friendly and family friendly strategies
- Specialist housing provision for a diverse and inclusive Region including provision for migrants, minority groups and Travellers

Access to early learning and childcare

Ensuring high-quality early learning and childcare is affordable and accessible to all children and, in particular, children from vulnerable backgrounds is a policy priority. This is reflected in a range of national policies and strategies.

Early learning and childcare is recognised as a critical part of the nation's infrastructure in Project Ireland 2040 and the NDP 2021-2030 – both as a core element of the education system for children and a prerequisite of job creation and labour market participation. More specifically, early learning and childcare is a national policy objective of this National Planning Framework, with €250 million earmarked to develop this infrastructure over its lifetime. Some €69 million was allocated to early learning and childcare under the revised NDP over the period 2023-2025.

One of the major strategic actions in First 5: A Whole of Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families (2019-2028) is to “maintain and extend the supply of high-quality publicly subsidised early learning and childcare to best serve the developmental needs of babies and young children, ensuring that it also reflects the needs and preferences of parents and families”. The recently published First 5 Implementation Plan 2023-2025 describes the steps that will be taken in the over the next three years under this strategic action.

A recognition of subsidised early learning and childcare as a core element of Ireland's social and economic infrastructure is echoed in the Programme for Government, Our Shared Future. The Programme for Government pledges to increase access to subsidised early learning and childcare places to families among a range of other commitments that will improve access, affordability and quality (e.g. continue to invest in the National Childcare Scheme, reducing costs for parents; continue to support the ECCE Programme for three- to five-year-olds, and if

resources allow, increase the scope of the Programme; increase the range of after-school services in schools or community hubs, to offer a range of education and family-focused measures).

Early learning and childcare is also recognised as a core element of the remote work infrastructure in the Remote Working Strategy. This strategy commits to map commuter, skills and early learning and childcare services data to inform future hub development decisions

Latest capacity data

The annual data captured by Pobal on behalf of the Department - through the Early Years Sector Profile Survey - is one important data source that allows the Department to monitor supply and demand. Data from the 2022/2023 survey indicate nationally estimated enrolments of 213,154 children with 51% of services reporting at least one vacancy and 48% of services operating a waiting list. These data are broken down by county division in the Table below.

County Division	No. of enrolments	% of Services with vacant places	% of Services with waiting list
Carlow	2,468	40%	56%
Cavan	4,070	43%	46%
Clare	4,855	50%	37%
Cork City	7,745	56%	46%
Cork County	14,322	51%	34%
Donegal	8,209	64%	45%
Dublin - Dublin City	19,743	50%	63%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	9,440	45%	61%
Dublin - Fingal	13,635	42%	58%
Dublin - South Dublin	11,619	43%	56%
Galway	14,088	50%	50%
Kerry	6,652	56%	41%
Kildare	10,382	45%	56%
Kilkenny	4,293	57%	55%
Laois	4,512	55%	39%
Leitrim	1,734	53%	47%
Limerick	9,170	52%	46%
Longford	1,934	47%	53%
Louth	5,278	39%	58%
Mayo	5,339	55%	34%
Meath	8,780	55%	38%
Monaghan	4,323	53%	67%

Offaly	2,857	66%	32%
Roscommon	2,811	57%	43%
Sligo	3,599	46%	47%
Tipperary	8,096	58%	38%
Waterford	5,319	47%	49%
Westmeath	4,614	54%	45%
Wexford	6,846	47%	49%
Wicklow	6,423	55%	41%
Total	213,154	51%	48%

In addition to this survey data, the Department also relies on data from the register of services held by Tusla to monitor supply and demand. Tusla is the independent statutory regulator for ELC and SAC services, and is responsible for maintaining the register of services. Services are required to register with Tusla in accordance with the Childcare Act 1991, as amended and associated regulations. Registered childcare providers are required to notify Tusla in writing of the closure of a service not later than 28 days after the closure. The register is updated monthly.

Data from Tusla on numbers of ELC and SAC closures and new service openings are only available a month in arrears so the most recent data available to the Department, at this time, is from the end of November 2023. The latest data shows:

- a five-year low in the number of net ELC services closures, such as crèches and pre-schools (i.e. 32 net closures January-November 2023 compared to 57 net closures in 2022, 77 net closures in 2021, 101 net closures in 2020 and 89 net closures in 2019 for the same time period);
- a net increase of 158 standalone SAC services (after-school childcare) year to date;
- a net increase of 126 in the overall number of ELC and standalone SAC services year to date.

In addition, since 2020, six parent surveys have been undertaken by Ipsos on behalf of the Department.

National Childcare Scheme (NCS)

The NCS provides financial support to help families with their early learning and childcare costs. There are two types of subsidies available to families:

- Universal subsidies are available to all families with children between 24 weeks and 15 years of age. This subsidy is not means tested.
- Income Assessed Subsidies are available to families with children aged between 24 weeks and 15 years. This subsidy is means tested and will be calculated based on the applicant's individual circumstances. The rate will vary depending on the level of family income, the child's age and educational stage, and the number of children in a family. To benefit from an Income Assessed subsidy, the applicant's reckonable family income has to be less than €60,000.

In addition, a sponsorship arrangement is available under the NCS which makes special provision for vulnerable children. The sponsored family is not required to make any contribution to the cost of the place.

Budgets 2022 and 2023 announced significant enhancements to the NCS as follows:

- The practice of deducting hours spent in pre-school or school from NCS awards was discontinued in April 2022;
- The universal subsidy under the NCS was extended to all children under 15 in August 2022 (from all children under 3)
- The universal hourly subsidy under the NCS was increased to €1.40 in January 2023 (from €0.50 per hour).

In Budget 2024, additional funding was secured to increase the minimum NCS subsidy from €1.40 per child per hour to €2.14 per child per hour from September 2024. The sponsorship rates under the NCS will also increase from this time and the NCS will open up to families who use childminders.

Core Funding

Core Funding, was introduced in September 2022, and designed to meet the combined objectives of:

- Improved affordability for parents by ensuring that fees do not increase;
- Improved quality for children through better pay and conditions for the workforce by supporting agreement on an Employment Regulation Order through the Joint Labour Committee and supporting the employment of graduate staff; and
- Improved sustainability and stability for services.

Core Funding in Year 1 – with an overall allocation of €259 million - contributed to services' sustainability and significantly increased income for the overwhelming majority of services while providing greater funding stability. For Year 2 of Core Funding, the budget increased by 11% to reach €287 million, providing a sustainable platform for investment with increases for all services.

Budget 2024 allocated an additional €37.4m to Core Funding. This increase on the 2023 allocation will support continued implementation of the scheme for the second programme year (September 2023 to August 2024) and into the third programme year from September 2024.

With additional funding of €14.65m being made available from September 2024, this translates into a full year allocation of €331m for year 3 of Core Funding, an increase of €44m, or 15%, on the current allocation of €287m. This will support the delivery of a range of enhancements in Year 3 of the scheme to support improved affordability and accessibility for families, improved pay and conditions for the workforce and improved sustainability for providers.

The ongoing development of Core Funding which has given rise to a significant expansion of places since the scheme was first introduced. The allocation for year 2 of this scheme provided for a 3% growth in capacity, which has materialised, and the allocation of year 3 of the scheme provides for further growth of 3%.

Equal Participation Model (EPM)

Officials in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth are progressing work to finalise the Equal Participation Model (EPM) which will aim to help children and their families who may be experiencing disadvantage to access ELC settings, through a range of supports, universal and targeted. An allocation of €4.5m has been secured to commence the first phase of rollout of the EPM from September 2024.

Play and Recreation Capital Grant Scheme

Continued and planned roll out of the DCEDIY Play and Recreation Capital Grant Scheme and funding for National Play Day in 2022-2024. Current scoping project underway to identify new and innovative approaches to public play and recreation facilities which will inform next steps in development of this sector, including how children and young people can be involved in decision making.

3. Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency

Please see the separate reports for Tusla attached to the cover email.

4. Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES

National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy

The National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy (2019-2021) provides a whole-of-Government framework for identifying and addressing issues, which may prevent LGBTI+ people from enjoying full equality in practice in Irish society. The overall vision informing the Strategy is of a safe, fair and inclusive Ireland where people are supported to flourish and to live inclusive, healthy and fulfilling lives, whatever their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.

The Strategy pursues objectives under four thematic pillars providing a vision of an Ireland where LGBTI+ people are visible and included, treated equally, healthy and feel safe and supported. With a view to making progress towards these high-level objectives, 108 actions were agreed. The lifetime of the Strategy has been extended to facilitate the implementation of a number of outstanding actions, and will remain in place until a successor Strategy is developed.

An independent review of the Strategy is currently being carried out. This review will focus on what has and hasn't been achieved in the Strategy and will seek to identify priority areas for inclusion in a successor Strategy. The outcome of this review will inform the development of a successor Strategy.

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy

The **National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS)** represents a whole of Government approach to ensuring the full inclusion of Traveller and Roma communities in Irish society. The strategy encompasses actions on key issues such as Accommodation, Education, Employment, Culture and Identity, and Health amongst others. The implementation of the strategy is overseen by the NTRIS steering committee, which is chaired by the Minister

for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and includes representation from Traveller and Roma representative bodies, as well as relevant Government Departments and agencies.

The current NTRIS concluded at the end of 2021 and is currently being reviewed. During the review process, the current Steering Committee remains in operation and is continuing to convene meetings and to receive updates from Departments and representative organisations on actions progressed and issues arising.

The drafting of the next iteration of the NTRIS is well underway. The successor Strategy will seek to align with the objectives of the EU's Roma Strategic Framework, with particular focus on a robust framework for implementation and monitoring, and a stronger outcomes focused approach. The successor NTRIS is expected to be launched in early 2024.

Early Years:

In line with commitments in the First 5 Strategy and owing to increasing demand for State Subsidies early learning and childcare – driven by increased investment in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and greater affordability for parents, the DCEDIY is progressing a range of actions to ensure the supply of early learning and childcare meets demand.

New Supply Management Unit

A new Supply Management Unit was established in January 2024. This new PO-led Unit includes a combination of generalist posts and specialist posts, including a Supply Management Advisor and Coordinator on secondment from Dublin City and Wicklow Childcare Committees.

A Forward Planning System

A key part of the Supply Management Unit's remit will be to develop a planning function, for monitoring, analysing and forecasting of investment needs, in line with a recommendation of the Expert Group in their Report – Partnership for the Public Good. The development of this function - akin to the Department of Education's Forward Planning Unit - will be supported by the Data Analytics Units in the DCEDIY and a statistician, recently seconded from the CSO, to work in the ELC and SAC Division.

Updated Planning Guidelines

In line with a commitment in First 5, the Supply Management Unit will, in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), progress the updating the 2001 Planning Guidelines for Local Authorities on Early Learning and Childcare Settings. These Guidelines, issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provide the current framework to guide both local authorities, and developers and early learning and childcare providers in formulating and considering development proposals. The Guidelines are intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country to the treatment of applications in respect to the land use planning aspects of ELC and SAC provision, for relevant planning applications.

To inform this work, a survey of the local authorities will be undertaken by the DHLGH in 2024 and there will be consultation with the local authorities on the proposed changes as well as wider public consultation on updated guidelines. Updated guidelines are expected to be finalised late 2024/early 2025.

Already, arising from the Department's engagement with DHPLG on this work, the Department has been included in the updated list of prescribed bodies that need to be notified on certain planning matters, including the formulation of County Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The Supply Management Unit will lead on this new role for the DCEDIY.

Capital Funding

The Supply Management Unit will also oversee the allocation of new capital investment.

€69 million has been allocated over the period 2023-2025 under the NDP to enable capital investment in early learning and childcare across three pillars:

1. Building Blocks - Improvement Grant;
2. Building Blocks - Capacity Grant; and
3. Building Blocks - Innovation Grant.

Under the Building Blocks - Improvement Grant, €9 million was allocated in 2023 for energy upgrades and retrofit projects.

The purpose of the Building Blocks - Capacity Grant is to expand existing provision and invest in the development of new provision where most needed. The DCEDIY is currently undertaking a detailed needs analysis of supply and demand across the sector. This analysis will enable the funding to be targeted to where it is most needed. In addition to addressing local area need, the key focus of the Capacity Grant is to increase capacity in the 1-3 age range for full day or part-time care. This age bracket has been identified as being particularly undersupplied. Places for children under age 1 will also be eligible for funding.

Funding under the Building Blocks - Capacity Grant will be split into two strands:

- a €15m Expansion Grant, to be operated from early 2024 under which between €50,000 and €100,000 will be awarded to services to renovate or upgrade existing space to cater for additional children; and
- a €20m large scale Extension Grant, which will operate from later in 2024 and into 2025 to commence large-scale expansion projects of between €100,000 and €500,000, which will be completed in 2025.

Match funding will be required of private services under both strands, with a maximum contribution by the Department of 50% of total project costs. Match funding will not be required of community-led services. Service providers may be awarded funding under one of the Internal Renovation or larger-scale Extension Grant only.

The network of 30 City/County Childcare Committees will provide support to services who are considering applying for funding. Both strands will be open to Core Funding partner services, with the Internal Renovation strand due to open for applications in early 2024.

The remaining €10m in capital funding has been earmarked for a range of capital expenditure programmes, including funding for new ELC and SAC services, a strand of capital funding under the Sustainability Fund, childminding initiatives and ICT investment. Further details of these programmes will issue in the coming months.

Young Ireland

Young Ireland: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028, was launched on 21 November 2023.

This Framework sets out current issues impacting children and young people, as identified by them, and as recently highlighted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

It aims to create an environment to ensure that children and young people are a central part of everyone's agenda, and that all children and young people can fully access their rights.

Three spotlight programmes focus on significant challenges for children and young people, namely child poverty, children and youth mental health and wellbeing, and disability services.

Young Ireland reiterates the need for the State to work with civil society partners to realise new and existing policy commitments, including ongoing consultation with affected parties.

Young Ireland is available to view on www.gov.ie/youngireland

Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making: Action Plan 2024-2028

The forthcoming Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making: Action Plan 2024-2028 contains specific actions for DCEDIY to support government departments to consult with and involve children and young people in decision making . This includes supporting the National Youth Assembly on Climate and the Rural Youth Assembly, Discussion in 2022 and 2023 relevant to the objectives of the RSES, include sustainable development of rural areas, climate action, transport and environmental issues. DCEDIY also supports Comhairle na nÓg which gives young people a voice in decision making on all issues relevant to their lives at local and national level.

5. Please provide a summary of the funding programmes administered by your Department (or agency under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Southern Region with the following details requested:¹

- **Funding Programme**
- **County Project Name and Description**
- **Amount Awarded (€)**
- **Stage of Project**

¹ Southern Region comprises 10 local authorities: Cork City, Cork County, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

- Funding Programmes**, Dormant Accounts, Core Funding,
County Project Name and Description :
Restorative Justice in the Community CLG/Traveller Mediation Service
 RJC (Based in Co Tipperary)
Traveller Conflict and Mental Health Initiative
 Works to mediate conflicts between Travellers, between Travellers & Agencies, and between Travellers and the Settled Community.
Amount Awarded (€) :
 Dormant Accounts
2022 €54,600.00, **2023** €54,600.00
 Core Funding
2022 €257,900.00, **2023** €257,900.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing, More actions in 2024
- Funding Programmes**, Core Funding,
County Project Name and Description :
Carlow County Council
 County Carlow
St Catherines Community Centre - Carlow Traveller Forum
 St. Catherine's Traveller programmes aim to achieve social justice and improve equality outcomes for the Travelling community in Carlow and its environs.
Amount Awarded (€) :
 Core Funding
2022 €17,360.00, **2023** €18,228.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing
- Funding Programmes**, Core Funding, Roma Employment, Education Pilots, Roma Inclusion
County Project Name and Description :
FDYS (Ferns Diocesan Youth Service)
 County Wexford
Roma Employment (Completed 2023)
Education Pilots (STAR Project/ NTRIS)
Roma Inclusion
 FDYS works with young people and adults in County Wexford to encourage them to take control of their own lives and to reach their full potential..
Amount Awarded (€) :
 Core Funding
2022 €139,444.00, **2023** €139,444.00
 Roma Employment
2022 €75,000.00, **2023** €75,000.00
 Education Pilots
2022 €109,250.00, **2023** €109,250.00
 Roma Inclusion
2022 €50,000.00, **2023** €50,000.00
Stage of Projects: Ongoing, apart from Roma Employment which completed in 2023.
- Funding Programmes**, Core Funding, Roma Employment
County Project Name and Description :
Waterford Area Partnership (WAP)
 County Waterford
Atelier Roma Men's Project, Atelier Women's Roma Project
 The projects engage Roma people through training and development programmes – to support access to education and employment. Previous to 2023 this project was run by U-Casadh CLG.
Amount Awarded (€) :
 Core Funding
2022 €55,000.00, **2023** €75,000.00

Roma Employment
2022 €55,000.00, **2023** €75,000.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing

- **Funding Programmes, Roma Employment, New Traveller Projects**
County Project Name and Description :
Cork TVG (Traveller Visibility Group)
County Cork
Cork TVG / Men's Health Development Strategy
TVG is a Traveller led Cork based organisation which brings the settled community and Travellers together in order to facilitate community development work for the Traveller community.
Amount Awarded (€) :
Roma Employment
2022 €150,000.00, **2023** €150,000.00
Traveller Projects (New)
2022 €15,000.00, **2023** €15,000.00
Stage of Project: Roma Employment is Ongoing; but have alternative source for the Men's Programme in 2024.
- **Funding Programmes, Roma Inclusion**
County Project Name and Description :
Clare Local Development Group
County Clare
Clare Local Development Group
The Clare Traveller Community Development Project (CDP) is a collaborative project, led by Clare Local Development Company, Clare Public Participation Network, Clare Women's Network and HSE Mid-West Traveller Health Unit, and supported by a wide range of additional organisations locally and nationally.
Amount Awarded (€) :
Roma Inclusion
2022 €30,000.00, **2023** €30,000.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing
- **Funding Programmes, Special Initiatives for Travellers**
County Project Name and Description :
Cork Employability Service
County Cork
Special Initiative for Travellers
Employability Service Cork matches the employment skills and career aspirations of people from the Traveller and Roma Communities with the labour requirements of employers
Amount Awarded (€) :
Roma Inclusion
2022 €59,563.00, **2023** €62,541.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing
- **Funding Programmes, Special Initiatives for Travellers**
County Project Name and Description :
Kerry Employability Service
County Kerry
Special Initiative for Travellers
Kerry Support Employment CLG trading a Employability Service Kerry provides employment supports to people with Disabilities, Mental Health Challenges and Members of the Traveller Community.
Amount Awarded (€) :

Roma Inclusion
2022 €69,736.00, **2023** €72,862.00
Stage of Project: Ongoing

- **Funding Programmes, Special Initiatives for Travellers**

County Project Name and Description :

Congress Information & Opportunity Centre (CIOC)

County Clare

Special Initiative for Travellers

The CIOC Special Initiative For Travellers (SIFT) focuses on job-ready Travellers and support their access into employment and enterprise development.

Amount Awarded (€) :

Roma Inclusion

2022 €62,413.00, **2023** €62,413.00

Stage of Project: Ongoing

Funding Programme – Capital Grants Scheme 2022			
County Project	Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Carlow	Borris playground upgrade	€15,552	Completed
Clare	Tir na nÓg playground, Shannon upgr	€15,852	Completed
Cork City Council	Blarney Park playground upgrade	€16,541	Completed
Cork County Council	Garryvoe playground upgrade	€16,541	Completed
Kerry	Rossbeigh playground, Glenbeigh upgrade	€15,852	Completed
Kilkenny	Assumption Place playground, Kilkenny City upgrade	€15,852	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick O'Brien Park playground, Limerick City upgrade	€16,541	Completed
Tipperary	Mulcahy Park playground, Clonmel upgrade	€15,576	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Inclusive cycle equipment for Learn to Cycle track, Fairlane Park, Dungarvan.	€15,162	Completed
Wexford	Courtown playground upgrade	€16,541	Completed

Funding Programme – Capital Grants Scheme 2023			
County Project	Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Carlow County Council	Installation of an accessible mini basketball court: Hanover Activity Park – Carlow Town	€14,873	Completed

Clare County Council	Ability Swing – Tim Smythe Park – Ennis Town	€11,020	Completed
Cork City Council	Refurbishment of Tory Top Park Playground – Cork city	€16,793	Completed
Cork County Council	Construction of community playground, to include mixed ability equipment – Rylane	€18,000	Completed
Kerry County Council	Inclusive upgrade to An Bhainseach Playground – Killorglin	€17,272	Completed
Kilkenny County Council	Refurbishment of Rising Stars Playground – Mooncoin	€16,026	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Skate park improvement scheme – Mount Kennett	€14,394	Incomplete – Return of Grant to DCEDIY pending
Tipperary County Council	Refurbishment and upgrade of Avondale Crescent playground – Tipperary Town	€17,592	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Faronshoneen Park Playground upgrades – Williamstown	€15,353	In progress
Wexford County Council	Enhancement of Windmill Heights Playground – Wexford town	€16,153	Completed

Funding Programme – National Play Day grant scheme 2022

County Project	Name and Description	Amount	Stage of project
Carlow County Council	'Go Fly Your Kite' which teaches children how to construct, design and decorate their own kites Orienteering courses.	€3000	Completed
Clare County Council	Active play packs distributed.	€3000	Completed
Cork City Council	Pop up play events. An intergenerational play event., 'Introduction to Camogie'. Play packs provided.	€3000	Completed
Cork County Council	Provided Play packs.	€3000	Completed
Kerry County Council	Play and recreation activities organised.	€3000	Completed

Kilkenny County Council	Sensory toys to children and outdoor play equipment provided to children.	€3000	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Play Packs and Play initiatives provided.	€3000	Completed
Tipperary County Council	Play packs distributed and events organised.	€3000	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Developed activity packs .Held several live outdoor events in disadvantaged communities.	€3000	Completed
Wexford County Council	Live outdoor events and fun interactive programmes for children.	€3000	Completed

Funding Programme – National Play Day grant scheme 2023			
County Project	Name and Description	Amount	Stage of project
Carlow County Council	'Go Fly Your Kite', Orienteering courses.	€3,000.00	Completed
Clare County Council	Did not apply for the grant		N/A
Cork City Council	Urban orienteering, storytelling, arts Play in the Sand and Play Picnic.	€3000	Completed
Cork County Council	Three community events held.	€3000	Completed
Kerry County Council	Play and recreation activities delivered.	€2,595.03	Completed
Kilkenny County Council	Play activities including various sports and art supplies a social community outdoor activity held.	€3000	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Play initiatives delivered. Play packs distributed.	€3000	Completed
Tipperary County Council	Play packs distributed. Wild food workshop held.	€2,400.00	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Water-based, cycling and orienteering activities organised. Playful street event in the city.	€3000	Completed
Wexford County Council	Play Packs, Community Sailing Day Boxing Awards program.	€2,888.01	Completed

Funding Programme – Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2022			
County Project	Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Carlow	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Clare	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Cork City Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Cork County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Kerry	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Kilkenny	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Tipperary	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Wexford	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed

Funding Programme – Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2023			
County Project	Name and Description	Amount Awarded (€)	Stage of Project
Carlow	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Clare	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Cork City Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Cork County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Kerry	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Kilkenny	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Limerick City and County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Tipperary	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Waterford City and County Council	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed
Wexford	Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund	€25,000	Completed

Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) in implementing the RSES and addressing the issue of balanced regional growth, to fully realise the ambition and targets set out for the Southern Region under *Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework* and the RSES. This may include any

recommendations that you consider would improve the implementation process and provide a greater focus on addressing regional imbalance.

DCEDIY also engages with the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Our Rural Future- (ORF) Programme. The programme can be viewed online at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/>.

DCEDIY has recently submitted its 5th progress report under ORF and continues to engage with DRCD.

PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM.

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