

Crosscare
04/10/2022

Question: What progress do you feel has been made in reducing poverty and social exclusion since publication of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 in January 2020?

Crosscare response:

- Dept. of Social Protection's working group, mapping document and research underway are good developments on food poverty.
- New funding over recent years to support youth work has had a significant impact.
- Action taken during Covid (e.g. people in homelessness had quicker access to services and payments) and in response to the Ukrainian crisis (e.g. interdepartmental collaboration lead to speedy responses to Ukrainian refugees' needs, e.g. access to PPSN numbers) need to be retained and expanded.

Question: In your experience, what has worked well in reducing the number of people in Ireland experiencing poverty and social exclusion?

Crosscare response:

- New funding to support youth work has had a significant impact.
- Action taken during Covid (e.g. people in homelessness had quicker access to services and payments) and in response to the Ukrainian crisis (e.g. interdepartmental collaboration lead to speedy responses to Ukrainian refugees' needs, e.g. access to PPSN numbers) benefitted these cohorts of people.

Question: And in your experience, what has not worked so well or is challenging in reducing the number of people in Ireland experiencing poverty and social exclusion?

Crosscare response:

- Housing first model relies on 'wrap around' services which have often been insufficient.
- Homelessness prevention, in the first instance, and prevention of the return into homelessness by people who have moved on has not been sufficiently supported.

Question: What would you like to see prioritised in terms of moving people out of poverty and social exclusion, up to the end of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 in 2025.

Crosscare response:

- Resource the increase in both housing stock and homelessness prevention services.
- Continue support of youth work – funding increases of recent years need to be maintained or all benefits of same will be lost.
- Build on the learning from the response to Ukrainians refugees to improve situation for Ukrainian and International Protection applicants.
- Support and resource models (e.g. Crosscare's Food Poverty Case Work Service, Crosscare's CLAN project) piloted and evaluated by NGOs which produce sustainable outcomes for those living in poverty.

Question: If there are any specific aims, ambitions, commitments or targets in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 that you would like to comment on, please provide details. This can include identifying gaps in what is included in the Roadmap, or any other comments you may have.

Crosscare response:

- Because so much has changed since Jan. 2020 - from global pandemic, to Ukrainian crisis, to cost of living crisis - this document needs to be revisited and new priorities set for the period up to 2025. Obvious priorities are housing/homelessness, migration-related matters and pointed efforts to address those most adversely impacted on by the cost of living crisis.

- Where an NGO develops a model to respond to an emerging need and brings it to the attention of the relevant Govt. Dept., this should be supported financially for further development e.g. Crosscare's Food Poverty Case work service.
- The existing Roadmap makes limited reference to the specific needs of migrants – incl. EU, non EU, IP applicants. The updated Roadmap needs to make sure specific measures are developed in this area and not assume migrants will be included in general measures.

Question: The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025 includes 7 high-level goals. Please indicate below which of these goals are most relevant to your participation in the Mid-Term Review.

Provide income security for older people;

Support families – reduce child poverty;

Reduce poverty among people with disabilities – help them to maximise their ability;

Ensure that all people have access to quality services

Question: Which county are you located in?

Wicklow

Question: Are you responding on a personal basis or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Question: Which organisation are you responding on behalf of?

Crosscare - see www.crosscare.ie