

Changing Ireland Magazine
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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?

New homes/apartments have been built, but the local population has decreased due to a greater level of house demolition by the State as part of regeneration.

In the very disadvantaged area that our project is based, homelessness or semi-homelessness is probably the greatest challenge, whereas employment rates have improved. While I don't have figures to hand, anecdotally I can say there is an improved quality of life in the past 5 years - without doubt - for people living here. It is a safer place to live than five years ago.

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

In Ireland - social welfare payments. Rent supports. Housing. Educational opps.

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?

Refugees - most welcome - add to the number of people who are poor, etc.

SICAP funding should be doubled to help integration, connect newcomers with jobs/education/culture and community.

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.

Fair distribution of housing.

State funded house building strategy - with homes directly built by local authorities.

More educational opportunities - eg through more Garda Youth Diversion funding.

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.

Regarding homelessness, the bureaucratic hurdles and patience required is often too cumbersome for people living on the fringes of regular housed society. Reduce the bureaucratic demands.

Communicate in plain English.

More CDPs would help connect people.

Make Libraries even stronger as community hubs.

Encourage (not discourage) more volunteers for CICs.

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.

Ensure work pays – fair pay, fair conditions for workers;

Support families – reduce child poverty;

Ensure that all people have access to quality services

Question: Which county are you located in?

Limerick

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

Both

Question: Which organisation are you responding on behalf of?

I am employed as the Editor of Changing Ireland magazine based in Moyross, Limerick.