



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Supporting Parents:

A National Model
of Parenting
Support Services



What is Supporting Parents?

- Supporting Parents is a national model for parenting support services, which takes a whole-of-Government approach to improving supports for parenting.
- The vision of Supporting Parents is for all parents to be confident and capable in their parenting role, helping to achieve the best outcomes for children and families.
- In developing Supporting Parents, the Government seeks to improve services by setting out a shared vision with agreed principles and shared goals to promote a cohesive, joined-up national approach across different sectors. The plan takes account of existing policies and commitments in relation to parenting supports, and seeks to strengthen and develop mechanisms for effective coordination, co-operation and collaboration.

How was it created?

- Supporting Parents was developed by a collaborative working group led by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), including Tusla, the HSE, the Prevention and Early Intervention Network, and the Parenting Network. The experiences, views and preferences of parents, children and young people were captured through research, online consultation and direct engagement.
- Supporting Parents has been informed by Irish and international research on the support needs of parents and on the role of parents in achieving better outcomes for their children.

What will Supporting Parents do?

Supporting Parents sets out 23 actions to allow for greater access, information and inclusion with regard to parenting support services, which includes plans to:

- Promote collaborative working, cohesive planning and delivery.
- Review current service provision, identify service gaps and develop an agreed approach to facilitate service consistency.
- Develop guidelines, resources, and training to increase promotion and access to parenting support services.
- Consult more with parents and commission research on parenting support needs.
- Establish a parenting support awareness fund.
- Develop and deliver a three-year communications plan to support actions in the plan.
- Set up a cross-government network to share learning and showcase best practice across the civil and public service.

How will these actions be implemented?

The structure of Supporting Parents allows for a number of groups that will oversee the implementation of all actions:

A Programme Delivery Office, based in DCEDIY, will lead on the delivery of key actions and support the effective functioning of the other implementation structures.

The Supporting Parents Steering Group will consist of representatives from DCEDIY, the HSE, and Tusla. It will guide the delivery of parenting supports nationally and locally.

An Implementation Group chaired by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, will meet at minimum twice a year. The group will include stakeholders from the State, semi-State and community and voluntary sectors, as well as parents themselves.

A Cross-Government Parenting Support Network will be established for public and civil servants to share learning and showcase best practice.

Action Plan



How can you find out more?

Read the Supporting Parents plan and find out more information at

<http://www.gov.ie/supportingparents/>



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth