

Budget 2024

Did it deliver?

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Society of St Vincent de Paul
NERI Post Budget Seminar
12th October



BREAKING THE CYCLE



POVERTY



HOUSING



EDUCATION



INCOME



ENERGY

Four Pillars to Break the Cycle

1.	Protect people's incomes and guarantee the essentials
2.	Prioritise children in poverty
3.	Promote access to good quality jobs
4.	Prevent poverty through affordable and accessible services



Did it protect incomes?

- Core rate - €12 but 18.9% in minimum costs since 2020 – at least €27.50 was need to restore purchasing power to 2020 levels
- Most one - off SW measures Q4 2023 and one lump some at start of 2024
- Timing - further measures in Spring?
- Fuel Allowance rate frozen for third year & not extended to Working Family Payment

Did it prioritise children in poverty?

2.

- 6 out of 11 asks on child poverty delivered or partially delivered.
- Free books at junior cycle & CB for over 18s particularly welcome.
- New Equal Participation Model for early years.
- Awaiting further details on payment for children in DP.
- Income supports wholly inadequate – very difficult to address poverty without targeted income supports.
- One parent families not prioritised .



Did it promote access to opportunities?

- Improvements in SUSI support & move to provide support to part time students welcome. -
- Increase in universal childcare subsidy but not the targeted subsidy.
- Increase in NMW and Working Family Payment but not all thresholds moved & cliff edges for JST not removed.

Impact of NMW on secondary supports

- Example : couple with two children working 60 hours (NMW) qualified for BSCFA in 2023 but won't in 2024 due to NMW increase.
- Example: lone parent working full time will no longer qualify for highest NCS subsidy. If they removed CB as means they would retain access to highest subsidy.
- Example: NMW increase 12% - earning disregard for OFP frozen – net increase = 6% (including adjustment for core rate & QCI).



Did it improve public service provision?

- Investment in education and childcare welcome and retention of public transport reduction.
- Housing measures inadequate – little or no focus on homeless prevention & more needed on vancat properties.
- Increase budget for retrofit of social housing welcome – but regret no action on Community Energy Advisors or support for private renters.

THANK YOU