How can Ireland meet the challenge of goal 1?

Some research and policy considerations

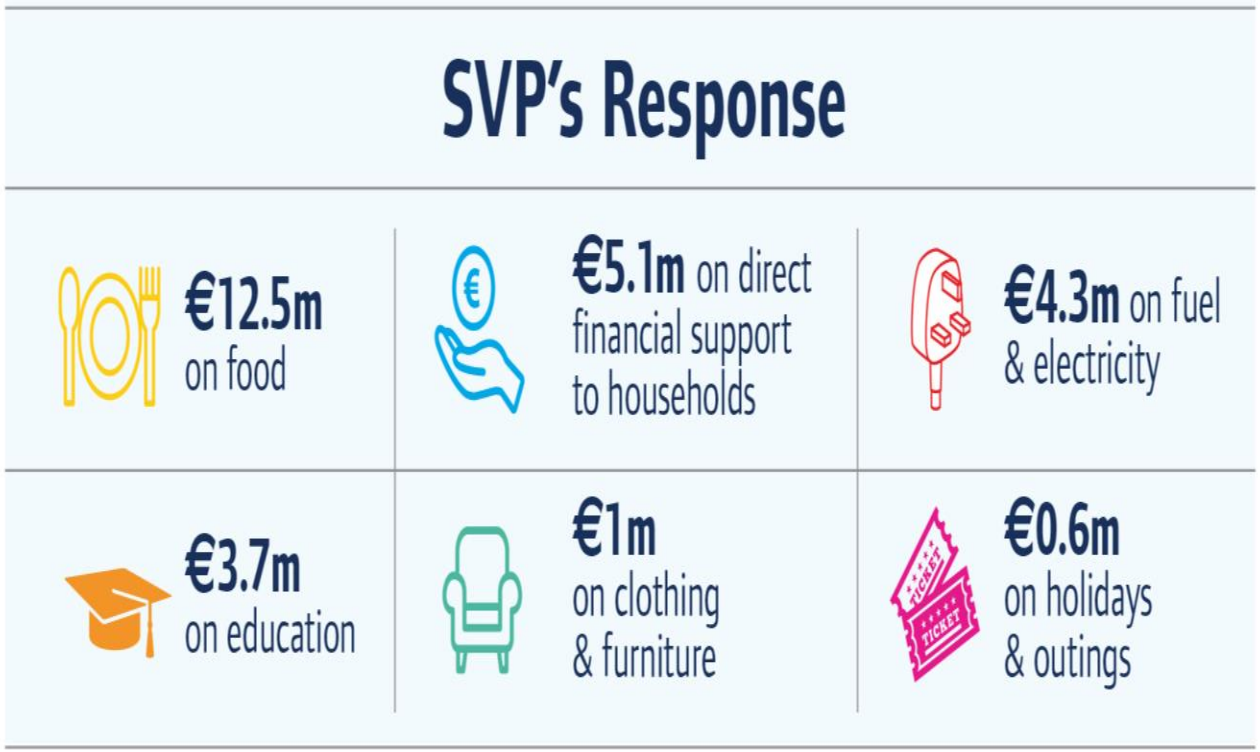
Dr. Tricia Keilthy

Society St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

About SVP

- Volunteer led organisation with over 11,000 members.
- Approx. 130,000 requests for assistance each year.
- Households on fixed & low incomes (social welfare & minimum wage employment).
- One parent families largest group assisted by SVP.
- Multifaceted issues & needs:
  - Energy poverty & utilities arrears
  - Educational disadvantage & education costs
  - Poor quality housing, unsustainable housing costs & homelessness
  - Unemployment and difficulties accessing social welfare
  - Food poverty



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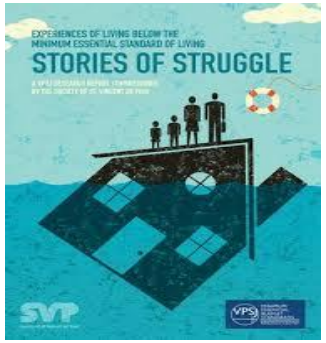
Opportunities to influence and shape the debate

- Meetings with Ministers/Advisors/Departmental representatives
- Briefings for political parties/Presentations to Oireachtas Committees
- Evidence based submissions to Departments & responses to consultations
- Commissioning research/ conducting in-house analysis
- Press statements/media briefings
- Campaigns

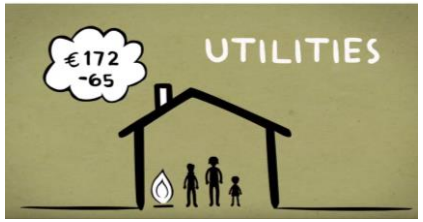


Parents struggling to make ends meet regularly go without food

Study paints a stark picture of the reality of living long-term without an adequate income

Wed, Sep 26, 2018, 19:52

Kitty Holland Social Affairs Correspondent



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Published 05 Feb 2019 | PDF | 304.29 KB

Debt Flagging Review (Commission for Regulation of Utilities)
Published 05 Feb 2019 | PDF | 304.29 KB

Consultation on the National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission)
Published 05 Feb 2019 | PDF | 411.95 KB

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2017 review
Published 29 Jan 2019 | PDF | 420.33 KB

SVP Submission to NECP 2021-2030
Published 16 Nov 2018 | PDF | 497.57 KB

SVP response to the Consultation on National Standards for accommodation offered to people in the protection process
Published 01 Oct 2018 | PDF | 108.12 KB

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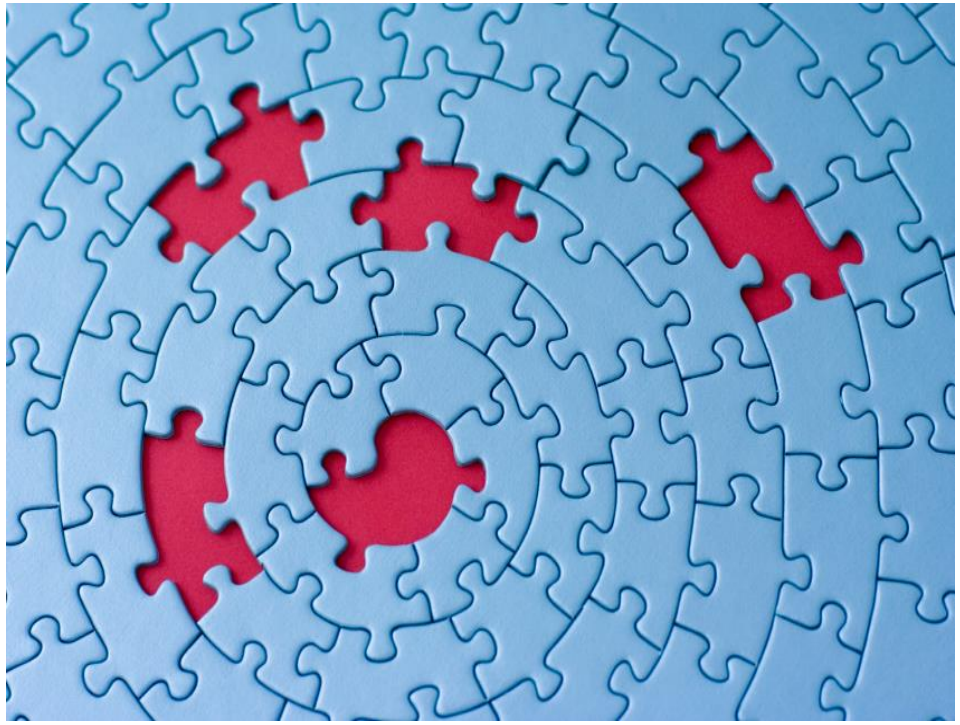
Challenge 1: Making a joined up approach to policy implementation work

- Social protection system does most of the heavy lifting: social transfers reduce poverty risk from 42.8% to 15.7%.
- But lack of investment in key services, in particular housing, health and childcare limits people's ability to get out and stay out of poverty
- Poverty is a multi-dimensional issue requiring a whole of government approach.
- Difficulties working horizontally in a vertical system.
- Constant struggle to balance short-term pressures with long term goals.
- Much more research needed on the policy implementation process in Ireland, particularly whole of government approaches.



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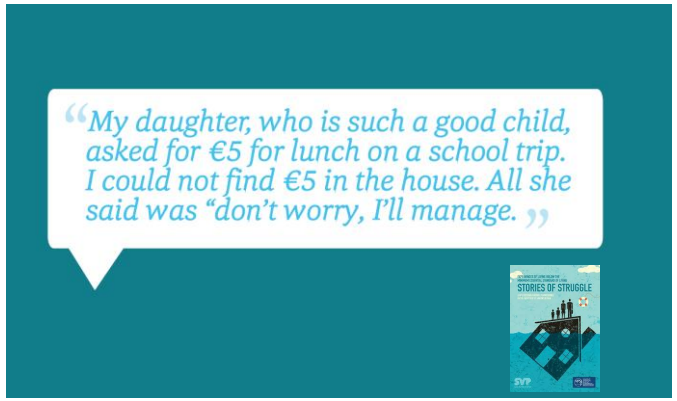
Challenge 2: Building public support for action

- Need to create better understandings of poverty among the public and build support for action: stereotypes and stigma persist.
- Irish Times No Child 2020: conversation on the causes of child poverty and what it will take to end it.
- Commissioned research on public attitudes to poverty (Children's Right Alliance) & the economic costs of poverty (SVP & UCD).



What is child poverty and why must we try to solve it?

No Child 2020: Not everyone has enough to eat in Ireland. But poverty is more complex than that

Sat, Jan 19, 2019, 06:01

Kitty Holland Social Affairs Correspondent

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The Irish Times view on child poverty: We must do better than this

If a more egalitarian housing system is to be introduced, the Government will have to modify its dependence on private developers

Sat, Feb 2, 2019, 00:10

NO CHILD 2020

NO CHILD 2020

NO CHILD 2020

NO CHILD 2020

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Challenge 3: Ensuring coherence across the SDGs

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