

## Fianna Fail – An Ireland for all. Read more [here](#)

### Childcare

- Introduce a €2,000 Child Minders Tax credit.
- We will invest an additional €81m to increase the universal childcare subsidy from €20 per week to €80 per week.
- We will consider introducing fee caps for childcare services if costs to parents are not reduced
- We will introduce a tax credit for registered childminders of 0-3-year olds worth €2,000 for average income households at a cost of €26m
- We will increase the Home Carer Tax Credit to €2000 per year at a cost of €30m.
- We will expand the ECCE scheme from 38 to 40 weeks at a cost of €17.2m
- We will introduce a childcare price register
- We will provide legal certainty and help ensure families can continue to use Au Pairs into the future on fair terms
- Expand Maternity leave to 30 weeks at a cost of €38.8m.
- Protect the first 14 weeks of leave as core maternity leave and 4 weeks as core paternity leave and allow parents to share the remainder of paid and unpaid leave as they choose.
- We will ensure full investment in expanding childcare facilities
- We will address this with a €10m relief fund for commercial rates
- We will create 1000 Childcare apprenticeships at a cost of €9.9m
- Expedite the review of the Childcare Act and bring forward necessary amendments.
- Review Ireland's management of retrospective abuse allegations to bring it up to best international practice.

### Social Protection

- Reducing the hours of work required to qualify for the Working Family Payment from 19 hours to 15 hours for lone parents.
- Extending the jobseeker's transitional payment for lone parents until their youngest child reaches 18 years of age.
- Allowing lone parents in employment whose children are aged between 7 and 14 years of age to receive both the jobseeker's transition payment and the working family payment.
- Reforming the child maintenance system.
- We will double the Child Benefit payment on the birth of a first child. This will cost €3.5m
- We will increase Maternity Benefit for those who have a multiple birth by an additional 8 weeks above current levels. This will cost €700,00
- Increase the Qualified Child Increase in each age bracket by €5.00
- Increase expenditure on the school meals programme by 10%.

- We will top up payments to people with disabilities by €10 to recognise the unique costs they have to pay. This measure will cost €167.8m
- We will extend the Free Travel Scheme to children in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance at an estimated full year cost of €5m

## **Health**

- Implement the National Women & Infants Health Programme.
- Ensure that ownership and governance issues in the new Maternity Hospital on St Vincent's site are open, transparent and that the facility is state owned.
- Expand free GP care on the basis of means in line with Sláintecare's goals and in alignment with an expansion in capacity. We will negotiate with GPs to achieve this on a phased, agreed basis
- Abolish prescription charges. Cost - €68m
- Remove car park charges in hospitals. Cost - €12m
- Complete the National Children's Hospital.
- Support the relocation of the Dublin maternity hospitals
- Establish a new primary school healthy eating education programme to help cultivate lifelong healthy cooking and eating habits.
- Commit to a cross-departmental and cross sector approach to deal with childhood obesity through a bold long-term strategy.
- Issue National Planning regulations to create "No Fry" zones for new Primary and secondary schools.
- Ban vaping and e-cigarette products for under 18's and ban child focused flavours.
- Prioritise recruitment in Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) with a special focus on areas such as the south east counties and south west Dublin where less than half the required staff are in place.
- Develop a dedicated Vision for Change for Children style strategy.
- Ensure multi-annual funding for Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health to build on their existing network of early intervention and prevention services and supports.
- We will progressively expand the teams to provide 29 for Adult MHID to and 17 for CAMHS-ID
- Provide mental health policy implementation acknowledges and highlights the link between mental health, sexual orientation and sexual health and the compounding of risk factors for mental wellbeing in circumstances of co-existing vulnerabilities.
- Ensure that the development of future services and the expansion of existing services is proofed by way of an impact assessment, to ensure that services are delivered in a LGBTI+ and gender understanding manner
- Work to provide 16 specialist eating disorder services teams – half of them for CAMHS - across the country.

## **Law**

- Introduce legislation that will severely punish those who purchase drugs from children and those who use minors as cogs in their distribution network
- We will construct a purpose built complex to deal with these cases. The complex will also house a new Children's Court to deal with children charged with committing criminal offences, many of whom are also in the care system. Support and intervention services will

be co-located at the facility so to prioritise early and effective intervention. This will be drawn from pre-committed capital resources for the Court service

- Set out strict controls on gambling advertisement The ubiquity of gambling advertising risks seeping into vulnerable users and children. It should be confined to appropriate postwatershed times and tackled online.
- End Loot Box gambling Children are being drawn into gambling through online video games that use loot boxes. We will empower the new regulator to tackle this insidious practice
- Publish legislation to expand on existing parental control options to make it mandatory for Internet Service Providers to offer control options to parents and for mobile service providers to allow content to be blocked on phones.
- Establish a new Digital Safety Commissioner. The Commissioner's general function would be to promote digital safety, including an important educational role to promote positive digital citizenship among children and young people, in conjunction with the Ombudsman for Children and all the education partners. The cost of this new office will be €9.6m based on the Australian example.
- Work at EU level and through our Digital Safety Commissioner to place a Duty of Care on online providers to ensure adequate protections are put in place to prevent children from accessing unsuitable sites such as pornography and gambling.

## **Education**

- We will reduce the average primary school class size to 20:1 by 2025. This measure will cost €86.4m
- We will reduce the DEIS band one pupil teacher ratio to 18:1. This measure will cost €17.4m.
- We will roll out a €5m grant to Local Authorities and the Department of Education for an "Edible Playgrounds" campaign in every county initially focusing on DEIS school
- We will invest a further €25m in capital investment in sports funding for schools
- We will hire an additional 100 guidance Counsellors to fully reverse the Fine Gaels cuts to this vital service. This measure will cost €6m.
- Primary Schools: Re-establish the Modern Languages in Primary School Initiative at a cost of €15m per annum. Manifesto 2020 76
- European Languages and Culture Course: Task the NCCA to design a new course on the Junior Cycle that centres on European languages and culture in light of Brexit.
- Mandarin: Roll out Mandarin as a full Leaving Certificate curricular exam subject and award additional points to learners taking it at Higher Level
- Introduce legislation banning the inappropriate use of reduced timetables.
- To reform the NCSE so that its primary function is to ensure each child with a special education need has an appropriate school place in line with their constitutional rights.
- Prioritise the construction of special schools on the Department of Education and Skills project list.
- Produce a five-year forecast of the current and future need for special needs education places in the catchment area of each school and to communicate this demand to schools within each area.
- Create a National Book Gifting scheme Parental engagement is crucial to cultivating lifelong reading. Working with existing charities we will create a national free book scheme for children. Each child will receive a free book four times a year from the age of six months until they turn five. This scheme will cost €3.1m.

- Ensure every child automatically gets a local Library card when they start school Our library network forms a vibrant base for learning and cultural enrichment across Ireland that cultivates the treasure of lifelong reading. We will ensure every child gets a library card when they start school. This will cost €0.3m.
- Set up a new Literature Bursary & Translation Fund Young readers should have the opportunity to move into writing as a viable career. Irish writing is a vibrant but fragile scene. We can support writers by assisting with translation through a new central fund that will enable writers to access foreign markets. In addition, a new Bursary for writers based in the Arts Council will help direct financial supports to fledgling writers. We are allocating €0.3m to this measure.
- Undertake an audit of the application of 'limited/reduced timetables' on Traveller children and publish its report. The Inspectorate should also identify a mechanism to capture the use of 'limited/ reduced timetables' when carrying out school inspections.