



Mr. Phelim Quinn
Chief Executive Officer
Health, Information and Quality Authority
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(3 February 2020

**Re: National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision -Making
2015 – 2020: progress in 2019 and commitments for 2020**

Dear Phelim,

As you will be aware, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs continues to have lead responsibility for driving and coordinating implementation of the **National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision- Making 2015 – 2020**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to date. Ireland is a world leader in enabling children and young people's participation in decision making; the continued implementation of this Strategy would not be possible without the support you have given so far.

The Strategy is guided and influenced by Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which ensures the right of the child to have their views heard and given due weight in in all matters affecting the child. The Strategy is primarily aimed at children and young people under the age of 18, but also embraces the voice of young people in the transition to adulthood.

The commitments outlined in the Strategy are based on the values, principles and vision of **Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People**.

The four priority objectives of the Strategy are that: Children and young people will have a voice in:

- Decisions in their local communities,
- Decisions in early education, schools and the wider formal and non-formal education systems,



- Decisions that affect their health and well-being, including on the health and social services delivered to them, and the Courts and legal system.

In 2019, DCYA undertook a review of implementation and worked across Government to develop a Phase Two Action Plan for the remaining period of the strategy. The aim of this **Mid-Term Review and Phase Two Action Plan** is to update the Strategy to reflect the progress already made by Departments and Agencies, and to set out actions which reflect new initiatives and practices across sectors, while also reflecting on the current context of support available to Departments and Agencies through Hub na nÓg.

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone TD, published the **Mid-Term Review and Phase Two Action Plan of the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making 2019-2020** in September. This **Phase Two Action Plan** commits all Government Departments and Agencies, who provide or oversee services which have an impact on children and young people, to ensuring that their voices are heard and that they influence decisions of relevance to their lives.

I am writing to urge all those with commitments in the Action Plan, in planning for 2020, to prioritise the actions attributed to the Health, Information and Quality Authority. This Department is available in a policy leadership capacity to help identify ways in which you can be supported to implement commitments under the Participation Strategy.

Once again, I offer my sincere gratitude for your Agency's contribution to date and I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fergal Lynch
Secretary General

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