

LDSIP: Monitoring and Evaluation of successor programme

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Discussion points

- Context
- LDSIP focus going forward (NDP)
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of LDSIP (currently)
- VfM Review: Findings/Recs. informing the future
- Shift in focus of LDSIP M&E
- Operational changes to support shift in focus of LDSIP M&E
- Challenges/Questions



Context

Challenge in moving forward the social inclusion process in less than perfect circumstance:

- **Transition** – awaiting precise focus of new programme
- **Cohesion** – transfer of programmes and staff to new companies /national coverage of LDSIP
- Backdrop of **budget cuts**

LDSIP focus going forward

NDP provides a good basis for a new programme, with an overarching objective of ...*promoting social inclusion*... through locally based actions and specific objectives

Overall Focus:

The promotion of social inclusion...will include both economic dimensions (e.g. employment and self-employment, education and training) and social dimensions (e.g. community and social networks, integration and equality, health and well-being).

Specific Focus:

- *Progression towards and within the labour market...*
- *Breaking the intergenerational cycle of social exclusion through education and training...*
- *Complementing and adding value to other services for disadvantaged communities...*

LDSIP focus going forward

REAFFIRMS validity of focus on:

- Reducing poverty and social exclusion
 - where concentrated and multi-faceted
- Working:
 - with **individuals** facing **multiple barriers** to employment and participation in community development activities
 - with groups and infrastructure within **areas and/or communities of interest** where **disadvantage is substantial, cumulative and sustained**

Monitoring and Evaluating LDSIP

- Focus on capturing outputs and results e.g. caseload and progression into education & training, employment, self-employment.
- Research focus on identifying and sharing good practice, supporting self-analysis and local/cluster level learning.
- Data and analysis used to fulfil programme reporting requirements, support management of LDSIP at national and local level.
- Move towards evaluative research in latter part of the LDSIP i.e. impact study on Services for the Unemployed Measure.

Future Direction informed by VFM Review

- LDSIP adds value and should continue
- Objectives ⇒ more clearly linked to NDP and commitments/approaches in NAPinclusion
- Life cycle approach & groups ⇒ person centered, individual supports provided in an integrated manner & focused on gps. that include children, older people, people with disabilities, working age people & communities (NESC, T16)
- Monitoring and Evaluation:
 - streamline indicators to focus on progression and tracking smaller number of indicators over time
 - Greater focus on outcomes and impact rather than process
 - centralise, co-ordinate and improve evaluation

Change in focus of LDSIP M&E

Shift in focus from “services provided” and “number of service users” as performance measure to “outcomes secured” as key performance criterion.

M&E system(s) that captures data at a number of levels:

- Outputs from services and activities provided
- Profiles of beneficiary individuals & organisations being supported (baselines)
- Results, outcomes/impacts being achieved at the level of the individual and organisational beneficiaries at local level
- Evaluate outputs & results with a view to assessing outcome-based performance and building capacity across the programme.

Shift in Focus from Outputs to Outcomes

Actions	Individual Beneficiaries (Labour Market Inclusion)
Actions	Providing supports and assistance to individuals at all life cycle stages to make informed decisions regarding their educational qualifications and labour market situation and to choose realisable options to enhance their employment and income prospects.
Outputs	Number of service users (caseload)
Outcomes/Results	Successful completion of interventions leading to enhanced competencies in areas such as literacy, the acquisition of recognised educational and training qualifications, and the acquisition of skills of relevance and value in the labour market.
Final Outcomes/ Impact	Sustainable good quality employment that provides income levels that avoid dependence on welfare.

Operational changes needed to support shift in focus of LDSIP M&E

In consultation with relevant stakeholders:

- Review and redevelop existing systems to reflect new programme and to meet future reporting requirements
 - Focus on development of small number of (integrated) strategic initiatives instead of multiple actions e.g. lone parents
 - Link Programme of Activities and monitoring systems
- Independent & periodic evaluation of outcomes based on samples of individual beneficiaries
- A programme of effectiveness evaluation
 - framed as action research/ learning what works
 - within regions, across Partnership clusters + across themes e.g. innovation, partnership and co-ordination



Challenges/Questions

- Budget cuts and resource constraints both centrally and locally
- Refocusing new programme in changed economic context which has national coverage
- Are there other mechanisms that can be used to address issues of measurement, reporting & assessing programme effectiveness?
- How best to deepen collaboration and shared learning across the Partnerships? What is feasible?