**Press release**

**20th June 2013**

***Cohabiting dads more likely to share parenting duties!***

***See How they Grow – solo and unmarried-cohabitant parenthood and crisis pregnancy in Ireland* -** provides for the first time in Ireland national data on Unmarried-cohabitants. It shows that cohabiting fathers are significantly more likely to share parenting duties and engage with their children than are married fathers – a higher proportion of cohabiting fathers were more likely to share feeding the baby, playing and going on walks with the baby, putting the baby to bed etc.

However among Solo parents one quarter had no contact whatsoever with the fathers of their children.

The fact that crisis pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes for both mothers and children is a cause for concern and the study showed that crisis pregnancy is also associated with depression.

The study, launched at the Treoir AGM today, was funded by the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme. It very clearly reveals that married parents and their children have the best outcomes on almost all indicators, followed by unmarried-cohabitants, with solo parents seriously disadvantaged across almost all indicators such as their own health, health of baby, education, welfare dependency, material deprivation.

Dr. Owen Corrigan, author of the report, said

*The findings around solo parents’ work habits, their usage of the welfare system and their much higher incidence of welfare dependency and material deprivation indicate that assistance with entering the labour market would indeed be highly beneficial for this group*.

Also at the Treoir AGM, Niall Egan of the Department of Social Protection informed those attending of the recent reforms to OFP.

Given that between now and 2015, 63,202 recipients of One-parent Family Payment (OFP) will lose their OFP due to changes in the conditions of receiving OFP and will move to Jobseekers Allowance, appropriate and high quality education and training must be made available to these parents to enable them to obtain sustainable, well-paid, part-time employment.

In launching the ***See How They Grow*** report the outgoing chairwoman, Leonie Lunny welcomed Dr. Ruth Barrington as the new chairwoman of Treoir. She commended Dr. Barrington for her support to Treoir over the years in its efforts to ensure the initiation of the national longitudinal study of children.

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**Notes to Editor:**

**About Treoir**

Treoir is the Irish word for direction and guidance.

In partnership with its member agencies, Treoir promotes the rights and best interests of unmarried parents and their children through providing specialist information and advocating for their rights.

**Births outside marriage Ireland – the statistics[[1]](#footnote-1)**

* There were 25,344 births registered as outside marriage in 2012
* This accounts for 35% of all births, an increase of 1% on 2011
* Almost 56.5% of births outside of marriage were to couples who are living together (cohabiting).
* The highest percentage of births outside marriage occurred in Limerick City at 56%, while the lowest percentage was 23% which occurred in Galway County
* A total of 1,639 teenagers had babies last year, 26 of these were aged under 16.

1. (CSO Vital Statistics 4th quarter 2011 and yearly summary). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)